Climate Activism

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YUAP: Youth United for Animals and the Planet
Why I’m here

• Climate change is happening now
• Changes are affecting all animals, including humans
• There are things we all can do to make a difference
• It’s up to our generation
• We need to get connected and work together as a community
POP QUIZ!
Question 1:

How many Javan Rhinos are there in the wild?
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How many Javan Rhinos are there in the wild?

Answer: 40-60

-Limited to two small populations on the island of Java.
-There are none in captivity.
Question 2:

What is the most endangered Xenarthra?
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What is the most endangered Xenarthra?

Answer: The Pygmy Three-Toed Sloth

- Only 6 sloth species are left
- Pygmy three-toed sloths are limited to a tiny island off of Panama
- Habitat destruction continues
Question 3:

How many Northern Bald Ibis are left in the wild?
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How many Northern Bald Ibis are left in the wild?

Answer: 200-250

Once wide-spread across Africa, the Middle East and Europe, pesticides and habitat loss have wiped out whole populations.
Question 4:

What percentage of coral reefs have been destroyed by climate change?
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What percentage of coral reefs have been destroyed by climate change?

Answer: More than 40%

- Coral reefs are second only to rainforests in terms of biodiversity.
- They cover 0.2% of ocean area but are home to 25% of marine species.
Question 5:

How many animal species go extinct every year?
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How many animal species go extinct every year?

Answer: More than 1,000.

-99% of endangered species are at-risk because of human activities.

-35% of all species are in danger now due to climate change.
So what is happening to our planet??
What is climate change?
Carbon in the atmosphere 1850-present

- RED LINE: Temperature
- BLUE LINE: PPM of Carbon
- GRAY: Total amount of Carbon Emissions

We are 405 PPM
If we know that carbon in the atmosphere causes climate disruption, then why are we still…

burning fossil fuels?
If we know that carbon in the atmosphere causes climate disruption, then why are we still…

building oil and gas pipelines?
If we know that carbon in the atmosphere causes climate disruption, then why are we still... eliminating environmental regulations?
If we know that carbon in the atmosphere causes climate disruption, then why are …

only two percent of the cars sold in the U.S. hybrids?
If we know that carbon in the atmosphere causes climate disruption, then why are we still...

getting less than ten percent of energy from renewable sources?
Why?
QUANTUM THEORY OF CLIMATE DENIAL

IT'S NOT HAPPENING

IT'S HAPPENING BUT IT'S NOT US

IT'S HAPPENING AND IT'S US BUT IT'S NOT BAD
How did we get here?

- Corporate Greed
- Fake Science
- Corporate Money in Politics
To make change, we have to work together!
It’s up to our generation!

• Become an activist
• Get off your phone
• Get educated
• Take action
• Work together
Climate action in the city

Living in the city, we don’t see:

• Melting ice caps
• Endangered species
• Deforestation
• Desertification
• Trash island in the Pacific
But climate change affects cities, too...
There’s a lot we can do:

• Air
• Water
• Power
• Wildlife
AIR: PROBLEM: Gas Leaks
AIR: ACTION: Gas Leaks
AIR: PROBLEM: Idling

• Idling is against the law.
• It pollutes the air.
• There are proven links between auto exhaust and certain cancers and respiratory diseases.
• Idling contributes to smog and global warming.
• It wastes fuel and costs money.
• It’s bad for your car’s engine.
• Your car doesn’t need to warm up. You warm it up when you drive.
AIR: ACTION: Idling

PLEASE
DO NOT IDLE YOUR CAR!
Idling puts carbon into the atmosphere. It is illegal to idle for more than 5 minutes.

I am fifteen years old and I live in Jamaica Plain. I know you care about the environment as much as I do. I want to be able to live on this planet when I get older. Please help by turning your car off.

Thank you!
AIR: PROBLEM: Transportation

• The transportation sector accounts for 30% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the United States

• We need cleaner fuels, fuel-efficient vehicles and electric vehicles.

• A gallon of gas leads to 19 pounds of greenhouse gases in the environment.
AIR: ACTION: Transportation

• “Get there greener!” Cities such as Seattle have pledged to cut emissions in half. We can do it, too!

• Walk, bike or take public transportation whenever possible.

• If you have to drive, make sure you car is as fuel efficient as possible.
WATER: PROBLEM: Hazardous Waste

• Every person in the U.S. produces 4 pounds of household hazardous waste each year.

• 40% of U.S. rivers and 46% of lakes are too polluted for swimming, fishing or aquatic life.

• 1.2 trillion gallons of untreated sewage, storm water and industrial waste are dumped into our water each year.

• Half of the world’s population lacks access to clean drinking water.
WATER: ACTION: Hazardous Waste

• Find out when your city offers toxic waste disposal and properly dispose of chemicals, batteries, etc.
• Check out Earth911.com for more info.
• Never pour chemicals down the sink.
• Educate others about hazardous waste disposal.
• Recycle – paper and plastic contain chemicals.
• Buy organic produce.
WATER: PROBLEM: Hazardous Waste

• Cooking grease is really hard to get out of water!
• Grease clogs drains and causes sewers to overflow. Grease causes 47% of sewer overflows.
WATER: ACTION: Hazardous Waste

• Pour cooking grease into a can and freeze it. Never pour it down the drain.

