

# Climate Voices 2021

## A Year to Make a Difference

The time to act on the Climate Emergency is right here and now. Greater ambition is urgently needed, and young people are at the fore in calling for change. The UK will host the United Nations COP26 in Glasgow in 2021 and this brings a unique opportunity for young people to influence our response to the climate crisis.

Secondary students are already motivated to make a difference. They want to have a say and lead action that has a real impact. In 2021 InterClimate Network (ICN) will focus our support on: resources that work in the classroom and virtually; a series of Climate Conferences for students to combine their own global negotiations with local action; and routes for young people to have a say locally, nationally and at COP26.

Right now it is an incredibly difficult time for teachers and students alike. **Here are two opportunities that can be run virtually in support of home-schooling** and can also be run in school when students return. Each activity has been developed in response to student and teacher feedback and focus groups and have been piloted with several schools last term, including during lockdown. Clear learning benefits are shown in both resources. If you would like to run either, or both, please contact ICN using the schools e-mail overleaf.

### 1. Run a UN-style Climate Conference

#### COP26 comes to school

In November 2021 the United Nations Climate Conference (COP26) will be hosted by the UK in Glasgow.

This *COP26 in the Classroom* resource brings a UN-style climate conference to school and can be run virtually. Student teams represent a range of countries and have to research, present and debate their country pledges and climate challenges, then collaborate to raise global ambition for action.



#### Activity details

This curriculum enrichment resource brings COP26 to life in the classroom via a sequence of three sessions:

- 1. The Climate Crisis** which poses 6 questions for students to critically discuss the Climate Emergency.
- 2. From Paris to Glasgow** outlines these vital stages of UN decision making and sets out country roles.
- 3. COP26 comes to school** guides you and your students through your own UN-style climate conference.

First requiring independent research, students will be fully immersed in the challenges, impact and urgency of the global climate crisis whilst developing soft skills (team work, public speaking and collaboration) in their own conference. A teacher pack explains the detail and notes and film links accompany each of the session powerpoints. The student pack gives an overview of COP26 and separate briefings for 18 countries.

**Time needed:** Sessions can be run in-person or virtually over 3 – 6 lessons or during an off-curriculum day.

#### How to access and run this resource:

- ICN will provide access to this free resource via a single dropbox link.
- To be run by a teacher with your students either in class or across tutor groups or a year group.
- Students use ICN's on-line Pledge Board to say one action they will do as a result of taking part.
- Contact us if you would like one of our team to help facilitate your conference (charged at cost).

## 2. Run an online Climate Action Survey

### Find out how to make a difference in school

Delivering impactful climate action in school really means changing student and staff behaviours.

Our new Climate Action Survey is a student-led resource that follows a behaviour change approach\* and develops important skills on the way. It will mean students can have a say in climate action to make a difference in school.



### Activity details

1. A group of students will be tasked with rolling out the online survey across their school. See this [COPY of the Climate Action Survey](#) (the actual link will be sent once we receive your students' task sheet).
2. ICN will analyse the data and provide the school with a report. Results will give great insight into student views on the Climate Emergency, current behaviours, and motivations to do things differently.
3. Students are then supported to share their findings across the school and wider community
4. ICN can follow-up to help students turn their survey findings into a tailored campaign or initiative based on the approaches most likely to galvanise climate action in school.

**\* A behaviour change approach:** This innovative survey was developed with the Sociology Department at the University of Gloucestershire and students in nine schools. At its core is the premise that to change anyone's behaviour, it is vital to understand:

- **who you are talking with**
- **why some people haven't already made changes**
- **what barriers are preventing them from adopting any new behaviour, and**
- **what would motivate more climate action.**

**Time needed:** Ideally the survey would be run over a few weeks, but with current pressures, take as long as is required.

**How to access and run this resource:** Elements of the resource pack will be available on our website. Please contact us if you would like to undertake the survey.

## Keep in touch

ICN will let you know of great ways for your students to engage directly with COP26 in 2021, including the opportunity to be part of a Four Nations conference with schools from Wales, Scotland and N.Ireland.

We are also partners in an exciting new International Climate Action Network (I-CAN) project supported by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. I-CAN brings together experience from four countries to help students and teachers share their learning via climate conferences and building Climate Action.

Go to our website, follow us on twitter or contact the team directly to keep in touch with progress on these and other opportunities this year.

Email: [schools@interclimate.org](mailto:schools@interclimate.org)

[www.interclimate.org](http://www.interclimate.org)

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