

ROYAL LONDON
It's everyone's business

What is COP26?

You've probably heard a lot about COP in the news, but how much do you really know about it? Here's your chance to get up to speed on this important topic and begin making choices that help to save the world – starting from your sofa.

COP stands for Conference of the Parties. COP26 is the (you guessed it) 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties, in Glasgow. It's believed to be the world's last best chance to get runaway climate change under control.

Around 190 world leaders and thousands of people will be negotiating for 12 days of climate change talks around the conference table. But we say, some of the most important talks will happen around your dining table too.

At COP21 in Paris in 2015, every country agreed to work together to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. This was the famous Paris Agreement. But these commitments haven't gone far enough. The next few years will be crucial and we can all do our bit in protecting our planet.

Did you know?

These climate facts will blow your mind. Drop them into the conversation at the dinner table and let the debate begin.

The concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in our atmosphere, measured July 2021, is the highest it's been in human history.

11% of all global greenhouse gas emissions caused by humans are due to deforestation.

Average wildlife populations have dropped by 60% in just over 40 years.

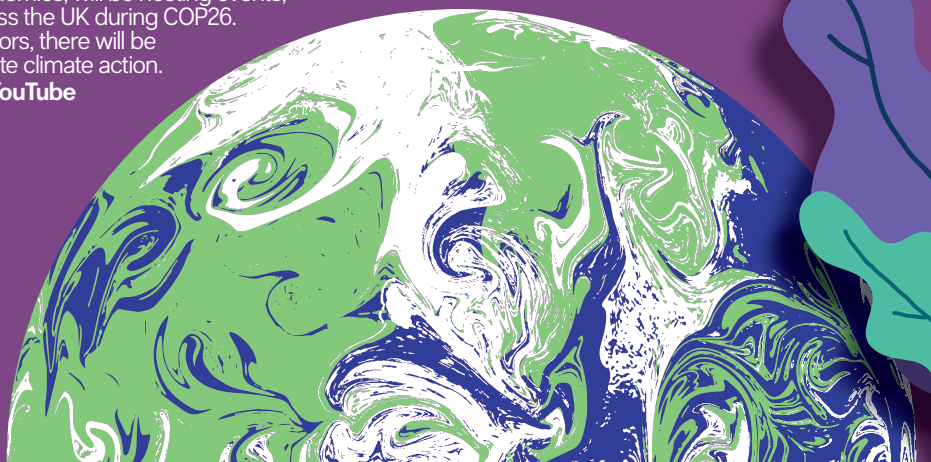
An area of forest larger than Belgium is lost every year.

Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are responsible for approximately 1.1 degrees of warming since 1850-1900.

The past six years, including 2020, have been the six warmest on record.

Watch LIVE

All kinds of interesting people, from artists to academics, will be hosting events, cultural performances, workshops and talks across the UK during COP26. With over 100 exhibitors, 200 events and 11 sponsors, there will be amazing opportunities to listen, learn and celebrate climate action. Join all these events through the COP26 live YouTube stream or QR code below.



Gilbert's Game

Think you know your deforestation from your carbon dioxide? Put your sustainability knowledge to the test in Gilbert's Game. We've hidden the answers in the link at the bottom of the pack so you can play by yourself, or let the whole family guess the climate change word from a clue.

How to play

1. Divide the family into teams and decide a 'host'.
2. The host reads out the clues one at a time.
3. The first team to shout out the correct answer wins.
4. The winner is the team that guesses the most words in 1 minute.

Word 3

Clue 1: Non-renewable fuels, including coal, oil and natural gas, found in the Earth's crust.

Clue 2: China, USA and India are the largest consumers of these fuels.

Clue 3: They are formed from geological processes acting on organic matter over the course of millions of years.

Word 1

Clue 1: Involving around 190 world leaders, this could be a pivotal moment in the fight against climate change.

Clue 2: This event is possibly the world's final chance to get runaway climate change under control.

Clue 3: It's being held in Glasgow.

