

Climate Action Week 2025 lesson plan for high schools

**Stage: 3-4****Time: 1 hour**

Summary: Our Climate Action Week 2025 lesson for high schools examines the history of how we learned about climate change and looks at what we need to do now to create a sustainable future.

Curricular links

HWB 3-4-09a, **SCN** 3-4-05b, 3-20a, **SOC** 3-4-03a, 3-4-08a, 3-4-12a, **TCH** 3-4-06a

Lesson Plan

1. The history of climate change

Watch the [pre-recorded lesson](#) for high schools.

During the video, you will be given prompts to pause and discuss answers to the questions posed.

2. Balancing the scales

Download the [balancing scales slides](#) (explanatory information can be found in the notes under each slide).

Ask pupils to compare where our main emissions were coming from in the 1900s to today (which boxes have changed size? Why do they think that is?)

Then ask pupils to compare our emissions today to what we need to get to in 2045 to reach Net Zero (the year that the Scottish Government has mandated for Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions to be equal to the amount being absorbed by natural sources, such as trees and peat bogs).

Ask pupils what things they think our government needs to do to help us get to Net Zero and what we need to do in terms of behaviour change e.g. the government needs to support safer routes for active travel and people need to choose active travel as an option.

3. A sustainable future

Ask pupils to imagine what the future could look like if we managed to solve climate change. What benefits do they think they would find?

Download the [sustainable future slide](#), which shows images of what a sustainable future could look like, and discuss the benefits of climate action, which can be found in the notes under the slide. All the images in the slide are of projects that already exist. We just need to do more of them.

4. Get involved

Ask pupils how they think they could be part of climate action for a sustainable future. It is important to remember that climate action comes in many forms and there is a place for everyone's ideas and skills.

Download the [Collective Climate Action resource](#) and encourage pupils to collect as many climate action points as they can. Submit your climate action points online before **4.30pm on Monday 29 September** to be in with a chance of winning a renewable energy science kit for your school.

Winners will be announced during our assembly at **11am on Tuesday 30 September** (the assembly will be recorded if you cannot attend live). Encourage pupils to continue with these actions in the long term.

Feedback

We would very much value your feedback on this lesson so that we can make improvements for the future. Please complete our [short feedback form](#) once you have completed the lesson.

Follow up activities

Following the lesson, take learning and action further with these resources:

[Climate change myth busting](#): A myth busting quiz to test knowledge about climate change that can be used in class and as a home learning activity.

[Wind and solar power](#): A STEM outdoor learning activity, including a discussion on the history of wind and solar power and practical activities to investigate the potential for wind and solar power in your school grounds.

[Share your thoughts](#): An opportunity to for pupils to use their voices and share their thoughts on the future of climate action in Scotland. Submissions will be shared with the Scottish Government ahead of COP30 in Brazil in November.

Next steps

Don't forget that you can add this activity to your Eco-Schools action plan and count it towards a Green Flag Award application. [Find out more about Eco-Schools on our website](#).