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Small steps, big impact: 250,000 children, one message to COP31

Climate Alliance presents Green Footprints campaign results at UN Climate Change Conference

Frankfurt am Main / Antalya, 17 November 2026. Climate Alliance has presented the results of its Green Footprints campaign at the UN Climate Change Conference, COP31: some 250,000 children from 10 countries collected 3.5 million Green Footprints this year for integrating climate-friendly behaviours into their everyday lives. Last week, the delegation already presented the results together with youth delegates and Climate Alliance's Indigenous partners. Today, a further presentation followed with Tony Agotha, Ambassador at large - Special Envoy for Climate and Energy Security (EEAS). The children's wishes from across Europe were also shared. The results demonstrate once again just how motivated even the youngest children are to campaign for a sustainable and liveable Europe.

"I am really grateful, and it does show something: it is the children who are teaching us. In fact, they are not yet responsible [...], but it is up to us to be responsible for their future," said Tony Agotha, Ambassador at large - Special Envoy for Climate and Energy Security (EEAS).

"We are delighted that so many children take part year after year. Every Green Footprint collected represents a climate-friendly choice in everyday life. By presenting their efforts at COP31, we are giving these children a voice right where political decisions are made," commented Thomas Brose, Executive Director of Climate Alliance.

This year's results are particularly impressive, as the intense heatwaves this summer posed a major challenge for many educational institutions. Schools and nurseries had to cancel their onsite activities or shorten the collection period to protect the children and adults taking part from the heat.

The Green Footprints Campaign is a low-threshold Climate Alliance offering for municipalities and educational institutions. The aim is to use the collection of green footprints to teach children about sustainable lifestyles in a playful way and to give children a voice at the political level. Since 2002, the campaign has

been inviting children from all over Europe to take part and has reached over four million children from more than 40 countries.

Further Information

- **FlickR Album**
- **Green Footprints Campaign results 2026**
- **Green Footprints website**

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The Green Footprints campaign
Since 2002, the Green Footprints campaign has been helping children across Europe to learn about the impact of their daily lives on the climate and encouraging them to be role models for their families and climate politicians. For a period of at least one week, children collect 'green footprints' for every journey they make on foot, by bike or public transport, as well as for other environmentally friendly actions such as sustainable nutrition. The Green Footprints are presented annually at the UN climate conferences. **zoom-kidsforclimate.eu**

THE CLIMATE ALLIANCE
For over 35 years, Climate Alliance member municipalities have been acting in partnership with indigenous rainforest peoples for the benefit of the global climate. With some 2,000 members spread across more than 25 countries, Climate Alliance is Europe's largest city network dedicated to comprehensive and equitable climate action. Recognising the impact our lifestyles can have on the world's most vulnerable people and places, Climate Alliance pairs local action with global responsibility. **climatealliance.org**