

Oxfam America Clubs Event Ideas and Resources Guide

The following list of events and dates represent just a few suggestions. While some events are listed under specific campaigns, they can all be adapted to whatever campaign or issue you are working on. Also, keep in mind this list is not exhaustive, so go ahead and create your own event! Be creative—host a world cup, basketball or volleyball tournament, Top Chef cook-off, fashion show, dunking booth, date auction, scavenger hunt... the possibilities are endless and the more creative your Club is the more fun your organizers and participants will have. Good luck!

Oxfam America's Outreach and Organizing team

Climate Change:

Dates to consider:

- International Women's Day (great time to push Sisters on the Planet)
- First day of Spring
- World Water Day
- Earth Day

Event ideas:

- [Sisters on the Planet Screening](#)
- [Roundtable Discussion](#)
- [Walk for Climate Justice](#)
- [Climate Change House Party](#)
- [Climate Change Hunger Banquet](#)

Fast and Emergencies:

Dates to consider:

- World Food Day
- National Hunger and Homelessness Week
- Fast for World Harvest Day, Thursday before Thanksgiving
- World Water Day
- World Health Day
- International Day of UN Peacekeepers
- World Refugee Day
- Anniversary of the Geneva Convention
- Human Rights Day

Event Ideas:

- [Oxfam America Hunger Banquet](#) – focused on the [food crisis](#) or [emergencies](#)
- [Skip a Meal for Oxfam](#)
- [Dining Hall Fast](#)
- Walk—examples: Democratic Republic of Congo victims of sexual violence, or Afghan civilians affected by the war, or victims of the latest humanitarian disaster.
- House/dorm party and/or film screening
- Fundraising event
- Emergency Simulation

Extractive Industries—Right to Know, Right to Decide

Dates to consider:

- Valentine's Day
- Earth Day
- World Water Day
- World Refugee Day

Event Ideas:

- Extractive Industries [Hunger Banquet](#)
- “Mock mine” display using pictures, building materials, etc
- Movie screening of Oxfam films *Choropampa: The Price of Gold* or *Our Land Our Life*
- Display of the effects of mining on water (World Water Day)—check out case studies on [Ghana](#) and [Peru](#) on Oxfam's website
- Refugee demonstration—check out the case study on [Ghana](#) on Oxfam's website
- Panel on sustainable development

Other Great Event Ideas – for whatever campaign you are working on:

- Sleep-outs—raise awareness of poverty and homelessness or the plight of refugees by sleeping outside in a conspicuous part of campus
- Bake Sales
- Debates
- [Tabling](#)—at the student union, concerts, etc
- Discussion Panels
- Music Events/Concerts
- Photo petitions—create a Power Point presentation or print them out to make a collage instead of the usual list of names.
- Benefit nights at local stores/restaurants.
- Post card campaign—instead of having people sign letters to representatives have them sign and mail postcards to spice things up a bit.
- Organize open mic nights, poetry slams, dance performance, theatre pieces and improvisation shows.
- Coordinate film and speaker series. Invite students, professors, researchers, policy makers and professionals to discuss your topic.
- Work with campus bookstores to dedicate a section to the global justice issues you are working on.
- [Write a letter](#) to the editor, an article, a comic strip, or another piece for your school paper.
- Hold stunts & demonstrations to raise awareness.
- Present on your issues and on Oxfam's work to local primary and secondary school groups.
- [Host letter writing and lobby call](#)-in parties to challenge your congressperson.
- Host an [Oxfam Unwrapped](#) gift drive.

Climate Change Roundtable Student Guide

Summary

Climate change stands as one of the most challenging crises facing our world today. From floods in Bangladesh to droughts in Kenya, glacier melts in Peru to hurricanes in the Caribbean, poor and vulnerable communities are already suffering from the effects of climate change.

Simply put, the impacts of climate change have the capacity to unravel and destabilize any development progress being made in communities around the world today, trapping a growing number of developing communities in a state of utter poverty. In addition to climate, the ever-growing food crisis, the cost of energy, transportation, and access to resources have compounded the issue.

Historically the climate movement has been spearheaded by environmental groups dedicated to promoting alternative energies, reducing consumption, waste, greenhouse gas emissions, and preventing deforestation and habitat destruction. However, very little attention has been given to the current and growing human impact of climate change in developing and marginalized communities. Oxfam is one of the few authorities seeking community-based solutions to help vulnerable populations cope with climate change. This focus on community development strategies is referred to as *adaptation*.

The Oxfam Climate Roundtable aims to be a creative model for students in the climate change debate on campuses to create further awareness of adaptation and how climate conditions currently affect vulnerable communities and instill a value for justice in those places. It also seeks to engage and provide actions for students with many diverse backgrounds and those not traditionally associated with the environmental movement (i.e. students with business, science, engineering, humanities, medical backgrounds, etc.).

