

The logo for the Jokkmokk Winter Conference features a stylized, colorful arch in shades of blue and green above the text "Jokkmokk Winter Conference" written in a cursive script.

Jokkmokk Winter Conference

Summary of Recommendations from Young Arctic Professionals and Youth

*Presented at the Jokkmokk Winter Conference
4 February 2009 – Jokkmokk, Sweden*

With the changing climate in the Polar Regions comes an increasing need for better cooperation between residents, scientists and policy makers. As early career professionals and youth, we want to take this opportunity to share with you, the policy makers, our views on various aspects of changes occurring in the Arctic. You are making policy that will affect our generation and our children and grandchildren, therefore it is critical for you to know our thoughts, desires and needs on these issues. We recommend that:

- Develop communities sustainably with subsidies to increase energy efficiency, encourage community gardens and recycling programs, and cleaner public transportation;
- Preserve the environment and diversity through National or International Parks that are managed to maintain native plant and animal diversity;
- Encourage volunteer and community paid positions that will clean up contaminated area and work toward protecting nature;
- Develop and fund research in the North where indigenous peoples work directly with industry to share knowledge, breed new plant types to sustain in the Arctic, and other research initiatives that will ensure the protection of intellectual property rights related to the use of traditional knowledge for commercial purposes;
- Create a fund to help funnel a percentage of the profits from resource extraction in the circumpolar Arctic towards sustainable community development and education initiatives;
- Promote public education on the ongoing changes and how we can sustainably adapt
- Fund initiatives to share knowledge on best practice techniques across the Arctic;
- Encourage Arctic States to build economies on renewable/alternative sources of energy; oil and natural gas exploitation must be conducted in a sustainable fashion without environmental harm;
- Develop protective protocols for the transportation of toxic or radioactive waste in the Arctic seas;
- Support technology as a means to promote communication between circumpolar communities.
- Strengthen dialogue between policy makers and citizens, in this vein we request the inclusion of young delegates to the Arctic Council and other important policy making conferences (eg. COP 15) and bodies, and to integrate these delegates into the main delegation's decision making

We realize policies need to be developed to protect the Arctic and the rights of the residents. We encourage you as policy makers to work with residents and youth when developing such legislation. Incorporating indigenous and young people on committees and through action groups is one method to ensure collaboration and effective policy development.