



ARforEarth Research

Author's Guide

Your complete guide to publishing your research

Working Papers · Policy Briefs · Reports · Case Studies

Open-access · Community-reviewed · DOI-assigned · Free for everyone

Edition 2026 · arforearth.org



WELCOME

Publish Your Research With ARforEarth

Welcome to ARforEarth Research — an open-access platform where students, researchers, and practitioners publish their climate, environmental, and sustainability work for the world to read. This guide walks you through everything you need: what we accept, how to prepare and structure your paper, how the review process works, and what happens after you publish. Whether this is your very first paper or your fiftieth, you'll find a clear, step-by-step path here.

The short version

Write your paper · submit it to us · our community reviews and helps you improve it · we publish it with a permanent DOI and index it for global visibility. It's free, it's open, and it's built to help you grow.

What's inside this guide

- About ARforEarth Research and why to publish with us
- The nine research divisions we accept work in
- The six types of submissions and when to use each
- Who can publish, and how to choose a topic that fits
- How to structure and format your paper, section by section
- The full submission and review process, step by step
- The review community and how to become a reviewer
- What happens after publication — your DOI, indexing, and citation
- Ethics, integrity, and answers to frequently asked questions



SECTION 1

About ARforEarth Research

ARforEarth Research is the open-access research division of ARforEarth, a youth-led global climate organisation founded in 2021 and recognised by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Pennsylvania State Senate. Our research platform exists to solve a simple but real problem: talented people produce valuable climate and sustainability work — but much of it never sees the light of day because traditional journals are slow, expensive, or closed to newcomers.

We give that work a home. Every paper we publish is free to read, permanently citable through a DOI, and indexed on the platforms researchers actually use. There are no paywalls, no submission fees, and no requirement that you already be an established academic.

Why publish with ARforEarth

- It's completely free. No submission fees, no paywalls, ever.
- You get a real DOI. A permanent, citable identifier for your work through Zenodo.
- Global visibility. Your paper is indexed on ResearchGate, SSRN, Academia, ORCID, and discoverable on the web.
- Community support. Our review community reads your work and helps you strengthen it — you're never alone.
- Open to everyone. First-time authors are as welcome as seasoned researchers.
- A credible imprint. An 'ARforEarth Working Paper' carries the credibility of a recognised organisation.

An honest note on review

We describe our process as community-reviewed, not peer-reviewed in the traditional journal sense. Your work is read and improved by our community of contributors and editors. We are transparent about this because honesty is part of credibility.



SECTION 2

What We Publish — Our Nine Divisions

We accept work across nine research divisions. Our scope is broad, but it stays within climate, environment, and sustainability. If your work touches any of these areas, there is a place for it here.

Climate Science

The physical science of climate change: emissions, warming, and real-world impacts.

ESG & Corporate Sustainability

Corporate climate commitments, carbon accounting, ESG reporting, and CSR strategy.

Environmental Policy & Governance

Climate policy frameworks, governance, and youth participation.

Green Finance & Energy

Carbon markets, climate finance, the energy transition, and sustainable investment.

Biodiversity & Conservation

Ecosystems, forests, wildlife, and conservation.

Circular Economy & Waste

Waste management, recycling, and circular resource use.

Water & Ocean Ecosystems

Lakes, rivers, oceans, water quality, and marine conservation.

Sustainable Development & SDGs

The UN Sustainable Development Goals, equity, and community development.

Climate Technology & Innovation

Clean technology, carbon capture, renewables, and climate innovation.

Not sure your topic fits?

If your work relates to the planet, the environment, or sustainability in any way, it very likely fits. When in doubt, email info@arforearth.org with a one-line description of your topic and we'll tell you quickly.



SECTION 3

Types of Submissions

Choose the format that best matches your work. Each has a distinct purpose and length.

Working Paper (3,000–8,000 words)

Your primary research: an original study, analysis, or investigation. The most common format.

Policy Brief (1,000–2,500 words)

A short, focused document that analyses a problem and recommends action for decision-makers.

Research Report (2,000–6,000 words)

A structured report of findings from a project, survey, or field study.

Case Study (1,500–5,000 words)

An in-depth examination of a single organisation, project, event, or community.

Thesis / Dissertation (No limit)

Your completed academic thesis or dissertation, given a permanent, citable home.

Impact Report (1,500–5,000 words)

Documentation of a real-world project's outcomes, data, and measurable impact.



SECTION 4

Who Can Publish & Choosing Your Topic

Who can publish

Everyone. ARforEarth Research is deliberately open. You do not need to be affiliated with a university, hold a particular degree, or have published before. We welcome undergraduate and graduate students, independent researchers, PhD scholars, professionals, and practitioners. What matters is that your work is original, honest, and relevant to our scope.

Choosing a topic that fits

Your topic should connect to climate, the environment, or sustainability. Within that, we are intentionally broad — the goal is to give good work a home, not to gatekeep. Here are examples on both sides of the line:

Fits our scope

- Carbon pricing in emerging economies
- A lake restoration case study
- ESG reporting gaps in an industry
- Youth participation in climate policy
- Solar adoption barriers
- Waste segregation in a city

Outside our scope

- General business strategy (no climate link)
- Unrelated medical or engineering topics
- Personal essays or opinion with no analysis
- Off-topic work with no environmental angle



SECTION 5

How to Structure Your Paper

A well-structured paper is easier to review and far more credible. Below is the standard structure for a working paper. Shorter formats (like policy briefs) use a lighter version, described afterwards.

Standard working-paper structure

Title. Clear, specific, and descriptive. Avoid vague or clickbait titles.

Author(s) & affiliation. Your name, and your institution or 'Independent Researcher'.

