

EXPEDITION COPENHAGEN 2009

FINAL REPORT



"We are Midwestern U.S. youth advocates working to fulfill our global responsibilities by teaching and empowering climate action through local collaboration and international partnership. We seek an equitable global climate treaty that catalyzes clean energy opportunities and reduces climate impacts in the Midwest, promotes just, sustainable development everywhere, and builds bridges of collaboration between our region and the wider world."

— EXPEDITION COPENHAGEN MISSION

Expedition Copenhagen educated and empowered youth to influence national climate policy and international climate negotiations through an interdisciplinary curriculum, delegation and grassroots advocacy, culminating at the Copenhagen convention (COP15).

The Will Steger Foundation launched Expedition Copenhagen, a Midwest youth delegation to the international climate negotiations at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen, Denmark, December 5-19, 2009, led by internationally renowned polar explorer Will Steger. Delegates assumed a leadership role in a regional climate campaign to pass strong climate legislation leading up to the international negotiations, and also supported the Will Steger Foundation Citizen Climate curriculum in schools across the United States.

The expedition goals were to:

1. Build U.S. awareness of climate policy and investment in strong participation in the conference.
2. Highlight the unique role of the Midwest region since the Midwest is a key player in driving national climate policy, public opinion, and the renewable energy revolution.
3. Bring the U.S. youth voice to the negotiations whose future is at stake.



Will Steger at the U.N. Climate Summit Plenary. Photo by Nicole Rom.



U.N. Plenary Room, before the conference opens. Photo by Nicole Rom.

POLICY OUTCOME

What actually happened at COP 15?

The outcome of the conference was a three-page, non-binding "Copenhagen Accord" that provides the beginnings of an agreement to tackle climate change. The Accord was agreed to in the final 48 hours of the conference by heads of state from the United States, China, India, Brazil, and South Africa. The other countries assembled at the conference agreed to "take note" of the Accord. What "taking note" means is open to interpretation; it most likely was an indication that many of the other countries at the conference are unwilling to endorse a non-binding climate agreement, but are supportive of this agreement insofar as it leads to a binding agreement later on. The Copenhagen Accord is built on commitments to cut overall emissions by the United States and other developed countries, and commitments to cut emissions intensity (emissions per unit of economic output) by India, China, and other developing countries.

What comes next?

Because the Copenhagen Accord is non-binding and because many specific procedures remain to be agreed, attention is now turning toward the 16th Conference of Parties (COP 16), which will take place in November 2010 in Mexico. Politically, it will be virtually impossible for the United States to make a binding commitment to any international agreement before the U.S. Senate passes energy and climate legislation. Such legislation will provide specific guidance about the size of U.S. emissions cuts and until the U.S. makes such a binding commitment, China and India are unlikely to do so either. If the U.S. Senate passes clean energy and climate legislation—legislation that offers meaningful emissions cuts and international financial commitments—before the November summit in Mexico, the stage may be set for the establishment of a binding post-Kyoto international climate agreement in 2010.



Expedition Copenhagen Team with Will Steger Foundation staff, Jerry Stenger, Nicole Rom, and Will Steger. Photo by Jamie Horter.

EXPEDITION COPENHAGEN

While in Copenhagen our delegation worked on a range of issues: interpreting high level policy discussions on adaptation, finance, climate justice and technology transfer; participating in creative actions with youth from across the globe; and sharing their experiences with media and their peers in Copenhagen as well as back home in the Midwest. In addition to hosting a series of presentations and briefings over the course of the summit, Expedition Copenhagen team members met with government delegates and civil society from around the world.

DOMESTIC CAMPAIGN

Delegates engaged their local communities in a campaign to get strong climate legislation passed in fall 2009. They organized letter-writing and phone call campaigns, youth lobby days and video messages for their Senators. Delegates also built relationships with local NGOs and community organizations in order to strengthen their campaign efforts. Through their own fundraising, delegates built local engagement in the negotiations.

