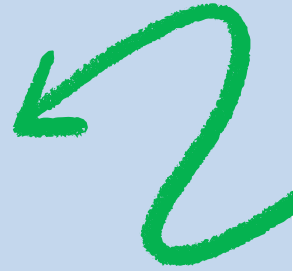




Take Action with the ClimateMusic Project

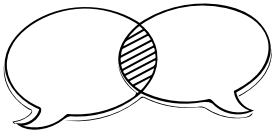
Start Conversations



Why Talking Matters



Can you imagine what would happen if more people talked about climate change? What if we openly shared our concern about the effects of a changing climate on life across the planet? And what if these discussions spurred a sense of urgency to start creating a better world today?



The kind of change we need starts with a conversation. Unfortunately, two thirds of Americans “rarely” or “never” discuss global warming with family and friends. This is despite the fact that the majority of Americans believe climate change is affecting their lives and should be addressed. That’s why one of the most important things you can do is break the silence. So reach out today and start a dialogue with someone in your life--friends, family, colleagues and even local elected officials.



We have some tips on how to have that initial conversation, as well as how to dive deeper. No matter where you’re starting from, we suggest asking permission, seeking shared values, and, most importantly, listening. The idea is not necessarily to change minds, but to build trust, community and hope.

The ClimateMusic Project connects people to climate science and action through the emotional power of music. We create music to inspire you and share resources like this Take Action Kit so you can shape our collective future. Learn more and listen to our music at www.climatemusic.org.

Getting Started

Initiating climate conversations is vital to making the issue more personal than political. Start by learning about the other person and, after you've listened, ask if you can share your own perspective. Try to keep it personal: offer your thoughts and concerns. Don't try to convince someone with facts and figures. Instead, focus on finding common ground and building trust--this is essential in creating community and seeding hope.

Examples of Initial Conversation Topics

- What are your thoughts about climate change?
- Are you worried about global warming?
- What have you heard about climate change?
- How do you feel when you hear news about the climate?
- Do you notice that the weather today is different from your childhood?

Going Deeper

Even when we know someone shares our same level of concern for climate change, it isn't always easy to begin discussing solutions and actions. Regardless of how many times you've talked climate, remember the importance of listening. Use this opportunity to inspire each other and hold one another accountable. Ideally, you're starting from a place of trust and where you can begin to build community and spread hope--together.

Examples of Deep Dive Conversation Topics

- How can we bring environmental issues to the forefront in the next election?
- What more can we do to shift to renewable energy and alternative transportation?
- What local organization can we support that addresses issues of climate justice?
- How can we meal plan to be more local, organic, vegetarian, and non-wasteful?
- What household shopping habits can we change?
- Are there local community gardens or citizen science organizations we can join?
- How can we plan our next vacation to be as low-impact as possible?
- Who else can we talk to in our networks, including religious or work places?

For more information on this topic:

[The Secret to Talking about Climate Change](#), Action for the Climate Emergency

[Talking Climate Handbook: How to Have a Climate Change Conversation](#), Climate Outreach, December 2019

[Climate Change in the American Mind](#), Yale Climate Connections, April 2022