"Climate for Peace" Workcamp Guidelines

Ready to join the Climate for Peace program with your workcamp? You'll find information and examples that you need in these guidelines:

WHAT MAKES A "CLIMATE FOR PEACE" WORKCAMP?		
If during your workcamp volunteers are encouraged to:		
Follow vegan or vegetarian diet. Avoid food and plastic waste. Choose environmentally friendly means of transport to get to the camp site. Save water and electricity. Share responsibilities in the group and follow consensus decision making principles.	Learn about climate change basic science and causes to it. Explore the solutions to climate change, like permaculture, policy changes, etc. Understand better the connection between peace, human rights and climate change impacts. Plan their own awareness rising activities upon returning back home.	Do work which lowers human greenhouse gas emissions. Engage in projects which help communities adapt to climate change impacts and protect them from disasters escalated by warming atmosphere. Practice lifestyles that bring us closer to sustainability on all levels of our lives (from individual to global).
See below for more ideas!		

Climate for Peace Background information

The "Climate for Peace" Programme is a worldwide activity of SCI branches, working groups and partners, that started in 2014. **Its main aim is to inspire transformation of our cultures from consumerism and violence towards climate justice, sustainable living[1] and peace on all levels (also with environment).**

The climate is changing rapidly around the planet and this change is without question caused by humans. Our fossil fuel based economy and culture of consumerism is contributing significantly to this process, through greenhouse gas emissions, creating pressure of natural resources and reinforcing inequalities. Already today communities are suffering from violence due to climate change related events: extreme weather drives people out of their homes, climate change driven draughts escalate conflicts over resources (which then lead to increased migration and can further influence potential for instability and violence), rising sea levels will cause the people of low-lying islands to lose their homes and heritage.

All this means that if we are serious about living the SCI mission and values in a meaningful way, we have to answer the call for climate justice and sustainability by running SCI workcamps the activity that unites all SCI branches, groups and partners according to common standards in relation to those topics. **The guidelines below contain a list of practical solutions that can be applied to our activities, although every workcamp organiser will need to adjust those suggestions to their context.**

For more information about the Climate for Peace programme refer to the web page at sci.ngo.

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[1] For explanation of new terminology, see "Useful terms" at the end of the document.

The Guidelines

If you want to organise a "Climate for Peace" workcamp, you can either adjust already existing one or you can start a new project. The goal of "Climate for Peace" Programme is to have all SCI workcamps follow this common criteria, so that they can all contribute to building a culture of peace by addressing climate justice and sustainable living.

In a "Climate for Peace" workcamp, topics of climate justice and sustainable living should be addressed through:

- sustainable living in practice: food, modes of transportation, resource use and principles of communal living,

- the study part,

- the work part.

If work part is related to other topics, you can still make the link through a study part session and by experiencing sustainable living in practice during the camp. If you don't know how, refer to the "Climate for Peace Toolkit" (collection of knowledge and interactive tools).

We want to keep track of good practices (and share them with other activists), so you will be asked to submit a short report and photos from your workcamp within 3 weeks from its finish. This is the only additional formality that results from labelling your workcamp as "Climate for Peace" project.

1. Sustainable living in practice

(every workcamp can be a practical example of sustainable living):

Food Reduce the negative impact of food consumption during the workcamp through:

- introducing vegan or vegetarian diet meat and dairy production requires much more energy and water than simply growing plants; it might be worth trying out vegan diet for the duration of the workcamp! Or if you are not ready for vegan, at least try vegetarian.

- eating local and seasonal fruit and vegetables or homemade dairy products (if you don't decide to go vegan), means less energy to store and transport it; you also get the chance to support local farmers,

- avoiding food waste, because it means waste of water and energy, but also degrading food waste contributes to CO2 emissions,

- avoiding unnecessary packaging (especially styrofoam, plastic or aluminium),

- shopping locally or barter exchange with the neighbours (because it strengthens community bonds and local economy),

- eating simple and fresh food, because it's more sustainable than processed food.

