

Climate negotiations



Ages: 12+



Time: 60 mins

Setup:

To explore the global effects of climate change and the challenges of global solutions.

Youth work outcomes:

Outcome 4: Young people participate safely and effectively in groups

Outcome 6: Young people express their voice and demonstrate social commitment

Outcome 7: Young people broaden their perspectives through new experiences and thinking

Sustainable development goals:



How it works:

In person:

Role cards.

Online:

A method for assigning roles and having both small and group discussions. For example, using Zoom you could message each person their role and allow breakout room discussions before coming together as a whole group.

Description:

The activity is for larger groups, ideally 11, but can be for smaller groups as players can take on multiple roles, or roles can be removed from the activity. Three roles must always be used: Chief Negotiator, USA and China. Hand out the role cards to participants.

You can also try creating your own additional role cards for Brazil, India, International Transport, Energy Companies, etc. You will need to create descriptions and a points system for them.

The Scenario:

The World Bank has made £100 billion of funding available to combat climate change. This fund must be divided up between the roles below in not less than £5 billion amounts, i.e. funding awarded to each role must be £5 billion, £10 billion, £15 billion, etc...

Climate negotiations

Objective:

Participants take on the Role allocated on their cards and must negotiate with other players as to how to share the £100 billion fund. It is the Role of the “Chief Negotiator” to facilitate the discussion and agreement, and to make sure that the full allocation of funding matches £100 billion.

The aim of the activity is to reach a group agreement on how to distribute the full £100 billion of funding amongst the various Roles (Note: not all roles HAVE to receive funding).

Once a final agreement has been reached the funding each role receives will be translated in to points. Points are awarded based on carbon savings and climate justice criteria. Some Roles are awarded carbon savings points, some are awarded climate justice points, some are rewarded with both and some have neither. Only after a final agreement is reached, should the points system be revealed. Participants should not know, or be influenced by, the points system during the negotiations. The final group score is not important as the aim is to reach an agreement; however, a score of over 50 is a good target to achieve.

(There is an option to run the activity twice, once without the participants knowledge of the points system and again with knowledge of the points system, to see how the negotiations and results change.)

The Negotiations:

Start by handing out the Roles cards detailed below, one or more to each participant (the Chief Negotiator, USA and China roles must always be used if less than 11 people participating). The Roles are not to be kept secret; but the participants can decide how much of the information contained on the cards to reveal during the negotiations.

The Chief Negotiator reads out The Scenario and facilitates the discussion and the agreements on funding. The Chief Negotiator DOES NOT arbitrarily allocate funding, allocation of funding MUST be decided as a group. The Chief Negotiator may choose how to facilitate the discussions: they may choose to allow each participant to take turns in pitching their request for funding and the amount they want. It is up to the group as a whole to allocate all the funding.

Remember that this is meant to be a fun activity and all discussions should be respectful and considerate.



Chief Negotiator:

Your role is to facilitate the discussions to help reach a final agreement on the funding. This is a powerful role as you get to decide a system for the group to decide how much funding each role receives. There are lots of different ways this could happen but the key thing is that the whole group has a say in the final funding decision.

Remember this is meant to be fun, discussions may potentially get heated, so setting ground rules might be a good option. Discussions should always aim to be respectful and considerate.



Country/Region: USA

You are the second largest annual emitter of greenhouse gases. You want at least £10 billion to fund your economy and to invest in "Clean Coal" (burying carbon dioxide emissions to allow you to continue burning coal).

You can warn other participants that there will be dire consequences for the World Bank if you do not get at least the £10 billion you are asking for.



Country/Region: African Union

You are a continental union consisting of 55 member states on the continent of Africa. You want £45 billion to fund climate change adaptation measures and to fund renewable energy projects. You cover a large region and population that are generally vulnerable to climate change and have not historically emitted large amounts of greenhouse gases.

