

Engage young people with solutions, not more bad news

Submitted by Mira Dietz Chiasson on July 7, 2016

I am a 24-year old and have a Bachelors from Acadia University in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. I know a lot about all the negative impacts of climate changes, and all the reasons why it seems the world is doomed.

I avoid reading the latest verdict on the health of our planet because it's unproductive and depressing.

What young people need are opportunities to take action and to be part of solutions. We are constantly bombarded by all the bad news and at some point after having heard too much of it it's so easy to tune out and go on with life as usual. We need meaningful and community-oriented ways of helping create a positive future.

We need to shift from a bad-news focused way of communicating about climate change, to "ok things are bad, now what are we going to do?" Encourage creativity and innovation. "Bad" times can also generate incredible new opportunities.