Modes of transportation (using any sort of transportation, even your own feet, requires energy; it is important to be aware of it and strive to lower the negative environmental impact):

- in the short description for OPS it should be recommended that volunteers choose environmentally friendly ways of traveling, and to combine more short-term projects in the same region to make their travel impact lower.

- the "approximate location" field in the workcamp description on OPS should contain information on how to travel to the workcamp using a train or a bus instead of plane or passenger ferry (for which CO2 emissions are much higher and more dangerous to the atmosphere),

- more information about environmentally friendly traveling should be added in the infosheet (it really works!),

- put people travelling from nearby locations in touch they might be more likely to take a train, if they know they will have company,

- projects reimbursing travel costs can apply an environmentally friendly travel policy (taking into account local travel possibilities) such as: reimbursing 100% for sustainable means of transport (e.g. trains) and less for other means (e.g. 60% for bus and ferry, car sharing and less or none for flights),

- travel footprint (individual, or of the workcamp group) could be expressed in a chart, showing different emissions according to different distances and means of travel.

You can also add to your programme elements like tree planting to compensate for CO2 emissions or commit to raise awareness about climate change and sustainable lifestyle amongst your family, friends and community upon returning home!

The carbon footprint of our activities, food consumption and travels can be checked on many different web pages, e.g. footprintnetwork.org (complete footprint) and carbonfootprint.com (travels). All of these engines give approximate values and under specific assumptions, however they can serve as a point of reference.

Resource use (water, energy, waste) Workcamp is a good opportunity to practice awareness and efficiency in use of resources. Wasting resources is usually caused by old habits of lack of awareness on how to save them.

- proposing saving water and energy and avoiding waste as one of the points of the group contract,
- explaining different ways of saving resources to the group,
- collecting ideas for saving resources from the group and putting them into practice,
- putting up notes and reminders about saving resources,
- organize a candlelight dinner and talk about fun ways to save resources,
- compost your waste and use it in the garden the year after,
- search for tips online there are plenty!

Communal living principles (sharing, cooperation, consensus decision-making, equality, conflict resolution, inclusion):

- having the workcamp coordinator act more like a facilitator (making sure everything is going well, people have resources that they need to do their job and feel comfortable in their tasks; listening to the needs of the group), not as leader (telling people what their tasks are without taking their preferences into consideration, setting up priorities without consulting the group). Being a facilitator doesn't mean you have to fulfill every need in the group if you don't have resources to do so, have a group discussion to see, how you can go about putting your ideas together;
- sharing responsibilities in the group you are living under one roof, like a community share tasks and responsibilities, so that everyone can make a valuable impact on

achieving common goals; workcamp coordinator usually is in the best position to direct the work and acquire necessary resources, but it doesn't mean she or he need to bear all responsibility for the success of the workcamp; remember sharing is caring:)

- resolving issues in an open and nonviolent way;

- practicing making decisions through consensus rather than compromise; it might require extra time and effort, but workcamp is a great opportunity to experiment with it!

- doing your best to make your workcamp accessible for people of different ages, physical and mental capabilities, religions, nationalities etc.; workcamp can contribute to changing culture in your community;

- fostering diversity of your participants if the international group is homogenous, try to bring diverse members of local community into it;

- defining the positive impact your activities will have for the local community   make sure that the work which you do is useful for the community, involve them in your work to improve sustainability of results (local community should be able to maintain the improved situation also after the workcamp is finished).

Challenge root causes rather than symptoms

Either through the type of work or through the study part, workcamp participants should reflect on tasks and goals, which lead us to root causes of the issues we are tackling. The steps we take should always be challenged and questioned by asking, if they tackle the root problem e.g. we can replace our purchases with more ethical products or we can rather challenge ourselves to consume less in general. We can eat vegetarian food but if it is not local or seasonal, is it really tackling the problem of our food's carbon footprint and unsustainable food systems?

