**CSGP/AURORA Working Group Scaling up**

**Citizen Science and Climate Change Mitigation Programmes**

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*This document outlines the goals and operation of the proposed joint CSGP/AURORA Working Group– effective from May 2025 and as discussed by both the CSGP Board and the AURORA Management Team*

# APPLICANT DETAILS

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| Name of Working Group | Scaling up citizen science project–Climate Change Mitigation (carbon reduction)  |
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# BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

CSGP/AURORA Working group…………… Date May 20th, 2025

This Working Group is being established to explore and plan for a collaborative project to scale up existing citizen science projects tackling climate change mitigation (carbon reduction).

 Through this work we will develop a proposal for the structure of the project and project management, an approach that seeks to collaborate with all existing citizen science climate mitigation / carbon monitoring projects, to create a portfolio of tested methodologies and to propose the use/creation of FAIR data repositories, or harmonisation of existing data. The group will also develop a costing for modules of the project to be able to seek funding and support.

 If you are interested in learning more as a group and contributing to further advances at both a European and global level, please be invited to join this CSGP WG by [signing up here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1njJJbUKnBDTR5dXWGnQ73-V8aBV2STAoytLJQ6tlRp4/edit). Below, you can find more information on the rationale of the WG, how we work and how you can become engaged.

**Background & rationale for the CSGP Working Group on scaling up citizen science projects tackling Climate Change Mitigation**

The CSGP Board and the AURORA Management Team have identified in their Strategies, the need to scale up citizen science projects tackling climate change mitigation to fully exploit work funded by the EU Horizon research programme. A window of opportunity exists to scale up pilot projects to a European and Global scale. With the rapid acceleration of climate change it is time for citizen scientists globally to step up and make a difference. We must build a partnership with Governments to integrate citizen science projects tackling climate change mitigation into National Development Plans. This will only be possible when we

have 3-4 agreed standard methods, tools and data base systems in place that citizen scientists can use anywhere in Europe and across the globe. We will be seeking to motivate young people to put their efforts behind practical measures to tackle the 30-70% of carbon emissions that citizens of the planet are responsible for emitting because of their actions. The drive behind the programme is well summed up by the words of Leo Tolstoy – **“Everyone thinks of changing the World, but no one thinks of changing themselves”**. Until this issue is tackled we cannot create the momentum needed to drive carbon emissions down.

**Initial Terms of Reference of the CSGP Working Group for scaling up existing citizen science climate mitigation / carbon monitoring projects.**

**WHY**
The creation of the WG will notify and invite existing practitioners, to come together and share ideas about their own projects and seek agreement on the establishment of a collaborative and inclusive approach to an overarching project proposal.

This work is important to the CSGP Strategic objectives of developing citizen science networks, which share the goal of addressing global sustainability issues through citizen science; and offer strategic guidance and support for the exchange of knowledge, practices and lessons learnt and encourage the scaling up of citizen science initiatives. It is also crucial to the exploitation strategy of the AURORA project and to the goals of the EU Green Deal and associated programmes including the EU Climate Pact which has also offered to support this work through matchmaking with Climate Pact Ambassadors and or Climate Pact Partners..

Key priorities are to begin the process of seeking practitioners and potential collaborators for this work. Organising a first meeting to share experiences, discuss possible ways to approach the challenge of scaling up and harmonising data on this topic. Following this, plans and costings will be drawn up to seek support.

Focus will be on existing practitioners of citizen science climate change mitigation programmes, secondary will be contacting those working to engage through a “whole society approach” to encourage community energy programmes and engage society in the energy transition. Energy communities share many of the same objectives that we are seeking to achieve but the link for this work will be to leverage the financial opportunities from energy communities to motivate citizens to reduce their personal carbon emissions. Only by reducing personal carbon emissions through the choices individuals make will the programme be able to drive behaviour change and increase commercial opportunities for those businesses working to meet the global climate change goals.