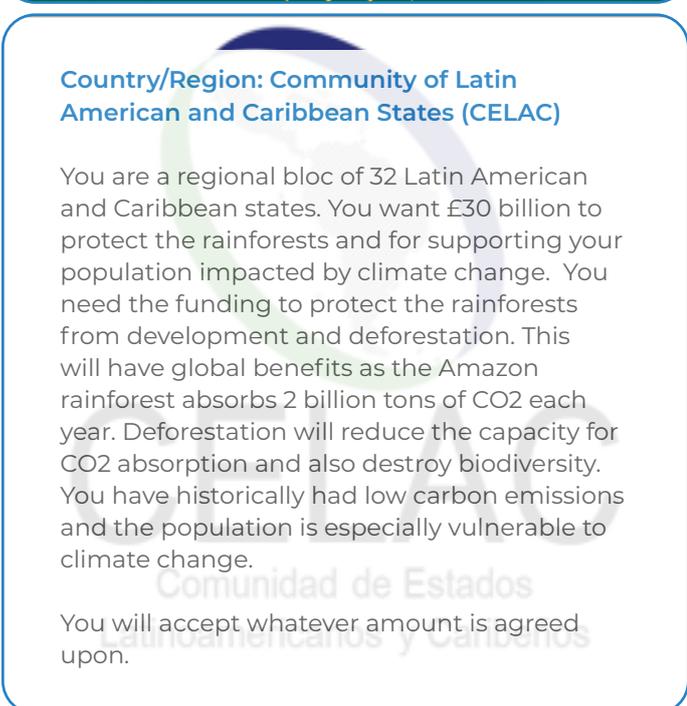
You will accept whatever amount is agreed upon.



Country/Region: China

You want £50 billion to adapt to climate change and invest in renewable energy. You are a country of over 1 billion people, and you think any funding should reflect this. You also currently have the highest annual emissions of greenhouse gases and this funding would help address this.

You will accept whatever amount is agreed upon as long as it at least matches the funding for the USA. If funding is LESS than the USA agreement cannot be reached, and the game is forfeit.



Country/Region: Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

You are a regional bloc of 32 Latin American and Caribbean states. You want £30 billion to protect the rainforests and for supporting your population impacted by climate change. You need the funding to protect the rainforests from development and deforestation. This will have global benefits as the Amazon rainforest absorbs 2 billion tons of CO₂ each year. Deforestation will reduce the capacity for CO₂ absorption and also destroy biodiversity. You have historically had low carbon emissions and the population is especially vulnerable to climate change.

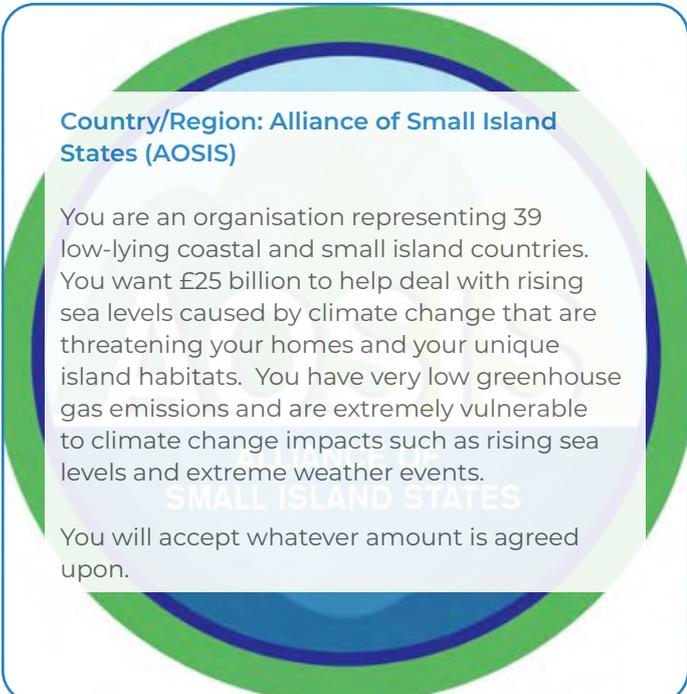
You will accept whatever amount is agreed upon.



Country/Region: Russia

You want £15 billion to fund renewable energy projects. You are a large annual emitter of greenhouse gases and this funding would help contribute to a reduction. You are also vulnerable to climate change with areas such as Siberia warming at a greater rate than other regions of the planet.

You will not accept less than £5 billion, otherwise agreement cannot be reached, and the game is forfeit.



Country/Region: Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

You are an organisation representing 39 low-lying coastal and small island countries. You want £25 billion to help deal with rising sea levels caused by climate change that are threatening your homes and your unique island habitats. You have very low greenhouse gas emissions and are extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts such as rising sea levels and extreme weather events.

