

Some suggestions and resources for interpreting the 2019 Theme

**NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT** (Background and update)

In 2019 the urgency to act to curb climate change and protect the planet we know as our home has become critical. Scientist warn that we may now have only 12 years to prevent runaway climate change. Eminent biologists and U.N. reports concur that “business-as-usual” will drive half of all species on Earth to extinction within this century. The messages from scientific reports, hitherto not widely discussed, have been brought to the attention of us all - the public, the press and governments by:

- striking school children concerned for their future, inspired by Greta Thunberg, ( watch her speech here: <https://www.ted.com/speakers/greta_thunberg> )

- Sir David Attenborough, the respected naturalist, in his TV programme ( you can watch it here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00049b1/climate-change-the-facts> )

- The peaceful but prominent protest actions of Extinction Rebellion during April (more about them here: <https://rebellion.earth/> )

**Responses in the UK,**

May 1, the House of Commons declared a climate emergency, admitting the need for a cross-party approach that would enable the UK to set a world-leading standard on climate action.

Hundreds of Local Authorities have declared a Climate Emergency from Portsmouth to Wiltshire, Cornwall to Manchester and many have set carbon neutral targets for 2030 (see if your local authority is one of them listed in Action Against Climate Change’s list [here](https://www.campaigncc.org/councils_climate_emergency): <https://www.campaigncc.org/councils_climate_emergency> )

May 2, the Independent Committee on Climate Change, which was set up to advise the Government, recommended phasing out greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 to end the UK’s contribution to global warming. (Read what they said here: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/> )

June 12, the Prime Minister announced a new zero greenhouse gas emission target for the UK, to be delivered by 2050. The draft legislation has been laid before Parliament amending the 2008 Climate Act’s target of 80% to zero net emissions. While welcoming this announcement many environmental groups think this is too slow and should not include international carbon credits (such as paying for trees to be planted in developing countries instead of cutting emissions at home).

A mass lobby of parliament is planned for 26 June 2019 by the Climate Coalition (find out more about the lobby here: <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/thetimeisnow> )

**WHAT CAN WE DO IN OWW - 20 -27 OCTOBER 2019**

**1. Explain the threats posed by climate change and our current values and economic system**

**Resources to help you start a discussion include:**

* the OWW 2019 leaflet which contains the diagram, “Projected impacts of climate change”, and the illustration suggests some actions people can take. Download from [OWW Theme Guidelines Resources Library](https://www.oneworldweek.org/theme-guidelines-library)
* the diagram “Projected impacts of climate change” is available as an A4 diagram to download from the [OWW Theme Guidelines Resources Library](https://www.oneworldweek.org/theme-guidelines-library)
* the [Planet Doctor sketch](https://www.oneworldweek.org/theme-guidelines-library) is an entertaining and accessible way of introducing the topic.
* one of the films or short videos e.g. of [Greta Thunberg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2QxFM9y0tY)’s speeches see our list of films ([OWW Film Guide 2018 list is available](https://www.oneworldweek.org/discussion-library). A 2019 version will be available shortly.

* See also the EXPLANATIONS OF THE SCIENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE section in the resource [“Green Websites”](https://www.oneworldweek.org/discussion-library)
* The material produced for 2018 on [Doughnut Economics](https://www.oneworldweek.org/uploads/resources/Our%20Changing%20World%20-%20Sources%20of%20information%20about%20some%20key%20ideas%20and%20facts..pdf) explores the kind of economic system that is needed to stay within planetary limits.

* A chart exploring Climate Change: Issues, Outcomes, Causes, Solutions and Actions is currently in preparation for OWW and will be added to the Discussion Resource Library as soon as it is ready.

**2. Promote ideas for positive action**

In OWW we want to offer opportunities to help people get together to acknowledge the urgency for change and offer ideas for positive actions they can take personally, as communities and as national and global citizens.  It is vital that we do not drive people to despair but, instead, inspire people to act for a safer future. It is important now that we take meaningful and comprehensive actions that go beyond changing our lightbulbs to rethinking our lifestyles including, for example, diet, travel, reducing the amount of “stuff” we consume to switching to sustainable energy sources and holding the Government to account.

**"Once we start to act hope is everywhere"**

Greta Thunberg (TED Published Feb. 13, 2019)

There are lots of suggestions for action in the [“Green Websites”](https://www.oneworldweek.org/discussion-library) resource – for example the [Friends of the Earth website](https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate-change) offers climate solutions under the headings of:

Transport; Power; Buildings; Agriculture and Land-use; Infrastructure and International Justice.

**3. Be inclusive**

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions successfully societal changes in behaviour will need to involve us all. So, it is important that the movement to tackle climate change includes the views and support of the widest possible sections of society, including ethnic minorities and the poor.

Not everyone wants to be involved in public protest and it has been suggested that B&ME groups are underrepresented. That does not mean they are unwilling to make changes in their lives to protect the world their children will live in.

OWW Groups, with their experience of bringing local people of various faiths and ethnicities together, can play an important role by including these communities in addressing the climate crisis. Refugees and asylum seekers may be prepared to contribute to OWW events by offering witness statements / testimonies about the impacts of climate change in the areas from which they have come.

Most of the major **faith groups** have strong views about the environment (see [GreenFaith’s summary here](https://greenfaith.org/greenfaith_religious_teachings)) and you can use those as a basis for discussion with representatives of those faiths in your local area. OWW’s Faith-based Resources Library includes materials for inter faith events as well as single faith worship materials.

