

Youth Environmental Action -- Learning Good "Thinking" --



<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/03/young-people-globe-protest-climate-change-inaction-190315114657681.html>

Stavanger, Norway
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European Network for
Environmental Citizenship
Cost Action CA16229

Youth Environmental Action -- Learning Good "Thinking" --

Schusler, TM and ME Krasny. 2014. *Science and Democracy in Youth Environmental Action—Learning "Good" Thinking*.

In: MP Mueller and DJ Tippins, eds. *EcoJustice, Citizen Science and Youth Activism*. Springer.



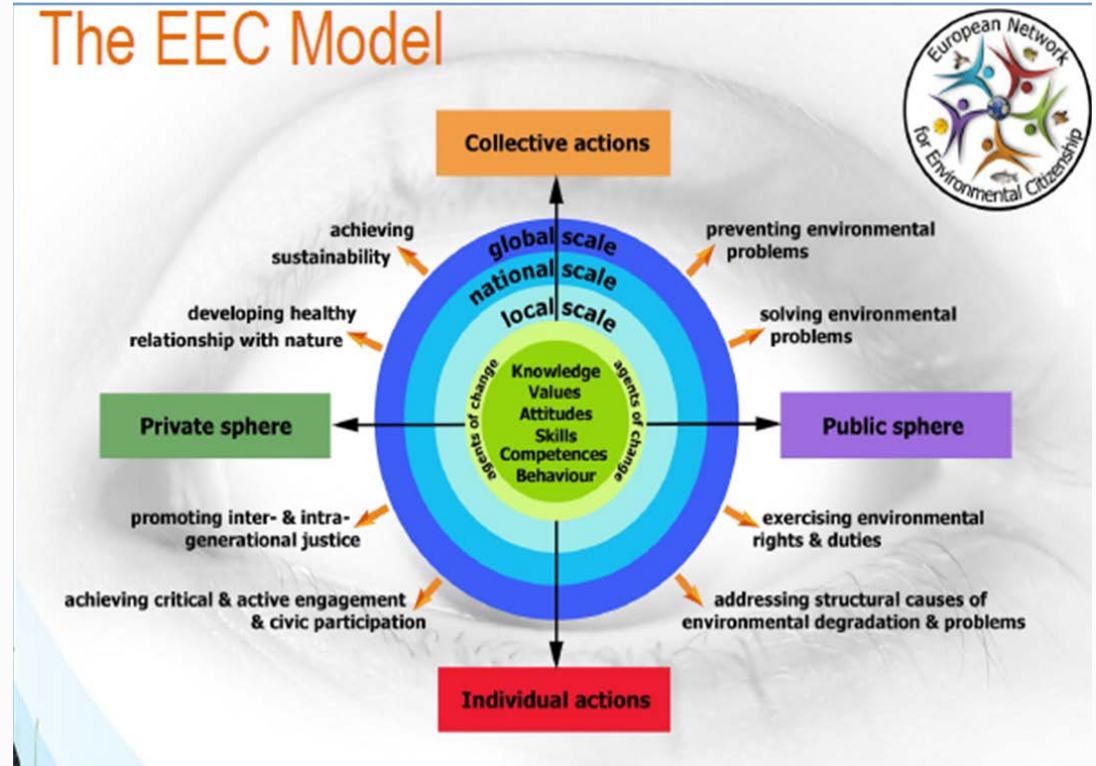
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Youth Environmental Citizenship

-- Learning Good "Doing" --



<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/03/young-people-globe-protest-climate-change-inaction-190315114657681.html>



Who are the
environmental
citizens?

Greta Thunberg

Stockholm, Sweden



Varshini Prakash

USA



Lilly Platt

Utrecht, The Netherlands



Daze Aghaji

London, UK



Leah Namugerwa

Kampala, Uganda



The Greta effect? Meet the schoolgirl climate warriors



<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-48114220>



CLIMATE HOME NEWS

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US China India EU Africa South America Middle East Asia Pacific

‘This is bigger’: Palestinian and Israeli teens strike together for the climate

Published on 24/05/2019, 11:53am

Comment: At a climate march in Jerusalem, students put hatred aside to tell the government that nothing matters more than a safe climate



Arshak Makichyan

Moscow, Russia



 CLIMATE HOME NEWS

Menu

**Until Russia allows us to rise together,
I will strike for the climate alone**

What do
environmental
citizens say
influenced them?



"I felt everything was meaningless and there was no point going to school if there was no future."

