



# WORLD CLIMATE SCHOOL

## INTRODUCING THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM “WORLD CLIMATE SCHOOL”:

### WHO IS BEHIND THE PROGRAM:

The program is created by me, Hans Joergen Rasmussen, a retired Norwegian psychologist and educator. I live in Norway during the summer and in Turkey during the winter. Throughout my career, I have more than 30 years of experience with educational programs, developing very inspiring ways of teaching, integrating lectures and slideshows with videos and images and consequential action plans.

I have also extensive experience in the following areas:

- educating teachers in the art of educating others
- psychotherapy for people with severe emotional problems, including handling of grief, anxiety and depression.
- tutoring groups, teaching participants how to use teamwork in groups to optimize results of the groups efforts and at the same time taking care of each other when confronted with emotional distress
- Around 2012 I discovered climate change and the challenge this is creating for all of humanity. Since then it has been my main focus in life, and I have developed an extensive educational program which will be described in the following.

I offer this program free of charge for any large organisation / company / school / district / country who will be willing to work with me on this. Financially, all I ask, is that the organisation agrees to pay for his travelling, board and lodging.

### A SHORT SUMMARY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD CLIMATE SCHOOL:

As part of the development of World Climate School, I designed two websites: First a collection of approx. 400 videos, all documentaries relevant to climate change and how to deal with it: <https://theclimatecinema.org>. In addition to that I created a solid, science-based website for updated scientific knowledge. The name is Saving Our Planet – <https://savingourplanet.net>. In 2016 I joined forces with a group of other people, creating an NGO, based in Paris, France, and the websites were made available for this NGO as tools for planetary awareness raising.

However, recent disagreements between me and the remaining Board of Saving Our Planet has led to a decision that I am now leaving Saving Our Planet, but keeping the websites and the climate school concept. The Climate Cinema can still be found at the same domain name, but the content of the Saving Our Planet website will be moved to a new domain in near future.

I am currently working on a climate school program in Turkey where I live during the winter. I have been working with this project for 3 years now, and the students of this program have invented the new brand for it: WORLD CLIMATE SCHOOL, and they have also created the logo. Therefore, in the future this program will be branded WORLD CLIMATE SCHOOL.

## MISSION STATEMENT OF WORLD CLIMATE SCHOOL (WCS):

Our mission is to inspire, energize and enable the entire community of humans to work together to save the planet, and to convince world leaders to make the fight against climate change their number one priority.

### And this is how we see the state of the planet:

Food and water crises... Ice melting, sea levels rising... More severe and frequent droughts, floods and wildfires... Famines, scarcity-induced conflicts, more and more refugees... Extinction of species... These effects of Climate Change are already with us. Climate Change may become irreversible if we do not act fast and on a massive scale.

The situation is urgent. Unfortunately, the urgency and the need for speed are often underplayed by our leaders and the media.

We must, individually and collectively, stop adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, without further delay

WORLD CLIMATE SCHOOL responds to this challenge by educating, guiding and inspiring Climate Action.

We aim to promote scientifically founded knowledge about the problems, explore manageable solutions and increase eco-literacy of consumers and citizens, so that people will be equipped to demand that politicians and business interests make the right decisions and follow up with effective action.

## SO: WHAT IS THE WORLD CLIMATE SCHOOL:

In the following text you will first get an **abstract**, and after that a **deeper introduction to the program**, and finally an **introduction to our “Teach The Teachers” model**, which is very important in order to raise global awareness fast enough. **Throwing a snowball and thereby creating an avalanche.**

## IN SHORT:

**World Climate School** is an educational program offered by the Hans Joergen Rasmussen, - creator of the concept and with long experience in making this a success.

The aim is not only to educate minds, but to create motivation for Climate Action, going beyond all kinds of denial: Intellectual, emotional and political. Duration approx.. 20-24 hours, - either compact (Weekend) or spaced (8 weeks, 3 hours a week). Themes include the challenges, solutions and the dilemmas involved. In addition introducing relevant websites, scientific resources, teaching material available, videos, powerpoints, etc.

After that he offers a threefold approach:

1. **Workshops** supporting participants in developing concrete action based on their own motivation and local knowledge. The goal of this being awareness raising among all members of the community
2. **Teaching the Teachers.** The goal is to create teachers who are able and willing to take on the task of educating others based on The Climate School and the teachers' own knowledge and motivation. The logic is quite simple: 1 person educating 20, in turn educating 400, in turn educating 6000 etc. etc. We offer support to groups of educators, - as well pedagogy / methodology as knowledge about our present challenges and the solutions.
3. As an essential part of this he can also offer **psychological assistance in handling loss, grief and sorrow**, teaching teachers how to handle this in peer groups, and how to transform inaction and helplessness to action,

The two websites: <https://savingourplanet.net> and <https://theclimatecinema.org> are included, serving as very content rich and pedagogically inspiring sources of knowledge.