***Short & Medium-term goals of the WG*** (subject to discussions with WG Members)

* By September 2025 a draft set of methods, tools and data base systems will be outlined.
* By November a detailed resource plan for a global programme will be in place.
* Details will be presented at the Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA7) where a pitch will be made for partners within the UNSPBF to come forward to support the programme with funds and or help in kind.
* The programme will be launched in the late winter/spring of 2026 and will be supported by a Global data base system with the potential to capture and share the carbon footprint of all participating citizens.
* The programme will seek to recruit high profile celebrities, politicians and sports men and women to promote the programme.

**WHO**
This WG brings together an international group of citizen science practitioners who are interested in exploring and encouraging the scaling up of citizen science climate change mitigation measures and who want to better understand and facilitate opportunities for collaboration between citizen science communities at the global level.

**WHAT**
The activities of the WG in its first phase shall initially be to a timescale of about 7 months, that is targeted with delivery at UNEA7 and the linked UNSPBF event. Input from experts on different topics and geographic areas will be invited to join the group, including pioneers in community energy programmes. Post UNEA7 the group will review its forward programme and reset based on the success of the pitch at UNEA7 to take account of potential new partners joining the programme from global business, philanthropic organisations, Member States and the UN.

**HOW**

The structure for this Working Group will initially be:

Interim Joint Chairs - Martin Brocklehurst from the CSGP Board, and Ana Belén Cristóbel López Coordinator of the AURORA Project.

Interim Secretary of the Group - Ram Dayal Vaishnav from Citizen Asia who will send out invitations and organise the initial symposium.

Our next steps are:

* Circulate the invitation to join the WG as widely as possible through the CSGP, Regional Citizen Science Association networks and social media, the EU Climate Pact, the EU Education4Climates Group, the EU Green Deal Network, the UNSPBF Members and the UNEP Chief Scientists office.
* Establish regular meetings (once every month).
* **Hold hybrid symposium/workshop to share experiences and to discuss the approach,** ways of working and the action plan of the WG; and,
* Make decisions together on the aims, objectives and plans of the WG via a collaborative process among WG members, the CSGP Secretariat, the AURORA Management team and the EU Climate Pact.

# WORKING GROUP MANAGEMENT

The Working Group proposes a management structure consisting of:

* Initial Co-chairs – Martin Brocklehurst CSGP, Ana Belén Cristóbel López (UPM/AURORA)
* Initial Secretary – Ram Dayal Vaishnav Citizen Asia Association
* Members – [TBD]

The Working Group will decide amongst themselves the various positions individuals will hold. Terms of office will also be agreed by the group. Terms of Reference will be shared with the CSGP Board and the AURORA Management Team.

The Working Group will hold 6-7 meetings before UNEA7 and will work at pace with the CSGP Delegation to UNEA7 to create opportunities to promote the programme at a UNEA Green Room event; a formal side

event with National Member State support, and at the UNSPBF event planned at UNEA7. The CSGP Delegation and the Working Group will seek opportunities to engage Member State teams attending UNEA7 to build support from Nation States.

# STRATEGIC ACTIONS

1. Please outline how the Working Group proposes to contribute to or align with the CSGP Strategic Plans and the AURORA Exploitation Strategy.
* The outline of activities the WG will undertake will be developed and agree as the WG is co-created – at the initial workshop/s.

# COLLABORATIONS

Networks and collaborations of the WG members with existing groups and organisations with similar aims will be gathered as the WG is established. The WG will also identify those which the WG wishes to work with in the future.

**Acknowledgement**

Please tick:

☐ I acknowledge that management of the Community of Practice will be pursuant to the [CSGP Working Group Protocols](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qz2BkOMnqQbtciuixGlWRUjLPk8LcLwl/edit) and to the AURORA Project Exploitation Plans and any additional details provided in this document and updated from time to time.

Name: ………Martin Brocklehurst………………………. Date: ………May 20th 2025……………………………….

 

Signature: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Name ………. Ana Belén Cristóbel López ……… Date ……..May 20th 2025……………………………

Signature ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………