Once the Roundtable is successfully implemented, the Roundtable members, with guidance and support of Oxfam staff, will organize collaborative actions on campus and in their communities that create further awareness of adaptation. These students will also be encouraged to consider how their actions can be replicated and contribute to larger regional or national Roundtables that follow similar steps to the individual campus model.

The following guide is intended to help students understand, organize, and further Oxfam America's Climate Change Campaign using the Roundtable strategy.

General Roundtable Objectives

- Educate and challenge students and communities to have a deeper awareness and appreciation for climate-related poverty and adaptation.
- Involve and incorporate students outside the traditional environmental movement to engage the climate change debate as necessary for achieving social and global justice.
- Form working relationships with other student organizations, professors, faculty, and campus offices to organize around Oxfam's Climate Change Campaign.
- Organized students to take collective actions raising awareness for climate adaptation.

Hosting a Roundtable on campus

Eight steps

1. **Know the issue.** Familiarize yourself with the climate change debate and Oxfam's approach, programs, policy positions and specific asks.
 - All materials, media, reports, and talking points may be found on Oxfam's climate website at www.oxfamamerica.org/climate. We also encourage you to

join the Climate Change Action Team at www.oxfamamerica.org/join to receive the most up to date information and newsletters.

2. Get to know your campus.

- On your campus, research and map out the various student organizations, departments, and professors who would be interested and helpful in building a climate movement on campus.
- Consult a professor, academic advisor, or other faculty member for opinions on certain offices, groups, and individuals who can help you network on campus.
- Who shows interest? Who shares your goals? Who are your champions? Who are your targets? How can others help you plan or get involved?
- Begin discussing the Roundtable idea with those who are interested. When networking with others, identify what aspects of climate change, the environment, and/or poverty can be agreed upon as common interests. Always start with common interests.
- Identify and build a core group of interested people. This is a team effort.

3. Set Your Individual Goals and Objectives Early.

- Make sure your goals are action oriented.
- Who are the key people and groups you would like to participate in the Roundtable?
- How will your Roundtable build consensus and take action to raise awareness of adaptation?
- What is realistic for your campus? What type of action will people take?
- How will you measure the success of the Roundtable and the action?
- What is the timeline for your Roundtable project?

4. Put the plan into action. Plan the Roundtable.

- Pick a date for the Roundtable. Be sure to plan around other major events such as holidays, mid-terms and finals, concerts, major sporting events, welcome weeks or other university-wide or competing events.
- Reserve a room. Assess the size and resources of the room. Does it accommodate the size of your group? What amenities does it have (power outlets, a projector, a screen, chairs, etc.)?
- Determine the agenda for the meeting, and advertise it while promoting the Roundtable. You don't have to go into extreme detail, but people are more likely to attend if they know the content – two or three bullet points should be fine.

5. Advertise. Advertise. Advertise. This is perhaps the best way to bring folks in the door.

- Try not to advertise alone. Get other students, organizations, professors, university staff and offices to help you promote the Roundtable. (If they help you advertise, there is a good chance they will show.)
- Tabling and attending involvement fairs are effective ways to quickly advertise the event. If you table, try to make it fun by including games, trivia, or even food to draw people in. FREE FOOD is always a great incentive to bring people in the door.
- It is a good idea to set up an email, Evite, Facebook page, or other site for people to RSVP on and get more information. It will also help you determine how many people are coming.
- Utilize your school's media and popular communication methods when possible – academic newsletters, school papers, radio stations, billboards, TV, sidewalk chalk.
- *Email is good, but never underestimate the power of meeting people face-to-face. If there is a professor or organization you would especially like to join your efforts, schedule a meeting and invite them directly.*

- Send and post reminders for the event 2 weeks ahead of time, and specifically remind any RSVP guests 1 week and 1 or 2 days before.
- Tell your school newspaper, radio, or TV about the event, and invite them to cover it. Write a press release for the Roundtable. (see Resource Page 6)

<p>Sample campus resources for advertising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Office and department billboards ▪ Online event calendars ▪ Facebook clubs and pages ▪ Academic listservs and online message boards ▪ Flyer in department buildings or at popular campus locations ▪ Professors and academic advisor 	<p>Sample campus resources for advertising:</p> <p>Office and department billboards Online event calendars Facebook clubs and pages Academic listservs and online message boards Flyer in department buildings or at popular campus locations Professors and academic advisor</p>
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6. Host the Roundtable.