In addition to these efforts, all of our delegates helped to organize actions in their communities for the 350.org International Day of Climate Action on October 24, 2009. Delegate Reed Aronow organized a 350-mile bike ride across Minnesota in the lead up to the Day of Action. Delegate Jamie Racine of Racine, Wisconsin, coordinated high school students who planned a 350 event that gained national media coverage and earned a spot on the 350.org website. Delegate Danielle Ostafinski of Grand Rapids, Michigan, organized an outdoor event

attended by the Mayor which had strong attendance despite rainfall.

Delegates helped to organize statewide and regional youth convergences, known as Powershift conferences, to continue to build support for strong clean energy legislation. In addition, these conferences called on President Obama to attend the climate negotiations and asked for a high-level meeting between U.S. youth and the congressional delegation prior to the Copenhagen conference. Both of these requests were met.



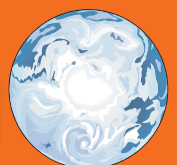
350.org International Day of Climate Action at the Minnesota Capitol Building, St. Paul, Minn. Photo by Abby Fenton.

"People are really interested in WSF because of the curriculum. I think it's regarded legitimately and I used it to prepare for the negotiations."

– LIANA BALINSKY-BAKER



Minnesota delegates Reed Aronow and Aurora Conley prepare to leave for Copenhagen from MSP Airport. Photo by Reed Aronow.



The Will Steger Foundation developed Citizen Climate, a set of interdisciplinary lesson plans for high school students that emphasizes civic engagement and helps teachers and students understand the critical and complex climate solutions being discussed on the international stage related to mitigation, adaptation, land use change, deforestation, infrastructure, technology, and finance. The final lesson provides students with the opportunity to develop a policy statement voicing their perspective on global climate solutions to be delivered to the Copenhagen negotiations. WSF used the internet to leverage “Adventure Learning” a practice that Steger pioneered in the 1980s, to connect with students and engage them through the virtual experience. In Copenhagen, delegates engaged with their followers in a similar way, sending their viewpoints and perspectives via blogs, videos and Twitter feeds, with the ultimate goal of making policy live, real, and relevant.



Citizen Climate Lesson Plans help educators and students understand global climate solutions being discussed at the national and international stage.

“The most impactful thing I did before arriving in Copenhagen was communicating with teachers via my blog. Teachers would have their student’s research and then they’d have a classroom discussion every day. They had a physics class discussing carbon sequestration. Students emailed me personally about questions they were having. I did 3 presentations at West Fargo High and at least 6 at Valley City School. I also did a big presentation with about 200 students at the school as well and handed out the curriculum.”

— MEGAN CONSTANS

OUTREACH

The Citizen Climate Curriculum has been downloaded or distributed to over 300 educators since its launch in August 2009. Vehicles for dissemination included our annual Summer Institute for Climate Education, website, partner organizations and via our delegates.

Educators from across the globe, including Canada, India and Denmark, downloaded the curriculum. In the United States, 35 of 50 states downloaded the curriculum. We promoted the curriculum through professional education associations, including: Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals; Minnesota Science Teachers Association; National Education Association; Education Minnesota; St. Paul Public Schools; North American Association for Environmental Education; National Environmental Education Foundation; Chronicle of Higher Education; Minnesota Department of Education; Minnesota Science Teachers Association.

Non-profit education partners included: Facing the Future; Alliance for Climate Education; National Geographic Society; Clean Air – Cool Planet; Sierra Student Coalition; SustainUS; National Peace Corps Association-Global Education.

All of these groups promoted our program and the curriculum through weekly or monthly newsletters, reaching thousands of formal and non-formal educators.

EDUCATOR QUOTES:

“The lesson plans were very adaptable – I was able to use them in both my physical sciences classroom and my physics classroom.”

“I think the lessons are on point to address topics like global climate change and climate destabilization in the Global South and Industrial North with high school students.”

“They had already read a lot about this, but they understood different actors (in society) better and how negotiations work.”

PRESENTATIONS

"We are educating young people and empowering them to give them the tools and skills to change/impact their local community."

