

Do we really know what nature expects from us?

In recent years, we've been discussing climate change, pollution, and the loss of biodiversity more than ever before. And while information is available everywhere, the key challenge remains the same: do we truly understand what is expected of us — as individuals, as communities, and as a generation?

The answer isn't simple, because environmental issues are no longer isolated problems.

They now influence health, the economy, mobility, and even our everyday habits related to shopping and waste disposal.



It's worrying how many environmental processes remain invisible.

When we walk through the city, we don't see microplastics in the air, chemicals in the water, or the impact that global supply chains have on forests on the other side of the world.

This creates a sense of distance: if we can't visualize a problem, it becomes difficult to feel it as part of our everyday lives.

However, there is a moment when this perception changes.

It usually happens when we encounter a concrete example — when we notice the local stream turning cloudy, or when a neighborhood park is replaced by a parking lot. Suddenly, we realize that change is happening here, in our own streets, right in front of our homes.

Interestingly, solutions often lie in simple behavioral changes. Less single-use plastic, more responsible consumption, reusing materials, and critically thinking about the origin of products can lead to real, measurable results. And yet, even with good intentions, we often lack the most important thing — the knowledge of how to begin.

This is where education and structured tools become crucial.

As part of the **Our Earth, Our Voice** project, a digital booklet was created to clearly and accessibly explain the foundations of sustainability, including environmental responsibility, the importance of youth participation, and the development of green skills.

The booklet offers concrete examples of activities, tools for community campaigns, and approaches that help youth workers explain complex concepts to young people.



“Green Generation”

What’s particularly interesting is that the booklet emphasizes the importance of **experiential learning** — direct contact with nature, observation, analysis, and reflection. Through this type of learning, participants can more easily connect abstract concepts with real challenges. It’s an approach that takes responsibility out of theory and places it into a local context.

The booklet also includes examples of successful campaigns, inspiring case studies, and creative methods for engaging the community. The goal is not only to inform, but to encourage behavioral change. Because when young people develop their own initiatives, a deeper, internalized understanding emerges — one that truly lasts.

This kind of material is also valuable because it provides a sense of belonging. When we realize that people in Croatia, Italy, Greece, Romania, and the rest of the world are facing the same challenges, we gain a broader perspective and stronger motivation to act.

In the end, the answer to our initial question may be simpler than it seems: nature expects **balance** from us — to use resources wisely, respect limitations, and acknowledge that we are just one part of a much larger system.

Projects like **Our Earth, Our Voice** remind us that knowledge, creativity, and collaboration are our strongest tools in this process.

Because when we understand, we act. And when we act — there is still time for positive change.

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