• Get the word out! Tell others not to dump grease.
WATER: PROBLEM: Industrial meat production

- Meat producers use chlorine, ammonia, carbon monoxide (to make the meat look red), nitrates, and other harmful chemicals.

- 80% of the antibiotics used in the U.S. go into meat.

- Animal food production is a larger contributor to greenhouse gas emissions than electricity generation or the transportation sector and uses nearly 70% of freshwater.
WATER: ACTION: Industrial meat production

• Consider observing “Meatless Mondays”.
• Reducing meat production by 15% would be like taking 240 million cars of the road.
• Choose hormone and antibiotic free meats.
• Avoid fast food! Fast food companies are responsible for most industrial meat production.
WATER: PROBLEM: Pollinators

• ¾ of food we eat relies on pollinators
• Without bees there is no chocolate or fruit!
• Colony Collapse Disorder is affecting bees worldwide, endangering many species.
• Climate change and chemical pesticides are causing bee populations to decline.
WATER: ACTION: Pollinators

• The Trump administration has removed honey bees from the endangered species list!

• Ask HomeDepot, Amazon and other stores to stop selling products containing neonics – made by Bayer, Montsanto and DuPont.

• Ask your legislator to support local and federal laws to ban chemicals that kill bees.
POWER: PROBLEM: Sources

United States

Global
POWER: ACTION: Sources

• Advocate for renewable energy
• Find out about aggregated net metering
• Ask your school, town, city to install and use renewables
• Support Massachusetts Bill HD 3357, which would make Massachusetts use 100% renewables by 2035.
POWER: PROBLEM: Conservation

• Household use accounts for 18% of all carbon emissions.

• The average person in Nigeria uses 74 kWh/year. The average person in the US uses 4,517.

• Heat and cooling systems, clothes dryers, fridge/freezers and TVs use the most electricity.

• Devices use 85% of the power they use when they’re on when they’re “off” or in stand-by mode.
POWER: ACTION: Conservation

• Schedule a home energy audit
• Switch to LED bulbs
• Unplug devices when not in use
• Use programmable thermostats
• Hang your clothes out to dry
• Turn your water heater down
• Put on a sweater instead of turning up the heat
POWER: ACTION: Conservation

Organize Power Down Friday at your school or workplace:
- Turn off the lights
- Turn down the heat or AC
- Unplug chargers and devices
ANIMAL CONSERVATION: Share the planet!

- Animals are paying the price for what humans do.
- There are 16,306 endangered species and 41,415 species on the IUCN “Red List”
- 78 million acres of rainforest are lost every year
- About 100 elephants are killed every day for their ivory tusks
ANIMAL CONSERVATION: Share the planet!

• Animals can help us remember how important it is to stop climate change.
• Animals far away are affected by things we do every day.
• Storms, floods, droughts and rising sea level hurt animals, not just people.
ANIMAL CONSERVATION: Zoos play a role

• Endangered animals live in your local zoo!
• Zoos work together to maintain the health of captive populations.
• Zoos educate the public about animal conservation.
• Zoos contribute to conservation projects around the world.
ANIMAL CONSERVATION: Support your zoo!

• Zoos are great places to get involved.
  • Visit
  • Volunteer
  • Advocate for funding
• Tell others about the work zoos are doing
• Support efforts to stop poaching
CHANGE IS POSSIBLE!

• We can all be part of a movement to save the planet.
• Young people are key leaders in this work – it’s up to us!
• Change happens at the local, state, federal and even international level.
• Getting educated is a key first step.
• Build a team! Don’t try to do it alone.
CHANGE IS POSSIBLE!

• Take climate action every day!
• Things we all do around our homes and communities add up.
• Big problems like climate change require big solutions. Getting involved makes us feel more hopeful.
BECOME A CLIMATE ACTIVIST!

• Identify an issue that’s important to you
• Find people you want to work with
• Make a plan
• Get started
• What’s your next step?
WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

• Recycle and compost
• Conserve water and use biodegradable soap
• Turn off the lights and turn down the heat and air conditioning when you leave the house
• Organize “Power Down Fridays” at your school
• Send a letter to your legislators asking them to support the bill to ban ivory sales in Massachusetts
• Send a letter to Home Depot and ask them to stop selling RoundUp because it kills bees
WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

• Plant a tree or a garden
• Walk, ride your bike or use public transportation
• Hang your clothes to dry instead of using a dryer
• Organize to stop gas leaks
• Consider becoming a vegetarian
• Encourage your school and family to participate in Meatless Mondays
• Form a Green Team at your school
• Talk to other people about climate change and animals
For more information and ideas contact:

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