— DANIELLE OSTAFINSKI

Delegates arranged presentations at local high schools as part of the program. These visits, before classrooms as well as entire student assemblies, included introductions to climate change and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to the role of the United States and youth in the international negotiations. They also provided an opportunity for our delegates to share the Citizen Climate Curriculum with teachers and build relationships with students who would then follow delegates during COP15 through the Will Steger Foundation website, blog, and Twitter accounts.

Illinois delegate Liana Balinsky-Baker presented to a large audience of Chicago Public School teachers at an in-service professional development workshop which resulted in many classroom presentations at their schools. The students also wrote short statements for the delegates to bring with them to Copenhagen. These statements were later incorporated into a letter delivery to President Obama. Many delegates were invited to give additional presentations upon their return home from the conference.



Illinois delegate Liana Balinsky-Baker discusses her observations of COP15 with students from Washington D.C. in the U.S. Center at the conference. Photo by Nicole Rom.

While in Copenhagen, several delegates participated in educational presentations. In an event co-sponsored by the U.S. EPA, Forest Service and NOAA, delegates corresponded from Copenhagen with grade school and middle school students from Washington, D.C. over a live webcast. This event garnered a story in The Washington Post.

"I was very impressed with your delegation and found the students articulate and caring. They provided superb feedback and response to the younger students. We are happy that such well-prepared students are in Copenhagen to help move forward action to solve the biggest problem of our time."

— PEG STEFFEN, NOAA



Minnesota Representative and Policy Mentor, Kate Knuth and Michigan delegate Sarah Mullkoff talk about the role of the Midwest Region at a press conference in the Bella Center. Photo by Jamie Horter.

The delegation had other opportunities to present to the public at venues across the city, including at the Danish Institute for Study Abroad, World Wildlife Fund Arctic Tent, a boat co-sponsored by the Polar Conservation Organization, and the Klimaforum conference. At Klimaforum, the people's climate summit at Copenhagen, delegates presented a view of Midwest youth climate activities and the political climate of the Midwest. This was attended by many people from the U.S. and elsewhere and resulted in a fruitful discussion of what has happened, where we are headed, and how we can build broader public support in the Midwest.



Youth received significant attention from many prominent figures; negotiators, politicians and activists specifically sought out youth to share information and opinions. This is because youth in past U.N. negotiations have asserted the message that their futures are at stake.



U.S. youth delegates grab a photo with EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson after a U.S. briefing. Photo by Jamie Horter.

The youth constituency had access to high-level briefings on the status of the negotiations at the Bella Center. These briefings, specifically for youth, featured prominent figures such as Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the IPCC; Connie Hedegaard, President of the COP; Yvo de Boer, U.N. Secretariat; U.S. negotiators Todd Stern and Jonathan Pershing, and many more. During these briefings, youth had a chance to receive up-to-the-minute information and ask questions. Expedition Copenhagen delegates took advantage of these opportunities to get questions answered and share resulting insights through social media outlets.



Congressman Henry Waxman discusses the American Clean Energy Security Act with Wisconsin delegate Charlie Nevarez. Photo by Nicole Rom.

At the conference, the U.S. Center, a venue run by the U.S. State Department, featured a full schedule of presentations from U.S. scientists, business people, and policy makers. Most days during the conference there was also a high-level talk from a U.S. administrator. Speakers included Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and Secretary of



Minnesota delegate Aurora Conley participates in a panel discussion on the impacts of climate change on indigenous people. Photo by Aurora Conley.

Energy Steven Chu. These figures often set up meetings with youth during their time at the Bella Center, and Expedition Copenhagen delegates Jamie Racine and Holly Jones were able to participate in one or more of these private meetings.

Many of the U.S. high-level representatives also participated in briefings specifically for NGOs. Expedition Copenhagen delegates and all U.S. youth took advantage of these opportunities to show the unity and strength of the U.S. youth voice at the conference during question and answer sessions. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson was so impressed by the presence and professionalism of U.S. youth at her briefing that she invited the youth to take a picture with her afterwards and even set up a meeting with U.S. youth the next day.