## FULL DESCRIPTION:

### WHY CHOOSE WORLD CLIMATE SCHOOL FOR EDUCATION:

WHAT MAKES “WORLD CLIMATE SCHOOL” DIFFERENT?  
AND WHY CHOOSE WCS FOR INSPIRATION?

- **Goal: Educating both minds and emotions**
- **Educating heads, hearts and gut feelings as a means to come out of denial.**

Most climate change education projects are focusing on intellectual learning alone. Feeding the mind with facts, based on sound and updated science.

This does not seem to be enough to make students work their way out of denial.

THERE ARE – AT LEAST - 3 TYPES OF DENIAL:

**Intellectual denial:** You reject that climate change is happening and that it’s man-made

**Emotional denial:** You accept climate change being real and man-made, but the acceptance stays in your head. It doesn’t affect you emotionally, does not fill your body, does not reach your stomach and your heart.

**Political denial:** You recognize climate change, you are strongly affected emotionally by it, but that does not lead you to become politically active. It is our firm belief, that to make students come out of denial and become active in the climate battle, a climate school should work both on an intellectual and an emotional level.

## STRUCTURE, CONTENT AND METHOD

STRUCTURE:

The basic version of The Climate School, for everyone,

**A 16-20 hour seminar.** (Saturday+sunday / friday evening, saturday + sunday). Weekdays also possible on demand. The advantage to this is that teacher and students do not need to live in the same area. This is a very well functioning format, and the core of matter when we offer The Climate School on a worldwide basis.

Another format is:

**An 8 week structure, one night a week, every night a lecture of 3 hours.** This is suitable when teacher and students are living in the same area. It has been tested out in Norway with good results and is currently being tested out in Turkey.

CONTENT WILL – AMONG OTHERS – BE THESE THEMES

- The Challenges
- The Solutions
- The urgency
- The mitigation strategies
- The dilemmas
- Active social climate change movements
- How to reduce one's personal carbon footprint
- How to prepare for transition locally
- How to relate to Climate Change politically
- Why a WWII-like mobilization is important and how to participate in it
- How to take care of yourself as an activist

Other relevant themes can be added based on specific needs of the students

THE STRUCTURE IS A MIX OF:

- Lectures
- Powerpoints
- Documentary movies
- Sharing of thoughts and emotional reactions
- Workshops with development of action plans after WORLD CLIMATE SCHOOL

There will be equal emphasis on presentation of relevant facts and the personal / emotional processes of the students. This is being handled through well functioning sharing rounds in groups. The teacher is among others a trained group therapist and group leader with many years of practice behind him.

## ”TEACH THE TEACHERS”

THE PROFESSIONAL VERSION OF THE CLIMATE SCHOOL IS FOR PEOPLE WANTING TO BECOME CLIMATE CHANGE TEACHERS.

An important thought behind this is, that we need to speed up the global learning process. The Climate Change wakeup call has to be heard – loud and clear – and fast. Therefore we also offer a version aiming at converting many people into being climate teachers.

The vision is, through a ”Teach the Teachers” setup, to reach out to as many people as possible within a short time span. For instance: 1 person educating 20 persons, who in turn educate 20 persons each, who in turn..... etc. Etc.

This version will – in addition to the content of the basic version – contain the learning of good and safe principles for how to take care of group members in times of emotional hardship. Also, it will contain coaching of the participants as needed.

The professional version will include an additional 16-24 hours with focus on the teaching and coaching process. A follow up coaching offer from our side is also an option.

THE IDEA BEHIND THIS IS – AS DESCRIBED – TO START A POSITIVE EDUCATIONAL CHAINREACTION.

## WHAT MAKES THIS LEARNING PROGRAM BETTER?

THE IMPORTANT PART IS THAT IT IS VERY GOOD AT CREATING MOTIVATION FOR ACTION.

One assumption behind it is that to make students motivated for climate action, the course must meet the standard described below:

THESE ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ”TAKEAWAYS” FOR STUDENTS HAVING BEEN THROUGH ”THE CLIMATE SCHOOL”:

- Students will know the extend and the urgency of the threat
- Students will know that their own contribution is important
- Students will know about the urgency of political action

