



# The Art Of Saving The Planet

Alejandro Martinez, Juventud Por El Clima  
Spain

## ☀ Call to Action

Join Alejandro in calling for Climate Action Now! Follow #FridaysForFuture Espana on Twitter: @JuventudXClima and bring #FridaysForFuture to your community: [fridaysforfuture.org](https://www.fridaysforfuture.org)

## ☀ Values

- Creativity
- Solidarity
- Internationalism
- Leadership
- Environmentalism

## ☀ Lessons Learned

**If you want to change the world, find what you love, then work to protect it.**

**If you want to unite people for a cause, focus on the things they love in common;** then together, build a plan to fight for them.

**Let what you love guide you toward lofty goals.**

**Alejandro Martinez is leading the Spanish branch of the Fridays for Future student climate mobilization movement.**

Called Juventud x Clima, these young climate activists have a challenging task ahead of them: Spain — known for the rich colors and natural beauty that have inspired artists over the centuries — could become two-thirds desert in the coming decades because of climate change. Alejandro, an artist and designer, wants to make sure that the climate movement takes into account the importance of preserving his country's natural beauty in its fight to correct the errors of past generations.

## ☀ Language Arts

**Create a series of cartoon strips (or an [animated short](#)<sup>1</sup>) about a climate issue that is threatening your own community.** Focus on the threat it presents to the environment and the people; what might be lost if it is left unchecked; and what can be done to stop it.

**Write a compare and contrast essay in which you juxtapose the environmental destruction inflicted on your region of the world, with that being inflicted on Spain.** Are there any similarities? What are the differences? What is to be lost, in both cases, if nothing is done? Use images, graphics, and photographs to help support your position.

**Using the information you researched for your essay, create a series of tweets that raise awareness about the environmental threats in your area;** explain the result of not addressing them; and present a call to action for that lets people know what they can do, or which organization they can join, to help.

## STEM Activities

**Scientists have estimated that by 2050, two-thirds of Spain could be covered by deserts.** Scientists can make such predictions using climate models. This [lesson<sup>2</sup>](#) will help students understand how such models are constructed, how they can be used to make predictions, and how they can help us understand the effects of our changing climate.

**Alejandro loves art, but he also liked science as a kid, especially topics like biodiversity.** Biodiversity refers to the variety of organisms that are present in a given ecosystem; it can be measured many different ways, including by measuring genetic variation as well as species and ecosystems variation, within an area. This [module<sup>3</sup>](#) defines biodiversity and allows students to look at it from all three aspects. Students will also learn about threats to biodiversity from invasive species, habitat destruction, climate change, and genetically modified organisms.

**In this [lesson plan from Trop ICSU<sup>4</sup>](#),** students discuss the importance of increasing renewable sources of energy such as wind power by applying differentiating functions to compare the rates of increase in wind energy production in several different countries (from given datasets).

## Sustainability Innovations

**What is eco-innovation?** This question is answered by the Eco-Innovation Action Plan, which highlights 20+ different European countries and their current sustainability efforts. Eco-Innovation Spain assesses the Eco-Innovation outputs, activities, inputs, and socioeconomic and resource efficiency outcomes. See where Spain ranks on the 2019 Eco-Innovation Scoreboard here: [Eco-Innovation Spain<sup>5</sup>](#).

**When assessing the ambitious climate energy goals based on the COP21 framework, European companies must form partnerships and devise solutions to meet their goals.** The [Be Smart Project EU<sup>6</sup>](#) has focused on the increased use of Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) as a driving force to help to meet these goals in urban areas and cities.

**In addition to technological advancements directly targeting CO2 emissions and climate change, advancements in the food industry have become a major contributor to reaching Spain's sustainability goals.** [Food and Wines from Spain<sup>7</sup>](#) highlights sustainable products, projects, and plans by companies in the food and beverage industry. What are the sustainable impacts in the field of art and animation? How could that field adopt strategies similar to those in the food and beverage industry?

## Sustainability Career Pathways

**Animator.** If you have ever watched Spirited Away, Wall-E, or even the computer-graphic-heavy Avatar, you know that animated movies can play a huge role in inspiring connection to the Earth, and sustainable behaviors. If you love to draw, this is certainly a field in which you could help paint a (moving) picture of a sustainable future. Want to learn more? Start with this great [overview of becoming an animator<sup>8</sup>](#).

**Artist.** Both visual and performing artists use their talents to draw attention to social and environmental challenges. Sometimes they do this directly through their works of art and sometimes through the platform their fame offers. If you are driven to be an artist, don't forget about the opportunity this can offer in drawing attention and resources to causes you care about. Here is an [article about six visual artists who are using their talent to draw attention to the environmental challenges we are facing<sup>9</sup>](#). How could you use your artistic

talents to do the same?

**Sustainable Tourism Industry.** Like so many places around the world, Spain has an inherent beauty--one that can inspire visitors to become champions of sustainability in their own countries. Tourism can be unsustainable (if it includes global travel), but it can also help inspire deeper connection to the Earth and to other cultures. Today there is a growing sustainable tourism sector, one that embeds environmental knowledge in tours, makes hotels greener, encourages more local experiences, and so on. There are many ways to be part of this industry, from tour operator to travel guide, from hotelier to turning part of your home into an AirBnB and offering green tours of your town. If this is a path for you, read these [10 tips on how to make a career in sustainable tourism](#)<sup>10</sup>.

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1 <https://www.moovly.com/blog/make-your-own-cartoon-video-for-free>

2 <https://www.climatechangeeducationexchange.org/home/climate-change-lesson-plans>

3 <https://cosm.georgiasouthern.edu/mbi/biodiversity-a-teaching-module-for-a-high-school-classroom/>

4 <https://tropicsu.org/lesson-plan-polynomial-and-logistic-diffn-wind-energy-data/>

5 [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/spain\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/spain_en)

6 <https://www.besmartproject.eu/mission>

7 <https://www.foodswinesfromspain.com/spanishfoodwine/global/foodtech-from-spain/foodtech-detail/articles/articles-detail/sustainable-products-projects-spanish-food-beverage-companies.html?id=FEX2020867665&l=CWB2020867668>

8 <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/animation-career-information-525982>

9 <https://mymodernmet.com/environmental-art/>

10 <https://sustainability-leaders.com/ten-tips-sustainable-tourism-career/>

