

# Close-up on Climate - background notes and learning opportunities



## 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 and make 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.



A farmer field school in eastern Sierra Leone teaches farmers how to adapt their crops to changing weather patterns. Photo: John McLaverty/Oxfam.

In the UK climate change was catapulted higher up the political agenda after thousands of lives were disrupted by severe floods in southern England during the winter of 2013-14, the country's wettest winter for 250 years. The Met Office said there may be a link between the record rainfall and climate change, and called for more research.<sup>1</sup>

The institution which coordinates the global response to climate change is the annual Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Recent COP conferences have been held in Copenhagen, Cancun, Durban, Doha and Warsaw without reaching the consensus necessary for countries to take effective coordinated action. Limiting global temperature rises to 2°C over pre-industrial averages is widely agreed to be the limit for dangerous climate change. The objective of the 2015 COP Conference, taking place in Paris, is to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate from all the countries of the world.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://bit.ly/1tXbkG>

The 'Close-up on Climate' schools and youth project is organised by the Climate Coalition, who represents over 100 organisations; from environment and development charities, such as Oxfam, to unions, faith organisations and community and women's groups. Oxfam, as part of the Climate Coalition, are asking young people aged between 5-18 to make their voices heard about climate change and upload a short film at <http://fortheLoveof.org.uk/closeup/>.

Films may be inspired by any climate change issue young people feel is important, whether it's related to the curriculum or to extra-curricular projects. In June and July 2015 we'll be asking young people to show their films to their MPs, MSPs and AMs. Finally we hope to share the most inspiring films with a wider audience at a special youth event prior to the COP Conference in Paris.



Young film maker. Photo: Into Film.

## Teachers' Resources

### The Curriculum

This resource is primarily designed for young people who wish to take action. It begins with a peer learning presentation and workshop about climate change. However, the presentation and workshop are brief and intended to supplement rather than cover the climate change curriculum content of geography or science. If you're teaching climate change in greater detail you may find these links useful:

The Guardian: How to teach climate change: <http://bit.ly/1s5lCrf>

Oxfam's climate change curriculum resources: <http://bit.ly/1oIVe8p>

Shakespeare and climate change... an inspiring film from the Climate Coalition <http://bit.ly/198h7sj> (1'50). Who'd have thought a Shakespeare sonnet had so much to say about climate change? Gets you thinking.

The Guardian Teachers Network: The Environment <http://bit.ly/1o6xkDG> - search for the keyword 'climate change'

TES Connect: Climate Change <http://bit.ly/UNndqs>

The Science Museum's 'Climate Science Info Zone': <http://bit.ly/1v2560x>

The Met Office Climate Guide: <http://bit.ly/1tS2pgH>

### **Policy and practice**

Oxfam's Policy and Practice climate change blog has up-to-date case studies and debate about our work on climate change: <http://bit.ly/WWAP4F>

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report is the global go-to source for the latest research on climate change: <http://bit.ly/1p8ZQ8q>

### **Young film makers**

The Into Film website: <http://www.intofilm.org/>

Into Film's film making guides for young people: <http://bit.ly/1v4Gsvo>

#### **The 'Close-up on Climate' website**

<http://fortheLoveof.org.uk/closeup/>.



The 'Close-up on Climate' website tells you all you need to know about making and uploading your films. There are lots of tips from Into Film about how to produce a great film and links to climate change projects from different organisations. Your films will be available to view online and we'll be posting information about our exciting autumn event.

### **Young people as campaigners**

The key focus of this resource is on young people as active global citizens. This resource is primarily targeted at Oxfam Youth Ambassador Groups in schools and colleges in England (<http://bit.ly/1kzBR0Q>) but may also stand alone as a citizenship topic or as an additional activity following the study of climate change in science or geography.

The Guardian Teachers network has a guide on how to teach political campaigning:  
<http://bit.ly/1kzB53W>. This provides support for young people to successfully engage their MPs and the press.

Details of Oxfam's Youth Ambassadors badge in England and action guides can be found here:  
<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/global-citizenship/youth-ambassadors>

Get Global remains a key resource for teaching active global citizenship through a skills based approach. It can be downloaded from <http://bit.ly/N2rHpi>



Young people raise the voices on climate change in the Houses of Parliament at the reception for the 40th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence in December 2011. Photo: John McLaverty/Oxfam.

## Curriculum making

Climate change and how to best respond to it are increasingly complex, controversial and fast moving topics. The limited degree of coordinated global action so far, despite the threats climate change poses to all our livelihoods and lifestyles, means the topic is particularly suitable for critical thinking, open-ended questions and citizen action.

Teachers are encouraged to use the resources suggested in this guide and others to plan their own lessons and activities. It is inevitable that the writing of textbooks and other published materials will lag behind events taking place in real time. Therefore please share any resources you produce by emailing [education@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:education@oxfam.org.uk)

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