



TakingITGlobal
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A New Generation Speaks Up About Environmental Issues

AMSTERDAM (21 OCTOBER, 2011) - Twenty years after the original UN Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, a new generation of youth is speaking up about global environmental issues. Youth, educators and NGOs from across Amsterdam met today to form recommendations for the 2012 Rio+20 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. This event was one in a series of environmental forums organized by Tread Lightly, an environmental education and engagement initiative from TakingITGlobal and Staples Foundation. It capped off the series of forums that took place across Europe throughout October; in Oslo, London, Milan and Paris.

Many of the youth participating today were not yet born in 1992, when world leaders gathered for the original Earth Summit, a landmark in global environmental policy. But in 2012, when politicians and change-makers reconvene in Rio de Janeiro, their voices will be heard. "Young people today have important perspective to share on the state of the environment, as they are the ones inheriting it," says Jennifer Corriero, Executive Director of TakingITGlobal. "Through the Youth Environment and Education Forums, they will have a chance to contribute and connect with their peers."

Tread Lightly's youth environment and education forums allow individuals and organizations to contribute toward the UN Rio+20 Earth Summit while connecting with others who are passionate about sustainable development. The results of each forum will be compiled and contributed to the recommendations submitted to the UN by Peace Child International, TakingITGlobal and other civil society organizations.

"Listening to our youth is one of the best ways to gain new insights and create unique solutions to some of our most pressing sustainability challenges, and we look forward to seeing the resulting recommendations," said Katy Dobbs, director of corporate social responsibility for Staples International. "Through these forums, Tread Lightly and Staples are also reinforcing the power of collaboration in problem solving among young people worldwide."

About Tread Lightly:

Tread Lightly provides free tools and resources for climate change education, including a teacher toolkit, an eco-art contest, and a carbon footprint challenge. All these materials are available in 9 languages at www.treadlightly.me. Over the past two years, Tread Lightly has engaged youth and educators worldwide in learning about and expressing their opinions on climate change, while taking action in their daily lives to reduce their ecological footprints.

About TakingITGlobal:

TakingITGlobal (TIG) is the world's leading online community for young global citizens committed to changing their world. TIG inspires young people to become informed and involved by providing capacity-building opportunities and a unique youth-driven platform available in twelve languages. Since launching in 2000, over 20 million people have accessed the website to learn, grow and realize their potential. Visit www.tigweb.org for more information.

About Staples in the Community:

Staples contributes to educational and youth-oriented community efforts, from literacy and mentoring to career skills development, through in-kind and monetary donations and grants from Staples Foundation, the private charitable arm of Staples, Inc. Through its community relations efforts, Staples and Staples Foundation have helped more than 6,000 organizations in 2,000 communities across 27 countries. Community relations is also an integral component of Staples Soul, which recognizes the connection between long-term business success and the impact Staples has on associates, communities and the planet. For more information, visit www.staples.com/community.