Other opportunities for access to high-level figures took place outside of the Bella Center. Delegate Reed Aronow attended a private event with Al Gore and was able to ask him a question. Several of our delegates attended a reception with the Blue-Green Alliance and got to hear from each member of the U.S. Congressional delegation that arrived in Copenhagen. At this event, delegate Charlie Nevarez was able to speak with U.S. Congressman Henry Waxman about the U.S. climate bill he authored and that was passed through the House. Iowa delegate Holly Jones was able to meet with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack during Copenhagen and upon returning to their same hometown in January.



Congressman Sandy Levin of Michigan meets with Michigan delegate Danielle Ostafinski at a Blue Green Alliance event on green jobs. Photo by Nicole Rom.

PARTNERSHIPS

School of Environmental Studies

We maintained a partnership with the School of Environmental Studies, a high school for juniors and seniors affiliated with the Minnesota Zoo that sent its own delegation to the conference. Our partnership consisted of a presentation to their school, student mentorship, and a joint event on Midwest youth climate activities at the Klimaforum conference hosted in parallel with the U.N. summit.



School of Environmental Studies high school students meet with Will Steger and Expedition Copenhagen at the Klimaforum, the people's climate summit in Copenhagen. Photo by Nicole Rom.

International Youth Constituency

The international youth climate movement on display in Copenhagen did not form overnight. It developed steadily over a period of at least four years, beginning at the 2005 U.N. Climate Change Conference in Montreal. By 2009, the movement had blossomed into a tightly organized global network of thousands of youth advocates, recognized as one of nine official constituency organizations under the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. International youth organized a Conference of Youth, which took place the weekend before COP15 began. During this weekend, youth participated in discussions and skill-building exercises addressing policy, strategy, and activism.



Dinner of the Americas, hosted by Expedition Copenhagen with youth from Latin America and Canada. Photo by Nicole Rom.

Global South

Our delegation raised more than \$2,700 to support Global South, and particularly Latin American youth participation in the conference. We were able to meet with members of the Latin American youth delegation for a private get together while in Copenhagen.

Chinese Youth and Kenyan Youth

U.S. youth organized a shared dinner with Chinese youth at the conference. This event resulted in a joint U.S.-China press conference in which our Iowa delegate, Holly Jones, was able to participate, as well as a joint U.S.-China youth meeting with Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, in which Delegate Jamie Racine was able to participate. The focus of these collaborations was to highlight how the two nations can work together toward a clean energy future and to model nation building for their respective leaders.



U.S. and Kenyan youth collaborate on a project to deliver messages from youth from their countries to President Obama. Photo by Jamie Horter.

Will Steger Foundation delegates also helped to arrange a meeting between youth from the U.S. and Kenya. Together, we presented letters from young people in our home countries to an aide of President Obama, which was featured on the White House blog. Youth from Kenya had visited Obama's father's hometown to collect statements from young students about how climate change was affecting their communities. Expedition Copenhagen delegates had visited middle schools and high schools across the Midwest, including Chicago, collecting statements from students. When presented together, these statements represented voices from Obama's past, and we shared the message that he holds an important role in our future as he considers how to address climate change.





Our partnership with Stonyfield Farm and Climate Counts resulted in a full program of interviews with inspiring individuals, from athletes to organizers. These interviews were broadcast live to Stonyfield employees, their consumers and were also made available to teachers and the public through the Will Steger Foundation website and partner organizations social networking sites. Three Expedition Copenhagen delegates conducted the interviews and found these interviews to be among the highlights of their experience in Copenhagen. One delegate specifically commented that the questions used for the interviews provided a lens through which she was able to view and report on the activities in the conference. She was also proud and honored to champion the relationship as a delegate. As a result of the contacts made for the interviews, the Will Steger Foundation developed rewarding relationships that will benefit us into the future, particularly with Focus the Nation and Bill McKibben and 350.org.



Wisconsin delegate Charlie Nevarez interviews 350.org founder Bill McKibben for the livestream interviews with Stonyfield Farm and Climate Counts. Photo by Jamie Horter.

