ANOTHER WAY

POWER OF 10

PRESENTS...

CONVERSATIONS GUIDES

HOW TO HAVE PRODUCTIVE CLIMATE CHANGE CONVERSATIONS



Every conversation counts. Normalising environmental discussion can be an effective way to inspire change.

WHAT?

Sometimes it can be difficult to have conversations with the people around us about the climate crisis. Whether it be your parents, your siblings or even your peers. people can have different understandings of the issues and struggle to grasp them. We have produced this guide to help you navigate these conversations so that they are constructive and positive, with the aim of promoting actionable solutions for all.

THEMES

- EQUIP YOURSELF
- DIRECTING CONVERSATIONS
- LISTENING TO YOUR AUDIENCE
- PRESENT SOLUTIONS

ANOTHER WAY

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INTRODUCTION

OPEN UP AND START TO TALK

INTRO

Having the confidence to initiate conversations about the environment might not come easily to everyone. However, in our increasingly politically divided world, it is crucial that we make an effort to understand and empathise with one another.

KEEP AN OPEN MIND

It is very important to keep the dialogue open, allowing people to explore new ideas and possibilities. Nevertheless, if you ever feel that a conversation isn't constructive or that it's affecting you negatively, it's essential to know when to step back.

people may feel overwhelmed by the idea of changing their whole lives to become more sustainable, and this can become a barrier to action.

WHAT CAN YOU GET FROM THIS GUIDE

This guide is designed to give you the tools to venture into conversations with positivity and a solutions-based mindset.

See our other guides for more guidance on having positive climate conversations.

EQUIP YOURSELF

BE CONFIDENT WITH YOUR FACTS

Start by gathering relevant information and understanding the key aspects of the climate crisis. It is useful to subscribe to some scientific newsletters and social media pages. See our guide for our recommended reputable sources.

Choose topics that you are particularly interested in and don't feel like you need to know everything. Talking about what interests you most will give you greater confidence in discussing your topic.

REMEMBERING A FEW POWERFUL FACTS ABOUT YOUR TOPIC IS A GREAT WAY TO START



By choosing a veggie burger you can reduce your carbon footprint by 20x



1 in 3 fish caught contain plastic



An electric car produces around 33% less CO2 than the average UK car

INFO BANK

- Scientific knowledge is constantly evolving, so keep checking for up-to-date facts to present
- Stick to facts that you are sure of rather than trying to make up things you aren"t sure about
- Don'tbe afraid to admit that you don'thave all the information about something or need to do further research

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10 EQUIP YOURSELF
ADDRESS MISCONCEPTIONS

Acknowledge common misconceptions or misinformation about climate change and address them with accurate information. Correct any false claims, myths or cherry-picked information that the person you are talking to might bring up.

If the world is getting warmer, how come the UK is getting colder and rainier?

SHORT ANSWER

Climate change doesn't mean that everywhere just gets warmer. The climate is complicated and different factors affect how different regions are affected.

LONG ANSWER

The UK is uniquely located and can experience elements of localised weather patterns because it is affected by the Gulf Stream - a warm ocean current from the the Gulf of Mexico that stops the seas from freezing in the winter. As ocean currents change, this could impact the flow of the Gulf Stream affecting the weather in the UK and could in fact cause, colder, harsher conditions. However, scientists can't predict how it will exactly impact us as it is part of a whole conveyor belt of ocean currents that are being disrupted due to a changing climate

INFO BANK

It's important to differentiate between short-term weather variability and long-term climate trends. This is a common question about the apparent contradiction between global warming and local weather patterns. Arm yourself with relevant regional info.

SEE OUR COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS PAGE AT THE BACK...

10 EQUIP YOURSELF
ADDRESS MISCONCEPTIONS

It'sjust a natural cycle. The world is always changing and this is just part of it. Humans don't have any impact on it and we can't stop it either.

ANSWER

The rate of warming since the industrial revolution is far greater and faster than ever before. The correlation between human activities and temperature increase is too strong to ignore. Just as we have increased global warming, we also have the technology to slow it down.

Other countries are the main polluters. Why should we change our lives when China and America are still causing much more damage than us?

ANSWER

Yes, some countries currently produce more CO2 than others, but climate change is a global issue and we must approach it with global effort. Individual efforts lead to gradual collective change. We have made global changes before by acting as a global community...

IDEAS BANK

Use successful examples to back up your points

"...for example, because of the CFC ban in the 1980's, the hole in the ozone layer start shrinking"

SEE OUR COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS PAGE AT THE BACK...

ANOTHER WAY

1 POWER OF 10

RELATE AND RESONATE

Shift the conversation toward discussing solutions to climate change.

Often people don't want to enter into a conversation because they feel as though there is not much that they personally can do. Relate to that feeling by saying...

Then, explain to them that by demanding certain changes as a consumer, we can make a big difference through collective actions. Give examples...

