



CLIMATE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

2023-2024

citizens^{uk}

Application Process

[**CLICK HERE**](#)

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Welcome to Citizens UK's *Climate Leadership Academy*

Welcome to Citizens UK's *Climate Leadership Academy* - we are delighted to have you on board!

Why is this programme needed?

Communities are increasingly **under pressure**. Young people face many issues in their everyday lives which aren't getting any better. They are also **anxious about climate change** but can feel removed from the current environmental movement which can put symbolic and disruptive protest ahead of working together and people's everyday concerns. They **don't see themselves represented** in the people who are speaking up for the climate. So, more than often, **they feel powerless** when it comes to influencing decisions which can benefit them, their communities and the planet.

Our answer to this:

Through the method of **Community Organising** we enable young leaders to develop their voice and come together with the power and strategy to make real change.

How we will support you:

This programme is about supporting young leaders to create **authentic actions for climate and social justice** which benefit their communities. This is done by developing leadership and understanding of the method of Community Organising, helping them to **develop relationships and partnerships with others across Citizens alliances and beyond**.

Participants will attend a **six-part training session** and then be supported by local Organiser to put their theoretical **skills into practice**, making change in their communities.

The programme is a chance to **collaborate** with a network of like-minded young leaders who take, or want to take, climate action seriously, learn from other leaders who've demonstrated impact in community action and play a leading role in winning change. Gaining experience in their local communities, they will have the chance to **influence regional and national climate campaigns** at Citizens UK.

We encourage participants to make the most of all the learning opportunities as part of this *Climate Leadership Academy*: take up the valuable **opportunity of working with our local Community Organisers**, discuss social action ambitions with like-minded leaders and set aside time to make the most of the programme.

We look forward to working with you over the coming weeks and months and hope you find the experience of this programme motivating.



Application process

We invite applications from young **leaders from every local Citizens alliance**. This means that about **young leaders from across the country** will be involved in this first year.

Young people between the ages of 16 - 19 will be able to apply and **will need to be sponsored by their local institution** (school, college, youth group, faith institution, etc.).

Application process:

- 1) Complete your application by Sunday 11th June. Click [here](#) to access the application form.
- 2) Shortlisting will happen between Monday 12th and Thursday 21st June.
- 3) Successful candidates will be informed by Friday 23rd June 2023, via their sponsor.

Induction process:

- 1) An induction session will be held on Monday 26th June, at 16:00-17:30.
- 2) A one-to-one meeting will be held between the successful candidates in each locality with their respective Citizens organiser between Tuesday 27th June and Friday 14th July.

Cost:

- £200 per participant (usually covered by the participant's school/college)
- Bursaries are available. Do get in touch with your local Citizens Organiser to discuss.

Training content

I AM A LEADER

In this unit, we take young people through a journey of **self-discovery**. Focusing on who they are, and the kinds of **leaders** they want to be, we will use **storytelling** as a way to develop their sense of self. We will review what our shared understanding of leadership is and what it takes to develop our **collective sense of agency**. This module, and those that follow, are designed to develop the skills of those eager to be **change makers** in the world. We will support young people to grow in their conviction that they can be agents of change with enough **power** to address the issues that they most care about.

POWER

In this module, we will focus on the tools of **listening, 1 to 1s, neighbourhood-wide and school-focused listening campaigns** and see how they can be used to build **relationships** across our communities. These relational tools are the bedrock of **community organising**. They are part of a methodology that has been used for decades to effectively make **positive change** across many neighbourhoods and cities. We will get participants to practise using these tools straight away so they can be applied when going back to their communities. We will also reflect on what **power** is, how to build it, and how to use it to **shape our lives for the better**.

FIVE STEPS TO SOCIAL CHANGE

We are keen to have participants embed the skills that will allow them to **build power** and develop effective **listening campaigns** back in their communities, and as part of their **local Citizens alliances**. In this module, participants will focus on some important elements that will enable them to **build powerful teams** ready for action and they will go through a process of **research actions** to build their power around the issue they care about. This will enable them to understand what are the necessary steps to plan **effective public actions**. Participants will be taken through practical examples of successful citizens actions so they, too, can **become excited and ambitious about what is possible**.

