

Rio +20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development
Agents of Change Application

The SustainUS Agents of Change program is now accepting applications to join the SustainUS youth delegation to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro on May 28th-June 6th, 2012.

The 2012 Rio+20 UNCSD Earth Summit is a follow-up on previous commitments from the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, as well as a check in on the progress of those commitments, and an opportunity to further build momentum on sustainable development issues as related to the chosen themes. The Earth Summit will help determine the future of international policy on sustainable development in regards to enhancing the green economy, and international environmental governance. Young people from across the globe are organizing to bring a sense urgency and rationality to the summit. Countries at the Rio+20 Earth Summit must take action to stop irreversible environmental degradation and implement sustainable development policies needed to protect future generations.

The SustainUS Agents of Change delegation will include youth from various organizations and backgrounds, which will have the unique opportunity to represent US youth at the 2012 Rio+20 Earth Summit.

Selected delegates will work together in the months leading up to the Summit to educate themselves and their communities on key policy issues. Delegates will also engage in the official policy process and create SustainUS policy priorities to push for within the negotiations; they will then be expected to use the SustainUS policy priorities collaborate with other stakeholders and to actively lobby government delegates. Delegates will also plan and participate in a number of educational and campaign type initiatives in the months leading up to Rio to help engage the broader youth population in the process. As youth representatives at the Rio+20 UNCSD Earth Summit, delegates will work side-by-side with youth from around the world and other stakeholder organizations, as well as government delegates to ensure a just and sustainable outcome.

Agents of Change Program Expectations

Delegates will be participating in educational outreach, conducting policy research and writing, collaborating with international youth, and helping coordinate SustainUS events and campaigns leading up to Rio. Delegates are expected engage in educational outreach, policy research and writing, coordinating with international youth in advance, and helping build SustainUS events or campaigns leading up to Rio. Delegates will also participate in the official preparatory meetings leading up to the Rio negotiations.

Preparation

Delegates will be required to stay in regular email contact and engage in research and weekly or bi-monthly calls as needed. Delegates will also work in sub-groups on various educational and grassroots projects, as well as policy related sub-groups to create positions and provide input into the process.

Community Engagement

Delegates, having the unique opportunity to represent US youth at the Earth Summit, are expected to engage their communities through education and outreach. The community engagement program for Agents of Change delegates will build public awareness around sustainable development in respect to the green economy and international environmental governance.

Time Commitment

Delegates are expected to commit time each week to develop the various initiatives the delegation will be working on. Delegation calls will be held weekly or bi-monthly and will typically be in the evenings or weekends to accommodate delegate schedules. There may also be regional youth summits or delegation meetings that delegates will be asked to attend. As preparatory meetings or the summit draw near, delegates can expect to put in more time, as the pace of work will tend to pick up.

In Rio

Delegates will participate in roundtables, as well as sit in on negotiations at the highest possible level, which will include key government representatives from around the world. Hopefully Summit will result in a focused political document and further commitments and action on sustainability issues. Delegates will have the opportunity to help ensure renewed political commitment on sustainable development, and will be able to contribute to discussions addressing the remaining gaps in the implementation of current sustainable development policies, as well as new and emerging challenges.

Logistics

Delegates will be responsible for booking their own travel to and from Rio de Janeiro. SustainUS will provide travel suggestions, and assist delegates as much as possible in preparing for the travel process.

The Agents of Change delegation will have the option to stay together in a hostel in Rio, which will be booked in advance. We find that common housing helps foster cohesion and increased effectiveness in Agents of Change delegations. Delegates will be informed of hostel arrangements far in advance and may be asked for feedback on hostel options.

Application Procedure

If you are interested in applying for the SustainUS Agents of Change delegation to the Rio+20 Earth Summit, please fill out the following application outlined below and submit it to rio@sustainus.org by **5pmEST August 19**. Please note that there are 8 parts to the application. To be considered for the delegation all parts of the application must be addressed. All applications should be submitted in a single word document to rio@sustainus.org. The document may be as long as necessary, but please stick to the word/page limits where noted on specific sections. 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.

