

Climate Change Action Guide



**LET'S DO
SOMETHING ABOUT
CLIMATE CHANGE**

Image taken from the Climate Coalition Campaign (UK)

Introduction

The impact of climate change is already being felt by millions of people around the world. Wild weather and unpredictable seasons are changing what farmers can grow, which is making people hungry. Food prices are going up. Food quality is going down. Climate change threatens to affect what farmers can grow and what all of us can eat.

Poorer people around the world are already struggling with the effects of climate change. It not only affects farming, it increases threats from natural disasters, damages homes and livelihood and makes people more vulnerable. People can't wait much longer for the global community to take action.

However despite many years of complicated negotiation, the global community has not agreed definite action. There is a very real threat that climate change will go beyond a critical 2°C rise which could have even worse consequences globally. One way to encourage thinking and action on climate change is considering all the things that will be affected which we love and need. For the love of these things, action is needed now!

What needs to change?

The Conference of the Parties (COP) - the United Nations body setup to agree actions on Climate Change, is held annually. Previous COPs in Copenhagen, Cancun, Durban, Doha and Warsaw have failed to reach an effective agreement. Although the Paris COP in 2015 reached an agreement to limit global temperature rise to below 2°C, this is not legally binding. This goal will not be achieved without the coordinated actions of citizens across the globe!

*Crops are threatened by climate change.
Credit: Jane Beesley/Oxfam*

What can you do?

1. Inform: Teach others about climate change using the PowerPoint on Climate Change.

2. Broadcast: Plan creative actions to help raise awareness across your school and community.

3. Influence: Think about how to convince important decisions makers do something to help.



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1. Inform

Climate change effects will continue to affect millions of peoples' lives unless everyone shows they care! You can help this process by helping your friends understand the issue:

- Make sure you understand the issue first.
- Teach your peers: show them the videos or plan games about climate change using the photos, using the "where do you stand?" agreement line or having a board race.
- Ask your friends and family what are the things they care about that are or could be affected by climate change? What actions do they want to take?



Messages from a school postcard campaign

Credit: Lady Eleanor Holles School



Students meeting their political representative .

Credit: Georgie Scott/GCE UK

2. Broadcast

Find ways to reach people in your local community so they get involved in the climate change movement:

- Create a poster, piece of artwork, PowerPoint, leaflet, poem, rap, video or drama to share your 'loves' with others!
- Plan an event: for example a 'climate change day' in your school with workshops that will show different scenarios of climate change impact (you can use 'Climate Change - Photo Captions') available on the [SFYouth website](http://www.sfyouth.eu).
- Get inspired from others successful campaigns, write or draw postcards for example.
- Share your actions on [SFYouth website](http://www.sfyouth.eu).

3. Influence

It's important to show decision makers that you care about what they do. Politicians, business leaders and the wider community can all play a role. Use your creativity to influence them so that they will push for strong global actions to finally tackle climate change.

- Send them messages - you could use postcards with something you love on it and that will be affected by climate change such as "for the love of tomatoes, please help end climate change".
- Try to meet them - you could invite them to your school during your event, or plan an assembly if they're planning a visit. Make sure your meeting is well organised for impact!

Example campaigns that are trying to tackle climate change:

- The UK Climate Change Coalition: <http://www.theclimatecoalition.org/>
- Critical Mass: <https://350.org/>
- Earth Hour: <https://www.earthhour.org/>