

Climate Change: From Learning to Action



Level: **P4-7**



Time: **30 - 40m**

In this lesson, learners will move on to understanding why climate change happens. They will explore how human activities such as energy use, transport, and waste affect the climate.

This lesson is based on discussion and critical thinking, and does not require any specialist knowledge to deliver.

Curriculum Links

SCN 2-05a, 2-08a **SOC** 2-08a, **LIT** 2-02a, 2-09a, **GAI** 2-02a

Learning for Sustainability links

Target 2030 – School Community and Environment

SDGs – Goal 12: Responsible Consumption & Production; Goal 15: Life on Land

UNCRCs – Article 24: Health, Water, Food and Environment; Article 29: Aims of Education

Meta-skills – Initiative, Collaboration, Creativity



Learning Intention: Learners will be able to identify and explain simple causes of climate change, as well as ways to lessen its impact.

Resources: Cards showing the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions

1. Starter discussion – Link to Class Workshops (5 minutes)

- How does climate change happen?
- What are greenhouse gases and where do they come from?
- What human activities produce these gases?
- How can we reduce our impact on the environment?

2. Main Activity – Sorting (15–20 minutes)

Now we will organise what we have learned.

Teacher: “We are going to look at different things people do and decide: are they good or bad for the environment?”

Write these two headings on the board:

- ☒ Tackling climate change
- ☒ Contributing to climate change

Show the image on each [resource card](#) before letting the class decide whether it is:

- ☒ Tackling climate change or ☒ Contributing to climate change.

For each one resource card that the pupils have decide about, ask the class:

- "What do you think?"
- "Is this tackling climate change or contributing to it?"
- "What is happening in this situation?"
- "What goes into the atmosphere because of this?"
- "Is this something people often do?"

Ask pupils to raise their hands for either ☒ Tackling climate change or ☐ Contributing to climate change.

Read the back of the card (which includes an explanation) to provide more information.

Place the example in the correct category on the board.

While working, ask:

- "Can we see any patterns here?"
- "Do you have examples of any of these in your daily lives?"
- "Is there a better way to do these things?"

"We have seen what contributes to climate change and what helps. Now let's think about why these choices are so important."

3. Class Project – Introduction to the Eco Initiative (10 minutes + continuation)

"We have learned about climate change, why it happens and what we can do. But we're not just going to talk about it..."

"We are going to start an eco-initiative as a class."

The eco initiative gives learners the opportunity to:

- use what they have learned
- work together
- contribute to [Eco-Schools](#) / school-wide work

Divide the Class into Groups

3–5 learners per group

"Each group will work on a specific topic."

Assign Each Group a Topic

-  Nature / Biodiversity
-  Waste
-  Energy
-  Travel

Initial Thinking (Short Activity)

Ask each group to discuss together for 2–3 minutes

Supporting questions:

- "What is happening in our school in this area?"
- "What could be improved?"

Setting Up the Next Lesson

Make this clear:

- "In the next lesson (or when time allows) each group will work on a plan."
- "You will create ideas and solutions."

Strong Finish

"Each group will be responsible for making a difference in a specific area and together, we will make our school better for the environment."

4. Additional Resources

[Keep Scotland Beautiful – Climate Action Schools](#)

Lesson ideas, activities and resources to help learners understand climate change and take action.

[Keep Scotland Beautiful – Climate Action Schools Padlet](#)

A collection of curriculum-linked teaching resources, videos, activities and lesson ideas to support climate change and Learning for Sustainability.

[Keep Scotland Beautiful – Eco-Schools Scotland](#)

Resources to support pupil-led environmental action and links to the Eco-Schools topics.

[Keep Scotland Beautiful – Resource Library](#)

Curriculum-linked resources supporting Learning for Sustainability across the school.

Email: education@keepscotlandbeautiful.org