

#OurPitch on Climate Action

PROTECT
OUR FUTURE

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Topics	Ages	Lesson Duration	Sustainable Development Goals
- Climate change and its impact on different global lands - United Nations Sustainability Development Goals - Sport and athletes using their platform to drive climate action	11 - 18	60 minutes – 2 hours depending on discussion and choice of extension activities	

#OurPitch on Climate Action

During this session you will:

- Understand what climate change is, its causes and its impact on different global lands we are connected to
- Be introduced to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and their role in addressing climate action
- Explore how athletes can use their platform to drive positive change



Climate change

We hear a lot about climate change these days. But what does it mean to **you**?

Activity!

Think of two words that link in your mind to climate change. Write them on sticky notes.



Spectrum of difference

Where do you stand?

Activity!

Listen to the statements being read out. Do you agree or disagree?



What is the difference between weather and climate?



What is the difference between weather and climate?

Weather is the description of what the conditions are like in one place, at one time.

The climate is the average of weather measured over a long period of time and across large geographic areas.



What is climate change?



Climate change?

Climate change refers to the shift in the Earth's usual weather conditions caused by humans over many years.

Unfortunately, our world has been getting hotter and weather more extreme (fires, floods, droughts and storms) which is affecting all our planet's habitats.



What is causing climate change?

Climate change is largely caused through human activity.



Burning fossil fuels



Cutting down trees



Plastic pollution



**Over farming animals
and crops**

These things add greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides, and water vapour) to our air, trapping the Sun's energy and causing the Earth and oceans to warm.

We hear stories about the effects of climate change regularly

News on climate change often includes reports on how the Earth's temperature is rising.

Other changes are happening to including:

- Warming of our oceans
- Melting of polar ice and glaciers that is leading to rising sea levels
- More extreme weather events



Impact of sport

Have you ever thought how sport is having an impact on the environment?

Think about how these sports use materials, buildings, energy, water and transport.

Quite an impact on the environment, right?



Finding solutions

The United Nations (UN) has asked sporting bodies around the world to recognise the impact that sport has on the planet and to sign up to take action on climate change.

One of the organisations that has signed an agreement with Sports for Climate Action is SailGP, an international sailing competition using high performance catamarans. The teams are seeing the impact of climate change around the world and want to take action to reduce their own impact and raise awareness of climate change for others.



United Nations Climate Change
Global Climate Action

Protect Our Future

The Emirates Great Britain SailGP Team has set up Protect Our Future to share and inspire others to take climate action.

***“If we don't act now, all the amazing sport that gives us such joy, from the grassroots all the way to the top of the professional game, is under threat from the impact of climate change.*”**

Sir Ben Ainslie
Driver of The Emirates GBR F50
Four-time Olympic Gold medalist



Athletes are using their platform to drive change



Activity!

Watch this video to discover what four international athletes are doing to drive positive climate action

Credit: Silverback Films and Open Planet

We're not acting alone

In 2015, the United Nations brought governments and organizations together to agree some goals and actions that were needed to address climate change and other BIG global problems.

17 goals were developed called the Sustainable Development Goals.

Activity!

With help from your teacher, explore the SDGs.



We are not acting alone

In 2021, at the UN Climate conference in Paris, an agreement was made by 196 countries to target:

**'...holding global warming to below 2°C
trying to limit warming to 1.5°C'.**

SDG Goal 13 aims to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by 2030.



How can sport help to achieve SDG 13?

In small groups discuss and note down how an athlete, sport or sports team of your choice could reduce their/its impact on climate change.

You could think about...

- **Waste:** Do they keep waste to a minimum? Does their waste get recycled, or does it go to landfill?
- **Energy:** How do they heat and light their pitches and buildings? Do they renewable energy?
- **Transport:** How do the athletes or team travel around? How do fans travel to see them?
- **Food and drink:** What food do athletes eat? What foods and drinks do their fans eat when watching them?

Every athlete respects, cares for and nurtures the space in which they perform. Without it they cannot be an athlete.

Your voice counts!

So far, we have looked at how sports athletes are taking direct action to tackle climate change. But many athletes also use their voices to promote causes that they believe in.

Which cause did Marcus Rashford lead a campaign on?



SDG 2: Zero Hunger

Marcus lobbied the UK government to offer free school meals throughout the summer months as well as term time.

He acted when it became clear to him that food poverty would increase due to a lack of free school meals when children were at home more during the COVID pandemic.

Aligned to SDG Goal 2: Zero Hunger, the footballer has since set up a “child food poverty task force” representing the UK’s biggest food brands, with the aim that they will work together to back solutions to food poverty.

2 ZERO HUNGER



SDG 5: Gender Equality

Following on from the Women's EURO 2022, the England Women's Football team wrote a letter to the UK government to improve gender equality.

They helped to secure £600m funding to ensure girls in the UK have equal access to football and other sports at school.

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing

In sport, Britain has won more Olympic cycling medals than any other nation.

But they had to overcome many hurdles, one of which was not getting sick – to win a gold medal you couldn't lose a day or training or racing to upper respiratory illness (sore throat, cold, fever).

The British Cycling Team came up with a behavioural change programme called 'Zero Day'. The Aim to lose zero days to upper respiratory illness and win medal for Britain.

How did they do this? The science of behavioural change.

**3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING**



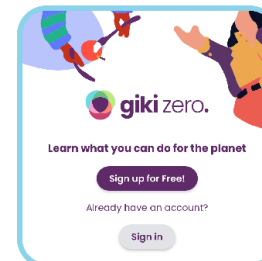
SDG 13: Climate Action

The Emirates Great Britain SailGP Team measures the amount of carbon dioxide generated by their activities and constantly looks to reduce it. This is called a carbon footprint.

The team look at everything they are doing, eating and using when they are competing. This includes their travel, the kit they wear and use, how they produce and used energy, the food they eat etc.

To help they use an online programme that measures the amount of carbon dioxide generated by their activities. This helped the team to see where their sport and behaviour was having the biggest impact on the environment and highlighted where they could take action to reduce their carbon footprint.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Role models for climate action

Activity!

Find out more about athletes who are using their voices to inspire others to act on climate change.

- **Who are they?**
- **What is their message on climate action?**
- **What methods are they using to communicate their messages?**
- **How do you think they could communicate their messages to your age group?**
- **What action could your school could take?**

Discovering our connection to land



Activity!

Our stories of land

How do these impacts make you feel?



Does it make you sad, angry, thoughtful?

Does it make you want to protect a particular habitat?

Climate change is such a big problem that we need everyone to take action to make a difference. That includes governments, businesses, sport organisations, schools, communities, me and you.

What action could we take in our class to help combat climate change?

**Remember these
are the four main
causes....**

**Climate action we take in our local
communities can positively impact
our global habitats.**



Burning fossil fuels



Cutting down trees



Plastic pollution



**Over farming animals
and crops**

Don't forget

- Every positive climate action counts
- Measure what you want to change
- Share your progress to inspire others

#ProtectOurFuture

By using your voice you can change behaviour within your family, school, friends and communities

Enter the **USE YOUR VOICE** Challenge, and win **£1000** for your school

Take action, use your voice and get creating

Find out more

www.protectourfuture.org/use-your-voice

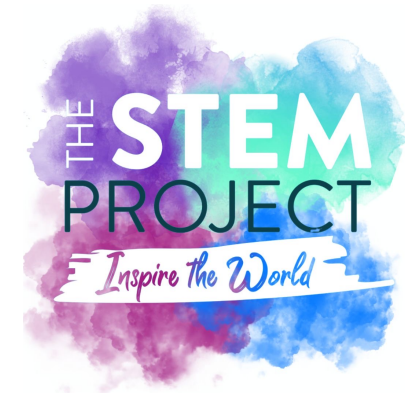
#ProtectOurFuture



This session has been informed by an ongoing Education Research Study 'Acting on Climate' conducted by a collective of researchers, artists and educators from the University of Warwick, UK. Turner-King, R., Smith, B., Hale-Smith, C., Brown, A.J. and Newbold, L. (2023). Earth Stories: Creative Outputs and Teaching Resources. [online] Acting on Climate. Available at: <https://actingonclimate.world/> [Accessed 19 Oct. 2023]



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