Education on climate change and sustainability
Raising awareness of global challenges
Background

Education is the basis for correct courses of action and development. The Munich Re Foundation concerns itself with global challenges and promotes learning, education, science and research. Our topics focus on disaster prevention and environmental protection. We also cover climate change and adaptation, vulnerability and resilience, sustainability and the fight against poverty.

Our foundation charter states that we are about identifying global risks connected with population development (such as urbanisation, poverty and climate change), and in particular about identifying water as both a resource and risk factor. The objective is to avert and manage these risks.

It is the remit of the foundation to pass on its knowledge to schoolchildren and students. Recent years the Munich Re Foundation has set up a series of partnerships with colleges and universities. Funded projects are mainly benefiting students in Munich and the region round off the project portfolio.

Our topics

Climate change

Even if global warming does not appear to have massive threat potential for individuals, particularly in Europe, it has already had major consequences for many regions of the earth. Across the globe, storms and floods are occurring more often, as are heatwaves and droughts. The sea level is rising. To respond the appropriate way, we need to know more about it.

Sustainability

To develop social, ecological and economical viable solutions for the long term – this is the goal of the Munich Re Foundation. The pillars of sustainability form the framework in all our projects. Education on sustainability should therefore start as early as possible and continue into old age.

Justice

The countries behind man-made climate change are industrialised nations, including China. The prime sufferers are often developing countries in the Global South, such as Bangladesh and Mozambique. A discussion on global justice must take place with the aim of distributing fairly the costs and burdens arising from climate change.

More information:

www.munichre-foundation.org/home/EducationClimateChange
Climate change and justice

There is a tendency for global justice issues to be overlooked in the climate change debate. Over several years and together with partners (PIK, MISEREOR und IGP Munich), we studied the economic, ecological and development policy aspects of climate change. Our findings were published in two comprehensive studies in 2010 and 2012.

Energy School Munich

The Energy School seeks to introduce elementary and secondary school pupils to the world of power generation, energy conservation and climate protection using a fun, hands-on approach. We have been supporting the Energy School Munich workshops organised by Green City since 2010.

Virtual Academy of Sustainability

The Virtual Academy is an internet-based learning platform initiated by the University of Bremen. It is aimed at helping universities in Germany embed sustainability more firmly into their curricula. Students can access electronic and video-based course content any time to familiarise themselves with the concept of sustainability.

Summer Academies and Resilience Academy

Every year we invite 20 young international scientists and renowned experts to Munich, and since 2013 to Dhaka in Bangladesh, to discuss possible solutions for global challenges. The results are channelled into scientific papers and policy recommendations for good, sustainable solutions.

Chair on Social Vulnerability

From 2005 to 2012, the Chair on Social Vulnerability at the United Nations University in Bonn researched social vulnerability and how the level of social resilience can be raised. Munich Re Foundation was partner and provided financial support.

University cooperation, presentations and other projects

— Transdisciplinary project with the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich
— Humboldt University in Berlin
— Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development
— Technical University of Munich
— University of Applied Sciences in Munich.

Completed:

— Energy School of Upper Bavaria
— Climate expedition
— Riskland board game
— Student competitions.

Seminars at Munich University

We have been holding the seminar “Water, climate, environment – For the sustainable management of global challenges” at the University of Applied Sciences in Munich since 2010. In each semester, 15 students are familiarised with the concept of sustainability, current political processes and approaches taken to finding solutions. Our goals are to enable the young researchers to broaden their horizons and to prepare them to deal with this topic in their professional lives.