

# A Guide to Hosting A Defend Our Future Meet-Up



## A 100% Clean Energy Meet-Up

---

*Your guide to hosting a productive, fun climate action-focused get-together with your friends and neighbors*

In case you missed it, we're in a climate crisis. Everything we love is under threat — storms are ravaging our cities, rising sea levels are threatening our coastlines, and wildfires are destroying communities.

► *So we're building a youth-powered movement to fight for climate action like... right now, starting with a transition to a [100% clean future](#) by 2050.*

Anyone with a basic level of understanding of Defend's mission and goals has an ability to engage positively and effectively with members of the target audience (i.e. peers or community members) — it's easy and fun!

A people-powered movement has one pretty major component: people! That's where you come in. You said you'd bring your friends, neighbors, and community together by hosting a Meet-Up. Yay!

**Now we'll take you through every step of the process to help you be the ultimate host with the most.**

## Why You Most Def Want To Host A Meet-Up

---

- Our biggest strength lies in our communities. By bringing people together to learn more and get involved, you're actively building the people power we need to win.
- You'll help your friends and neighbors learn more about why we need 100% clean energy and how to join the fight!
- It's a great way to build up your skills in leadership, public speaking, organizing, and more!
- It's super fun, duh!

## Teamwork Makes The Dream Work

---

There's only one of you (a true bummer since you're so great!), you can't do everything yourself. Luckily, activism is a team sport! Giving people a job not only takes some pressure off you, it helps everyone see they play a crucial role.

Here are some ideas for how to get your squad involved:

- Greeting arrivals and running the sign-in table involved with our organization.
- Bringing snacks, treats, or drinks (yum!)
- Social media — taking photos, starting live streams, live tweeting etc.
- Set up/take down
- Location scouting

## How To Get This Party Started

---

### STEP 1: TIME & LOCATION

First, pick a time and date for your Meet-Up. Remember to give people enough notice so they can fit it in their busy schedules. Choose a time that works well for a variety of schedules — do people in your community work nights, 9-5, or sporadic shifts? Think of a time of day that will be accessible to the most people.

You can absolutely host your Meet-Up at your home, be it an apartment, house, RV, yurt, etc. If that's not your jam, you can also find a space in your community! Reach out to local coffee shops, bars (depending on the age of folks you're inviting), community centers, campus buildings, and more to see if they'll host you and your crew!

Wherever you choose, make sure the space is accessible. You can find a great checklist on accessible spaces [here](#).

# A Guide to Hosting A Defend Our Future Meet-Up



## STEP 2: RECRUITMENT

As soon as you've decided where and when you want to have your event, it's time to spread the word! Think about who you want to invite. Do you want your Meet-Up open to anyone or just to people you know? If you're opening it to the public here's a quick recruitment plan:

- ▶ Start close! Send an email or start a group text with your friends and neighbors inviting them to the event. Ask if anyone wants to join you as a co-host or have a leadership role.
- ▶ Create a Facebook event with all the details. Then ask your friends to share and spread the word!
- ▶ Promote on all your social channels — Facebook, Snapchat, Insta, Twitter, etc. Tag us @DefendOurFuture and we'll help you get your event seen!
- ▶ Put up flyers at local businesses including a way to RSVP. You can even hang out there for an afternoon and hand them out — try your local farmer's market or community events!
- ▶ Reach out to local environmental groups in your area to invite their members.
- ▶ Confirm, confirm, confirm — don't invite people 3 weeks in advance, never contact them again, and expect them to show up. Make sure you're in frequent communication. Aim to send your first invite at least 3 weeks ahead of your event, then be in touch at least weekly and send a final reminder the day before.

## STEP 3: SET YOUR AGENDA

We put together a sample agenda for you, but make it YOURS! And remember, this doesn't all need to be on you. Ask some of your friends to take on different parts of the agenda. Remember to practice a couple times before your event!

**Introduction:** Set the stage — and make it personal. Tell everyone how you got involved with Defend Our Future, why you care about environmental issues, and why you're excited about a transition to 100% clean energy. Then ask everyone else to introduce themselves, too! Pick a fun icebreaker to help everyone get to know each other.

**Overview:** Provide an overview of Defend Our Future, the importance of young people taking action, and why we need 100% clean energy. You can start with our 100% clean fact sheet [here](#). (10 minutes)

**Activity and Discussion:** Here's where you can get creative! There are endless possibilities to get the conversation started. Watch an environmental short-film or an episode of Our Planet followed by a conversation on how climate change will alter what you saw. Invent a climate change themed game for everyone to play. Create teams and send everyone on a climate change internet scavenger hunt. The world is your oyster!

After your activity, here are some questions to help you get the conversation started:

- ▶ How have you seen climate change impact your life or community?
- ▶ What do you think is the most important thing we can do to combat climate change?
- ▶ How do you feel about how our leaders in Washington have handled the climate crisis?
- ▶ Why do you think it's important that young people are engaged in fighting for climate action?
- ▶ What makes you feel hopeful in the face of climate change?

**Make your voices heard:** Have participants fill out petition cards on why they're demanding your representative commit to 100% clean. Have everyone pull out their phones and send a tweet to your rep! (Remember to take photos!)

**Wrap up:** Thank everybody for coming and let them know you'll be in touch with more fun ways to take action! Make sure everyone signs in so you can stay in touch. Take a final group photo to share on all the social medias!

## STEP 4: LAST MINUTE PREP

Confirmation is key! Reach out to everyone that RSVP'd with a reminder — post in your Facebook event, text people you know and confirm everyone is still coming.

Q's to ask yourself before your Meet-Up:

- ▶ Are there enough chairs in the room?
- ▶ Do you have a table for all your cute materials and swag?
- ▶ Does everyone have your contact info in case they get lost or are running late?
- ▶ Do you have snacks that are dietary-restriction friendly? (if you don't know everyone coming it's always good to have a couple vegan and gluten-free options)

## STEP 5: TELL US HOW IT WENT!

Post photos on ALL the social medias with #ActOnClimate and tag us at @DefendOurFuture. We just might feature you and help you get insta-famous!

Then send an email to [jonathan@defendourfuture.org](mailto:jonathan@defendourfuture.org) with highlights, lowlights, copies of your sign-in sheets, and photos!

# A Guide to Hosting A Defend Our Future Meet-Up



## Everything You Need

---

Your swag pack is on the way! We'll send you some Defend Our Future stickers, buttons, 100% Clean signs, sign-in sheets and commitment cards.

Here are some other things you might need:

- ▶ sign-in sheets
- ▶ pens
- ▶ snacks (light refreshments also are an option)
- ▶ name tags
- ▶ fact sheets



## Got Qs? We've got As.

---

- ▶ What if I need help with my party?
- ▶ We're here to be your Meet-Up spirit guides!  
Email Jonathan Soohoo ([jonathan@defendourfuture.org](mailto:jonathan@defendourfuture.org))  
or call (202) 572-3507.
- ▶ When will I get my materials?
- ▶ After you sign up, we'll get your materials to you within 10 days.

Learn more and sign up to become a member at [defendourfuture.org](https://defendourfuture.org)