



Hours of
Reality
COUNTDOWN TO THE FUTURE

Countdown to the Future: EDUCATORS

BECAUSE THE NEXT GENERATION IS IN YOUR HANDS

They call it teaching. Educators know it's the most important job on Earth.

Every day, educators work to prepare the incredible young people in our classrooms for the complex and challenging world waiting for them. To equip them with the knowledge and skills to take on the twenty-first century and thrive.

And today, this knowledge has to include the climate crisis that will shape their future. Young people deserve to know what's happening to our planet — and they need to know how we can solve it.

WHAT CAN EDUCATORS DO?

Talk to students and parents about the climate crisis that threatens us all. The good news is that you don't have to be a science teacher to start a climate conversation. All you have to do is tell a simple story. So simple, the basics are just nine words long:

We must change. We can change. We will change..

Below are a series of discussion points anyone can use to tell this story and help young people understand what's at stake and how together we can solve this crisis and create the just and sustainable future we want.

WE MUST CHANGE

- **We're facing a global climate crisis, thanks to fossil fuels.** Greenhouse gas emissions from oil, coal, and natural gas are causing temperatures to rise and creating stronger hurricanes, longer droughts, deadly heat-waves, and more across the planet.

- **Scientists agree it's us.** [Over 97 percent of climate scientists](#) agree that human activities like burning fossil fuels are driving this crisis.
- **We have to act quickly.** We're approaching a tipping point that will shape the future we give our children. [Scientists warn that unless we slash emissions by 2030](#), next generations will grow up in a world of disappearing opportunity as water grows scarce, wildfire season never ends, and rising seas swallow homes.
- **Children and deserve students a just and livable future.** Young people deserve the same chance we had — the chance to dream big, to fulfil their amazing potential in a future full of choices and opportunities.

WE CAN CHANGE

- **We don't need to wait for tomorrow — the tools to stop rising temperatures and create a just and livable future are in our hands today.**
- **With renewables like wind and solar, we can power our lives without destroying our planet.** Clean energy is affordable and abundant. [More energy from the sun's rays strikes the earth every hour than humanity uses in an entire year. Globally, wind could supply the Earth's electricity needs 40 times over.](#)
- **Making a just transition to renewables will create jobs — lots of them.** Experts project that the clean energy and efficiency transition will add [\\$26 trillion to the world economy and 65 million jobs through 2030](#). By making a just transition to clean energy, we create green careers with a future for our children and students, giving them the chance to realize their potential while supporting themselves and *their* families for years to come.
- **Making a just transition to renewables will create healthier communities.** Today, poor families and communities of color are so often



forced to drink contaminated water or breathe in toxic pollution from nearby power plants. By leaving fossil fuels behind, we give all families the chance at a healthy future.

WE WILL CHANGE

- **The world is with us.** Denial of the reality right outside our window has held us back, but that's changing. [Seven in 10 Americans support government action on climate.](#) [Eight in 10 EU citizens want more support for clean energy over fossil fuels.](#) Clear majorities worldwide see climate as *the top threat today*.
- **Young people see what's at stake for their future and are taking action.** Young people aren't waiting around for adults to speak up for them. In 2018, [the youth-led Zero Hour movement brought thousands of American teens to DC for the nation's first ever Youth Climate March.](#) Then in 2019, young people organized and inspired the Global Climate Strike that [brought millions into the street in cities and towns around the world to demand climate action now.](#)
- **Educators, students, and schools are leading the way on climate action.** Schools around the world are embracing sustainability and

practical climate solutions. In Miami, [over 300 schools partnered with the Miami Heat to reduce energy and water use](#), reducing their emissions by over 13 million pounds and saving over \$870,000 in energy and water costs over six years. In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the [Colegio Israelita Brasileiro A. Liessen school has made environmental responsibility a core value for all](#), with students and staff working together to build a green roof, create solar ovens, and more. The list goes on.

LEARN MORE

Request a digital presentation and discussion on the climate crisis and how we solve it as part of [24 Hours of Reality: Countdown to the Future](#) on October 10–11. Presentations are free and a great way for your students and fellow educators to learn about the crisis and hear about the practical solutions in our hands today.