Emotion

<http://time.com/collection-post/5584902/greta-thunberg-next-generation-leaders/>



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Greta_Thunberg_4.jpg

Inspired by the survivors of the Florida school shooting, Thunberg began a weekly school strike every Friday.

Role models (inspiration)

<http://time.com/collection-post/5584902/greta-thunberg-next-generation-leaders/>



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Greta_Thunberg_4.jpg

“Before (the UN Conference), I never really spoke when I was in my lessons or with my classmates. But now I am speaking to the whole world.”

Mastery experience



Varshini Prakash

Her grandparents are from southern India, and she told the story of a flood that hit their city, Chennai, when the region experienced its highest rainfall in a hundred years.

Personal awakening

<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060107185>



As college student, Prakash and fellow students convinced her university to divest from fossil fuel companies.

Mastery experience



"We studied historic and contemporary social movements, and how people had achieved the scale of transformation that we needed to solve climate crisis."

**Social learning
(after mastery experience)**



“We met once a month for the next nine months, renting houses or staying with volunteers in a different location each time.”

Social relationships



“But a big part of our story is not just about naming who’s responsible but actually saying that we can do this, and that this is a problem that we can solve, which I think all of us believe in the deepest core of our hearts.”

Meaning-focused Coping



“(The protest) was inspiring; it was emotional; it was moving. It was so moving to see what young people are willing to do today to actually take action to stop the climate crisis.”

Emotion



“Oh, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez came to our action. It was really meaningful to see someone who had walked the halls of power encouraging us and lending her support.”

Recognition



What does the research say?



Youth Environmental Action

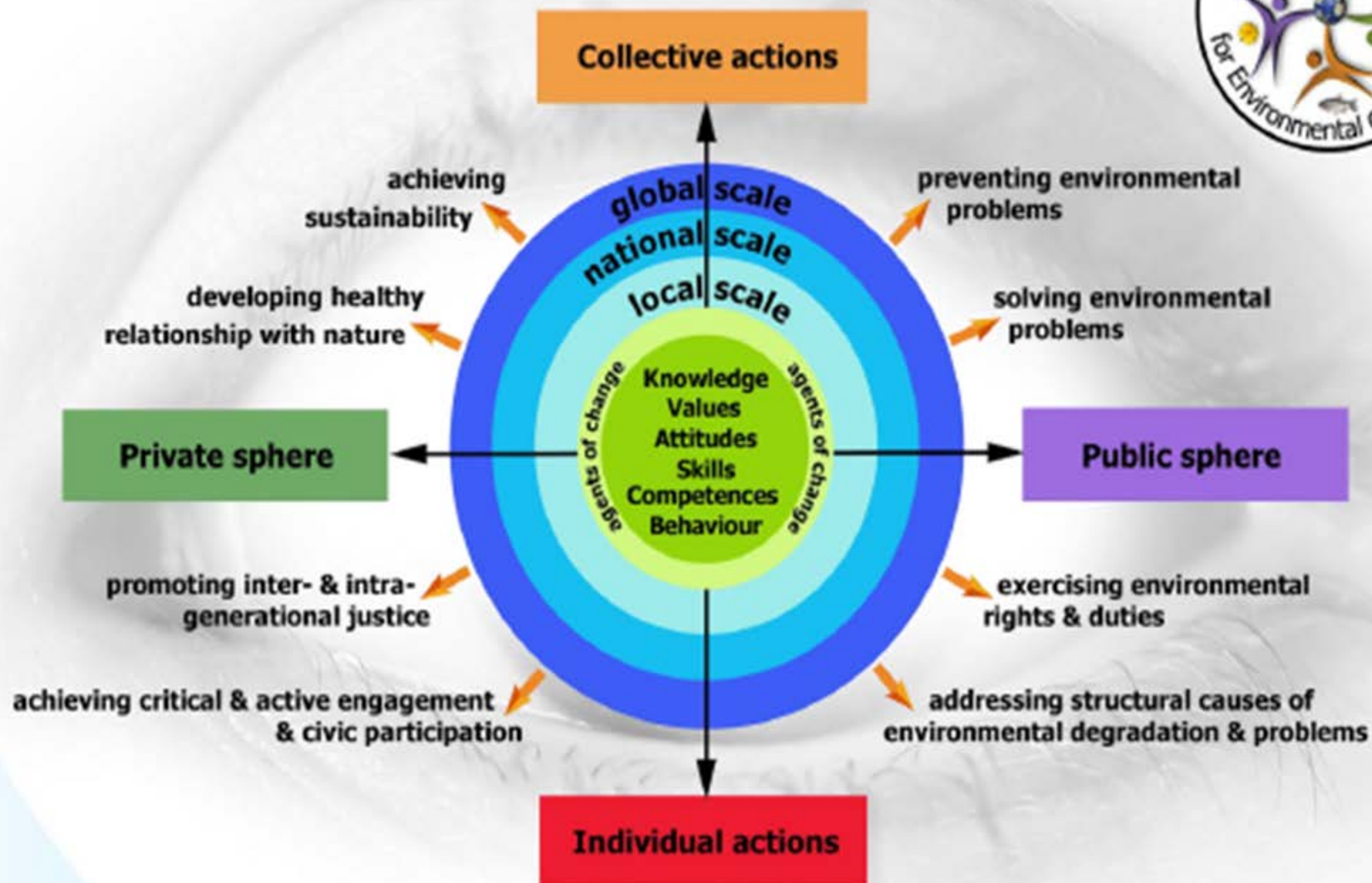
process whereby youth and adults create environmental and social change while building their capabilities for future civic participation (Schusler et al. 2009).

