

# Introduction to protesting about environmental issues

Protesting can be a powerful way to make a difference, especially when it comes to protecting our environment. Throughout history, protests have helped bring attention to important issues and create positive change. When it comes to environmental issues, protesting helps raise awareness, influence policies and push for actions to protect our planet.



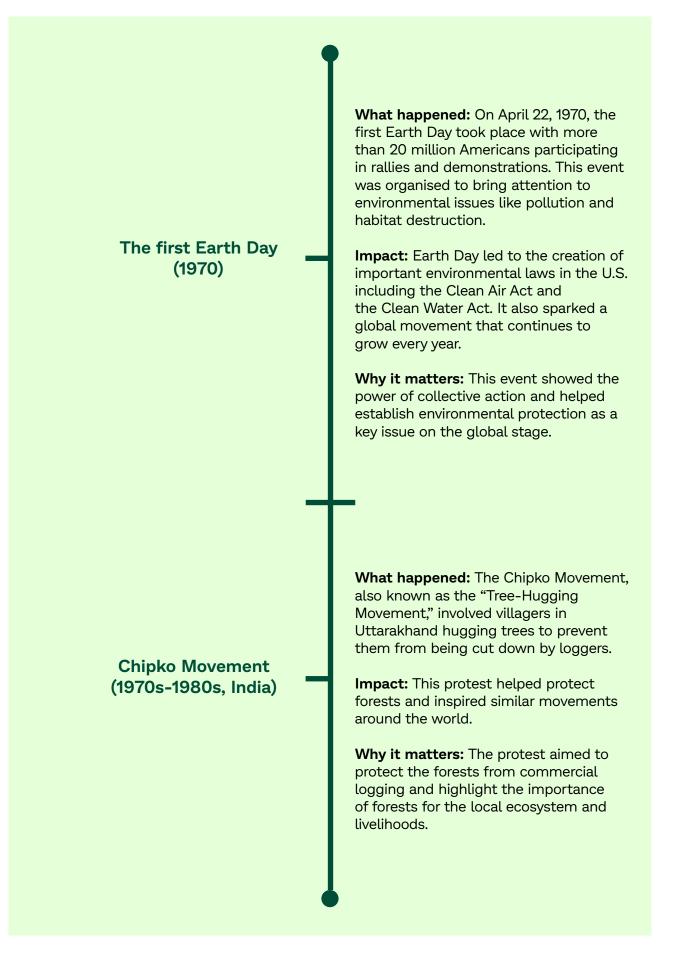
# Why environmental protests matter

Protests are a way for people to come together and show their concern for issues like climate change, pollution or endangered animals. When people protest, they highlight problems, push for solutions and inspire others to get involved.

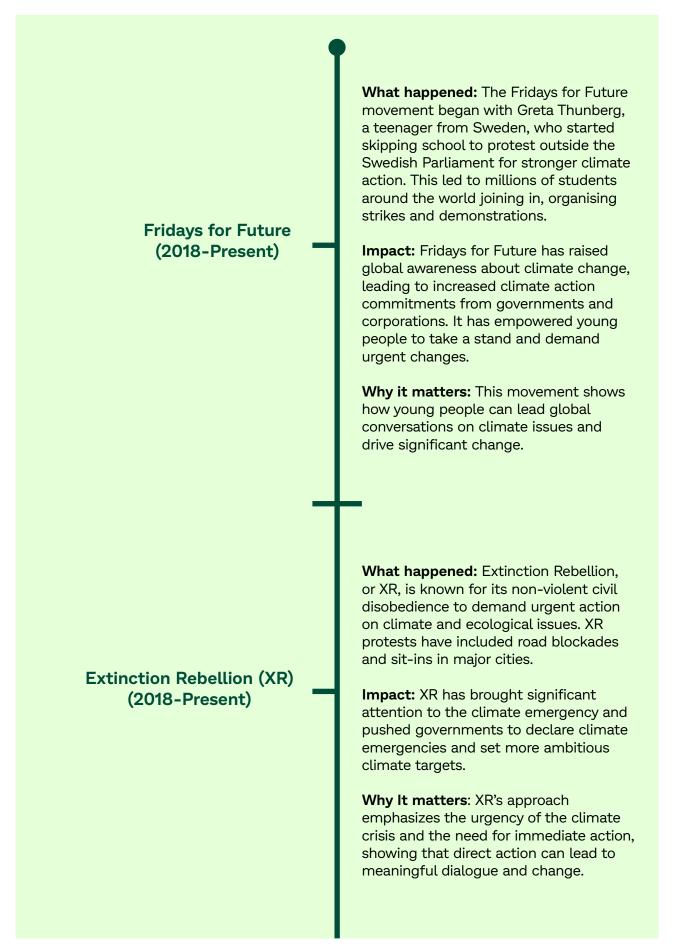
- Raising awareness: Protests get people talking about environmental issues and teach them why it's important to care.
- A Influencing policies: When people protest, they can push leaders to make laws that protect the environment.
- Building community: Protests bring people together to support a shared cause, creating a strong sense of community.
- Driving change: Protests can lead businesses and governments to make more sustainable choices.

Take a look at some historical and contemporary examples of environmental protests, showing how young people like you can make a difference.

# **Historical examples of environmental protests**



## **Contemporary examples of environmental protests**



### The Youth Climate Strikes (2020-Present)

What happened: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many youth climate activists adapted their protests to online platforms, using social media to organise virtual strikes and raise awareness about climate issues.

**Impact:** These virtual strikes continued to engage a global audience and advocate for climate action during a challenging time, demonstrating the adaptability and resilience of youth activism.

Why It matters: The shift to online activism highlights how technology can be used to continue advocating for environmental issues even in difficult circumstances.

# How can you get involved?

- **1. Join or organise demonstrations or protests:** Look for local climate marches, clean-ups, or advocacy events. You can also organise your own events with friends and community members.
- **2. Use social media:** Share information about environmental issues, support campaigns and connect with other changemakers online.
- **3. Volunteer:** Get involved with local environmental groups or conservation projects to contribute directly to the cause.

# What next?

As environmental challenges continue to grow, the role of protests in advocating for a sustainable future remains more crucial than ever. By participating in protests or other forms of activism, you can contribute to a larger movement for a sustainable future.

Protesting can seem like a big task but, when you work together with others, it can be a lot of fun! Just remember to stay safe, ask for help when you need it and always stand up for what you believe in. Every voice matters, including yours.

Find out more using our 'How to guide: Plan your own environmental protest or demonstration' written by Young Changemaker, Emma Greenwood