Abstract. A 150–250 word summary: the problem, what you did, and what you found.

Keywords. 5–8 terms that describe your paper, to aid discovery.

Introduction. The problem, why it matters, and what your paper contributes.

Background / Literature. What is already known, and where your work fits in.

Methodology. How you did your research — data, methods, and approach. Be transparent.

Findings / Analysis. What you found, presented clearly with figures or tables where useful.

Discussion. What your findings mean, their limitations, and implications.

Conclusion. A concise summary and, where relevant, recommendations or next steps.

References. Every source you cited, in a consistent style (APA recommended).

Policy brief structure (shorter)

- Summary — the key message in a few sentences.
- The problem — what issue you're addressing and why it matters now.
- Analysis — the evidence and your assessment.
- Recommendations — clear, actionable steps for decision-makers.



SECTION 6

Formatting Guidelines

- File format: submit as a PDF (preferred) or Word document (.docx).
- Language: English.
- Title: specific and descriptive; put it at the top of the first page.
- Abstract: 150–250 words, before the main text.
- Keywords: 5–8, listed under the abstract.
- Citations & references: use a consistent style throughout — we recommend APA 7th edition.
- Figures & tables: number them, give each a caption, and reference them in the text.
- Length: follow the guidance for your submission type (Section 3).
- Originality: the work must be your own and not plagiarised (see Section 9).

Don't have a template?

You don't need a fancy template to submit — clear structure matters more than styling. Once we receive your paper, we help format it consistently for publication.



SECTION 7

The Submission & Review Process

Here is exactly what happens from the moment you submit to the moment you're published.

1. Prepare

Write your paper following this guide. Save it as a PDF.

2. Submit

Send it to info@arforearth.org (or through the submission form on our website) with your name, chosen division, submission type, and a one-line summary.

3. Initial screening

We check that the work is on-topic, complete, original, and free of plagiarism. This usually takes a few days.

4. Community review

Two members of our review community read your paper and provide constructive feedback to strengthen it.

5. Revisions

You address the feedback and return your revised paper. Most papers go through one round.

6. Publication

Once approved, we publish your paper with a permanent DOI and add it to the ARforEarth Research index.

7. Indexing & visibility

Your paper is made discoverable on Zenodo, ResearchGate, SSRN, Academia, and the open web.

How long does it take?

Most papers move from submission to publication within a few weeks, depending on how quickly revisions are returned. We'll keep you updated at each stage.



SECTION 8

The Review Community

ARforEarth Research is powered by a community, not a single gatekeeper. When you publish with us, you can also join that community — reading, reviewing, and mentoring the authors who come after you. This is how the platform grows and how quality stays high.

Three tiers

- Contributors — anyone who publishes a paper with us.
- Reviewers — contributors who have published and now review and mentor new submissions.
- Editorial Board — verified senior members (academics and experienced practitioners) who set standards and handle the more complex decisions.

Why become a reviewer

- Earn a recognised 'Reviewer, ARforEarth Research' credential for your CV.
- Receive a reviewer certificate and public recognition on our platform.
- Build your network and stay close to new work in your field.
- Give back — help the next generation of authors the way you were helped.



SECTION 9

After You Publish

Your DOI

Every published paper receives a permanent Digital Object Identifier (DOI) through Zenodo. A DOI is a stable, citable link that never breaks — it is how your work is referenced in other papers, forever.

Where your work appears

- Zenodo (with your DOI)
- ResearchGate
- SSRN
- Academia.edu
- Your ORCID record
- The open web, discoverable via search

How to cite your work

Once published, cite your paper using its DOI. A typical citation looks like: Author, A. (2026). Title of your paper. ARforEarth Research Working Paper. <https://doi.org/...>

Share it widely

Your paper is yours to promote. Share the DOI link on LinkedIn, add it to your CV and portfolio, and cite it in future work. Publishing with us is not exclusive — you're free to share and repost it anywhere.



SECTION 10

Ethics & Integrity

Credibility depends on integrity. By submitting to ARforEarth Research, you agree to the following standards.

- Originality. The work must be your own. Plagiarism results in rejection or removal.
- Honest citation. Credit every source you draw on.
- Data honesty. Do not fabricate, falsify, or misrepresent data or results.
- Accurate labelling. Describe your paper honestly — as community-reviewed, not peer-reviewed, unless it has genuinely undergone formal peer review.
- Conflicts of interest. Disclose any funding or affiliation that could bias your work.
- Respect. No offensive, discriminatory, or harmful content.



SECTION 11

Frequently Asked Questions

Is it really free?

Yes. There are no submission fees and no paywalls, for authors or readers.

Do I need to be a student or academic?

No. We welcome students, independent researchers, professionals, and practitioners alike.

Is it peer-reviewed?

It is community-reviewed. Your work is read and improved by our community and editors. We are transparent about this distinction.

Will my paper get a DOI?

Yes — every published paper receives a permanent DOI through Zenodo.

Can I also publish it elsewhere?

Yes. Publishing with us is not exclusive. You keep the rights to your work.

How long does it take?

Typically a few weeks from submission to publication, depending on revisions.

What if my topic is unusual?

If it relates to climate, environment, or sustainability, it likely fits. Email us if unsure.

Can I publish my thesis?

Yes. We give completed theses and dissertations a permanent, citable home.



GET STARTED

Ready to Publish?

You have everything you need. Prepare your paper using this guide, and send it to us — we'll take it from there and help you every step of the way. We can't wait to read your work and give it the audience it deserves.

Submit or ask a question

Email: info@arforearth.org Website: arforearth.org Include your name, your chosen division, your submission type, and a one-line summary of your paper.

ARforEarth Research — Action. Resilience. For Earth.