2021 Highlights

We’re proud of our impact and momentum as we reflect on our second full-year of programming. This year, we organized ten programs and nearly tripled the number of participants who took part in our programs. Our leaders hail from 22 countries across Africa, Asia, and North America and live in communities that range from rural villages to the largest megacities on earth.

The common thread that unites them? A growing, yet firm belief that the world needs committed and thoughtful leaders to address our shared environmental crises and that they are the ones that need to step up and work for a better planet.

This year, we delivered our programs through a combination of virtual and in-person programs. We consolidated our curriculum into the 15 module Green Leaders Academy, hosted on the Crew 2030 learning-action platform, which will enable us to scale our enrollment to thousands of participants. We’re grateful for the team at Crew for awarding us a grant to access their platform and staff support to launch version 2.0 of our programs.

We’re also celebrating a strategic and catalytic investment by the Enlight Foundation, one of Silicon Valley’s premier funders. Their award will enable us to train ten times as many environmental leaders in 2022 as we focus on expansion in East Africa and South + Southeast Asia.

We know that 2022 won’t be a full return to "normal", but that won’t slow us down.

Onward!

Patrick Arnold
Founder
2021 Accomplishments

Program Summary

In 2021, we ran **10 programs for 439 participants**. Our programs were a mix of open-enrollment online programs and collaborations with NGOs and schools. For example, we enrolled **150+ participants from 20 countries in Africa and South + Southeast Asia** for a two-month online Green Leaders Academy.

In Thailand, we partnered with the BEAM Education Foundation, which works with Burmese migrants and refugees, to enroll **50 of their Community Youth Leader Development program participants in our Green Leaders Academy**. They joined the academy as part of a one-year program to gain key academic credentials for higher education.

We also held our inaugural **Grassroots Rising Environmental Education Network (GREEN) Prize competition**. Our ten semi-finalists collectively received more than **15,000 votes** from a global audience. **Shougat Nazbin Khan from Bangladesh** won the price and was awarded $1,000 to train 700 youth on environmentally sustainable income-generating activities.

In November, nearly **25% of our 10 Billion Strong community** joined our "**30 Days of Environmental Action**" challenge to address environmental issues in their communities. Our **collective impact included more than 20,000 pro-environmental actions** in more than 20 countries.

"I used to think that I don't have the capacity to do anything about climate change, but now I have more confidence in exploring what ways I could help."

Jewel Amante, Green Leaders Academy Participant, Philippines
2021 Accomplishments

Impact Summary

21,510 environmental actions taken, including:

- 9,151 trees planted;
- 2,100 plastic bags refused;
- 800 KGs + 300 bags of trash collected;
- 691 workers trained to correctly sort waste;
- 330 vegetarian, 65 vegan, and 10 zero-waste meals eaten;
- 8 community or family gardens started;
- 7 advocacy campaigns supported;
- 5 community workshops delivered;
- 1.5 miles of beaches cleaned; and much more!

354 new 10 Billion Strong leaders trained | 22 Countries | 10 Programs

97% of participants agree, “This program helped increase my understanding of critical environmental issues.”

92% of participants agree, “This program helped increase my ability to address environmental issues in my community.”

25% increase in confidence that participants can, "design and implement creative solutions to address environmental issues."

As part of our "30 Days of Environmental Action" campaign, Sofie (second from the left) led a small delegation of members from her Islamic women’s group to advocate local Indonesian officials. The meeting led to a new program to address plastic pollution.
We’ve partnered with the Nairobi-based NGO Green-Kenya which focuses on youth leadership, sports, and environmental literacy.

Their core team enrolled in our Green Leaders Academy in order to enhance their knowledge of environmental issues and add our content into their programs that reach more than 1,000 youth each year.

"The Green Leaders Academy is a great way for emerging leaders from all over the world to build leadership skills and begin taking action in their communities."

David Mulo
Executive Director
Green-Kenya
GREEN Prize

Shougat Nazbin Khan from Bangladesh (pictured right) was awarded our inaugural GREEN Prize. She'll use the award funds to train youth in Bangladesh on sustainable enterprise activities and produce a documentary on climate change in her country.

Shougat is an award-winning young scientist, social entrepreneur, education activist, environmentalist and sustainable development goals (SDGs) advocate from Bangladesh. She is a United Nations Young Leader for the SDGs, Asia 21 Young Leader Fellow, Commonwealth Youth Awardee, Green Talent Awardee, and FORBES 30 UNDER 30 honoree. She is Climate Ambassador at the Global Youth Climate Network (GYCN), which is an initiative of the World Bank Group.

COP26

Green Leaders Academy participant and climate activist Betty Osei Bonsu (pictured below, second from the right) from Ghana attended the UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland. Betty spoke at five panels during COP26 and represented the Government of Ghana, the Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO), and the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA).

She spoke about the relationships between fast fashion and fossil fuels, the rapid increase of exports of waste plastic to Africa, the inability of any country to responsibly handle its waste stream, and youth inclusion in bioeconomy sectors in Ghana.
A Growing Community

Myanmar Teaching Fellows

Four alumni from our 2020 Myanmar Environmental Leadership Accelerator joined us as teaching fellows for several of our online Green Leaders Academy programs.

Shuna Lai, Thura, Nu Nu, and Audrey were critical to support our new leaders. They helped them engage with our content, worked with them to understand the issues that were happening in their communities, and encouraged them to create action plans for addressing them. Alumni contributions towards training future leaders will allow us to significantly scale our impact in future years.
A Brighter Future

From cities to farms and from the coasts to rainforests, our participants report that climate change is impacting their communities right now. Most importantly, they are dedicated to taking action.

"I used to be doubtful about enacting any real change in my community, but after seeing the examples of what other members have done, it has made me more confident in initiating actions of my own. Seeing what others have done inspires me."

Anchalee Tantiviramanond
Green Leaders Program Participant, Thailand
Thank you for your support!

Contributions to support our mission and impact can be made at

www.tenbillionstrong.org/donate