The entire delegation participated in a conference call with the CEO of Stonyfield Farm, Gary Hirshberg, for a discussion about corporate sustainability and innovation. This gave delegates an excellent opportunity to consider the contribution the business sector can make to solutions to climate change.



Jamie Racine interviewing Governor Doyle of Wisconsin. Photo by Charlie Nevarez.

The Wild Things jackets worn by Expedition Copenhagen team members were a huge hit at the conference. They

allowed us to easily identify each other and also helped our partners find us in a crowd. These jackets made our trip to Copenhagen come alive as an Expedition and helped to create our image as a professional and unified team. The Expedition logo was visible throughout the conference via the expedition jacket, which gave added visibility and recognition to our group. They wore their jackets proudly at educational presentations, actions, around Copenhagen and in the Bella Center.

Wild Harvest provided basic food items for delegates while in Copenhagen. These products allowed the delegates to cut down on food costs and maintain healthy eating habits while at the conference, for which they were extremely grateful. Wild Harvest's parent company, Supervalu Foundation, also supported the overall program.

Gramicci outfitted our delegates with fashion wear. For many of the young leaders, these cloth items became favorite apparel suiting the every day demands of the negotiating environment.

Overall, Expedition Copenhagen had positive relationships with sponsors and delegates believed the sponsorship model strengthened our conference experience.

ROLE OF YOUTH

At the conference, youth brought a moral voice to the negotiations. They told stories about how climate change is affecting their home communities and shared examples of how we can create a better world. Before and during the conference, youth joined together from around the world to network, sharing information and important skills while creating a stronger movement for solutions to climate change.

Not surprisingly, youth were able to parlay their size and coordination into results. On the night before the negotiations ended, as government delegates prepared for the possibility of leaving Copenhagen without any form of international agreement in place, 150 young people demonstrated outside the Bella Center. For hours they fought the bitter cold to call loudly for an agreement strong enough to prevent the worst impacts of climate change. At 2:30 am, they received a text message rehashing a statement just made inside by UK Climate Minister Ed Miliband: "It's youth and connect-



Iowa delegate Holly Jones participates in a U.S.-China youth press conference at the Bella Center. Photo by Jamie Horter.

ed mobilization that put the pressure to get anything, especially the 130 leaders here. Stay strong."

These and many, many other grassroots youth actions have expressed to policymakers everywhere that young people are unwilling to see their futures destroyed by inaction, or to elect inactive candidates. Youth are the primary stakeholders in the struggle to solve climate change which threatens both the present and the distant future, and their efforts are now producing a groundswell of support. By meeting with senior leaders in the middle with youthful action from the bottom, youth helped create the political environment in which Obama and other world leaders had no choice but to salvage a deal in Copenhagen.

POLICY MENTORS

Each delegate was paired with a policy mentor from his or her state. The policy mentors helped develop the capacity of our delegates through one-on-one support and provided content that supported delegates understanding of state and federal energy policies, the legislative process, and media skills. Many delegates were able to share their experiences in Copenhagen with their policy mentors after the Expedition. Additionally, Min-



Will Steger Foundation Board Member and Policy Mentor, Michael Noble, discusses the role of Midwest decision-makers at a Klimaforum presentation organized by Expedition Copenhagen. Photo by Nicole Rom.

nesota Representative Kate Knuth and energy expert Michael Noble joined the delegation the second week of the conference to act as policy mentors on site.

ROLE OF THE MIDWEST

While our days were packed with activities from pre-dawn to well into the night, our mission remains to present the Midwest voice to those here in Copenhagen and, in turn, to be the voice of Copenhagen back in our Midwestern communities."