Youth Environmental Action

- protests and advocacy
- stewardship practices
(litter cleanups, community gardening)
- community education
(organizing education fairs, producing media)
- citizen science monitoring



The EEC Model



Youth Environmental Action

- In US primary school, Muslim students changed school lunch program to reflect their faith-based dietary restrictions (Serriere 2014)
- In China, university environmental club persuaded cafeteria to reduce single use plastics (Yu 2018)
- In La Paz, Bolivia, youth contributed to planning process for creating access to the city through public transport (Rudd et al. 2017)



Youth/Collective Environmental Action: Cognitive-Affective Factors

- Efficacy
- Identity
- Coping

.....

- Social capital
- Norms
- Action-related knowledge

Youth environmental action
Environmental citizenship



Efficacy
Social environmental identity
Coping

.....
Social norms
Social capital
Action-related knowledge

TYPE OF EFFICACY	DEFINITION
Self-efficacy	belief in one's ability to <u>succeed in specific situations or accomplish a task</u> (Bandura 1977)
Collective efficacy	group's shared belief in its collective abilities to organize and execute the courses of action required to reach goals (Bandura 1997)
Participative efficacy	belief that an individual's contribution is important to the success of collective action (van Zomeren et al. 2013)
Political efficacy	belief in our abilities to <u>understand the political realm and act effectively in it</u> (Beaumont 2010)
Internal political efficacy	"belief that one understands civic and political affairs and has the competence to participate in civic and political events" (Barrett and Brunton-Smith 2014, 15)
External political efficacy	"belief that public and political officials and institutions are responsive to citizens' needs, actions, requests, and demands" (Barrett and Brunton-Smith 2014, 15)
Civic efficacy	belief that one's actions can make a difference in the civic life of one's community (Serriere 2014)
School efficacy	belief that actions taken by groups of students can improve their school (Torney-Purta et al., 2001)

Self-efficacy (Bandura 1977)	Political efficacy (Beaumont 2010)	Definition
Mastery experience	Mastery experience	<i>students practice behavior and achieve success</i>
Role model	Vicarious mastery experience	<i>students see others take action</i>
Social interactions	Social interactions	<i>students interact positively</i>
Emotions	Emotions	<i>educator attentive to student emotions</i>

Greta Thunberg	Self-efficacy (Bandura 1977)	Political efficacy (Beaumont 2010)
<i>Spoke at UN</i>	Mastery experience	Mastery experience
<i>Florida shooting victim student activists</i>	Role model	Vicarious mastery experience
<i>Social media (?)</i>	Social interactions	Social interactions
<i>Open about depression</i>	Emotions	Emotions

Varshini Prakash/ Sunrise Movement	Self-efficacy (Bandura 1977)	Political efficacy (Beaumont 2010)
<i>University divestment</i>	Mastery experience	Mastery experience
<i>Studied previous protest movements</i>	Role model	Vicarious mastery experience
<i>Studied and worked together</i>	Social interactions	Social interactions
<i>Open about enthusiasm</i>	Emotions	Emotions

Social Environmental Identity

"sense of connection to ... the... natural environment that affects the way we perceive and act toward the world; a belief that the environment is important to us and an important part of who we are" (Clayton 2003, 45-6).

