



EDUCATOR'S TOOLKIT

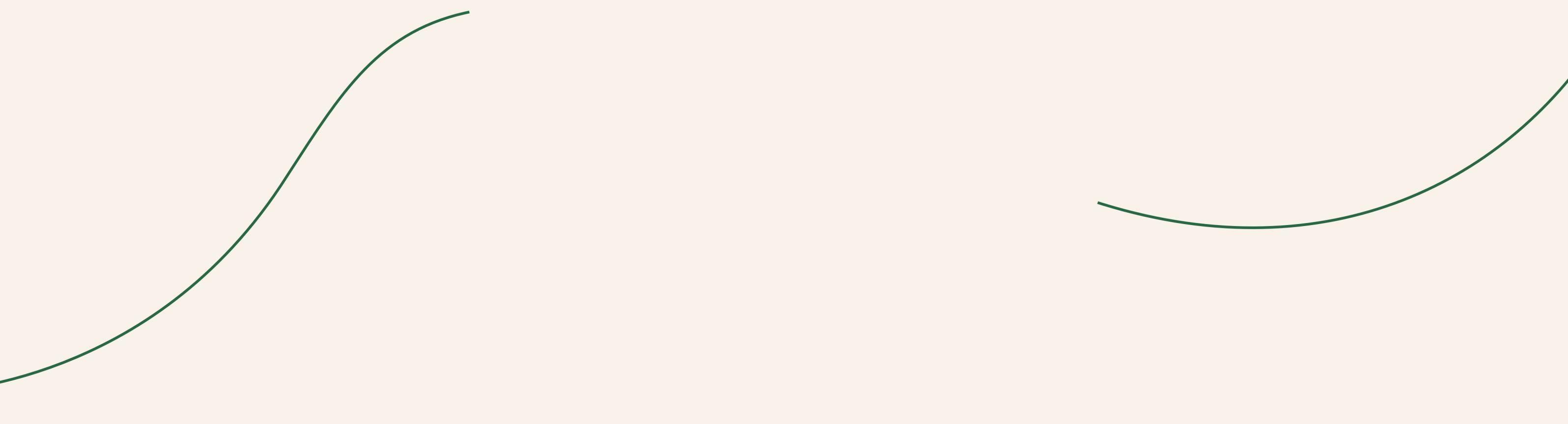
Educators for the Environment



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EDUCATOR'S TOOLKIT

Index

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CLIMATE ACTION IN PRACTICE

- ▶ **Use these curriculum/discussion guides** from Journeys in Film to teach students about the environmental crisis' impact on clean air, food resources, and the destruction of the Amazon: [River of Gold](#), [From The Ashes](#), and [The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind](#)
- ▶ **Explore kid-friendly material** at [NASA's Climate Kids](#) which talks about weather & climate, atmosphere, water, energy, and plants & animals. It is targeted toward upper-elementary-aged children.
- ▶ **Browse the Climate Literacy Dictionary** in our [Take Action Guide](#).
- ▶ **Incorporate real stories** from young people on the front lines of the climate crisis in your classroom. Visit [Alliance for Climate Education!](#)
- ▶ **Expand your own knowledge** of the climate crisis with these [online trainings](#) collected by 350.org. Subjects include:
 - Having Climate Conversations
 - Climate Change Science 101
 - Fracking
 - Divestment
- ▶ **Show TED-ED educational videos in your classroom.** It's a great educational channel offering videos on a variety of topics including renewable energy, recycling, plastic pollution and more!



CLIMATE ACTION IN PRACTICE

- ▶ **Introduce Little Green Books into your classroom library.** This series of picture books are made from recycled material and help teach younger kids to be more eco-friendly.
- ▶ **Teach your students to trust scientists and leading climate experts!** Start with introducing them to Bill Nye, the Science Guy, who helps explain causes of climate change, how it affects our planet and how each of us can contribute to a solution.
- ▶ **Use the IPCC Special Report: Summary for Teachers** to increase your climate knowledge as an educator & to explore some suggested classroom activities in helping share this knowledge with your students.
- ▶ **Work with the parents at your school** to ensure safe and lead-free drinking water for students. (NRDC)
- ▶ **Start a recycling program** & encourage your students to take part (Here are some opportunities to teach about recycling centers & plastic pollution!)
- ▶ **Start a garden!** (A great educational opportunity to teach about where our food comes from & why sustainable farming and eating are important)
- ▶ **Create “green teams” for your classroom:** Student jobs make cleaning up the classroom much easier - so use the last 5 minutes of class to power down computers, close the blinds, check faucets, and sort recycling.