— DANIELLE OSTAFINSKI

Expedition Copenhagen delegates shared the unique story of the Midwest at every opportunity while in Copenhagen. Because of our recognizable jackets and clear message, we became a symbol of Midwest youth at the conference and consistently brought our voice to committees and events to which we contributed. It was significant that among U.S. youth we stressed messaging that would appeal to a Midwest audience, and also that we brought additional attention to the importance of our region and building the movement at home. Delegate Maia Dedrick set up a question and answer session between delegates and an audience of over 300 people at the Minneapolis Public Library and Jamie Horter created a video tour of the Bella Center for Augustana College and local TV stations in South Dakota.



Sarah Mullkoff shows off her unique mittens - depicting her home state of Michigan. Photo by Nicole Rom.



This is a real powerful turning point for life on earth," Steger said. Negotiations appear more sincere than in the past, he said, and national leaders are trying to work through "incredibly complex" issues.

— CAPITOL CHATTER

Expedition Copenhagen garnered significant local media, a few national pieces and were highly successful with new and social media. Expedition Copenhagen generated more than 100 news stories (excluding regular video, imagery and blog posts to Huffington Post, YouTube and Facebook).

Stories tracked featured both Will Steger Foundation and Stonyfield Farm brands, along with Expedition Copenhagen and Climate Counts. The most prevalent theme of the coverage was youth activism. Media tactics employed included:

- Call to Action Letter (distributed to college campuses of Expedition Delegates)
- Expedition Media Advisory (distributed nationally)
- Expedition Press Release (distributed nationally)
- Letter-to-the-Editor (distributed to daily papers in Midwest markets)

Jamie Racine was featured in Racine Wisconsin's Journal Times and Racine Post; North Dakota delegate Megan Constans did live interviews with Prairie Public Radio and the prominent Fargo, ND paper InForum; Danielle Ostafinski spoke with her local radio station in Grand Rapids, Michigan; and South Dakota delegate Jamie Horter was featured in the Argus Leader and on Keloland television. Will and delegate Reed Aronow were featured on WCCO-TV; Holly Jones was featured in a regional Iowa paper, The Hawkeye; and Aurora Conley was featured in Ashland, WI's daily press when she returned home.

(About Delegate Reed Aronow) "He's one of a dozen youth delegates chosen to attend with the Minneapolis-based Will Steger Foundation, which is pushing for a legally binding treaty and raising awareness about the Midwest's role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

— SARAH LEMAGIE, STAR TRIBUNE

Delegate Liana Balinsky-Baker wrote daily blogs for Canadian Geographic and The Huffington Post; Holly Jones was featured on Grist.org; Maia Dedrick submitted regular opinion pieces to MinnPost.com; and expedition leader Will Steger blogged for National Geographic and was a featured guest on the Associated Press Twitter and Facebook pages. The expedition received two full-page stories in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune and a one-hour segment on Minnesota Public Radio. The Washington Post covered the presentation delegates gave to students in the Washington D.C area from the U.S. Center in the Bella Center.



Reed Aronow catches up on his blog at the Bella Center. Photo by Jamie Horter.

Delegates used handheld flip-cams to capture more than 300 videos of the negotiations, creative actions, press conferences and interviews with other youth and distinguished leaders such as 350.org founder Bill McKibben and Indigenous leader, Tom Goldtooth. They used Twitter and Facebook on a regular basis to provide up-to-the minute reports and submitted over 75 blogs to the Will Steger Foundation website during the two-week conference.

Will Steger Foundation's videographer produced over 30 video stories from Copenhagen for distribution on YouTube, TheUptake.org and for partner events. The expedition worked collaboratively to produce a final recap video "Expedition Copenhagen in Three Words."

THE HUFFINGTON POST
THE INTERNET NEWSPAPER: NEWS BLOGS VIDEO COMMUNITY

The Washington Post



During the course of Expedition Copenhagen, the website had over 3,500 visits, 10,000 page views and over 50% of the visitors were new visitors.

DELEGATE FEEDBACK

Highlights from the experience included, receiving media coverage and communicating back to home communities, giving school presentations and learning about international policy and solutions others are working on. Each delegate expressed an appreciation for the amazing networks that formed before and during the conference that will increase public support for bold climate policy and allow them to move forward professionally as well.