Social environmental identity (Stapleton 2015)

1. Recognize importance of environmental issue
2. Implement action and begin to see themselves as environmental citizens
3. Become knowledgeable about how to engage in environmental action
4. Recognized for their action and knowledge (teachers, parents, peers)

Social environmental identity (Stapleton 2015)	Varshini Prakash Sunrise Movement
1. Recognize importance of environmental issue	<i>Saw flooding in Chennai</i>
2. Implement action and begin to see themselves as environmental citizens	<i>Divestment campaign</i>
3. Become knowledgeable about how to engage in environmental action	<i>Studied previous social movements with friends</i>
4. Recognized for their action and knowledge (teachers, parents, peers)	<i>Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez attended Sunrise event</i>

Coping (Ojala 2012, 2013)	Definition
<i>Problem-focused coping</i>	searching for information about how one can solve a problem
<i>Emotion-focused coping</i>	avoiding negative feelings, including by denying or not caring about a problem
<i>Meaning-focused coping</i>	finding meaning and positive emotions in confronting a difficult problem

Coping (Ojala 2012, 2013)	Definition	Varshini Prakash/ Sunrise Movement
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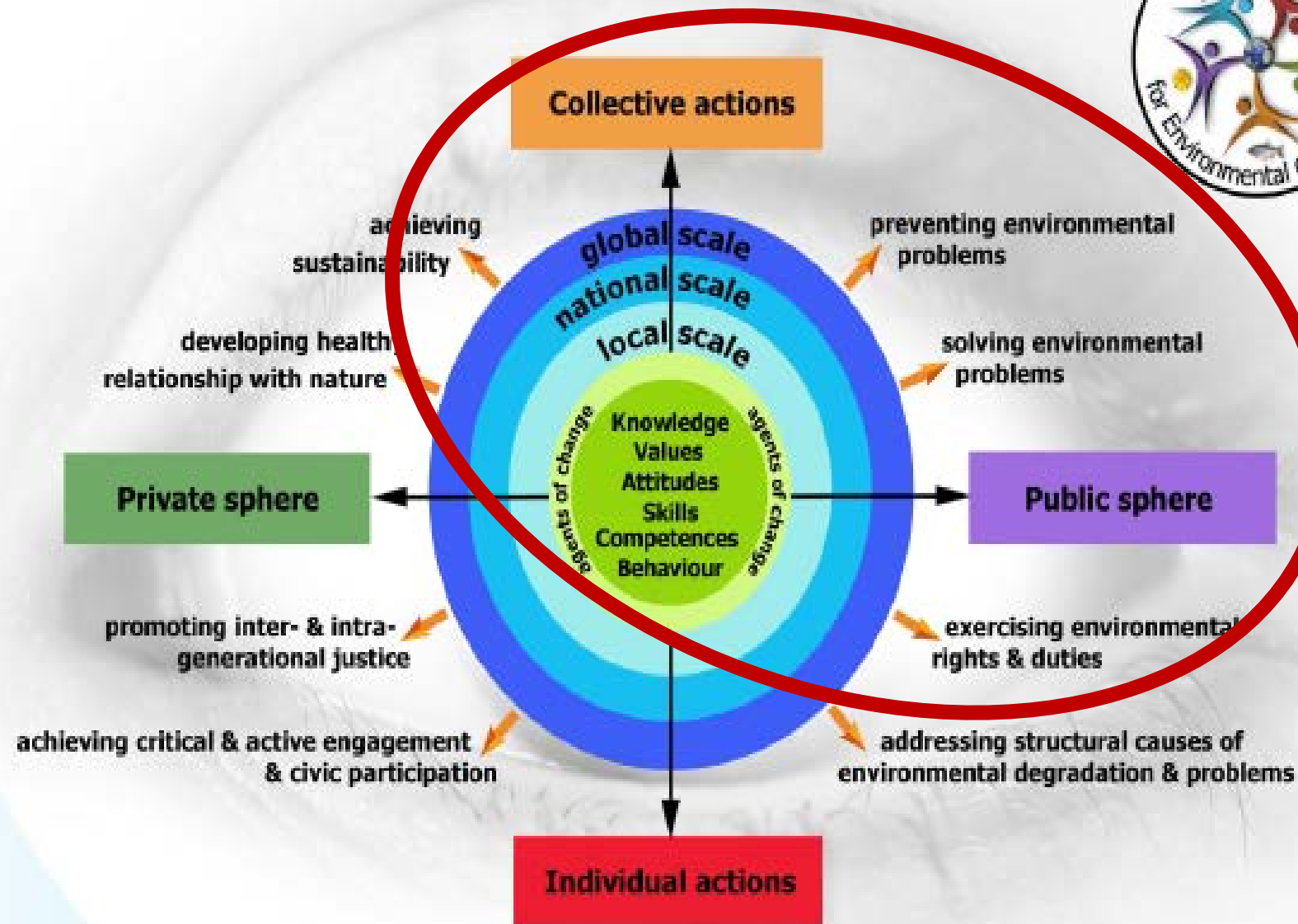
Self-efficacy (Collective) Efficacy (Reese and Junge 2017) **Likert Scale**

1. I am optimistic that I can protect the environment.
2. I am capable of protecting the environment.
3. I think that I am capable of protecting the environment by means of my (personal plastic reduction).

