



The Surfrider Foundation's Climate Action Program: Restoring Coasts, Empowering Communities

Welcome to the Surfrider Foundation's Climate Action Program — a transformative initiative dedicated to safeguarding our coasts from the impacts of climate change. This is your introduction to the program's goals and the actionable steps we are taking to make a lasting difference.

THE PROBLEM

The fight to protect our ocean and coasts is taking on a new urgency driven by climate change and our ocean is on the frontlines. Rising sea levels, stronger storms, and warming waters – these are not distant warnings of some potential dystopian future, but realities we face today.

The effects of climate change are already damaging community infrastructure, exacerbating pollution problems, shrinking our beaches, and diminishing the public's ability to enjoy coastal resources. Global sea level is projected to rise by six feet or possibly more by 2100. U.S. scientists estimate that about 50% to 70% of our coastlines are at high risk for 'beach loss' due to sea level rise and coastal erosion. Beach access and coastal recreation, which drive our tourism and recreation economies and contribute billions of dollars to coastal communities, are at dire risk. These changes threaten the very essence of what makes the ocean so special: its beauty, its biodiversity, and the coastal communities that depend on it.



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OUR VISION

The Surfrider Foundation's Climate Action Program empowers and supports chapters to restore and protect their coastlines and oceans, mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts and preserving coastal environments for future generations through the implementation of nature-based solutions. By focusing on nature-based solutions, we aim to conserve and restore critical carbon-storing coastal ecosystems, ensuring the resilience of our coastal environments and communities.



WHAT WE DO

Restore Coastal Ecosystems: We focus on supporting chapters to restore coastal ecosystems, including mangroves, salt marshes, coastal dunes, and more. By enhancing these habitats, we can mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and preserve biodiversity.

Empower Communities: We believe that local communities are essential partners in climate action. Through education, engagement, and capacity-building, we empower communities to take ownership of coastal restoration efforts and become stewards of their environment.

Collaborate for Impact: Collaboration is at the heart of our approach. We work closely with government agencies, non-profit organizations, local businesses, and volunteers to maximize the impact of our restoration projects and create lasting change.

WHY IT MATTERS

Coastal ecosystems are being degraded at an alarming rate due to human activities and climate change. Our coasts are highly susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change, including sea-level rise, intensified storms, and coastal erosion. Loss of these vital ecosystems not only diminishes biodiversity but also reduces the natural buffers that protect against storm surge and flooding. Restoring and protecting coastal ecosystems is essential for enhancing the resilience of coastal communities to climate change impacts. Healthy coastal ecosystems provide critical services, including carbon sequestration, shoreline stabilization, and optimal habitat, which are vital for both human well-being and biodiversity conservation.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Join a Restoration Event: Volunteer with your local Surfrider chapter to participate in hands-on restoration projects that include native planting and/or invasive species removal. Your efforts will directly contribute to the resilience of your coastal ecosystems.

Join Your Local Chapter: Strengthen the impact of the program by becoming a member of your local Surfrider chapter. Connect with like-minded individuals and participate in collective efforts to help identify and plan restoration events in your community.

Stay Informed: Stay engaged by attending our educational workshops and webinars. Stay informed about the program's progress, challenges, and success stories by participating in engaging webinars.

Spread the Word: Help us raise awareness about the importance of coastal restoration and climate action. Share our messages on social media, participate in outreach events, and inspire others to join the movement.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, but together, we have the power to create positive change. Join us in the Surfrider Foundation's Climate Action Program and be part of the solution. Together, we can restore our coasts, protect our communities, and secure a sustainable future for generations to come. Thank you for joining us to turn the tide against the harmful effects of climate change. Together, we can make a difference!

Connect with us to learn more and stay updated.

Visit: surfrider.org/climate-action-program | Contact: climateaction@surfrider.org | Follow: [@surfrider](https://twitter.com/surfrider)

