Climate and Ecological Crises? What's all the fuss about?

Sources of Useful Information

version 3

Find this handout online (with working links) at owlydave.info/climate-eco-crisis/

HERE'S HOW TO:

Change your electricity/energy supplier
Go to https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/switching-energy-tariff-or-supplier or in your internet browser, search 'How to switch energy supplier and shop for a better deal ofgem' then scroll down to How to switch energy suppliers and follow the instructions. MAKE SURE YOU CHOOSE A 100% RENEWABLE SUPPLIER such as Good Energy, Ecotricity, or Octopus Energy

Move your money away from Fossil Fuels
Barclays, HSBC, Santander, NatWest, Lloyds, and most other banks invest their customers money (your money) in the fossil fuel industry. Go to https://www.campaigncc.org/timetoswitch , scroll down to 'move your money out of fossil fuels' and follow the instructions. I think the best banks are Triodos https://www.triodos.co.uk/ and Co-operative Bank https://www.co-operativebank.co.uk/. The Nationwide Building Society is another good one.

Reduce your carbon footprint at home
https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/

Choose the most environmentally friendly products
Subscribe to Ethical Consumer magazine https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/ethical-consumer-magazine

Check the Parliamentary voting record of your MP, go to https://www.theyworkforyou.com/ and enter your postcode to find your MP. Scroll down a bit and click on 'their voting summary'. Scroll down to find 'How [your MP] voted on Environmental Issues'

CLIMATE CHANGE / CLIMATE CRISIS / GLOBAL WARMING / GLOBAL HEATING

A powerful introduction from the BBC published in 2021, slightly behind the times already, but still great!
7-min video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIsjcG7hTmo

Brilliant introduction to climate change
Highly recommended 17-min talk by NASA scientist Dr Bruce Wielicki which contains the immortal line *"Democracies only work when most of the people in them understand what needs to be done"*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_YNfA7mDri4

Half a degree makes ALL the difference
Hard-hitting BBC 3-min video https://www.bbc.co.uk/ideas/videos/how-half-a-degree-could-change-the-world-forever/p07mvstd?playlist=sustainable-thinking

2024 state of the climate report: Perilous times on planet Earth…. read the first two paragraphs
https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/advance-article/doi/10.1093/biosci/biae087/7808595

2024 the truth about our situation: Kevin Anderson, Professor of Energy and Climate Change at the University of Manchester, presents a brilliant overview of our situation in only 36 minutes. If you already understand the basic terminology of climate action and you want **THE TRUTH** listen to this.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yULdkWpjmM0&t=1721s
or go to YouTube and search for 'Professor Kevin Anderson - taking large risks with dire consequences'

Too technical? For those of us who like presentations that are **SLOWER** and **CEARER** but equally **TRUTHFULL**, listen to Bill McGuire, Emeritus Professor of Geophysical & Climate Hazards at University College London. 39 mins.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7eiED--Bcw&t=354s
or go to YouTube and search for 'Climate Talk - The Bottom Line - Prof. Bill McGuire'

Answers to the Biggest Climate Questions: a wide-ranging, 100-minute, authoritative interview (in plain English) with world-leading climate scientist Stefan Rahmstorf, co-head of Earth System Analysis at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and professor of ocean physics. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgF2TwJ5d6w
or go to YouTube and search for 'Rapid fire answers to the biggest climate questions'

What three degrees of global warming looks like
16-min video from The Economist https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uynhvHZUOOo

The reasons behind our inaction on climate change
If you want to understand WHY we are not doing enough to tackle climate change, watching this presentation by Prof. William Rees, 'The Enigma of Climate Inaction', is probably the best hour you will ever spend.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDWhjSUu8UY&t=1667s

ECOLOGICAL CRISIS / 6TH MASS EXTINCTION EVENT

6th Mass Extinction Event – a brilliant introduction in only 9 minutes
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9gHuAwxwAs or go to YouTube and search for 'Are We Living In the Sixth Extinction?'

Our ecological footprint
Prof. William Rees on our 'overshoot' within the Ecosphere. 25 mins. Very clearly explained
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l73oIO8oG58

Living Planet Report 2024: This webpage highlights the extent of wildlife decline and invites you to download the full report. https://livingplanet.panda.org/en-GB/

Human Impact, Extinctions, and the Biodiversity Crisis: The current 6th mass extinction event and human population management are just two of the subjects covered in a fascinating 2-hour discussion with Corey Bradshaw, professor of Global Ecology at Flinders University in South Australia. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJwsJhFK98o

TIPPING POINTS / PLANETARY BOUNDARIES / EARTH'S SAFE LIMITS

Introduction to climate tipping points
5-min BBC video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=febBRv2Vftk
Or go to YouTube and search for 'Tipping points, climate change the facts'

Climate change and tipping points – an Earth System Science perspective
Fascinating 42-min presentation by Prof. Will Steffen *'The Anthropocene: Where.. are we going?'*
It gets a bit 'sciency' here and there but stick with it. It's totally brilliant. Great finale too
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvD0TgE34HA
If you only have 18 mins watch this version https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1X4IdxXEwA