Word 2

Clue 1: The concentration of this in our atmosphere, measured July 2021, is the highest it's been in human history.

Clue 2: It's the biggest type of emission.

Clue 3: It's a gas containing carbon and oxygen combined.

Word 4

Clue 1: A Swedish activist.

Clue 2: This person sailed in a zero-emissions yacht for two weeks across the Atlantic to get to New York for the UN's Climate Action Summit.

Clue 3: Has been included in Time's 100 most influential people list.

Word 5

Clue 1: Unplanned, unwanted natural disasters in areas of combustible vegetation.

Clue 2: They release CO₂ and other pollutants into the atmosphere, exacerbating global warming.

Clue 3: Can be triggered by a natural occurrence such as weather conditions, or human intervention.

Word 6

Clue 1: The word used to describe what we do to trees.

Clue 2: An area larger than Belgium is lost every year.

Clue 3: What happens when areas are lost for other uses such as agricultural croplands, urbanisation, or mining activities.

Climate change jargon buster

Climate change is so important, but we don't want to get bogged down by technical terms. Here's a simple guide to some of the words you might hear.

Renewable Energy

Energy created from quickly replaced sources. The major types of renewable energy sources are biomass, hydropower, geothermal, wind and solar.

Carbon Footprint

Measured as the impact your activities have on the amount of carbon dioxide produced through the burning of fossil fuels.

Fossil Fuel

Fossil fuels (e.g., coal, oil and natural gas) are created deep within the Earth over millions of years, as dead plant and animal material gets buried in layers of rock. Heat and pressure transform this material into a fuel.

Greenhouse Gases

This is 80% carbon dioxide (CO₂), but also includes methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases. They exist naturally, but humans make more of them.

Climate Change

The change to the Earth's temperature. Human activity has made average temperatures rise much faster than they would naturally.

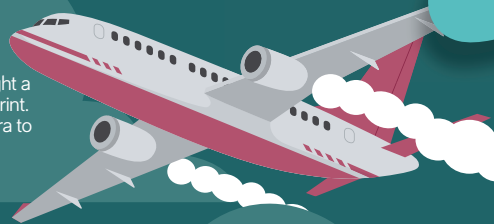
Gilbert's top tips to help climate change at home

Raising awareness

Raise awareness at work, home and school about climate issues. This can help your friends and those around you to reduce their footprints. Tell your MP, local councillors and city mayors that you think action on climate change is important.

Cut back on flying

Simply taking one less long-haul flight a year could lower your carbon footprint. If you do fly, you can pay a little extra to offset your carbon emissions.



Invest your money in responsible places

Our pensions can play a role in helping us move towards a more sustainable world. If you have a pension, check who your provider is and that your money is being invested responsibly.

Eat less meat and dairy

Or switch to a plant-based diet to save emissions. Meat and dairy products need a lot of land, water and energy to produce. They also create a lot of methane, a greenhouse gas. Try to buy locally sourced food most of the time, too.

Go car-free

Driving less by choosing to walk, cycle, car share, or take public transport can help save on carbon emissions.

Insulate your home well

By insulating places like your loft and walls, you'll use less energy, reducing your carbon footprint and your household bills. It's a win, win.

Respect and protect green spaces

Parks, woodlands and gardens absorb carbon dioxide. They provide important habitats for wildlife and are associated with lower levels of air pollution. They also help to prevent flooding by absorbing surface rainwater.

Switch your energy to a renewable source

By switching to a company that provides electricity from solar, wind or hydroelectric energy, you can reduce your household emissions.

Countries on climate change

Guess which country this is, based on their behaviour on climate change.

Question 1

This country gave subsidies to the electric car manufacturing industry. In 2018 their people bought 1.1 million electric cars, more than the rest of the world combined.

Question 2

This fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gas finally agreed to the Paris Agreement in 2019. They agreed to regulate their emissions for the first time.

Question 3

This country's previous leader called climate change 'a hoax'. They announced in 2017 they would drop out of the Paris Agreement.

Question 4

This country declared a climate emergency in 2019. They are also the host of COP26.