



December Green Team Activities: Climate Change

[Youth Climate Action Day](#) is December 5. The focus this month is on empowering students to be leaders and take action to combat climate change. We recommend pairing context resources with activities your Green Team or class can carry out. Activities can be used via email or community boards, or in virtual meetings.

Resources for building context

1. Reading recommendations for virtual book clubs or to provide context for activities

Elementary school recommendations

- [The Magic School Bus and the Climate Challenge](#) by Joanna Cole (author) and Bruce Degen (illustrator) (grades 2-5)
- [Greta and the Giants](#) by Zoe Tucker (author) and Zoe Persico (illustrator) (grades K-3)
- [Youth in Action](#) by Candace Dipsey, Jaime Joyce, Shay Maunz, Brian S. McGrath, Karena Phan, and Allison Singer, *Time for Kids*, 10/18/2019 (grades 4-5)

Middle and high school recommendations

- [This is Your Life on Climate Change](#) by Robinson Meyer, *The Atlantic*, 1/15/20 (grades 7-12)
- [As Rising Heat Bakes U.S. Cities, The Poor Often Feel It Most](#) by Meg Anderson and Sean McMinn, *NPR*, 9/3/19 (grades 8-12)
- [9 Teen Climate Activists Fighting for the Future of the Planet](#) by Marilyn La Jeunesse, *Teen Vogue*, 7/24/19 (grades 8-12)
- [How to Become an Activist](#) by Jamie Margolin, *Teen Vogue*, 4/20/20 (grades 8-12)
- King County climate action initiatives and opportunities for action (middle and high school)
 - King County [2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan Update](#)
 - [Climate change initiatives and programs](#) led by King County
 - [Climate change impacts in King County](#) and [Act on Climate Change: What you can do](#)
 - [Climate change graphics](#) – includes climate actions individuals and communities can take

2. Video recommendations

- [Climate change: Earth's giant game of Tetris](#) and [I'm only a kid, I can't do anything about climate change.... right?](#) (grades 3-5). The first video explains climate change and the second focuses on what kids can do no matter their age.
- [David and Greta in Conversation: The Planetary Crisis](#) (grades 4-12): This video includes perspectives of 17-year old Greta Thunberg and 94-year old Sir David Attenborough.

- [Facing Climate Change: Plateau Tribes](#) (high school and middle school): The Umatilla Tribe in northeastern Oregon faces the challenge of protecting natural and cultural resources in the face of a warming world.
 - [No One is Disposable](#) (middle and high school): A video from [Youth v. Apocalypse](#), a student-led network of youth climate activists working to lift the voices of youth, in particular youth of color, to fight for a livable climate and an equitable and sustainable world.
3. **Questions for students** that can be used with the reading or video recommendations
- When you think about climate change, what comes to mind?
 - Who do you think gets impacted by climate change? What might lead to some groups of people experiencing more impacts from climate change than others?
 - Are there facts you heard about climate change that you want to understand better?
 - What have you heard or learned that inspires you to take action on climate change?
 - What actions do you want to take?

Activities

1. **King County Green Schools [Sustainability Scavenger Hunt Challenge](#)** (all ages, although elementary school students may need to work with an adult): GooseChase is a virtual scavenger hunt played through the free GooseChase app on any Google or Apple device (such as mobile phone, Tablet, or Chromebook) via Google Play or the App Store. Players can work solo, with family members, or school teams to learn about sustainability and take action. Challenges for the GooseChase Sustainability Challenge will run through December 16.
2. **[Energy Bingo](#)** (grades 3-5): Play this game to teach students ways they can save energy at home.
3. **Carbon Footprint Calculator** (grades 4-12): Have students calculate their Carbon Footprint using either the basic or advanced version of the [International Student Carbon Footprint Challenge](#). The [Global Footprint Network](#) has a shorter ecological footprint calculator that includes a carbon footprint and can be used for younger students or when less time is available. Students can discuss actions to reduce their carbon footprint. This can be paired with discussion questions from an [energy footprint lesson plan](#).
4. **Youth Brainstorming Activity** (grades 3-12): Ask students to brainstorm actions they want to take in their communities to address climate change. Use the context articles and videos on p. 1 to invite students to learn about youth climate change leaders. For middle and high school students, we recommend the “How to become an activist” article.
5. **[Use Art to Engage](#)** (All grades): Check out lessons that connect student-made art and climate change. Lessons can be adapted by sharing links rather than printouts. Students can share art through online platforms. Also see [Visible Thinking to Guide Discussion about Climate Change](#).