SMALL ISLAND STATES

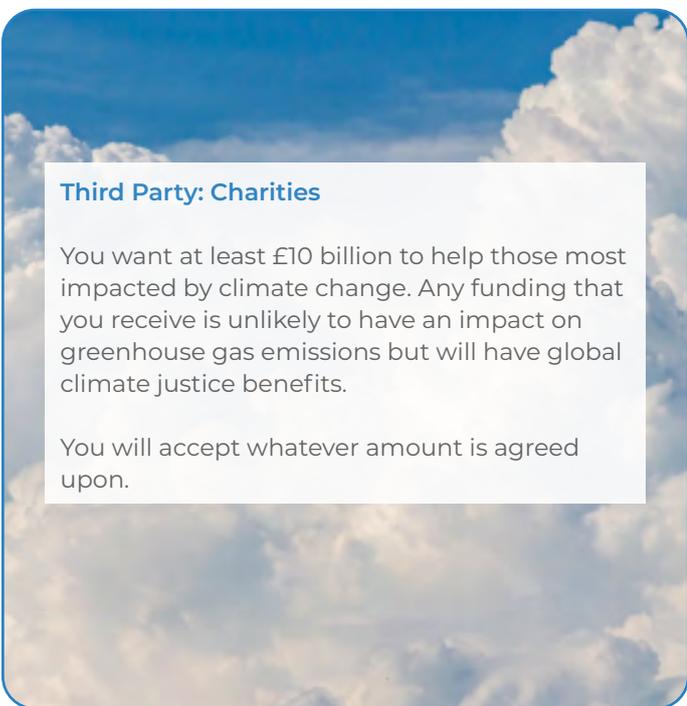
You will accept whatever amount is agreed upon.



Third Party: Big Oil

You want at least £25 billion to transition your business from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Any investment is likely to result in big carbon savings around the world but may not be viewed as using the funding in a justified way.

You will accept whatever amount is agreed upon.



Third Party: Charities

You want at least £10 billion to help those most impacted by climate change. Any funding that you receive is unlikely to have an impact on greenhouse gas emissions but will have global climate justice benefits.

You will accept whatever amount is agreed upon.



Third Party: Youth Groups

You want at least £10 billion to help educate young people about climate change and to help them to deal with the consequences of climate change and to advocate for change. It is young people and future generations that are least responsible but most at risk from climate change and any funding will have a global impact.

You will accept whatever amount is agreed.



Country/Region: EU

You want at least £15 billion to fund investment in renewable energy. These investments could potentially benefit everyone as it will potentially help to support renewable energy projects globally. You are very aware of the need to drastically cut your own greenhouse gas emissions and this funding would contribute to this.

You will accept whatever amount is agreed upon.

Climate negotiations

The points system:

The Points system is ONLY to be communicated after negotiations have completed so that it does not influence the negotiations.

USA: No points are awarded if they receive funding of £10 billion or more. However, if the USA do not receive at least £10 billion in funding they withdraw all financial support to the World Bank and the final score is to be halved (the dire consequence warned about).

African Union: for every £5 billion in funding you get 3 Climate Justice points and 1 Carbon Emissions point.

EU: for every £5 billion pounds in funding you get 2 Carbon Emissions points.

China: for every £5 billion pounds in funding get 1 Climate Justice point and 1 Carbon Emissions point.

Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC): for every £5 billion in funding you get 2 Carbon Emissions points and 1 Climate Justice point.

Russia: for every £5 billion in funding you get 2 Carbon Emissions points.

Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS): for every £5 billion you get 3 Climate Justice points.

Big Oil: for every £5 billion of funding awarded add 2 carbon emission points each to USA, EU and Russia scores, and deduct 1 climate justice point each from African Union, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) scores. Only do this for any of these countries/regions that have received funding.

EXAMPLE: Big Oil is awarded £10 billion funding so add 4 points to USA, EU and Russia + 12 points, deduct 2 points from African Union, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) – 6 points (assumes that they all received at least £5 billion of funding).

Charities: for every £5 billion funding awarded add 1 climate justice point each to African Union, Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and Alliance of Small Island states (AOSIS). Only add points if these countries/regions have received funding.

EXAMPLE: Charities are awarded £10 billion in funding, add 2 points to African Union, Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and Alliance of Small Island states (AOSIS) +6 points (assumes they all received at least £5 billion of funding)

Youth Groups: for every £5 billion pounds of funding awarded add 1 climate justice point to USA, African Union, China and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Only add points if these countries/regions have received funding.

EXAMPLE: Youth Groups are awarded £10 billion in funding add 2 points each to USA, African Union, China and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) +8 points (assumes they all received at least £5 billion of funding).

Discussion questions:

- How easy was it to identify with your role?
- How did the role differ from your personal perspective?
- How did you feel during the discussions?
- How easy was it to come to an agreement?
- How realistic were the negotiations? How do you think they differ in real life?
- Which arguments were you persuaded by?

Actions/Next steps:

Learn more about the effects of climate change in different places around the world by hosting a film club.

What would young people do with funding to stop climate change in your local area? Perhaps replay the activity with local roles?