Take time and ask yourself, whether the solutions you are suggesting, challenge the system and create real alternatives, or if they just address a single symptom (like cleaning up after a flood every year won't improve the situation, unless we learn about forecasted future impacts of climate change on similar events in our region and try to prepare the community for them). If you decide to take up waste management in your neighbourhood, don't just build a waste dump. Ask "Why there is so much trash?" first. And once you find an answer, **ask yourself "Why?" again and again**, until you reach the wall this is probably the root cause! The answers are not simple but each action we take towards a more sustainable, ethical lifestyle will benefit us, our community and our planet.

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2. Study part

The study part should be closely related to the topics of "Climate for Peace" programme, in particular:

Problems and challenges to peace and sustainability:

- climate change (basics of climate science, how agriculture, transport and industry impact climate change, how it is going to impact our communities, which communities are most vulnerable to climate change impacts, international policies and negotiations over limiting CO2 emissions),

- conflicts over natural resources (climate change and environmental destruction as drivers of violence and human rights violations, e.g. droughts and famine, wars over access to water or oil profits, deforestation driven by plantations and industry, free trade agreements).

Solutions to the climate crisis (transforming cultures from consumerism to sustainability):

- limiting individual CO2 emissions and influence policies in that area,

- adapting to changing weather patterns, how can SCI volunteers help in case of climate induced disasters,

- increasing awareness on climate change in our communities,

- building a sustainable society (examples: permaculture, ecovillages, Transition Towns Network, degrowth, classic and urban gardening, bioregionalism, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), simple living),

- measuring ecological footprint (human impact on the Earth's ecosystems) and slavery footprint (measurement how many forced labourers work to sustain person's lifestyle),

- learning about alternative economic systems: Local Exchange Trading System (LETS), gift and sharing economy, open source economy, alternative currencies, time banks,

- reconnecting with (our) nature through spirituality: e.g. meditation, spiritual practices, deep ecology, deep green resistance, ecoanarchism, ecofeminism,

- nonviolence, e.g. nonviolent communication, conflict transformation, civil disobedience, gender sensitivity.

Study part can be organised in various ways, such as: simulation game, role play, debate, case study, movie screening, discussion, study visit, lectures etc. For more details check out the "Climate for Peace Toolkit" (with knowledge, recommended movies and interactive exercises), or "Climate for Peace Inspirations" booklet (for some practical tips).
If possible the study part should gather ideas for further common or individual local actions and follow up activities, reaching beyond the workcamp.

3. Work part

Every workcamp can be connected to the topics of the program, whatever its work part. However, here are examples workcamps especially meant to join the program due to their type of work.

Mitigation projects (*reducing CO2 emissions due to energy use, consumption, travel etc.*):

- planting trees (because they absorb CO2),

- establishing food forests (because they lead to lower CO2 emissions than industrial farming),

- supporting crop diversification at local farms (because it's more sustainable than plantations),

- helping out at a Community Supported Agriculture farm or a food cooperative (because better access to local, seasonal food contributes to lower CO2 emissions),

- supporting communities opposing fossil fuel projects (like open pit mines or fracking, because we can't afford to pump up more CO2 into the atmosphere), or land grabbing (because land acquired that way is usually turned into vast industrial projects or into plantations, which lead to increased pollution and CO2 emissions).

Adaptation projects (*supporting local communities to adapt to a climate that changed and will continuing changing their environment, infrastructure, agriculture etc.*):

- restoring and strengthening ecosystems, e.g. by restoring mangroves (because they protect the coastline from sea level raise and bring back fish),

- organizing disaster relief workcamps (because natural disasters and severe weather can often be traced back to climate change impacts) and building new and strengthening existing shelters (in case of future disasters),

- building resilient (crisis resistant) communities (because climate change will continue impacting our lives and we need to learn how to overcome those impacts together), e.g. through:

  - helping farmers construct water reservoirs and irrigation systems (because in many regions climate change means irregular rainfall or drought),

  - setting up urban gardens or farms (because it helps people access local food instead of imported produce),

  - supporting refugee camps (because many people are driven out of their homes by conflicts over resources which climate change makes less accessible, like water or food crops).

