

CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION

PSHE and Cross Curricular Learning
Through the Environment



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Interactive Education Pack

This pack has been developed to help explore and respond to the challenges presented by climate change and the threat this poses to young people and their communities.

As global citizens we all have a responsibility to ensure that the climate rights of future generations are protected.

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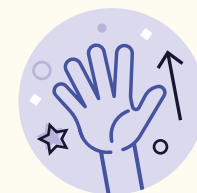
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WHY DO WE NEED TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?



“In my lifetime I’ve witnessed a terrible decline. In yours, you could and should witness a wonderful recovery. That desperate hope...is why the world is looking to you and why you are here.”

Sir David Attenborough
Broadcaster, biologist,
natural historian and author
- speaking at COP26



That ‘desperate hope’ is why we’re all here and why climate change should be on all of our minds.

Famous eco campaigners like Sir David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg have the power to change the minds of politicians and get the attention of the media, but real action only happens when we all use our voices.



Why does this matter so much?

Discussion: What do you understand about climate change now?

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may occur naturally but since the 1800s scientists have identified that human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels for energy.

Fossil fuels are a fuel (such as coal, oil, or natural gas) formed in the earth from plant or animal remains.

By burning fossil fuels, we generate greenhouse gas emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun’s heat and raising temperatures. This is why you hear it referred to as global warming.

Without addressing these rising temperatures, we will see irreversible damage to the world’s habitat.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change) published a report in April 2022 that said that harmful carbon emissions have never been higher in human history than they were in the last ten years.

Global effects

If this carries on, it is possible that, over time, the Earth will start to experience:

- Major cities underwater
- Extreme heatwaves
- Terrifying storms
- Water shortages
- Millions of species of plants and animals becoming extinct.


Effects on the UK

According to the Met Office, effects here in the UK could include:

- Warmer and wetter winters - between 1 and 4.5°C warmer and up to 30% wetter by 2070
- Hotter summers - between 1 and 6°C warmer and up to 60% drier by 2070
- More heavy rainfall
- Summer heatwaves every other year by 2050



OUR WORLD IS ON A FAST TRACK TO DISASTER, SO IT'S NOW OR NEVER. AND YOU CAN PLAY A PART IN HELPING TO SAVE IT.



“We can no longer let the people in power decide what is politically possible. We can no longer let the people in power decide what hope is. Hope is not passive. Hope is not blah, blah, blah. Hope is telling the truth. Hope is taking action. And hope always comes from the people.”

Greta Thunberg,
Environmental activist

HOW CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



But what can you do?

Discussion: Do you currently take any actions to reduce your carbon footprint?

Changing our behaviour is so important. The IPCC report showed that for the first time we're seeing signs that greenhouse emissions from some countries are going down. So, it is possible that we can make a difference if we all work together.

A carbon footprint is the total greenhouse gas emissions that we cause through how we live our lives. It's the footprint we're leaving on the environment. We've all got one, but we've all got the power to decide how big ours is.

Check out this carbon footprint calculator from WWF

Calculate your footprint and your family's footprint.

Visit >



We can all make a difference from making small changes. Can you think of any other ways you can reduce your carbon footprint?

Which of these small changes could YOU make to play your part?

- Picking up litter at school
- Switching off the lights when leaving a room
- Recycling
- Turning off your TV or games console instead of leaving it on standby
- Having a plant-based diet with less or no meat
- Walking & cycling instead of being driven around

MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN

“Not until every decision we make takes nature, climate and animals into consideration – the world as we know it will cease to exist. We ARE nature. We are not separate. We destroy nature – we are destroying our own home, our own species.”

Dara McNulty
Naturalist, writer and environmental campaigner



The most important thing we can do is make sure that changes are made where it really matters.

We can all make a small difference by changing our habits, but real change comes when new rules and regulations make it happen on a national or international level.

That kind of change starts at home – like the homes that we live in and are building today.

They need to be made as eco-friendly as possible while they’re being built (using materials that have a low carbon footprint) and when we’re living in them. We need to find ways to heat them that don’t cost the Earth. We also need to make existing buildings energy efficient.

Here are some ways modern houses are being made more eco-friendly. Can you design your perfect eco house of the future?