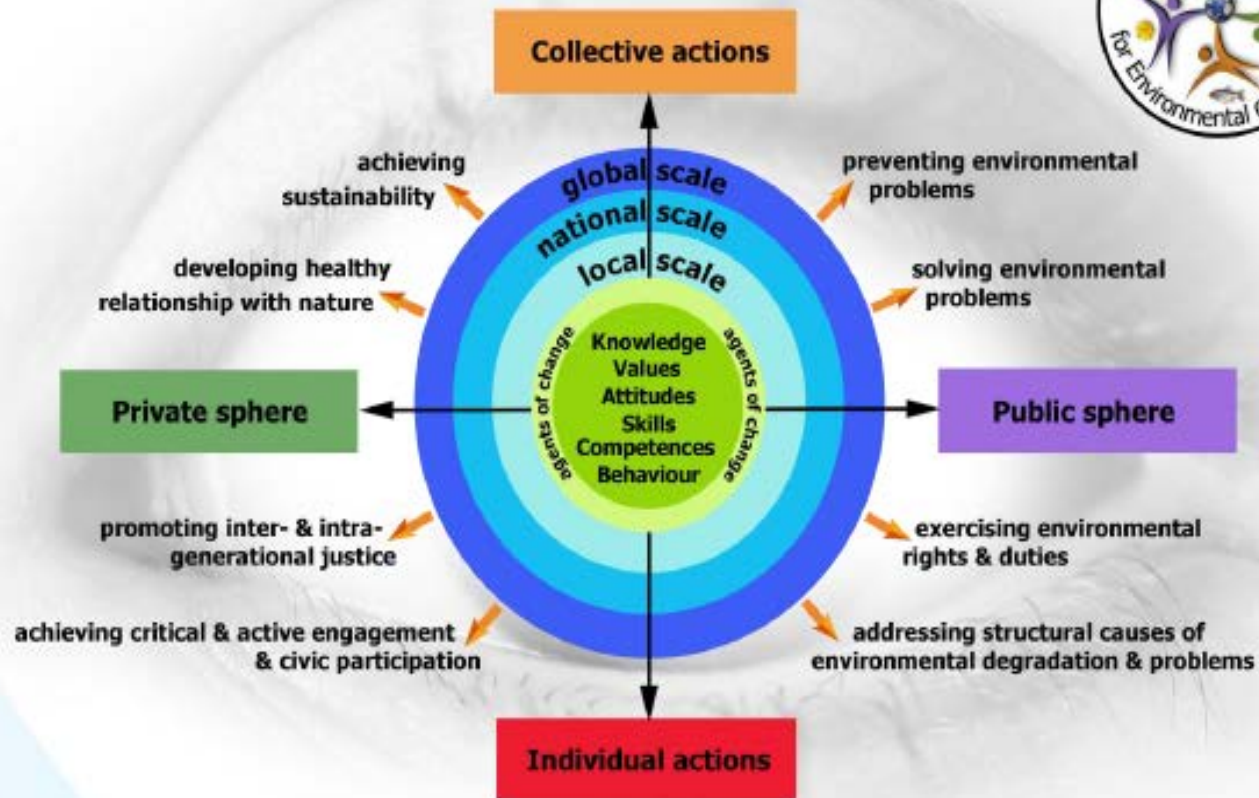
School Efficacy (Torney-Purta et al. 2001) **Likert scale**

1. Electing student representatives to suggest changes in how the school is run makes schools better.
2. Lots of positive changes happen in this school when students work together.
3. Organising groups of students to state their opinions could help solve problems in this school.
4. Students acting together can have more influence on what happens in this school than students acting alone.

The EEC Model



The EEC Model



Youth environmental action
Environmental citizenship

Efficacy
Social environmental identity
Coping

.....
Social norms
Social capital
Action-related knowledge

The EEC Model



Efficacy
Identity
Coping strategies

.....

Mastery
experiences

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Thank you Andreas, Demetra, ENEC!



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