ANSWER

I know, I feel like that sometimes too. Sometimes these issues feel too big to solve by ourselves...

ANSWER

...butthen someone told me that after the plastic bag charge came into effect in England there was an estimated 80% reduction in plastic bag usage in only the first 6 months.

INFO BANK

Explain that by demanding certain products, we are also helping to create behavioural change which can lead to wider consumer behaviour change and a greater knowledge and consciousness of consumer impact on our supply chains.

ANOTHER WAY

1 POWER OF 10

RELATE AND RESONATE

Personalise your responses and make sure that they relate to their concerns at the same time.

I could never be a vegetarian as I just couldn't give up my weekend bacon sandwich!

ANSWER

I thought it was going to be impossible to give up meat, but then I started just 1 day per week and now I enjoy a flexible diet. I know that those meat free days are having a positive impact on the world... and I can still have my bacon sandwich on the weekend!

I just love my branded clothing and need good quality clothes, I could never buy stuff second hand.

ANSWER

I used to feel like that too, but last week I was looking for a new bag and didn't have much money, so I searched on Ebay and found my favourite brand for a third of the price. I have even found high quality, high street brands in charity shops too. I'm saving loads of money.

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BRINGING CLIMATE CHANGE CLOSER TO HOME

TAILORING POINTS TO THEIR INTERESTS:

Climate change can feel far removed from our day-to-day lives and can lead to a lack of realisation of the urgency of the issue. Discussing real impacts on their lives will make people more likely to listen and will help to foster a greater willingness to take action.

If someone loves going skiing, for example you could explain that their favourite winter ski destination could be snow-free in the next decade.





If someone loves their morning cup of coffee, explain that warming temperatures is affecting coffee production.

If you hear someone talking about rising food costs due to Brexit, you could redirect them by talking about how food prices will increase w higher temperatures due to crop failures caused by the changing climate.



Ideas Bank

If you keep coming up against the same barriers, research this specific area so that next time you will be informed about that specific topic.

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EQUIP YOURSELF

COME ARMED WITH SOLUTIONS

Discuss other advantages of sustainable action such as health, social and economic benefits.













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ADDRESSING COMMON BARRIERS

It's not urgent - we have plenty of time…

Climate change is happening now. The flooding that we see, the wildfires, are all due to a changing climate and we have very little time until it is irreversible.

All this green living is so expensive, I can't afford it. I'd do it if it cost the same.

Sometimes it might cost more initially but you can save money in the long run. Most importantly is just doing those things which you feel like you can within your budget and lifestyle. Start with small changes and gradually build up

It takes so much of my time to separate my recycling

By simply having a few different bins, you can save time and you won't need to take out your normal bin as often. Separating your food waste helps to keep pests at bay too.

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ADDRESSING COMMON BARRIERS

But I heard that soy farming is worse for deforestation than beef, so eating tofu and vegetarian food is surely worse...

It is true that soy farming contributes to deforestation, however, the vast majority of soya bean farming is used to make pellets to feed livestock. Soy farming for meat substitutes is minimal in comparison.

There's no way I'll swap to an electric car, it won't ever reach where I need to get to without breaking running out of power.

The UK has invested massively in updating the electric vehicle network to ensure coverage across the whole of the UK. Not only does switching help the environment, but you save significantly on fuel costs too.

SEE WWW.POWEROF10.EARTH FOR MORE RESOURCES ON SUSTAINABLE LIVING

FINAL POINTS

FINAL TIPS

USE INFLUENTIAL OR FAMOUS PEOPLE TO HELP SUPPORT YOUR POINT

People often respect the views of their heroes and will listen more to what they say than those closest to them.

EXPLAIN THAT WE DON'T NEED TO DO EVERYTHING ALL AT ONCE

Small changes are the key to sustained societal change

SUGGEST WATCHING A DOCUMENTARY TOGETHER

Documentaries can have profound effects on people and watching things together, means you are more likely to discuss issues differently than before.

A WELL-PLACED FACT CAN BE A POWERFUL TOOL

Most people don't want to hear facts and statistics all of the time, but a powerful fact can help someone see your perspective better - if the fact is memorable they may take it with them into future discussions. See our fact-files for topic based useful facts.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Remember, every conversation counts, and even small steps can contrib to a collective effort to address the climate crisis. Stay respect empathetic, and open-minded throughout the discussion.

KNOW WHEN TO STEP BACK

If you are feeling frustrated or overwhelmed, it is important to know wher step back and to realise that some people will not respond to our vie and values. Relax, breathe, step away, have a conversation with someone w is like-minded. You could turn to other change-makers on the Power of app. Remember, you are not alone in your values and millions of people acting on climate change too.

SEE WWW.POWEROF10.EARTH FOR MORE RESOURCES ON MANAGING ECO-ANXIETY



Seek support from mental health professionals or support groups if eco-anxiety is severely impacting your well-being.