

Climate Action Week – Event Organiser’s Guide

What is Climate Action Week?

Ireland’s first Climate Action Week will be running from October 16th - 20th and we want you to be a part of it! It’s for everyone. Climate Action Week is all about opening up the conversation on climate change in some way, whether you explore climate science, organise a school event, encourage others to take action, or all 3 if you’re really ambitious! Bonus! If you host a Climate Action Day it will count in your Green Flag Application as your action day!

Call for Climate Action!

This is our chance to put Ireland on the map and become a climate active country! Let’s not bury our heads in the sand. We are asking your school to lead the way by hosting a Climate Action Day during Ireland’s first Climate Action Week from October 16th-20th! Now more than ever before, we need you to show politicians that the youth of Ireland care about climate change, it’s real, it’s relevant and it requires action!



Stop Climate Chaos 'Heads in the Sand' stunt, Sandymount Strand, July 2015.

Ideas and Inspiration

There are so many different things you could do if hosting a Climate Action Day. Aim to have a nice mix of awareness raising and actual action. First and foremost, brainstorm with your students and colleagues. Why not collaborate with your Green-Schools Committee, Global Justice Group or Student Council? Here are some ideas from our new website www.climateambassador.ie to get you started:

Climate Conversation (& CAKE!)

Explore the topic of climate change together with some tea and cake – you don't need to be an expert to find out the basics! Use our **Climate Conversations Guide** to consider how climate change might affect you, your school and community, and more importantly, what you can do to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate.

Presentation

Put together a short presentation on climate change, climate science or climate actions – just make sure it's relatable and then show it to as many people as you can! Use our prezi on **Climate Science 101** for some fun facts and interesting infographics.

Movie screening

There are some fantastic films and documentaries out there that address the theme of climate change, so put the popcorn on and host an open screening! How about Naomi Klein's '**This Changes Everything**' (2015), Leonardo DiCaprio in '**Before the Flood**' (2016) or Al Gore's '**An Inconvenient Sequel**' (2017)?

Make a video/vine

There are tons of climate change videos on YouTube, but some of them are a bit on the boring side, so get the camera out and make a fun (and short!) video or vine series on climate change facts! Check out Minister Naughten's video; '**A Call for Climate Action**'!

Survey attitudes/awareness

One of the most valuable things you could do to help measure your actual impact, is an attitudinal or awareness survey before and after Climate Action Week – measure your school's baseline awareness/knowledge of or attitude towards climate change and then see if any change has occurred after CAW! Read our **Survey Suggestions** for some inspiration!

More Ideas!

- Run an art/poetry/story/sketch competition with the theme of climate change and then invite the community to an exhibition
- Host a Meatless Monday cooking demo
- Organise a Biodiversity walk/cycle
- Collaborate with a Clean Coasts or Tidy Towns group
- Run a Conscious Cup Campaign or Bring Bottle Business in your school
- Organise a Repair & Share skills fair
- Open a Swap Shop in school
- Start a Library of Things for people to borrow instead of buying
- Invite local experts to present an environmental talk, for example: Recycling, Composting, Upcycling, Gardening, Food waste, Rainwater harvesting, Renewable energy etc.
- Plant a Native tree trail
- Get involved in a Citizen Science project, locally or globally
- Audit your school's carbon footprint (climathon?!) and introduce a sustainable solution to reduce it
- Develop a disaster risk reduction plan to adapt your school to possible climate change effects, such as: Flooding, Snow, Drought, Heat wave etc.

Check out the **Climate Action Week Case Study** for even more ideas and an explanation of how to get started!

Contact our Climate Action Officers

Gráinne and Gary are here to help! Whether you're unsure of where to start, in need of some advice, or you simply want to share your school's fantastic ideas; we want to hear from you! Phone the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce on 01 400 2222 or email Gráinne gryan@eeu.antaisce.org and Gary gtyrrell@eeu.antaisce.org. Alternatively, just send us back the **Climate Action Tracker** included in this pack so we can record all of the wonderful things that happened during Ireland's first ever Climate Action Week!

Promoting your event

Climate communications are vitally important, not just to invite people to your event, but also to spread the message about what you are doing or have already done. You could inspire someone else to take climate action! It's not all about the day itself, to get the most out of what you are planning, you'll need to decide on which promotion techniques work best for you and your school. You could start with the poster template included in this pack, or even make your own! Your climate communications could also include a selection of the following:

- School assembly/announcement
- School magazine
- School website
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
 - #CAW #ClimateActionWeek
 - #ClimateAction #ClimateChange #Climate
 - #ClimateAmbassador #ClimateConversation #GreenSchoolsIre
 - #Everydayclimatechange #Uniting4Climate #Art4Climate #ActOnClimate
- Community/Parish newsletter
- Local newspaper
- Local radio

Invite your local politician

Politicians often visit schools in their constituency; why not invite your local Councillor, TD or even Minister? They are likely to listen to the voice of the next generation, whom climate change will affect most. If they attend your Climate Action Day, make sure you share your thoughts, plans and ideas on how Ireland can become a leader in climate action!

Getting press coverage

Local newspapers and radio stations love to hear from schools, plus it's a fantastic achievement and experience for you and your students. The more press coverage you get, the further your message will spread! When you're writing your letter of invitation to local politicians, be sure to let them know you're also contacting local press!

Climate Action Pledges

Ask everyone that attends your Climate Action Day to make a **Climate Action Pledge**! For individuals, this could be something really small like giving up plastic bottles or takeaway coffee cups...or something huge like going vegetarian! We've come up with a few suggestions for your school, which you can find in this pack, but why not make up your own too?!

10 Steps to a Fantastic Climate Action Week!

While every event and Climate Action Day is sure to be a bit different, we've put together a short checklist of the most important elements we could think of. We've also suggested dates, but feel free to write in your own!

Checklist	Task	Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	Put Climate Action Week on your school's calendar!	Monday 2 nd October
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brainstorm ideas for your school's Climate Action Day	Tuesday 3 rd October
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact our Climate Action Officers	Wednesday 4 th October
<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote your event	9 th – 13 th October
<input type="checkbox"/>	Invite your local politician	Monday 9 th October
<input type="checkbox"/>	Host a fantastic Climate Action Day!	16 th – 20 th October
<input type="checkbox"/>	Count how many people take a Climate Action Pledge	16 th – 20 th October
<input type="checkbox"/>	Try to get some press coverage	16 th – 20 th October
<input type="checkbox"/>	Send us back the Climate Action Tracker	Monday 23 rd October
<input type="checkbox"/>	Celebrate your success!	Friday 27 th October