

## UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP16 and COP/MOP6) Participant Application



### The SustainUS Agents of Change program

is now accepting applications to join the SustainUS youth delegation to the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention and fourth meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP16 and COP/MOP6), which will be in **Cancún, Mexico** from **November 29- December 10, 2010**.

COP16 will help determine the future international policy on climate change, and youth must make their voice heard. Youth from across the globe are organizing to bring a sense of urgency and rationality to the meeting. The future of the UNFCCC process is up for debate, and with it the future of international action to stop climate change. The UNFCCC must reach the kinds of pollution cuts that science tells us are needed to avoid dangerous climate change.

This is where we come in. The SustainUS Agents of Change delegation, comprised of key leaders in the US youth climate movement from various organizations and backgrounds, will have the unique opportunity to represent American youth at the COP. Delegates will work with each other and with international youth in advance of the conference to educate themselves and their communities, develop policy priorities, acquire skills in effective lobbying, and engage the broader youth population in action related to international climate policy.



As NGO representatives at the COP, delegates will work side-by-side with government delegates, leaders from international organizations, and fellow members of civil society to ensure a just and forward-looking outcome to the COP negotiations.

## Agents of Change Program Expectations

AoC delegates will be expected to engage in substantial preparation, community engagement, and fundraising efforts in the months leading up to the conference, and share the experiences they've gained after the conference through continued community outreach.

### Preparation

- Delegates will be required to stay in regular email contact and engage in research and weekly or bi-monthly conference calls as needed.
- Delegates will also work in sub groups on projects in relation to policy, communications/media, actions, and fundraising.
- Delegates will be expected to have a basic understanding of the policy and other issues in play at COP16.

### Community Engagement

Delegates, having the unique opportunity to represent their communities and US youth at COP16, are expected to engage their local community through education and outreach. The community engagement program for Agents of Change delegates will build public awareness around the international climate negotiations both before and after COP16. As part of the Agents of Change program, delegates will:

- Meet with federal legislative offices to advocate for legislative action on climate issues in the US at least once before and once after COP16.
- Develop relationships with local reporters, blogs, or other news outlets that provide media coverage leading up to, during, and after COP16, with the goal of four stories covering delegates' work.
- Write at least three letters to the editor over the course of the summer and fall and one in the winter after COP16, with the goal of getting two published.
- Hold five education/outreach events about COP16, climate policy, and the need for meaningful action on climate change, at least one being after COP16, with the aim of sharing the experience of COP16 with our home communities. These education/outreach events can include guest lectures, public speaking events, candidate bird-dogging, teach-ins, tabling events, or other creative means.

### Time Commitment

- Expect to commit an average of 7+ hours/week and more as COP16 draws closer.
- Delegates will be required, with limited exceptions, to attend a training in late August in Washington DC. Travel stipends *may* be available for delegates traveling to the training.

### In Cancun

- Delegates are highly encouraged to attend the Conference of Youth in Cancun the weekend before COP16 and the Youth Debrief the day following the closing of COP16.
- During COP16, delegates will be expected to fully engage with SustainUS, including but not limited to completing all sub group activities, attending daily delegation meetings, staffing SustainUS side events and exhibit booth, and fulfilling SustainUS's expectations as part of the international youth climate movement. Delegates will have free time to participate in COP16 in whatever ways they find most valuable, but their opportunities and expectations as part of the delegation come first.

## Logistics

Delegates will be responsible for booking their own travel to and from Cancun. SustainUS will provide travel suggestions, facilitate partnerships where delegates' travel may overlap, and meet delegates upon arrival in Cancun.

The Agents of Change delegation will stay together in a hostel in Cancun booked in advance through the Agents of Change program. Common housing is important in fostering cohesion and increased effectiveness in the Agents of Change delegation.

Delegates will be responsible for covering the cost of their bed for the entire length that the hostel is booked for; payment will be spread out incrementally in the months before COP16.

## Fundraising and Scholarships

SustainUS will make every effort to secure scholarship funding for the AoC delegation; however, due to the estimated \$1,500 cost of traveling and lodging in Cancun, financial support is not guaranteed. Some need-based and other scholarships may be available as SustainUS brings in funding for the delegation, including a guaranteed \$500 scholarship for a youth from a climate-impacted community.

Delegates may apply for scholarships in a separate process to be outlined after June 4, 2010.