- **Insulation** – Keeping our houses warmer in winter and cooler in summer by reducing the amount of energy (like heating) we need to use.
- **Solar power** – Using the sun’s rays to produce electricity to power and heat the home.
- **Sustainable materials** – Building homes with things that can be regrown.
- **Saving water** – Low flush – or even composting – toilets, reusing greywater (from the sink after you’ve done the washing up, or from the bath or shower) for watering plants, etc.
- **Heating** – Using heat pumps instead of gas boilers to heat our homes, as these reduce the levels of carbon emissions required to heat our homes.

Discussion: Which of these would you use in your home?



USING YOUR VOICES

We all know about Greta Thunberg, but there are many other young people out there making sure their voices are heard.



“Rage needs to be twinned with love. When we rage, it’s because something we love is being lost. Potential is being lost. Opportunity for joy, for happiness, is being lost. [But] we always need to remember what we love, and to celebrate that, as well as the rage.”

Joshua Virasami
Artist, writer and political organiser

Discussion: What climate change activists have inspired you?

Ridhima’s from India and she actually sued the Indian government for not doing enough to stop climate change when she was just NINE. She’s since worked with Greta and other young activists, campaigning to the United Nations. The United Nations is the collection of governments from around the world whose purpose is to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly solutions amongst nations, promote international cooperation, and to be a centre for harmonising the actions of all of the nations.

“I want a better future. I want to save my future. I want to save our future. I want to save the future of all the children and all the people of future generations.”

Ridhima Pandey
Environmental activist

“It’s important to take action now, because we don’t have time left. By the time the youth are in positions of power, it’ll be too late to reverse climate change. We have to force politicians to start acting on climate change.”

Alexandria Villaseñor,
Environmental activist

After suffering an asthma attack when she was caught in a smoke cloud from a wild fire near her home in California, Alexandria did her research into the causes and became a climate activist. She’s joined in school strikes and founded climate change education group [Earth Uprising](#).

“Young people need all the help they can get, as we can only do so much! We need adults to understand our perspective and think of the future, be selfless and think of what will happen.”

Ishaa Asim
Activist

“It’s very important for... people [from disadvantaged backgrounds] and people of colour to go to these protests and marches because they are feeling the wrath of climate change the most. It’s important for them to have a say, for their voice and their demands to be heard.”

Ayakha Melithafa,
Environmental activist

Ayaka is from Cape Town, South Africa and has been a part of the global climate change movement as well as the African Climate Alliance. She’s committed to making sure the voices of people from diverse communities are having their say on the environment.

Discussion: Why do you think this is so important?

Ishaa is a Manchester-based activist who has served as Youth MP and has been part of Youth Strike for MCR, FFF Digital and [Fridays for Future](#). She’s passionate about representing youth people on a national stage.

Could you be the world’s next eco campaigner? If you were going to make a TikTok video to convince people to take climate change seriously, how would you do it?

EDUCATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT



“We now have hundreds of thousands of young people across the globe who are politically engaged, politically active and, most importantly, politically mobilised. This is the next generation of voters, campaigners, law-makers and world leaders and they are born out of this global revolution which will have a positive impact for decades to come.”

Tyrone Scott
Environmental activist

The more we know about climate change, the more we can do to play our part in fixing things. Education leads to awareness; awareness leads to action.

Discussion: What can your class do within your school to start making a difference, no matter how small? Why not come up with your first actions. Who can be responsible for making sure they happen?

What have we learned?

- Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns.
- Harmful carbon emissions have never been higher in human history than they were in the last ten years.
- Climate change could lead to warmer, wetter winters and drier, hotter summers in the UK as well as damaging extreme weather conditions around the world.
- A recent UN report showed that for the first time we’re seeing signs that greenhouse emissions from some countries are going down. We CAN make a difference.
- There’s lots of small changes you can make to reduce your carbon footprint.
- We also need to make bigger changes like making sure our homes are built to be eco-friendly.
- We need to use our voices – like Greta and other activists – to encourage governments and businesses to make meaningful change happen.
- Education leads to awareness; awareness leads to action!

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN



If you want to start making your voice heard,
here are some places you can go to get involved:



[Find out more >](#)



[Find out more >](#)



[Find out more >](#)