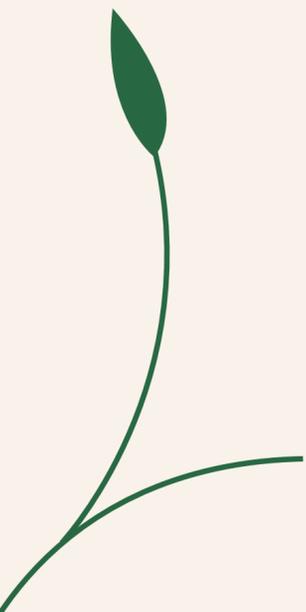
CLIMATE ACTION IN PRACTICE

- ▶ Feeling ambitious? **Collect scraps from your kids' lunches into a compost bin!**
(Another fun teaching opportunity)
- ▶ When safe, consider **using school "field trips" to visit places that will help educate your students about the environment.** (Meeting indigenous leaders, going to the recycling center or landfill, etc.)
- ▶ **Find and apply for grants** that offer financial support for green-school initiatives. These are some garden grants to get you started, but there are lots of other opportunities out there.
- ▶ **Rally for your school to go solar!**
- ▶ **Write an environmental mission statement** for your classroom.
- ▶ **Give out a "green award" to a student each month** (Reward with an incentive like getting to be the "line leader" or giving them their own small plant to take care of).
- ▶ **Create a "green check list" of actions that each student can do** for the month or specified time duration.



BOOKS TO READ IN YOUR CLASSROOM

- ▶ *The Lonely Polar Bear* by Khoa Le
- ▶ *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by Bryan Mealer and William Kamkwamba
- ▶ *The Magic School Bus and the Climate Challenge* by Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen
- ▶ *Don't Let Them Disappear* by Chelsea Clinton
- ▶ *Bee & Me* by Alison Jay
- ▶ *10 Things I Can Do To Help My World* by Melanie Walsh
- ▶ *The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle* by Alison Inches
- ▶ *George Saves the World By Lunchtime* by Jo Readman
- ▶ *The Earth Book* by Todd Parr (Ages 3-5)
- ▶ *Coral Kingdom* by Laura Knowles (Ages 3-6)
- ▶ *23 Ways to Be an Eco Hero* by Isabel Thomas (Ages 6+)
- ▶ *What a Waste* by Jess French
- ▶ *Youth to Power* by Jamie Margolin





FILMS TO SCREEN IN THE CLASSROOM

For Younger Kids:

- ▶ The Lorax
- ▶ Bill Nye the Science Guy
- ▶ Moana
- ▶ Ice Age: The Meltdown
- ▶ Our Planet (Netflix series)
- ▶ Happy Feet
- ▶ Over the Hedge
- ▶ Wall-E

For Older Kids:

- ▶ Dark Waters
- ▶ Gather
- ▶ Kiss the Ground
- ▶ The Day After Tomorrow
- ▶ An Inconvenient Truth
- ▶ Chasing Coral
- ▶ Erin Brockovich
- ▶ Poisoning Paradise
- ▶ Last Call at the Oasis
- ▶ Before The Flood
- ▶ Okja

- ▶ The Cove
- ▶ Racing Extinction
- ▶ The Human Element
- ▶ Years of Living Dangerously (NatGeo series)
- ▶ Sonic Sea
- ▶ Gorillas in the Mist
- ▶ War on Plastic Series (Start [here](#))
- ▶ I Am Greta



QUESTIONS TO ASK THAT ENCOURAGE CLIMATE LITERACY

For Younger Kids

1. Who in the classroom knows what climate change is?
2. Why should we care about our environment and the planet? How does climate change affect the planet? How do we feel about that?
3. Who recycles in their house? Do you know why it is good to recycle?
4. Does anyone bring a reusable water bottle to school? How does plastic connect to our oceans? Explain why.
5. Do you or your parents take public transportation to school/work? (A bus, a train, etc) - Explain why this is good for the planet. Use the example of carpooling with kids, to show how driving together is better for the planet.
6. What do you typically eat at home? Is anyone a vegetarian? Can you explain why someone would make that decision?
7. Do you know which foods and ingredients are native to your area? To learn more, explore CIAT's interactive, global map and read NPR's piece on the study.



QUESTIONS TO ASK THAT ENCOURAGE CLIMATE LITERACY

For Older Kids

1. What would you say is the most critical climate issue? Why?
2. What topic related to the climate and our environment are you most passionate about? Why?
3. What do you think are the greatest barriers to protecting our planet? Who do you think is responsible?
4. How could YOU better practice sustainable living in your everyday life?
5. Introduce an example of how climate change can intersect with ALL jobs and ALL lives (impacting our food, water, weather).
6. What can our families do to be more "green"? How can you bring up this conversation at home?
7. Can you explain what regenerative living is? (Or guess if not!) How can you apply regenerative thinking to various aspects of your life and our society?
8. What does intersectional environmentalism mean? How does this affect you?