Holistic approaches *(making all aspects of our lives more sustainable)***:**

- experiencing alternative living systems (e.g. working in an ecovillage, educational centre for renewable energies, permaculture farm as a way to explore different lifestyle)

- experiencing alternative economic systems (e.g. gift or sharing economy schemes, degrowth projects as an exploration of economical systems which are not based on infinite growth and resource use),

- reconnecting with (our) nature through spirituality (e.g. work in yoga or meditation centres, working at a national park, living close to nature as a way to find balance through connection rather than fast paced life based on material goods),

If work part is not directly related to "Climate for Peace", you can add elements like tree planting, study visit combined with hands-on workshops to your programme.

Additional resources

- **"Climate for Peace" Position Paper** explaining the role of SCI activists in achieving climate justice and sustainable living,

- **"Climate for Peace Toolkit"** knowledge and interactive exercises to use throughout the workcamp of in the study part,

- **"Climate for Peace: Inspirations"** examples of projects for climate justice and sustainable living organized by SCI activists around the world,

"Climate for Peace" Worckamp Checklist

When organising a workcamp as part of the "Climate for Peace" programme, you should remember about the following:

Preparation:

☐   Get informed about the program and its concept and idea (see additional resources above).

☐   Label your workcamp as part of the "Climate for Peace" program in SCI OPS.

☐   Include a short presentation of the program and what it means for the workcamp in the Infosheet (see suggestion above).

☐   Prepare activities for study part and search for good ways to put sustainability in practiced during the camp (check above for ideas).

During the camp:

☐   Introduce the "Climate for Peace" program to your volunteers.

☐   Try to be sustainable in every aspect of the camp :) Each daily decision can be a good starting point for discussion about our impact on climate change.

After the camp:

☐   Share memories, share the word, keep being sustainable and inspired and…

☐   Send the short report to communicationltv@sci.ngo.

Add this information to the workcamp OPS description and to the workcamp infosheet:

This workcamp is part of the 'Climate for Peace' programme. Its main aim is contributing to the transformation of our cultures from consumerism and violence towards sustainability and peace on all levels. The program consists of various activities, workcamps and seminars connected to raising awareness about climate justice, sustainable living, peace and applying related knowledge and tools in practice.

Key words

climate change adaptation taking actions to prevent or minimise the effects of climate change that will bring change to local population etc. (adapt farming, houses, infrastructure etc.);

climate justice stresses climate change as an ethical issue affecting livelihoods and rights of humans today, the whole of nature and future generations. It postulates that if humanity doesn't shift from unsustainable practices, resulting climate change will lead to destruction of communities (where people least responsible for historical CO2 emissions are on its frontline) and ecosystems. Alternatively, tackling climate change now can lead to building sustainable, resilient communities with strong social bonds;

ecological footprint is a sum of our lifestyle choices; it measures our demand on the Earth's ecosystems and the amount of nature's resources an individual, a community, or a country consumes in a given year. It describes negative impact on the planet;

ecological handprint represents our positive impact in contrast to our ecological footprint. The ecological handprint is your contribution towards a sustainable future;

frontline communities are grassroots communities organised for action against the direct impacts of injustice or harm they experience, e.g. as a result of fossil fuel projects;

gift economy is based of exchange or giving each other valuables without setting a particular future reward;

impacted communities are those that bear the disproportionate impact of climate change, fossil fuels and industrial activities, and tend to be of lower socioeconomic class or live in the Global South;

mitigation stands for actions to reduce CO2 emissions due to our lifestyle (travelling, consumption etc.);

permaculture is a system which aims at meeting diverse needs of humans in a way that benefits the environment at the same time. Permaculture is not only about food. It covers the issues of waste, energy, infrastructure, housing, as well as ways of managing your business or social life in a responsible way;

sustainable living means balancing environmental, social and economic priorities in a way that does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;

Transition Towns stand for a form of community organising, when a group of people living in one neighbourhood implement a plan to build climate change response, independence from peak oil and economic crisis (first transition town founded in Totnes (UK), 2006);