Delegates felt they were able to continue to build on their already appreciable leadership skills through this program. Delegate Aurora Conley shared with us: "I learned a lot about myself, and I did things I never thought I would do or could do. I was in a press conference, led marches, did actions." Delegate Sarah Mullkoff said that she had studied international relations and environmental policy in books in college, but to see how policy creation actually works or does not work at an international level was a new learning experience.

Many delegates learned how to communicate about the issue effectively and work with media. Delegates commented on the tremendous access they had to new and traditional media and to political and nonprofit leaders, which allowed them unique influence.

Within the team, delegates shared their skills, in areas from science to journalism. Many delegates found the conference to be an extremely intense situation, and learned the value of a well-rounded team in such a situation. Many delegates were also able to improve their fundraising skills through this program.

Through this program, we introduced 12 young leaders to an amazing international climate network at a critical time in their lives personally and professionally. Although we cannot measure the impact this will have at the present time, we have heard from delegates that this experience has renewed their enthusiasm for their work and refocused their pursuits.



Top to bottom, left to right; Sarah Mullkoff (MI) and Aurora Conley (MN). Photo by Jamie Horter. Maia Dedrick (MN), Logistics Coordinator. Photo by Nicole Rom. Chalie Nevarez (WI) and Megan Constans (ND). Photo by Jamie Racine. Nicole Rom and Policy Mentor Kate Knuth. Photo by Reed Aronow. Danielle Ostafinski (MI). Photo by Jamie Horter. Jamie Horter (SD). Photo by Jamie Racine. Chris Detjen (MI), International Partnerships and Policy Coordinator and Reed Aronow (MN). Photo by Aurora Conley. Jamie Racine (WI). Photo by Jamie Horter. Chris Detjen. Photo by Nicole Rom. Liana Balinsky-Baker (IL). Photo by Nicole Rom. Holly Jones (IA). Photo by Jamie Horter. Aurora Conley (MN). Photo by Aurora Conley.



CONCLUSION

Expedition Copenhagen delivered position statements from United States youth to international leaders and documented their experiences online through multi-media communications. Will Steger and youth delegates addressed policy makers and the international audience calling for U.S. leadership. The Will Steger Foundation empowered youth delegates by providing: opportunities to build on their leadership and communication skills, access to influential decision makers on the regional, national and international stage, access to potential funding opportunities and fundraising skills, participation in valuable networking opportunities, and mentorship opportunities.

The overarching goal of this program was to provide context, guidance and structure for youth climate activists to effectively articulate policy solutions that match the science. This program expanded our youth and school networks and fostered cooperation among youth climate groups regionally, nationally, and internationally to demand action that will protect their generation from the most serious predicted impacts.

"Expedition Copenhagen was a major accomplishment for the organization and I was proud to be a part of It."

— MICHAEL NOBLE, WSF BOARD MEMBER AND
POLICY MENTOR TO EXPEDITION COPENHAGEN



Banner created by U.S. youth, 350.org and the Tck, Tck, Tck campaign to urge the U.S. to lead in Copenhagen. Photo by Charlie Nevarez.



Delegates participate in a march to the Bella Center with 100,000 people in Copenhagen. Photo by Kate Knuth.

"The whole world looked to the U.S. to help negotiate a comprehensive climate agreement here. Similarly, the whole world is watching the United States Senate to see that it enacts President Obama's pledges here in Copenhagen. Midwest U.S. Senators are the critical players in passing a comprehensive jobs and energy bill that is at a standstill on the Senate floor. Our Senators comprise some of the most important votes that will determine the fate of the Earth. They have the opportunity to lead the transition to secure, sustainable societies all around the world, with good jobs and the economic engine powerful enough to solve the problem. Call your U.S. Senate offices today. The message is: the whole world is waiting on you. Enact a clean jobs energy bill now."

— ASPECTS OF A JOINT OP-ED WRITTEN BY
EXPEDITION COPENHAGEN ON DECEMBER 17, 2010

Cover photos courtesy of Jamie Horter, Aurora Conley and Nicole Rom.

