

School Eco-Club Climate Repair Activity: Promoting Climate Repair

AIM: Promote a Climate Repair Action

BACKGROUND

It is now widely accepted that Climate Change exists and needs to be addressed. To make a difference governments, corporations and individuals need to make changes, however, it seems that many people are just carrying on with their lives. There may be many reasons for this which will include optimism that 'governments will fix the problem', a view that 'nothing an individual can do will make any difference' through to just not knowing what action to take as an individual.

ACTIVITY

There are lots of things we can do as individuals which will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal). Working in small groups students should choose a climate repair action they want to share and promote. Students should choose a medium to use to promote their message. It could, for example, be a poster campaign or a short video.

Humour can be a great way to share a message. For example,

- Plastic Free July created a comedy sketch to show humorous solutions to ditching single use plastic (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0PC8Mn4yNQ>).
- The City to Sea Campaign has taken the Dirty Dancing Song to deliver a message about why wet wipes should not be flushed down the toilet (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0VHr2uBinc>).

Listed overleaf are possible climate repair messages but students may decide on their own message.

For students climate repair messages to make a difference they need to be shared with an audience. Students should decide who their audience will be. Possible audiences are:

- other students in the school
- parents and carers
- the wider community
- an online community (with appropriate safeguarding)

Students may decide to share messages in a gradual way, for example, a message could be shared at each assembly. Alternatively an event could be arranged to show a group of messages, e.g. an open evening for parents and carers.

Students should test the effect of their climate repair promotion. Feedback should be obtained on whether people propose to make a change as a result of their climate repair promotion and ideally information collected on whether people followed through on this change.

Energy Saving

- Turn out lights when you leave a room, and electronic gadgets when you are not using them.
- Try reducing your thermostat down towards 18°C, you'll save money and if you are feeling cold, warm yourself with a jumper not the planet with your heater.
- Block the draughts, for example, with a 'sausage dog' draught excluder.
- Close the curtains at dusk.

Water Saving (which also saves the energy required to clean and heat water)

- Take a shower not a bath.
- Shorten your shower to 4 minutes or less.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.

Waste

- Reduce risk to wildlife by avoiding single use plastic. For example:
 - Use a refillable drink bottle rather than buying drinks in single use plastic containers.
 - Take your own bag to the shops.
 - Refuse a straw in your drink.
 - Use reusable containers for sandwiches and snacks in a packed lunch.
- Do you need another outfit? Take another look in your wardrobe and revive a long forgotten outfit.
- If something is broken try and mend it...
- Pass things on and reuse them, for example, donate and buy from charity shops.
- Use rechargeable batteries.
- Buy goods made from recycled materials.

Food

- Eat locally produced and seasonal food or grow your own.
- Cows produce methane which warms the planet. Reducing the amount of meat and dairy products eaten cuts global warming.
- Try a vegetarian option from a menu when you next eat out.
- Eat vegetarian dishes you enjoy more often.
- Put on your plate, and in the fridge, no more than what you can eat.
- Store leftovers appropriately and turn them into a new meal.

Travel

- Walk or cycle and leave the car at home.
- Drive at or below the speed limit to save fuel and don't accelerate or brake unnecessarily.
- Chain your trips (combine trips) if this can reduce your car mileage.
- Go together, car-share, when you can.
- Don't fly, try the train instead.