1. Global Navigation (Persistent Top-Level Menu)

Purpose: Prioritize clarity, simplicity, and access to core functionalities

Label	Type	Reasoning
Home	Navigation	Provides a dashboard overview. Users found personalization and clear entry points crucial.
News	Category	Dedicated space for AI-curated, trustworthy environmental news. Reduces information overload.
Community	Category	Encourages discussion and peer learning—a primary user desire.
Projects	Category	Facilitates collaborative environmental initiatives. Enables active participation.
Topics	Category	Allows users to explore curated content by themes like climate, wildlife, pollution, etc.
Profile	Utility	Enables dashboard customization, notification preferences, and saved items.
Search	Utility	Critical for reducing friction in finding specific content (supports news, topics, users, etc.)

2. Homepage / Dashboard

Purpose: Personal, dynamic landing space with curated summaries and access to key actions.

Section	Functionality	Reasoning
Daily Digest	AI-generated environmental news summary	Supports overwhelmed users by surfacing only high-priority content
Your Topics	Quick links to followed topics	Personalization increases relevance and engagement
Recent Discussions	Snippets from active forums	Keeps community activity visible and easily accessible
Suggested Projects	AI-matched community initiatives	Encourages user contribution to meaningful causes
Quick Actions	"Start Discussion," "Create Project," "Save Article"	Empowers users to engage proactively with low friction

3. News Section

Purpose: Serve trustworthy, AI-curated environmental updates with easy filtering

Sub-Sections	Features	Reasoning
Top Stories	AI-prioritized, most relevant global headlines	Helps users cut through noise
By Region	Filter news by continent/country	Supports location-specific interests
By Source	Toggle between verified sources (e.g., UN, National Geographic)	Builds trust and credibility
AI Summary View	Option to skim concise takeaways	Reduces cognitive load; aligns with "ease of use" feedback

4. Community Section

Purpose: Create space for meaningful, ongoing discussion among like-minded individuals

Sub-Sections	Features	Reasoning
Forums	Organized by topics (e.g., Climate Action, Local Policy, Green Tech)	Topic-based organization supports focused discussions
Live Chat Rooms	Synchronous discussion on trending topics	Fosters real-time engagement; unique community element
Events & Webinars	Share, RSVP, or host discussions or talks	Facilitates deeper involvement and learning
User Highlights	Featuring community stories or achievements	Builds trust and recognition within the platform

5. Projects Section

Purpose: Support grassroots and digital environmental initiatives through structured collaboration

Sub-Sections	Features	Reasoning
Featured Projects	AI-surfaced based on user interests	Increases engagement with relevant initiatives
Your Projects	Manage ongoing collaborations	Encourages ownership and continuity
Start a Project	Guided template with goals, milestones, chat, and shared documents	Reduces friction for users wanting to lead something impactful
Collaboration Requests	Discover projects that need help	Encourages community participation and skill-sharing

6. Topics Section

Purpose: Help users go deep into focused environmental themes.

Sub-Sections	Features	Reasoning
Explore Topics	Grid layout with visuals (e.g., Oceans, Energy, Forests)	Encourages discovery by interest
Topic Feed	News + Discussions + Projects related to a theme	Unified content model increases engagement across sections
Follow Topic	Adds to user dashboard	Supports personalization and reduces content overwhelm

7. Profile / Settings

Purpose: Enable customization and user management

Sub-Sections	Features	Reasoning
My Dashboard Settings	Choose visible widgets, topics, preferred sources	Aligns with personalization preferences from UX research
Notification Preferences	Set alerts for discussions, news, or project updates	Respects user attention and prevents overload
Saved Content	Access saved articles, projects, discussions	Keeps key resources at hand
Contribution Summary	Overview of posts, projects, impact	Builds a sense of achievement and motivates continued use

8. Utility Features (Accessible Site-Wide)

Feature	Description	Reasoning
Search Bar	Unified, smart search across all content types	Core to fast information access
Accessibility Tools	Text resizing, dark mode, screen reader support	Inclusive design for all users
Language Selector	Multilingual support for wider reach	Expands global accessibility
Feedback Button	Quick access to leave suggestions or report bugs	Supports continuous user-centered improvement

🔍 Summary of IA Decisions

Insight	Design Decision	Why It Matters
Users are overwhelmed by info	AI summaries + filtered content	Reduces overload and increases trust
Users want community and action	Forums + Projects + Chat	Encourages peer support and engagement
Need for personalization	Custom dashboards, topic following	Helps users focus on what matters to them
Desire for clarity and usability	Clear sectioning and hierarchy	Makes navigation smooth and intuitive
Users want to contribute	Project collaboration tools	Empowers environmental impact through action