

Climate Voices: Ideas and Inspiration for Climate Action in your School

InterClimate Network's Model Climate Conferences have created an opportunity to get inside the world of global climate negotiations, but teachers and students have asked for support in taking action on or raising awareness of climate change issues. This toolkit aims to support and inspire your schools in your own carbon reduction and climate actions. Please share the pack with colleagues and students.

1 What difference can we make?

In Paris in December 2015 (COP21) global leaders agreed to take Climate Change action to try and keep global temperature rise to "well below" 2.0C (3.6F) above pre-industrial times and endeavour to limit them even more, to 1.5C. The urgency of action on the agreement is highlighted by the fact that **2016 was the third successive hottest year for the planet.**

At the same time here in the UK there is a big push for **more ambitious local action.** The 2008 Climate Change Act commits the UK to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least **80% by 2050**, relative to 1990 levels. Many cities and local authorities as well as individual schools and colleges have developed carbon reduction strategies or climate action plans.

At InterClimate Network we believe that we all need to do more and that young people can and will lead the way to a more sustainable future through your creative ideas and energy.

2 What's going on already?

At a series of Model Climate Conferences in November last year we asked students in Cheltenham, Reading and South Gloucestershire to say what you are already doing. Here are some actual examples of the activities you told us about...

At home

I do everything I can to reduce my carbon footprint.

I make sure we're recycling at home.

In the community

I go to a Scout club that helps the environment.

I did a beach clean-up in the summer in Cornwall.

I am persuading people to reduce climate change by speaking about it

In school

We have solar panels.

We have recycling bins for paper and printer cartridges.

We're taking energy readings.

Our boarding houses are coming together to do a sustainability project.

3 Get started or grow your own plans!

We asked students last year what we could do to support them. **74% said they would like to take more action on climate change.**

If you are looking to start something new, or boost what you're already doing in your school, here are some ideas. **Remember to take photographs and keep a record** so you can share it with other people. Tweet it to **@ClimateVoicesUK** and we'll spread the word....

Energy - Reduce your use



- Do an energy audit of your school to see how many lights, computers and other pieces of equipment are left on when not in use, and compare different buildings. (School buildings make up nearly 50% of the entire greenhouse gas emissions from a local council - source: <http://www.atlasschools.org/>)
- Install a Smart Meter and set up a rota to monitor it over a set time (councils and energy companies can provide monitors and equipment)
- Set up a competition to see which year or House can save the greatest amount of energy. Get agreement from the school managers to set up a Green Fund from a proportion of any money saved on bills.

Food - Create a school garden



- Find out if your school or local venue has a plot of land you could use. Seek advice and ask around for other support - money, tools, contacts, helping to write to garden centres for donations
- Plant things you can eat and set up a compost scheme. Put bins for biodegradable waste in the canteen and staff rooms to add to the compost for your garden
- Hold a Harvest Fete with a plant and seed sale and the sale of fresh fruit and vegetables to show the value of your work. And a scarecrow competition for fun!

Local environment – find out what's out there



- Take photos or film what you find in your area and interview shop owners and the public to find out their views
- Speak with any local businesses already involved in sustainable solutions
- Create a big map of both the sustainability issues and the positive actions you have found to present in an assembly, and invite parents along too.

Transport and Pollution – local hotspots



- Find out about local air quality and pollution hotspots via your local Pollution Monitoring Centres – go to <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/networks/>
- Research specific areas close to school such as traffic at key crossroads or next to major roads and devise your own awareness raising project
- Think about initiatives that you could promote in school e.g. walking and cycling; public transport; car sharing

Waste & Recycling – reduce, reuse, recycle!



- Think about ways to reduce consumption and re-use rather than throw away e.g.
 - Design and make new clothes out of old clothes
 - Make bags out of old jeans
 - Make friendship bracelets out of old t-shirts
- Have a catwalk show in your school or put up a display about ethical fashion
- Find out your school's re-cycling rates and plan an awareness raising campaign or competition to increase the rates, and maybe raise funds for your Green Fund!

4 Useful information and websites

The majority of the resources listed below are sourced from the Global Dimension (DFID funded) website. There are many more to look through by searching Climate Change as a topic in the left hand browser <http://www.globaldimension.org.uk/>

We strive to provide only links to useful and ethical websites, we have no control over their content and the links to other websites do not imply a recommendation for all the content found on these sites.

Action Aid - Power Down

PowerDown is a multi-media resource for geography, citizenship and science in both primary and secondary schools. It supports learners in investigating energy use at home and in their school, linking also to people living in India and Bangladesh.