**Some examples of various faiths’ commitment to tackling climate change include**:

* the **Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change**: <http://www.ifees.org.uk/charter/> ;

IFEES also has a Muslim Green Guide to Reducing Climate Change - [download a copy here:](file:///C:\Users\Owner\Documents\OWW\2019\Theme\download%20a%20copy%20here:) <http://www.ifees.org.uk/green-guide-for-muslims/>

* **Sikh’s Million Trees Project** as a gift to the planet (see this article from the Guardian in

April 2019 [here](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/apr/05/sikhs-sikhism-guru-nanak-550-anniversary-tree-planting) )

* **Jewish traditions** *“… teach us to plant trees for our children and grandchildren. It is our*

*religious and human responsibility to tend and to care for our planet, our divine home. We must stand up against those who wish to harm it and join those who wish to protect it.”* Talia Chain.Extinction Rebellion Jews staged a demonstration Seder in Parliament Square in April as part of a wider international campaign of action by the group Extinction Rebellion. ([More here](https://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/climate-change-protesters-to-hold-demonstration-seder-in-westminster-tomorrow-1.483107))

* **Buddhists** have produced: “*The Time to Act is Now****, A Buddhist Declaration on Climate***

***Change****,*”. Available in [OWW’s Faith-based resources](https://www.oneworldweek.org/faith-based), and [here](https://oneearthsangha.org/statements/the-time-to-act-is-now/).

See also the Faiths section of [Green Websites](https://www.oneworldweek.org/discussion-library)

**Communicating with various audiences.**

When preparing a talk or presentation to specific audiences, you can communicate most effectively if you have an idea of what they value. You can engage with them, using language, examples and images that relate to their values and interests.

**Climate Outreach** - <https://climateoutreach.org>

Climate Outreach (formerly COIN) is one of Europe’s leading experts on climate change communication, bridging the gap between research and practice. The charity is focused on building cross-societal acceptance of the need to tackle climate change. They specialise in how to engage hard-to-reach audiences – developing climate connection programmes with communities such as: youth, the centre right, faith and migrant groups. There are helpful resources on their website, which are eye opening and rewarding. Setting up a study group based on some of them would make a worthwhile OWW activity in itself and the learning could feed into effective events in future.

By way of a taster this very useful 10-minute tutorial video from Climate Outreach discusses how we motivate people to take action on climate change with photography and video. What images are likely to make an impact and keep people’s attention? You can [watch it here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tshynKZ65Hc&feature=youtu.be). Very helpful if you are preparing a presentation – a talk with visual images, or a display or exhibition.

**Resources to help with events**

**Different Groups and ‘Green Websites’**

“Green Websites”, is a new OWW resource (search for it [here](https://www.oneworldweek.org/resources-list/green-websites-word-doc/25/default) ) where you can find more information on the following topics:

**Explanations of the science of climate change**

**Campaigns**

**Greener Living – what we can do**

**Faith groups**

**Art and Creativity**

**Resources for Schools**

**Communicating climate change and motivating behavioural change**

**Ideas for events**

Some suggestions for tried and tested types of events can be found in the Doing One World Week section of the website [here](https://www.oneworldweek.org/event-ideas).

**Inter Faith events**

Advice on organising inter faith events [here](https://www.oneworldweek.org/including-cultures-and-faiths) (and see Page 2, Section 3 of this paper)

**Christian Worship events**

Materials for 2019 are pending, but see [OWW materials](https://www.oneworldweek.org/faith-based-library) from previous years and websites in the Faith section of [Green Websites](https://www.oneworldweek.org/faith-based-library)

**Films for events**

There are lots! Shorts of a few minutes for introductions; a bit longer for incorporating into presentations or lessons in school to feature-length films for film societies or to show as part of a OWW event – follow it with discussions of what people can do.

We are in the process of compiling a OWW 2019 film review which we will publish in OWW resources soon. The 2018 OWW Film Guide ( search ‘films’ on the [OWW Resources page](https://www.oneworldweek.org/resources)) includes some relevant to the 2019 theme, if you can’t wait!

**Speakers**

Some organisations offer speakers – see, for example, [Greenpeace Speakers](https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/what-you-can-do/greenpeace-speakers/); [Global Justice Now](https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/request-speaker-global-justice-now)

You could ask your local Friends of the Earth group to provide a speaker - see if there is a group near you [here](https://friendsoftheearth.uk/local-groups/our-local-groups).

Some of the aid agencies can offer speakers about their work to address the impacts of climate change in vulnerable parts of the world: e.g. [Oxfam](https://www.oxfam.org.uk/get-involved/oxfam-representative-scheme), [Christian Aid](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/news/could-speaker-inspire-your-church-christian-aid-week),

**Songs**

All great movements have their songs!

***One World***, is a campaign, designed by **Portsmouth Music Hub** to raise awareness of environmental issues that affect Portsmouth, the UK and beyond. They produced a great One World song in 2018 (hear and see it performed [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=49&v=eqch4JXbJd8) ).

Throughout this year One World will be engaging schools with an exciting menu of opportunities. As part of One World, the Hub’s team of award-winning composers has created a songbook packed with informative, upbeat and exciting songs for children and young people.

You could include a screening of the One World Song at your event or learn and perform songs yourselves or ask a local choir group to do so for a OWW concert.

You can find all the songs (performances, lyrics and scores) on:

<http://www.portsmouthmusichub.org/one-world/songs>