- Introduce yourself and thank everyone for coming. Have folks around the room introduce themselves and state why they are interested in climate change. If it's a rather large group, maybe have them stand up and greet each other.
- State the obvious. Explain that everyone is present to better understand the link between climate change and justice, and that the Roundtable exists to explore how everyone can work together on this issue. Take this time to state your individual goals for the Roundtable.
- Present briefly on Climate Change using Oxfam materials (PowerPoint, *Sisters on the Planet*, other media). Keep the presentation short, approx. 20 minutes to respect the time and to leave space for discussion. A total of 1 hour is recommended for a first meeting.
- Facilitate the discussion.
 - Survey the room and have participants share their interest or how they are working on climate change. Write these down.
 - On paper, map out any common goals and values that groups and individuals may share in the room.
 - Prepare questions ahead of time to help guide the discussion based on your objectives. Sample questions may include:
 - What is your personal interest in climate change?
 - How do the mission and goals of your organization relate to poverty and justice?
 - How can mitigation and adaptation be related?
 - How can diverse campus groups further incorporate the effects of climate change and justice into their current efforts?
 - Would you or your group be willing to promote climate justice in addition to your campaign objectives?
 - Document the Roundtable. Have someone take minutes, photos or videos, or have university press coverage present.
- HAVE FUN!!!

7. Take immediate action.

While you have everyone present, taking a small but meaningful action is essential to growing a movement and insuring future activism and participation. Some immediate actions may include:

- Writing letters to your congressperson
- Calling your congressperson and asking for their support for climate justice and funding for international adaptation
- Collecting sign-ups for Oxfam's e-community and Climate Change Action Team

- 8. Plan future action.** For the last activity of the Roundtable, challenge the attendees to create a plan of action for the campus. What is an action that can incorporate all the groups' interests and clearly relates to climate change, poverty, and justice? Write down "next steps" that everyone can commit to for the next week and month leading up to the action.

Some sample actions are:

Awareness-raising events

- Design and paint a canvas for Oxfam's *Climate Change on Canvas* Project by October 1, 2008.
- Host a large *Sisters on the Planet* screening, invite speakers, and challenge professors and university faculty to sign the *Sisters Letter*.
- Organize open mic nights, poetry slams, dance performance, theatre pieces and improv shows focused on climate justice.
- Table at concerts and music events.
- Organize art expos (photo essays, paintings showing how climate change affects the poor or what adaptation solutions might look like, etc.).
- Coordinate a film series and speaker series linking climate change with poverty and justice. Invite students, professors, researchers, policy makers, and professionals to discuss climate change
- Work with campus bookstores to dedicate a section to climate change and/or global justice issues.
- Write a letter to the editor, an article, a comic strip, or another piece for your school paper.
- Hold stunts & demonstrations (i.e. Walk for Climate Justice, see page 6).

Competitions

- Organize online art or photo competitions on a Facebook page or another website.
- Coordinate t-shirt, clothing, bumper sticker, mug, or other design contests focused on adaptation.
- Submit internet/viral clips highlighting your efforts and projects on YouTube or other websites.
- Organize student film and music contests (example: www.mediathatmatters.org or www.thepeoplespeak.org).
- Host a photo petition.
- Document how climate change affects your local community through video, or through a letter to your local or school paper.
- Organize tech fairs that challenge students to present ideas that can help developing communities cope with climate change.

Policy Change & Other Efforts

- Schedule in-district and national lobby days.
- Organize video lobbying, submitting a list of questions to politicians via YouTube or by emailing them directly (known as "bird-dogging").
- Display competition pieces, videos, art pieces, tech ideas at a local or national political rally, conference, or event.
- Present on climate change and Oxfam's work to local primary and secondary school groups.
- Host letter writing and lobby call parties to challenge your congressperson.

9. **Follow up & next steps** – How do you promote your program, event, or action on campus and beyond to grow the student climate justice movement?
- Be sure to communicate with the participants of your Roundtable the success and the outcomes of the meeting or the action.
 - Regional & National – Can you connect with other students, Oxfam CHANGE Leaders, Action Corps, and other Clubs in your area to hold similar Roundtables and events at conferences?
 - International – As the Roundtable model continues to grow, we aspire to connect and engage students through other Oxfams and in other countries.

What Oxfam will provide

- Newsletters with new materials, opportunities, news, and general guidance ideas
- Policy and issue updates from Oxfam staff
- Real-time check-ins and strategy sessions via conference calls and regularly scheduled webinars

Roundtable Resource Page (click title for Web link)

- [Take Action Climate Change Factsheet](#)
- [Adaptation 101: How climate change hurts poor communities – and how we can help](#)
- [Sisters on the Planet Homepage](#)
- [Climate Change House Party Guide](#)
- [Oxfam America 2008 Action Guide for the Presidential Election](#)
- [Presidential Petition Signup Webpage](#)
- [Change the Climate](#) – an action guide for writing and visiting your congress person
- [Walk for Climate Justice](#) – slideshow and guide for holding a demonstration
- [Your Words in Print](#) – a guide for writing letters to the editor and op-eds.