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- Students will know that they are not alone in this battle
  - Students will know about interrelated threats
  - Students will know about tipping points
  - Students will know about climate myths and which effects these are having on themselves
  - Students will be aware about the ways they themselves are in denial
  - Students will know, feel and act because they have found out, that if they are not affected on all of these levels, they are still in denial, and the survival of our civilization depends on mankind getting out of denial.
  - Students will know much more than IPCC, our politicians and our media are telling us. Because the threats are much more severe than they tell us.
  - Students will know why exponential growth is catastrophic, and that we are living in the last minute of the existence of the civilization, if we do not act adequately and fast.
  - Students will know, that a mobilization on the scale of the American WWII mobilization – or MORE – is needed. And that we can't sit this one out!!
  - Students will know that holistic solutions to these challenges exist, and the content of them
  - Students will know that the world can afford it – for instance that it only costs a small fraction of the world's military budgets
  - Students will know that strong powers are trying to paint the overall political picture full of doubt – and that there is a strong economic incentive embedded in this
  - Students will know that the greatest danger for the future of humanity lies in the reluctance to get out of your comfortable chair and act
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- Students will know that there is a revolutionary movement on the rise all over the world for this, and that you will be part of the most important movement in the history of mankind.
- Students will know that the more they do, the better they will be able to face their grandchildren, when they ask: "What did YOU do to contribute?"
- Students will know that – according to Margaret Mead – all important change in history was initiated by one person or a small group of dedicated individuals
- Students will know the truth of the quote from Dalai Lama: "If you do not think a single individual can make a difference: Try sleeping in a room with a mosquito."
- Students will know the energizing effect of being part of something much bigger than themselves.
- Students will know that there are always people around them who share their thoughts and feelings, so that when the going gets tough, they have someone to turn to
- Students will know that doing the transition to a low-consuming society with emphasis on local production of what we need is possible, and that it is already happening in parts of the world.
- Students will know that being part of this will improve their experienced meaningfulness and quality of life tremendously.
- Students will know – not as a phrase but as an existential fact – that "Saving Civilization is not a Spectator Sport".(Lester R. Brown)

**After finishing WORLD CLIMATE SCHOOL we suggest guidance and help in formation of Action Group.** This will be based on the participants own motivation and ideas about what they want to do. Concrete actions in order to create awareness, educating and preparing people in the local community for what will come and how to handle it.



**We also suggest a TEACH THE TEACHERS program.** This includes supporting potential teachers in developing their own teaching material based on what they learned during The Climate School, an assisting them in developing their own pedagogic methods and style, in order to make them able to start teaching others. The logic is quite simple: 1 person educating 20, in turn educating 400, in turn educating 6000 etc. etc. We offer support to groups of educators, - as well pedagogy / methodology as knowledge about our present challenges and the solutions.

Finally we offer psychological assistance in handling loss, grief and sorrow, and how transform inaction and helplessness to action, since the creator of The Climate School is a trained clinical psychologist.

## TEACH THE TEACHERS: THROW A SNOWBALL AND CREATE AN AVALANCHE:

Knowledge about climate change needs to be spread quickly across the world in order to slow down or at best stop climate change.

We can start locally, as a small project, in one school, one institution, or a local community, and then later aim at a project of larger scale, nationally, a long term dedication.

But I believe it is much better to start with including long term strategies from the beginning. The needs of the planet demand that we act fast. When talking about large scale project, we could think about:

- Dedicated organisations – to add speed and action into it
- Local or national authorities – to make it official / we do this as a help to them – helping them to do the right things to the people
- Linking to schools / school plans / school curricula/
- Any other group of people – leaders – businesses – organisations who want to support this endeavour.
- You can prolong this list, because you know the culture, the politics, and all the other stuff I do not know, but which should be taken into consideration.

For me, this is about contributing to a FAST awareness raising among all citizens – and of course: Especially decision makers (for they will have to understand what the future of your country will look like if we do not stop or at least slow down climate change significantly – and also, they will need to learn how to cope with the changes that are

inevitable). Including, of course, young people, because they will be suffering from the worst damages as they grow up.

My vision is this:

If I can teach a group of dedicated teachers / changers / people who want to work with this awareness raising. Then they can teach raise awareness exponentially and very quickly. I call it “Teach the Teachers”: For example like this:

One person educating 20

20 persons educating 400 (20\*20)

400 persons educating 6000

6000 educating 80.000

80.000 educating 1.600.000

1.600.000 educating 32.000.000

32.000.000 educating 640.000.000

Of course these numbers are above what is realistic – maybe 10 – 25 percent of the people going through The Climate School will take on the task of educating others. But even in that case we will come far via a few extra steps. The important thing is to understand the principle: One person throwing an (educational) snowball, resulting in an avalanche of awareness raising.

That is what I am doing with my group of children in Turkey, now, working together with two very dedicated teachers in a school with 1200 students. These teachers are very good at motivating the kids. Our aim is to make a “Climate action squad”, raising awareness all over Alanya (the town) – including schoolmates, parents, relatives, and local leadership. We prepare it during the winter, and will start activism in spring, all based on ideas developed by the children, after having been through my Climate School. I believe these principles can be applied everywhere in the world. We just need to throw the snowball.