

For the Love of...

Action Guide



INTRODUCTION

After years of campaigning and two whirlwind weeks of negotiations in Paris, world leaders from almost 200 countries have agreed on a historic deal that sets the path for how our world will tackle climate change. Countries have pledged to keep global warming below 1.5°C, with a long term goal to reduce global emissions to zero.

Although a huge step forwards, this deal doesn't go far enough to adequately protect those on the frontlines of climate change. Poorer people around the world have been struggling with the effects of climate change for years now. It ruins crops, disrupts growing seasons and destroys stores, making people hungry and even more vulnerable. More action is needed to support, protect and truly stand with those being hit first and worst.

WHAT ACTION IS NEEDED?

Oxfam and the Climate Coalition are asking the UK government to play its full part in ensuring that the ambitious targets agreed in Paris are achieved and that the most vulnerable people around the world receive the support they need to cope with climate impacts.

Politicians won't take action unless we show them this issue is important to us. The Climate Coalition represents 100 organisations and 11 million supporters from around the UK. We are asking you to join us in sending **green hearts** to your MP, calling for action on climate change.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Learn about the effects of climate change and plan your *For The Love Of...* **green heart** campaign. Go to page 2.
2. Raise awareness and collect **green hearts**. Go to page 3.
3. Organise a **green heart** hand over meeting with your MP. Go to page 4.



What might Downing Street look like if we don't take action on climate change?

Photo: Andy Hall/Oxfam

For support with taking action, get in touch with Oxfam's Education & Youth Team:
education@oxfam.org.uk

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Crops are threatened by climate change.

Photo: Jane Beesley/Oxfam

1. Learn about climate change and plan your **green hearts** action

Begin your *For The Love Of...* campaign by learning more about climate change. There is a workshop in this resource to help you and you may also already know lots about climate change from your lessons. You'll need to be able to talk to others confidently about the topic.

Your aim is to collect as many **green hearts** as possible in your school or college and meet your MP to hand them over. Plan how you will achieve this.

Why do we need to learn and plan first?

Whether you are presenting a Year 7 assembly or meeting your MP, you are going to need to know something about climate change. So your group needs to begin by doing some learning together.

Having a clear plan will help you to collect the largest possible number of **green heart** messages. If you are in a large secondary school, 750 or 1,000 **green hearts** should be achievable. The learning, communication, time-management and planning skills this campaign will help you to develop are valuable in other areas of your school and personal life. So you will not only be helping to send a clear message to your MP, you will also be learning useful new transferable skills.

What to do

STEP ONE

Download the *For The Love Of...* slideshow.

At a group meeting, two or three of you should show the presentation to the rest of the group. If you have time you could take it in turns to do this.

Ask for help if there are points you don't understand. Rewrite the script so it makes sense for you. Remember you will be explaining it to other young people.

STEP THREE

Next plan your *For The Love Of...* campaign. Think about how you will explain the campaign to young people such as in citizenship lessons or assemblies and how you will collect **green hearts** such as at a stall or in registration time. Decide what will work best.

STEP TWO

Do the *For The Love Of...* workshop as a group. This should take one or two group meetings.

The purpose of the workshop is to encourage you to think critically about your own opinions around the impact of climate change and then work out the best way to encourage other young people to identify and explain their own opinions. Make sure you take notes.

STEP FOUR

Finalise your plans. There are tips about holding great meetings at <http://bit.ly/1pt5uj5> and planning a campaign at <http://bit.ly/N2rHpj> (pgs 40-49).

Set yourself a **green heart** target. If you are at a large secondary school you should be able to collect between 750—1,000 messages, but be realistic. Then make sufficient copies of the **green heart** template provided in the *For The Love Of...* workshop plan.

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Messages for the Seen & Heard schools postcard campaign

Photo: Lady Eleanor Holles School

2. Raise awareness and collect **green hearts**.

Now it's time to put your learning and planning into action. Before you begin check that your group:

- Understands the issues and can explain them to others.
- Has agreed clear time deadlines.
- Has agreed roles for each member of the group.
- Has permission from your school or college to run the campaign.

Who are the Climate Coalition?

The Climate Coalition is the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action on climate change and limiting its impact on the world's poorest communities. With its sister coalitions Stop Climate Chaos Cymru and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, the Climate Coalition's combined supporter base represents more than 11 million people across the UK. The Climate Coalition brings together over 100 organisations, from environment and development charities, such as Oxfam, to unions, faith organizations and community and women's groups.



What to do

STEP ONE

Review your plans and targets, and make sure they are realistic. Now is the time to make any last minute changes.

Match the individual tasks you've decided upon with to the three Youth Ambassadors Award criteria. There are ideas in <http://bit.ly/1pt5uj5>

STEP THREE

Are there any creative ways of putting the **green hearts** together, for example in a collage or banner? If anyone in the group is arty, s/he could think about this.

STEP TWO

Put your plan into action.

When you are speaking with young people, inspire them to think up interesting and creative messages . They could draw instead of write if they liked.

This is a voluntary action. If someone doesn't want to write a message it isn't compulsory.

STEP FOUR

You should have been in touch with your MP to agree a date for a **green heart** hand over by now.



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Swanlea School Youth Ambassadors meet their MP Rushanara Ali for the Seen & Heard postcard campaign.

Photo: Eimear Daly/Swanlea School

3. Organise a **green heart** hand over meeting with your MP

Your MP can represent your opinions, and take your **green heart** messages to Parliament to share them with other MPs and the Prime Minister.

Unless MPs know climate change is something people care about, they won't have the motivation to take action. We are asking MPs of all parties to ask the Prime Minister to show ambition and leadership on behalf of the UK in tackling climate change.

Organising an MP event provides you and your friends with a great opportunity to develop project management and campaigning skills.

Make sure you ask your MP to take a specific action, such as to write to the relevant Minister and ask her or him to feed back the results of their actions to you.

Finally don't forget to tell us about how you got on. We would love to hear about your successes!

Email education@oxfam.org.uk

WHAT TO DO

STEP ONE

Make contact with your MP to arrange a meeting as early as possible. You'll find contact details at www.theyworkforyou.com. Virtually all MPs also have their own websites which include their contact details. MPs often arrange to meet people in their constituencies on Fridays.

STEP THREE

If your MP is unable to meet, pack up your **green hearts** and post them to your MP with a covering letter explaining your campaign.

However you make contact remember to ask your MP to do something specific. Take lots of photos, send a press release to your local paper and tell Oxfam how it went..

STEP TWO

Plan the type of event you would like to invite your MP to, for example, it could be a large assembly or a smaller meeting. Or you could visit your MP in Parliament or their constituency office.

Make sure your meeting is well organised, tightly scripted and creative. Rehearse with a teacher playing the role of your MP so you can iron out any glitches before your big day.

STEP FOUR

Well done! We hope the campaign went really well.

There are evaluation tools at <http://bit.ly/N2rHpj> (pgs 64—71) to help you review your success.

Finally fill in your Youth Ambassadors portfolios, ask your teacher to sign them off and email the feedback form to Oxfam.

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