



ECOVISIONARIES

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Theory of Change Report

Building Sustainability from the Ground Up
Affiliation: Youth Environmental Alliance (YEA)

BY TEAM: ECOVISIONARIES

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Introduction

Why This Matters

Ambala, like many urban centers in India, is facing rising challenges related to pollution, waste management, and climate vulnerability. Rapid urbanization has resulted in deforestation, waste accumulation, and heat island effects. Yet, within these challenges lies an opportunity: the potential of youth-led innovation. The C40 Cities commitment to achieving Net-Zero by 2050 serves as the inspiration behind this project, a framework that empowers students, schools, and local communities to co-create sustainable solutions.



This report outlines a comprehensive Theory of Change that connects ambition to action, emphasizing collaboration among schools, students, municipal authorities, and policymakers to establish Ambala as a model for grassroots climate innovation.

Theory of Change Framework

Strategies	Targets	Outcomes
Conduct innovation workshops and sustainability bootcamps in schools to inspire students to ideate, design, and build prototypes addressing local environmental challenges.	Students and youth innovators across Ambala schools and colleges.	By mid-2026, engage 100+ students to co-create three sustainable prototypes (kinetic tiles, rooftop gardens, smart compost systems etc.)
Collaborate with school administrators and NGOs to embed sustainability modules within extracurricular programs, linking innovation to real-world challenges.	School administrators, teachers, and educational NGOs.	Integrate sustainability and innovation modules into at least three schools' extracurricular programs by 2026.
Partner with Ambala Municipal Council and eco-conscious enterprises to pilot student-developed prototypes in community and municipal spaces.	Ambala Municipal Council and local eco-conscious enterprises.	Deploy working models of prototypes in two community spaces and one municipal area by 2026.
Organize exhibitions, digital campaigns, and local awareness drives showcasing youth-led innovation.	Local media, NGOs, and parent networks.	Create public exhibitions and social media campaigns showcasing youth-led innovations, reaching 5,000+ community members.
Engage policymakers through presentations, whitepapers, and policy proposals highlighting youth innovation as a driver for sustainability.	Policymakers and environmental departments.	Present prototype outcomes and data to policymakers to influence youth-inclusive sustainability plans.

Strategic Breakdown

Target Group 1: Students and Youth Innovators

Why they matter: Students are the foundation of Ambala's future. Engaging them early nurtures responsibility and creativity.

Actions:

- Host a 6-week sustainability innovation bootcamp with local mentors.
- Provide access to maker spaces for prototype testing.
- Launch a Youth Sustainability Fellowship program.
- Create inter-school competitions focused on renewable energy and waste reduction.
- **Resources needed:** Mentors, school labs, and small grants.
- **Expected results:** A new generation of young innovators empowered with technical, environmental, and collaborative skills.

Target Group 2: School Administrators and NGOs

Actions:

- Integrate sustainability topics into school curricula.
- Partner with organizations for entrepreneurship frameworks.
- Facilitate teacher training sessions on green education.
- **Outcomes:** By 2026, sustainability/eco clubs in at least three schools actively running projects, encouraging experiential learning.

Target Group 3: Ambala Municipal Council and Enterprises

Actions:

- Co-design pilot zones for prototype deployment.
- Develop community testing areas for solar tiles and compost systems.
- Secure small municipal grants for pilot implementations.
- Outcomes: Two working public models that demonstrate measurable energy savings or waste reduction.

Target Group 4: Local Media, NGOs, and Parent Networks

Actions:

- Launch #GreenAmbala media campaign showcasing student projects.
- Organize community exhibitions and awareness fairs.
- Host storytelling events led by students to share impact stories.
- Outcomes: Increased public awareness and participation in sustainability initiatives.

Target Group 5: Policymakers and Environmental Departments

Actions:

- Present results to Haryana's environment ministry.
- Advocate for youth inclusion in climate policy development.
- Collaborate with educational boards for sustainability frameworks.
- Outcomes: Policy-level support for long-term youth engagement in environmental innovation.

Systems View

Connecting Strategy, Targets & Impact

Each strategy interlinks to form a cohesive ecosystem:

- Student engagement generates innovation.
- Schools and NGOs sustain learning structures.
- Municipal partners ensure implementation.
- Media networks amplify awareness.
- Policy engagement solidifies long-term change.
- This loop ensures that innovation is nurtured, tested, showcased, and institutionalized..

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Implementation Plan

Phase 1 : Foundation
Nov 2025- March 2026

Establish core YEA team, recruit 100 students, begin sustainability bootcamps.

Phase 2 : Pilot
April- September 2026

Deploy pilot prototypes in schools and municipal areas.

Phase 3 : Amplify
Dec 2026- Feb 2027

Conduct public exhibitions, publish policy reports, media outreach.

Phase 4: Institutionalize
March 2027 onwards

Integrate youth innovation hubs into educational and municipal planning.

Evaluation Metrics & Indicators

Area	Quantitative Indicators	Qualitative Indicators
Student Engagement	Number of students trained; prototypes developed.	Increased environmental consciousness and leadership.
Educational Integration	Schools adopting sustainability curricula.	Teachers' confidence and student participation.
Community Implementation	Number of pilot projects tested in Ambala.	Community feedback on impact and usability.
Awareness & Outreach	Social media reach, event participation.	Change in local public attitudes.
Policy Engagement	Meetings held, proposals submitted.	Acknowledgment of youth inclusion in policy agendas.

Reflection & Future Outlook

This Theory of Change reflects the growing movement of youth climate leadership inspired by C40 Cities.

The combination of education, innovation, and community partnership is essential to achieve net-zero cities. The journey in Ambala begins with youth and expands to the systems that shape them.

Moving forward, this framework will evolve into a Youth Climate Innovation Hub, providing continuous mentorship, digital learning spaces, and collaboration with universities.

By 2030, the vision is to see every school in Ambala connected through a sustainability network powered by student-led change.

Instagram Post Link:

