

Case Study: I.E. Champagnat, Tacna, Peru

Climate Action Education For All.

INTRODUCTION

The team is driven by a clear mission: to cultivate change agents capable of analyzing environmental issues through a global and integrated lens. At the heart of their work is a commitment to raising student awareness of sustainable development, ensuring young people understand the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic challenges.

Central to their efforts is the promotion of responsibility and climate justice. They aim to empower students not only to recognize the urgent need for sustainable solutions but also to take ownership of their role in shaping a more equitable future. By fostering critical thinking and engagement, the team prepares students to make informed, strategic decisions that align with major global events, such as COP30 in Brazil and COP17 on Biodiversity in Armenia.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

Beyond the classroom, the team is dedicated to strengthening international collaboration. Through building partnerships and sharing best practices across borders, they seek to amplify the impact of their work and contribute to a global movement for climate action. Each initiative reflects their belief that empowering young people today is key to creating a sustainable and just world for future generations.

PORTRAIT OF A CHAMPION

I.E. Champagnat in Tacna, Peru, led by a collaborative team of three female teachers (Marcela, Regina, Patty) and one male teacher (Alfonso), is dedicated to promoting education for climate action. Their work aligns with the UNESCO Action Plan on Climate Change (2018-2021) and the Greening Education Partnership. Through an interdisciplinary approach, they foster critical, systemic, and holistic thinking, encouraging informed decision-making and active participation in climate solutions.

AT A GLANCE

Climate Action Schools

- Goals
- Solutions
- Results
- Lessons Learned

Call To Action

- Lessons Learned
- Conclusion
- Recommendations

“Our role in the local environment has been essential in shaping and developing our climate action initiatives. Through collaborative work with various institutions, we have strengthened the impact of our actions within the community. We have established strategic partnerships with public entities such as the municipality and the Ecological Police, as well as with the private sector and experts in nature and sustainability, enabling the implementation of effective and long-term environmental projects.”

Alfonso Navarro Carvallo
Climate Champion



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Goals.

I.E. Champagnat aims to integrate sustainability into the fabric of its educational approach, focusing on both local and global impact through innovation, community partnerships, and resource-conscious practices. The school's efforts include incorporating sustainability into the classroom and fostering a broader culture of environmental responsibility among students, staff, and the surrounding community.



CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

I.E. Champagnat's approach to climate solutions is deeply embedded in their educational framework and daily practices. The school is committed to addressing environmental challenges through a variety of hands-on, practical initiatives that encourage both students and the wider community to take action.

A key aspect of their climate solutions involves integrating sustainable practices directly into the curriculum. For instance, the school has successfully adopted STEM and art integration, where students use artificial intelligence for art projects while also minimizing waste by opting for acrylic boards instead of traditional paper. This approach not only promotes creativity but also teaches students the value of resource conservation. Another significant aspect of I.E. Champagnat's climate solutions is their dedication to resource reduction. Students are encouraged to use eco-friendly alternatives such as aluminum bottles, reusable bags, and biodegradable napkins, which helps to reduce the school's carbon footprint and waste. The school has also adopted principles of the circular economy, teaching students to compost organic waste such as eggshells and oregano stems, turning them into natural fertilizers that enrich the soil and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills.

These solutions extend beyond the classroom through partnerships and community involvement. By collaborating with local and international organizations, as well as learning from local innovators, the school amplifies the impact of its climate actions. Through these combined efforts, I.E. Champagnat is creating a model of sustainable education that not only teaches students about climate solutions but also empowers them to be part of the global movement for a healthier, more sustainable planet.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

I.E. Champagnat recognizes that community engagement and partnerships are central to the success of their sustainability initiatives. The school has strategically cultivated strong relationships with both local and international entities to amplify their impact and create a broader network of support for their climate action efforts.

On the local level, the school has partnered with the municipality and the Ecological Police, working together to implement and promote sustainable policies within the community. These collaborations have not only supported the school's own sustainability projects but have also influenced positive change beyond the school's campus, encouraging a wider community involvement in environmental stewardship.

Internationally, I.E. Champagnat has formed a valuable partnership with a school in Brazil, where both institutions share ideas, exchange experiences, and learn from one another's sustainability practices. This collaboration allows the school to stay connected to global trends in climate action and brings diverse perspectives that enrich the school's approach to environmental education.

The school also draws inspiration from local entrepreneurs, such as Jhon Coarita, who practices sustainable oregano cultivation, and beekeeper Jesús Daniel Siña Flores. These innovators serve as role models for students, demonstrating how sustainability can be integrated into business practices. By connecting students with these real-world examples of eco-friendly entrepreneurship, I.E. Champagnat reinforces the importance of sustainability in every aspect of life, from education to business and beyond. Through these partnerships, I.E. Champagnat is not only fostering a culture of sustainability within its walls but is also helping to drive change in the wider community.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The school's sustainability efforts have led to significant outcomes:

- The creation of 250 liters of natural fertilizer from 5,000 eggshells, which has contributed to soil regeneration and enhanced local ecosystems.
- 65% of participants have taken their learning home, implementing composting practices in their households.
- The successful restoration of an old molle tree using biofertilizers and soil recovery techniques has brought new life to the campus environment.

International recognition through awards underscores the school's commitment to sustainable education and innovation.



CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Despite the impressive progress made, I.E. Champagnat faces a significant challenge in securing sufficient funding to sustain and expand its climate action initiatives. This financial limitation poses a barrier to the scale of their projects and the continued integration of sustainability into their educational practices. However, the school has been proactive in finding creative solutions to this challenge.

To address the funding gap, I.E. Champagnat has embraced a self-management approach. The school organizes eco-fairs, recycling campaigns, and other fundraising events to generate the necessary funds. These events not only raise money but also serve as platforms to engage the wider community in sustainability efforts, fostering a deeper collective commitment to environmental causes.

In addition to these grassroots efforts, the school has leveraged institutional support, making the most of the resources available within the school and local community. By drawing on the expertise and involvement of faculty, students, and community members, I.E. Champagnat ensures that their sustainability projects remain viable. Through these combined efforts, the school is navigating financial challenges and continues to expand its climate education programs, ensuring that sustainability remains at the core of their mission.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

Looking toward the future, I.E. Champagnat is dedicated to expanding its climate action efforts with a clear focus on sustainability and innovation. The school plans to deepen its international collaborations, building on the valuable partnerships established with schools like the one in Brazil, to further enrich its sustainability initiatives. By exchanging ideas and practices with global peers, I.E. Champagnat aims to continuously learn and implement new strategies to enhance both their environmental education and hands-on projects.

Additionally, the school is committed to embedding more innovative, sustainable teaching practices into its curriculum. This will not only engage students in climate action but also prepare them to be leaders in the fight against climate change. Through the integration of new technologies, interdisciplinary learning, and community-based initiatives, I.E. Champagnat is determined to provide its students with the tools and mindset necessary to drive real-world environmental change.

Strengthening community involvement will also be a key focus. The school understands that true environmental change happens when everyone works together—students, teachers, families, and local organizations. By fostering a deeper sense of collective responsibility, I.E. Champagnat aims to inspire systemic environmental changes that will impact not only their school but also their local community and beyond. Through continued engagement and collaboration, the school hopes to create lasting, positive change for future generations.