<http://www.actionaid.org.uk/101008/powerdown.html>

Ashden Award

The Ashden awards are for sustainable energy solutions in the UK. If your school is a champion of local, sustainable energy and is based in the UK, register your interest on-line.

<http://www.ashdenawards.org>

Atlas Schools Tool-kit

The Atlas Schools tool-kit helps schools to measure their carbon footprint and understand how different activities of the school affect carbon emissions and help to reduce its environmental impact, as well as save money.

<http://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/publications/publication-pdfs/using-the-atlas-schools-toolkit-a-guide/view>

The Carbon Trust

The **Empower for Schools**[™] application is an interactive online tool, designed to help staff and pupils to cut carbon and save money on energy bills. It includes advice and recommendations on all carbon hotspots in a school. The cost of one year's access to this tool is £650 but their claim is that schools can save up to £21,500 per year in energy bills.

<http://www.carbontrust.com/resources/tools/empower-for-schools>

Department for the Environment and Climate Change (DECC)

The My2050 Toolkit is a resource to support Key Stage 3 and 4 students to use and learn from this simulation. It is aimed particularly at Geography, Science, Maths and Citizenship teachers who wish to engage their students in the 2050 carbon emissions debate.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/my2050-schools-toolkit>

<http://2050-calculator-tool.decc.gov.uk/#/guide>

Eco-Schools and The Pod

Eco-Schools own website is a great starting point for the 9 topic areas for sustainability They have also teamed up with EDF Energy's Programme for Greener Schools to provide The Pod - an interactive on-line resource for teachers of Key Stages 2 and 3 children for each of four key topics (energy, transport, water and waste).

Eco-Schools and The Pod - <http://www.jointhepod.org/home>

Ellen Macarthur Foundation - circular economy

As part of the World's Largest lesson, a 5 lesson series was launched in 2016 to think about economic development, resource challenges, energy issues and product design in a new way, as part of a circular economy.

<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/news/the-ellen-macarthur-foundation-releases-new-lesson-plans-for-worlds-largest-lesson>

E.ON UK - Energy Experience

The E.ON Energy Experience is a major programme to help young people learn about energy. Aimed at students **aged 14–16** it offers a set of online activities such as *Local to global* and *Using energy*.

<http://www.eon-uk.com/EnergyExperience>

Energy Envoys

This is an Energy Envoys opportunity provided by the National Energy Foundation for young people wanting to complete the volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

<http://www.energyenvoys.org.uk/content/welcome>

Practical Action

Offering a range of resources including STEM challenges such as Plastic Challenge to create something new from recycled plastic and a Water Harvester Design Challenge.

<http://practicalaction.org/schools>

Reading International Solidarity Centre

A local Development Education Centre in Reading with resources to download or buy, including 'All you need for a Sustainability Assembly' and an exploration of the global Fashion industry called, 'Passion for Fashion.'

<http://risc.org.uk/education-resources>

Severn Wye Energy Agency – Schools support

Severn Wye Energy Agency has run several great projects aimed at engaging young people as Energy Monitors. Young Energy People was very successful and Sustainable Energy Management @ Schools is now working with secondary schools in Gloucestershire.

<http://www.severnwye.org.uk/en/our-work/live-activities.html>

Sustainability and Environmental Education – SEEd

SEEd is an education charity which aims to broaden and deepen the practice of education for sustainability and environmental education. They have listed resources as well as some competitions and school initiatives on their website.

<http://se-ed.co.uk/edu/category/resources>

University of Reading

The University of Reading's Walker Institute aims to enhance understanding and improve prediction of the risks and opportunities from our changing climate.

<http://www.walker-institute.ac.uk>

WRAP - Recycle Now

Recycle Now is the national recycling campaign for England, managed by WRAP. They run Recycle Week each year and have some good you-tube magic tricks about recycling cans and bottles!

<http://www.wrap.org.uk/>

<https://www.recyclenow.com/recycling-knowledge/facts-and-info/recycling-magic>

5 Get in touch

If you have any queries or need any help, get in touch with:

Michila Critchley, Project Coordinator, michila.critchley@interclimate.org

Climate Voices is an initiative by InterClimate Network funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and local funders. We are a charity with a mission to mobilise the energy and creativity of young people, inspiring them to become active citizens and leaders in sustainable development. See www.interclimate.org/projects/climate-voices

InterClimate Network is a brand and trading style belonging to The InterClimate Trust

Charity Registration No 1100981

Registered Company No 668773

Inspiring action on climate change