

# youth leadership

**LEARNING OBJECTIVE:** To explore how environmental engagement can promote youth leadership and the ability to affect positive change.

---

## VIDEOS:



**Getting to Zero Trash on Carti Sugdup (Panama)** Katlein, a Guna Yala youth, mobilizes her community to address the trash that has inundated her island.



**Protectors of the Mangroves (Panama)** Reyna, a high school student educates both peers and adults about the need to protect the mangroves.



**Youth Leaders of the Salish Nation (Canada)** Activist Takaya Blaney trains inner city youth to be leaders in environmental justice.



### **Dreaming of Trees (India)**

After a devastating cyclone, Sefali a youth organizer in the Sunderbans, initiates a massive tree planting campaign to protect her community from the next big storm.



### **Resisting Arctic Oil (Norway)**

Is there any place off limits in the quest for petroleum? Silje Lundberg, a youth activist warns that petroleum extraction off the coast of Norway may destroy the largest arctic coral reef in the world.

---

## QUESTIONS:

- List five words that come to mind after watching these videos.
- Why have the youth in these videos decided to become involved? What qualities do they have as leaders? What actions are they taking? What are the different challenges they face?
- What kinds of support or resistance are they getting from the adults around them?
- What is an inspiring youth led project in your community? What makes it work?
- Can you identify any strategies used by Shore Line change-makers that could benefit your local environmental groups?

## ACTIVITIES:

- Identify youth organizations working on environment projects in your community. Interview a group member about what they are doing and why they were inspired to get involved. Record the interview on your phone as a podcast, or write it up as an article or blog.
- Spend one day/afternoon shadowing a local environmental leader. Choose a day when they are active in the field. If possible, work alongside them to plant trees, clean up beaches, etc. Document your day by creating a photo story consisting of 8-12 photos with captions that takes the viewer through a 'day in the life' of your subject, highlighting their unique challenges and strengths.

## RESOURCES:

- Hi-Ho Mistahey (documentary) [nfb.ca/film/hi-ho\\_mistahey\\_en/](http://nfb.ca/film/hi-ho_mistahey_en/)
- Radical Brownies (documentary) [radicalbrowniesmovie.com/](http://radicalbrowniesmovie.com/)
- Green Rhinos Youth Nature Leaders [asedkol.org](http://asedkol.org)
- Civic Engagement of Young People [iicrd.org/projects/creative-tools-civic-engagement-young-people](http://iicrd.org/projects/creative-tools-civic-engagement-young-people)
- Mapped: Community Mapping Toolkit [vancouverityouth.ca/toolkits\\_publications](http://vancouverityouth.ca/toolkits_publications)

## KEYWORDS:

youth leadership, indigenous rights, oil, extraction, arctic coral reef, mangrove pollution