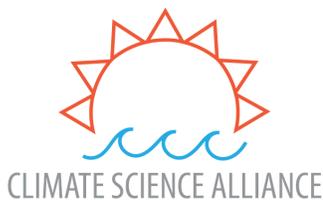


# Climate Change Talking Points



## Key Talking Points For Teaching Climate Change

(Modify based on age)



Why is it important to teach climate change?

Climate change is a **scientific fact**

- The controversy is political, NOT scientific

Based on over a century of research, the **scientific community's consensus** is that:

- Earth's climate is changing
- Human activity is responsible for the change in climate
- Climate change will have a significant effect on our society and the world
- Humans are able to take actions to reduce the impact of climate change. (National Center for Science Education)

It is an accepted fact all over the world, with **97% of scientists agreeing** that climate change, caused by humans, is occurring.

Taking practical, common sense steps to address problems facing our environment today is in the **best interest of future generations**.

## We Must Care For Our Home (The Earth)

We (you, me, all of us) must **take care of the earth** and all the living creatures that share our home.

- We are all connected (humans, animals, plants, land, ocean, water, air)
- It is our (you, me, all of us) job to take care of the earth

## Climate Change – The Heat Trapping Blanket

The **earth's climate is changing**

- Climate refers to the types of weather a place experiences over a long-term time scale (cold, hot, rainy, dry, tropical)
- Weather is local and temporary (rain, snow, heat wave, cloudy, etc.)

*continued* →

## Heat Trapping Blanket

- Climate change is caused by humans releasing fossil fuels into the environment
- Humans release fossil fuels when we do things like drive our cars, watch TV, fly in a plane, turn on the lights, etc.
- These actions release tiny, invisible molecules of pollution into the air (carbon dioxide)
- Over time, these molecules build up and begin to act as a thick blanket that traps heat around the earth

## The Ocean - The Earth's Heart

### The ocean is the heart of our planet

- Oceans are the basis of all life: animals, plants, and humans.
- Our heart:
  - Helps blood keep moving throughout our bodies (circulation)
  - Keeps our bodies from getting too hot or cold (regulates body temperature)
- Similarly, the ocean (the Earth's heart) controls the movement of heat and water throughout the earth, keeping the earth from getting too hot or cold.
- The heat trapping blanket is making it hard for the ocean to do its job and keep our earth healthy

## The Future

In the **future we may have...** (don't overwhelm the children - keep it light and only pick a couple examples that they can relate too)

- Warmer oceans (too hot for the fish- where will they go?)
- Stronger storms (Wind, rain, waves...)
- Less rain for drinking water
- More forest fires
- Higher ocean waves (making it hard to get to the beach)

## GOOD NEWS - We Can Make A Difference!

**We can ACT** to reduce the Earth's fever that is making the earth and the ocean sick



- See *Climate Kids in Action – 10 Things I Can Do* for examples



more information at:

[www.climatekids.org](http://www.climatekids.org)