ACTION IS THE OXYGEN TO ALL ORGANISING

Action is the oxygen to all organising. In this module, participants will learn how to put all the research and relationship building they've done to good use. We will focus on what **holding decision makers to account** looks like. We will talk about the importance of **building organised turnouts** and the **power of testimonies**. We will go through role-plays designed to test the participants' learning and get them to think about the many assumptions we often make about different parts of society.

LEADERS OF THE NEXT GENERATION

With the formal teaching coming to a close, we will put our learning to the test. We want participants to leave understanding their own developmental journey but also see how they can **become the trainers of the next generations of leaders**. Participants will learn about the importance of growing their **relational networks, develop their followers and peers**, as well as **relate to people in power**.

We will seek to develop our participants' skills to **build their own training programmes** so more people can benefit across our Citizens alliances across the country.

BROADENING OUR ORGANISING

In this module, we will enable participants to reflect on the skills that are needed to further **grow their action teams** – across their **institution**, but also beyond, joining with other members of their **local Citizens alliances**. We will also learn about some of the tools that we need to develop campaigns which connect different alliances together, enabling participants to imagine what **national ambitions** they could focus on.

We will emphasise the importance of **local organising**, whilst also imagining what regional and **national relationships** we can build to maximise our impact.

Programme outline

Launch

The programme will launch at an exciting event in central London in August. We invite both sponsors and participants to attend this event.

Frequency

The training course will comprise six sessions delivered throughout the academic year starting in September and finishing in June. Each session will run from 10.00 - 15.00.

Support will be provided by a local Citizens organiser throughout the year. Meetings between the local teams and their organiser should happen at least once a month to discuss and review progress.

Short, and occasional, sessions may be organised throughout the year to get participants to share their work and learn from each other.

Format

The training courses will be held online. We host our webinars using the web-platform Zoom.

To join, you will need a computer which has access to the internet. Links will be sent to participants in advance of the sessions.

Safeguarding

CITIZENS UK (Climate Leadership Academy) – Safeguarding Policy and Procedures (March 2023)

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- *Children Act 1989*
- *United Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991*
- *Data Protection Act 1998*
- *Sexual Offences Act 2003*
- *Children Act 2004*
- *Protection of Freedoms Act 2012*
- *Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children*

SUMMARY

- All those in regular contact with children and young people are in a position to get to know those individuals well, to develop trusting relationships, observe changes in behaviour and may be chosen by the young person to share confidence and concerns. Regrettably, there are occasions where child abuse is alleged or suspected. All such situations must be taken seriously.
- It is the policy of **CITIZENS UK (Climate Leadership Academy)** to safeguard the welfare of children, and all others involved in our activities, by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm, and neglect.
- It is the responsibility of each adult to ensure that their behaviour is appropriate at all times. A Code of Conduct is included in this document to give positive guidance for all adults. It is essential that all adults follow the Code of Conduct whether they work with children, young people, or adults. Details of the steps to take if abuse is alleged or suspected are also included in this document. It is important to remember that Citizens UK staff are not investigating officers.
- If there is an allegation or suspicion of abuse then this must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Jawed Neshat), whose responsibility it is to refer to Children's Social Care/police (who are the investigative agencies). At all times the welfare of the young person is paramount. Swift reporting will enable the investigative agency to give advice and take appropriate action. You have a legal duty of care to report any allegations or suspicions.
- These procedures exist not to discourage adults from being involved in the life of this service but to ensure, as far as possible, that people who may abuse children do not get the opportunity to do so.
- Citizens UK also has a responsibility to safeguard and protect the personal data of young people. Any personal information relating to under 18s needs to be treated sensitively and (wherever possible) confidentially.



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