Historically, most delegates have undertaken individual fundraising to cover the costs of travel, lodging, and food at COP. *SustainUS will work with each participant to identify and contact potential funding sources, provide training on how to fundraise, and will fundraise as an organization to reduce financial need as an obstacle to participation.*

Upon confirmation of involvement in the program, delegates will be asked to submit a draft plan for individual fundraising.

## Partnership with Global South Youth

The representation of Global South Youth is critical to ensure equal voices and full participation of the international youth climate movement at COP16. Because Global South Youth are historically underrepresented at the international climate negotiations due to lack of financial resources to fund travel and lodging, youth from the Global North and Global South have developed partnerships to ensure more equitable participation at COP.

SustainUS engages in this partnership by raising funds for Global South Youth to attend COP16. Delegates are encouraged but not expected to participate in fundraising for Global South Youth.

## Selection Criteria:

SustainUS is committed to selecting a skilled, diverse, and passionate delegation. Applicants are required to be between the ages of 18 and 26 as of December 2010 and to either (a) be a US citizen or (b) study or work in the US for more than six months. Applicants are not required to have been previously involved with SustainUS; however, those who have been active in the Agents of Change program or are otherwise affiliated with SustainUS will be given some degree of added weight in the process. Applicants who can attend the entire conference will be given preference.

Additional selection criteria are as follows:

- **Commitment to Climate Change Advocacy:** Applicants must demonstrate a serious commitment to the aims and values of sustainable development as understood in the SustainUS policy platform, and should demonstrate experience advocating and/or organizing around forward-thinking climate policy. This could include educational outreach, public opinion writing, or scientific research on climate change, in addition to activism or campaigning.
- **Diversity:** Preference will be given to those who can contribute something unique to an Agents of Change delegation. Diversity goes beyond gender, religion, race, and ethnicity and is broadly defined in terms of experience and background. If you have a unique background or experience please note it in your application.
- **Leadership Experience:** Preference will be given to those who have experience in leadership roles, such as student or grassroots organizing, event or project planning, or peer-to-peer education. Please describe your leadership experience in your application.

## Application Procedure:

Please respond to the following questions and send your application in the form of a single Word document to [agents@sustainus.org](mailto:agents@sustainus.org). The letter of reference may be sent to this email address directly from the referrer. Applications should be clearly organized according to the questions posed below; please be sure to answer all relevant questions. Incomplete applications, or those not compiled into a single document, will not be considered. You may be asked to interview in the course of this selection process.

Applications must be received by **5:00 pm EST on Friday, June 4, 2010.**

Applicants will be notified of their selection by mid-July and will be required to confirm their involvement shortly after notification. If you have any questions, please contact AoC Coordinators at the above address.



# Agents of Change Delegation- Application

## Part I: Basic information

Name:	Date of birth:
School and/or place of employment/volunteering:	E-mail address:
Address:	Languages spoken (in order of proficiency):
Degree or Major (if applicable):	Were you referred to this program by a member of SustainUS? If so, who?
Phone number:	

## Part II: Personal Statement

Please provide a personal statement detailing in 500 words or less your interest in COP16 and your prior experiences that make you a good candidate for this program. It may help to consider the selection criteria, above, and following questions:

- How has your life experience and/or previous work with sustainability and climate issues prepared you to be a youth climate advocate at COP16?
- What is your main goal in attending COP16?
- How do you plan on using the experience as a COP16 delegate to further your climate advocacy or activism at home?
- How do you think US youth attending the COP negotiations can help bridge the gap between local grassroots climate change action and the international policy process?
- Please read over the SustainUS policy platform. Are there points with which you identify or disagree?

## Part III : Policy Question:

In 200 words or less, outline a policy recommendation you would want to make at COP16 on one of the following issues:

- Clean Development and the CDM
- Finance mechanisms
- Financing and implementing adaptation
- Land-use and land-use change and forestry
- Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries
- Engaging rapidly industrializing countries in the UN climate change framework
- The Emissions Trading System and market-based mechanisms
- Technology Transfer and the diffusion of renewable energy technologies
- Current draft US legislation related to climate change and energy
- Any other international climate change policy issue

In preparing your personal statement and policy recommendation, you may find it helpful to visit the additional background resources at [www.sustainus.org](http://www.sustainus.org) and the following websites:

- SustainUS policy platform: <http://www.sustainus.org/docs/policy.pdf>
- General Information about COP: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>, <http://www.cop16.mx>
- Policy submissions from last year, including SustainUS submissions: [http://unfccc.int/parties\\_and\\_observers/ngo/items/3689.php](http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/ngo/items/3689.php)

## **Part IV: Specific Skills**

In putting together a delegation we will be seeking a diversity of needed skills. It is important for a delegate to be flexible and willing to jump between policy, communications work, and actions and expand beyond their comfort areas. We will also be looking for applicants that have specific strengths in a variety of areas. We will be specifically looking to have the following skills on the team so please make sure you highlight your experience in any of the following:

- Blogging/ online communications
- Press releases and media relations
- Videography skills
- Grassroots activism experience
- Campaign experience
- Public speaking or talking to the media
- Crafting effective messages/framing
- Coordination of non violent direct actions
- Artistic vision and creativity
- Policy, scientific, and/or technical writing
- Lobbying government officials
- Working with youth from other countries

## **Part V: Logistics – Availability**

Delegates are strongly encouraged to attend the entire conference (November 29-December 10, 2010) and the August training during the third week of August. Delegates are also strongly encouraged to attend the Conference of Youth (COY) training the weekend before negotiations begin in Cancun, and the Youth Debrief the day after the closing of the negotiations. We recognize that flexibility of school and work schedules is difficult to anticipate, but we are looking for people who will make every effort to be available for the length of the conference.

Please include a short paragraph explaining your availability to attend the entire conference, the August training, the pre-conference training, and the post-conference debrief.

## **Part VI: Background**

Within the text of your Word document, please include a one-page resume.

## **Part VII: Willingness as Returnee to take on a Leadership Role**

*For past Agents of Change delegates to COP13, COP14, and COP15 only. If you are not a past COP delegate you do not need to fill out this section.*

Overall we will be looking to compose a delegation of both returning and new delegates to assure we have a range of experiences. As a returning member to a delegation we would be looking for you to take on a greater role during the preparation process and serve as a mentor throughout the experience for new AoC delegates. Overall we would expect returning delegates to set an example, take a leadership role, and provide more support for fundraising.

Based upon your experience at a prior COP, write a statement about what kind of role you could see yourself taking on in the prep process and in Cancun. How have you applied your experience and learning from COP 13, 14, or 15 over the past year? How would you see yourself working alongside new delegates within the delegation and what type of leadership role would you be willing to take on? Elaborate on how you hope to play a supporting role throughout the process.

**Part VIII: Reference**

Please include a letter of reference in your materials. The letter may be sent directly from the referring party to the [agents@sustainus.org](mailto:agents@sustainus.org) email address, provided that it is clearly labeled with your name in the subject line and the document title. Letters of reference may be from a mentor, professor, boss, or other relevant person.

**Part IX: Demographic Information**

The information in this section is used internally to measure our outreach efforts and the degree of our ability to reach a diverse audience. **This information is not used in the selection process.** Please help us assess our outreach efforts by responding to the following categories with how you best self-identify.

- Age
- Highest level of education completed
- Employment Status: Student/  
Part-time/Full-time/Unemployed
- Gender
- Race/ Ethnicity
- Sexual Orientation

**Financial Situation:**

- If you are a student, do you depend on student loans for *(none/some/most/all)* of your living expenses?
- Which bracket best describes your personal financial situation (income and assets)?
  - \$0-\$3,000
  - \$3,000-\$8,000
  - \$8,000-\$12,000
  - \$12,000-20,000
  - \$20,000-38,000
  - \$38,000 and up
- Do you have a parent/guardian that would be willing and able to contribute to your ability to cover the costs of attending COP16? y/n

**Part X: Interest in participating in Community Engagement campaign**

**This question is not used in the selection process.** Unfortunately, due to the large volume of applications we receive and the limited space for civil society and non-governmental organizations at COP16, we are not able to accept all applicants as delegates. However, this does not lessen the importance of raising public awareness around the international negotiations and the importance of addressing climate change at home in the US.

SustainUS is interested in working with all applicants to raise awareness about the negotiations through the Community Engagement campaign, outlined on page 2 of this application.

Are you interested in participating in the Community Engagement campaign regardless of your selection as part of the AoC delegation?

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Thank you for your application!