Selection Criteria

SustainUS is committed to selecting a skilled, diverse, and passionate delegation. Applicants are required to be between ages 18 and 26 as of June 2012 and to either (a) be a US citizen or (b) have been studying or working in the US for 6 months. Applicants who can attend the entire conference will also be given preference. Additional selection criteria are as follows:

- Commitment to sustainable development 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 in advocating or organizing around the Green Economy movement and/or international environmental governance.*
- Diversity: Preference will be given to those who can contribute something unique to the Earth Summit youth delegation. If you have a unique background or experience, please note it in your application.*
- Leadership Experience: Experience in leadership roles will be considered in the process as well as one's ability to be team player. Please describe your leadership and/or team experience in your application.*

Agents of Change Delegation Application

Part I: Basic Information

Name:

School and/or place of employment/volunteering:

Address:

Degree or Major (if applicable):

Phone number:

Date of Birth:

E-mail address:

Languages spoken (In order of proficiency):

Did a member of SustainUS refer you to this program? If so, please provide his/her name.

I am a US Citizen or have studied/worked in the U.S. for at least 6 months prior to the Conference: Yes/No

Part II: Personal Statement

Please provide a personal statement detailing in 500 words or less your interest in the 2012 Rio+20 Earth Summit and what prior experiences make you a good candidate for this program. It may help to consider the selection criteria described above in the following questions:

How have your life experiences and/or previous work with sustainable development issues prepared you to be a youth delegate at Rio +20?

What is your main goal in attending the 2012 Rio+20 Earth Summit?

How do you plan on using the experience gained from being a youth delegate to further your work and activism in sustainable development?

How do you think US youth delegates can help bridge the gap between local grassroots sustainable development action and the international policy process?

Please read over the SustainUS policy platform

(www.sustainus.org/docs/policy.pdf). Are there points with which you identify

or disagree?

Part III: Policy Question

In 200 words or less, outline a gap in current policy implementation and supply policy recommendations you would want to make or see made at the 2012 Rio+20 Earth Summit concerning one of the following issues:

- Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
- Institutional framework for sustainable development/ international environmental governance
- New and emerging sustainability issues that have not been addressed in international policies
- Current gaps in implementation of sustainable development policies from the previous Earth Summits (i.e. Agenda 21, Rio declaration, etc.)

TIP...

In preparing your personal statement and policy recommendation, you may find it helpful to visit the additional background resources at the following websites:

- SustainUS policy platform www.sustainus.org/docs/policy.pdf
- Rio +20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development <http://www.uncsd2012.org>
- General Information about Rio+20 Earth Summit <http://www.earthsummit2012.org>

Part IV: Specific Skills

In putting together a delegation, we will be seeking a diversity of needed skills and delegates with particular strengths. It is also important for delegates to be flexible and willing to expand beyond their comfort zones by taking part in a variety of areas, including policy, communications work, and actions. Specifically, we will be looking to have the skills listed below on the team. Please highlight your experience in any of the following:

- Blogging/social media and online communications
- Press release and media relations
- Grassroots activism
- Campaign experience
- Public speaking or talking to the media
- Crafting effective messaging/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

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 summit.

Part VI: Background

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

Part VII: 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
- \$3,001-\$8,000
- \$8,001-\$12,000
- \$12,001-\$20,000
- \$20,001-\$38,000
- \$38,001 and up

Do you have a parent/guardian who would be willing and able to contribute to your costs of attending the Earth Summit? Yes/No

Part VIII: 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 the Earth Summit, we are not able to accept all applicants as delegates. However, this does not lessen the importance of raising awareness around sustainable development in addressing the green economy and international environmental governance in the US.

SustainUS would like to work with all applicants to raise awareness about the Earth Summit through community engagement campaigns. Are you interested in participating in the community engagement campaign regardless of the result of your application to be a part of the 2012 Rio+20 Earth Summit youth delegation?

All applicants will be notified of the application results in the first week of September, and the selected delegates will be required to confirm their participation shortly thereafter. If you have any questions, please contact the SustainUS Rio+20 Coordinators at the email address mentioned above.

Applications must be received by 5pmEST Friday, August 19th, 2011

Thank you for your interest in joining the SustainUS delegation!

