

An Introduction to Climate Week



Scotland's Climate Week is an annual Scottish Government led initiative that raises awareness of the global climate emergency and encourages collective action, while celebrating progress towards becoming a Net Zero nation by 2045. This year's Climate Week, taking place from Monday 21st September to Sunday 27th September 2026, invites children to take the lead in designing and shaping their own learning and actions around climate change and sustainability. This resource is designed as a tool for teachers in primary schools to support children to create, design, and lead their own Climate Week activities, inspiring others to take action, while supporting schools to place children's ideas, experiences, and voices at the heart of learning and action.

Developed in collaboration with children, the resource recognises their vital role as active participants and decision-makers in climate learning. While Climate Week provides a focused moment, children highlight that this learning should continue throughout the year, rather than being limited to a single week. In Scotland, climate change education is embedded within Learning for Sustainability,¹ alongside children's rights to participation, wellbeing, and development. Climate change is recognised as a serious and widespread threat to children's rights, which are inseparable from the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, including the rights to life, health, development, and participation, with governments bearing responsibility for protecting children from environmental harm and recognising this right.²

This resource supports teachers to create the conditions for children to lead. It promotes children's voices, children's rights, and sustainability learning, while offering activities that help children identify what matters to them, explore key issues, and develop their own projects. It also encourages children to plan next steps and consider how to involve others in their ideas and actions.

Alongside these activities, the resource includes examples from schools illustrating the growth of children's ideas throughout the project and how teachers can support meaningful leadership in learning.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/target-2030-movement-people-planet-prosperity/>

² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/crcgc26-general-comment-no-26-2023-childrens-rights>

Meet Our Co-Creators

Through 2026, Children's Parliament partnered with children aged 9-12 attending three primary schools in urban, rural, and coastal settings to co-create and prototype the **Your Climate Week** resource. The resulting activities and examples are contained within the five sections of **Your Climate Week**.



→ Park Primary School, Oban

Children are developing the idea of acting as local climate guides, designing and leading a walk from their school to Ganavan Sands (a local coastal site). Along the route, they plan to highlight the impacts of climate change on the local area, share examples of community responses, and explore ways of living more sustainably alongside nature. Local Climate Action Hub: Argyll & Bute Climate Action Network: <https://abcn.mn.co/>



→ Ashpark Primary School, Glasgow

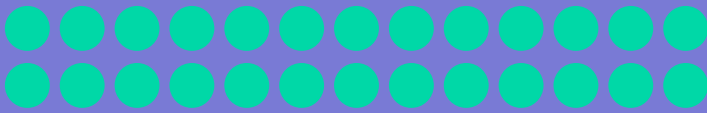
Children have started to develop a project focused on designing and creating bird boxes for local gardens. They aim to explore how climate change, pollution from the nearby M77 motorway, and wider human activity affect bird populations, while taking practical action to support local biodiversity. Local Climate Action Hub: Glasgow Climate Action Hub: <https://www.gcah.scot/>



→ Alva Primary School, Clackmannanshire

Children are planning a community climate parade. With a focus on themes such as local food, reducing CO₂ emissions, and supporting pollinators including bees. The parade is intended to share their learning and encourage wider community engagement with climate action. Local Climate Action Hub: <https://felscotland.org/forth-valley-climate-action-hub/>





What Children Need from Adults During Climate Week

The activities and tools within this resource have been developed in response to children's calls around Climate Week and beyond. These reflections highlight the important role adults and teachers play in creating meaningful, engaging, and ongoing climate learning experiences, with children's participation at the centre.

Climate Week should be all year round

“The planet doesn't only matter for one week, it's there every day, so we should be learning about it all the time.”

Listen to us and take us seriously

“We want adults to actually listen, not just say ‘that's nice’ and move on.”

Give us more time outdoors

“If we spend more time outdoors, we'll care more about protecting it.”

Help us meet local people

“It would be cool if someone came in and showed us what they actually do for the environment, like the people that look after birds.”

Make it local and familiar

“We could check pollution or litter in our own streets and try to fix it.”

We want to participate

“It's more fun when we get to try things instead of just sitting listening. We learn better that way too.”

Teachers should ensure they are protecting the climate and children's rights

“Looking after the Earth is also about looking after people, like making sure everyone is safe and treated fairly.”



Using this Resource

This resource includes simple activities for children and adults to explore together. These activities can be adapted to suit a range of classes and groups. They encourage children to share ideas, work together, and connect learning to their everyday lives and local community.

The resource is explored through five sections, supporting children to build on their understanding of children's rights, climate, and environmental issues. Where possible, activities are suitable for outdoor settings, this can help children connect more directly with their environment and consider its importance.

Section 1: Making a Start on Climate Week



This section introduces children to the importance of Climate Week. Children will think about how their lives are connected to our planet and explore their right to be happy, healthy, safe and heard.

[Link to section](#)

Section 2: Seeking Climate Week Inspiration



This section helps children find inspiration for Our Climate Week. Children will explore what others do to care for the planet and identify what excites them most. This gives your class a starting point for their own planning.

[Link to section](#)

Section 3: Finding What Matters to Us



This section gives children the chance to discuss and agree on what matters most to them. By sharing ideas and listening to each other, children will choose a shared theme as a starting point for their Climate Week.

[Link to section](#)

Section 4: Designing Our Climate Week



This section invites children to design and plan their own Climate Week activity. Building on the previous sections, children will bring their ideas to life and create a child led Climate Week.

[Link to section](#)



Section 5: Reflecting on Our Climate Week

This section helps children and teachers reflect on their Climate Week together, to consider its successes and how that can continue to inspire beyond the week in support of ongoing environmental education.

[Link to section](#)

Introductory slides

The slide presentation can be used to introduce and invite children to lead on Climate Week. This will link directly to the activities in this resource.

[Link to slides](#)

