

### Jóvenes Por El Clima

Nicki Becker. Jóvenes por el Clima Argentina

## **Call to Action**

To learn more about Jovenes por el Clima (Youth For Climate) Argentina: www.jovenesporelclima.com Instagram @jovenesporelclimarg Twitter @jovenesclimarg. Follow Nicki on Instagram: @nickibecker or Twitter @nickibeckerok



- Commitment
- Dedication
- Industriousness
- Leadership
- Environmentalism

# **Lessons Learned**

Asking questions, seeking answers, and sharing information are the first steps toward global change. Get started today!

**Information can be a weapon.** Learn to use it to fight for change.

**Everything is interconnected.** Once people understand this, they become much more open to change.

Growing up, Nicki Becker was aware of environmental issues, especially since there was mega-mining going on in Argentina that was having a devastating effect on the land and the people.

But until she was in her teens, she didn't know much about climate change. One day, she learned how young people in Europe were calling for the first international Fridays for Future strikes. That made her want to learn more, and the more she learned how pressing the climate crisis was, the more she couldn't understand why no one in her country was talking about it. So she formed Youth for Climate Argentina (YFCA). In 2019, YFCA organized huge rallies across Argentina— and their call for climate action was successful. The government listened to their demands and declared the country in a state of climate emergency. It was the first country in Latin America to do so, and it set the stage for wide-sweeping reforms in the region.

# **★ Language Arts**

How long has the concept of climate change been known to the world? Create a 10-minute presentation following the time-line of the climate change phenomenon throughout the world (from its discovery until today). Focus on your particular region in terms of education on the issue, government response, and the consequences of this response. Share your presentation with your peers.

One of Nicki's objectives was to prompt the Argentinian government to create laws aimed at curbing the damage mining operations were causing the environment. Choose one country in South America where mining is a prevalent issue, and write a research paper focusing on the environmental, social, and economic damage caused by mining operations in the country you have chosen.

In Nicki's words, "Hope is a great motivator." When looking at the challenges created by climate change throughout the world, it is very easy to lose hope. Create a three-minute video in which you list all the reasons we have to be hopeful in the fight against climate change. You may talk about one particular activist or initiative, or you may choose to make a Top-Ten-style list

What was the COP26 Summit in Scotland, and why is it important? Create a presentation in which you explain to your peers what the summit was for, its mission statement, and why it is important. Afterwards, check out this link: https://www.mockcop.org/treaty/\frac{1}{2} and create a video explaining what these 18 policies are and why they are important for the future of our planet.



#### **STEM Activities**

What is mega mining? Which South American countries have large mega mining projects, and how is it affecting them? Choose three such countries to research.

Calculate the percentage of land mass that is being destroyed in the mega mining process. Compare mining vs. mega-mining projects, and explain the differences between them.

What is the effect of climate change/CO2 emissions in Argentina? What is the net effect of CO2 in the deforestation process, and what actions occur throughout the mega-mining process?

Nicki believes that without social justice, especially for women, there can be no climate justice. Research the ways that climate change affects women. Include statistical figures, taking into account location, income, and source of representation in politics, etc. Create graphs based on the data and perform a statistical analysis (median, mean, standard deviation, etc.) on the data set. What is one conclusion you can draw from these results?



### \* Sustainability Innovations

The Asociación de Cooperativas Argentinas (ACA) uses digital agriculture to grow food more efficiently and sustainably. This system uses machine learning, geospatial data analysis, and cloud computing to give farmers real-time advice. In this Forbes article<sup>2</sup>, the work of ACA, and the positive effects it has had on farming in Argentina, is explained.

In addition to dealing with mega-mining, Argentinian land laws have made life increasingly difficult for small farmers. Leasing to profit-oriented properties companies who do not value long-term sustainability has increased the prioritization of short-term profits. Dialogo Chino<sup>2</sup> highlights this issue, and many others that shed light on the sustainable issues and projects in Argentina.

Like many countries, Argentina is a part of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). These documents outline policies, frameworks, and various innovations in Argentina.

- Agriculture Policies in Argentina<sup>4</sup>
- Green Growth and Eco-Innovation<sup>5</sup>

## Sustainability Career Pathways

**Human Rights.** Fighting for human rights isn't just for activists. Within this sector, there are educators, social media experts, pro-

grammers, lawyers, campaigners, and fundraisers. Here is an <u>introduction to all the ways you can help advance human rights</u><sup>6</sup>, and a list of <u>five exciting human rights careers</u><sup>7</sup> to explore.

**Government Employee.** As Nicki notes, "There is no climate justice without justice for women and social justice." There are many government agencies, like the <u>Equal Employment Opportunities Commission</u><sup>8</sup> in the U.S., that employ staff to investigate and enforce equal employment laws. Other agencies help promote development, and support minorities and small businesses. Working for the government offers many opportunities to help support social change across many sectors. Want to learn more? Start with this <u>pro and con list of working for the government</u><sup>9</sup>.

**Legislative Aid.** As Nicki notes, changing the law is a key way to create a sustainable future. Elected officials drive new policies and introduce new bills. Working with them as legislative aides can be an important way to help push for and craft environmental legislation. Does this sound like the path for you? Explore this introduction to the field.

<sup>1</sup> https://www.mockcop.org/treaty/

<sup>2</sup> https://www.forbes.com/sites/sap/2019/10/22/argentina-grows-a-more-sustainable-and-efficient-agricultural-sector-with-machine-learning-and-geospatial-technology/?sh=79d02b9663bc

<sup>3</sup> https://dialogochino.net/en/agriculture/39089-argentinas-land-laws-stifle-sustainable-agriculture-soy/

 $<sup>4\</sup> https://www.oecd.org/official documents/public display document pdf/?cote=TAD/CA(2018)9/FINAL\&docLanguage=Ender and the control of the c$ 

<sup>5</sup> https://www.oecd.org/innovation/inno/greengrowthandeco-innovation.htm

<sup>6</sup> https://www.humanrightscareers.com/careers/

<sup>7</sup> https://www.humanrightscareers.com/magazine/5-exciting-human-rights-career-paths/

<sup>8</sup> https://www.eeoc.gov/

 $<sup>9\</sup> https://www.thebalancecareers.com/the-pros-and-cons-of-a-government-job-1669764$ 

 $<sup>10\</sup> https://www.thebalancecareers.com/government-job-profile-congressional-staffer-1669626$