Tipping Points of Climate Change - and Where We Stand: This short 18-min talk by Johan Rockström of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research is a brilliant introduction to the vitally important subject of 'planetary boundaries'. Highly recommended. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vl6VhCAeEfQ&t=7s

Exceeding Earth's Safe Limits a 91-min 'chat' with Johan Rockström further exploring the concept and reality of 'planetary boundaries' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaboF3vAsZs

Climate Extremes is a 52- minute easy-to-understand documentary film covering all the main topics including climate extremes, the biosphere, ice sheet loss, tipping points, the AMOC (Atlantic meridional overturning circulation), and the 'point of no return'.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8pLrRkqbb0

Planetary Health Check's website provides a regular assessment of the state of the Earth system based on the Planetary Boundaries Science, to better monitor changes, gauge risks, identify urgent actions, develop solutions, and assess our progress in maintaining a safe operating space for humanity. https://www.planetaryhealthcheck.org/

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Here are two fantastic YouTube channels. Brilliantly researched, science-based, but presented in plain English. Each channel produces one short programme per week and each has loads of previous programmes for you to watch. Very occasionally they do talk about the problem (!), but hardly ever - most programmes feature solutions. They are both SO good. I watch them every week!
Simon Clark https://www.youtube.com/@SimonClark presented by (you guessed it) Simon Clark and
Just Have a Think https://www.youtube.com/@JustHaveaThink presented by Dave Borlace

What the world needs to do to meet emissions reduction targets:
Two of the biggest and most authoritative websites. Extremely well researched.
Project Drawdown is "a trusted, science-based, and independent guide for effective climate action across the globe" https://www.drawdown.org/
Exponential Roadmap is "a collaborative climate initiative uniting companies to drive exponential action to halve emissions by 2030" https://exponentialroadmap.org/

Online, try searching for "climate solutions". Here's a UN Environment Programme page to start you off https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/10-ways-you-can-help-fight-climate-crisis

For young people, try this page from National Geographic Kids
https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/nature/save-the-earth/article/13-ways-to-save-the-earth-from-climate-change

HOW TO TALK TO PEOPLE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

Talk to colleagues, friends, and relatives using the method described in this fantastic 4min video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHPZw0zbHNE
Or go to YouTube and search for 'Secret to talking about climate change – Dr Renee Lertzman'

JET STREAM AND HOW IT AFFECTS UK WEATHER

Met Office 'Deep Dive' Weekly 30 min presentations showing the jet stream and detailing recent and forthcoming UK weather. Go to https://www.youtube.com/@metoffice and scroll down a bit

Met Office '10 Day Trend' Weekly approx. 10 min presentations detailing UK weather for the next 10 days and often showing the jet stream Go to https://www.youtube.com/@metoffice and scroll down a bit

The Jet Stream and how it affects our weather This series of articles provides all the detail
https://skepticalscience.com/jetstream-guide.html

CLIMATE DENIAL / SCAMS

Denial - how the fossil fuel industry blocks action on climate change
Introductory article from 2019 https://www.climaterealityproject.org/blog/climate-denial-machine-how-fossil-fuel-industry-blocks-climate-action

Big Oil v the World – if you have time, this 3-part **BBC documentary** tells the story really well
Part 1 'Denial' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I32R6Yx9PTI&t=108s

Part 2 ‘Doubt’ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-jGw-cew3c
Part 3 ‘Delay’ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0wjpUMlRzE

Denial - rebutting global warming misinformation
Excellent website https://skepticalscience.com/

Why ‘net zero’ emissions targets are a scam
Well explained in this 13-min video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62TubVzpiOw

If you have a sense of humour and don’t mind some swearing, you might love this! Only 3-mins long:
Honest Government Ad | Net Zero https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FqXTCvDLeo

INFORMATION FOR MEAT EATERS

Do I need to stop eating meat?
BBC article https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/explainers-59232599?fbclid=IwAR2zl72cgahulRgo39eod4N6ABHaQVSpiIuNLdNtjjODZTYBcp6uVuGRp60

How much does local meat help the environment?
Simon Clark’s brilliant videos are fast-moving & packed full of facts! 6 mins
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmNcOCwtFeg

HOW TO COPE / ADAPT

Eco Anxiety - what it is
The Climate Psychology Alliance website provides the definitive guide
https://www.climatepsychologyalliance.org/

How to turn climate anxiety into action
The brilliant Dr Renée Lertzman. 14 mins https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f52LJJFBCLc

Adapting to the changes that are coming
Author of ‘Deep Adaptation’, Professor Jem Bendell addressing the European Commission. 22 mins
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ke1PCgiM3V4

PROTEST GROUPS

Extinction Rebellion - https://rebellion.earth/
Just Stop Oil - https://juststopoil.org/

HOW TO ARRANGE ANOTHER TALK

Contact the creator of ‘Climate and Ecological Crisis? What’s all the fuss about?’
David Ramsden MBE – whatalotoffuss@gmail.com

AND FINALLY… If you’d like to find this document on line (so all the links work) please go to https://owlydave.info/climate-eco-crisis/ , scroll down to the final paragraph and click the link.