



Waltham Forest Climate Summit – All You Need to Know

How schools can make the most of this week

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1) The motivations for the Waltham Forest Climate Summit

London Borough of Waltham Forest is putting young people at the heart of the response to the Climate Emergency.

The Waltham Forest Climate Summit is a week-long programme of keynote speaker videos, resources and local learning opportunities. It will provide teachers with wide ranging ideas to bring the environmental and social themes into lessons or cross-curricular activities and provide tools for embedding climate and environmental education into all aspects of school life.

It is open for all schools, colleges and other learning provision in the borough but as it is predominantly online it is accessible for families, other organisations and learners from outside of the borough.

The Waltham Forest Climate Summit is taking place now because:

- Latest research shows that to minimise the impacts of the climate crisis urgent action is required everywhere; personally, in schools, our community and globally.
- It coincides with COP26, a unique moment for shining a light on the need for wealthy countries like the United Kingdom to commit to making challenging changes.

Watch [this call to action for Climate Education by Kevin Courtney, joint General Secretary of the NEU](#) (4mins)

2) What is COP26?

COP stands for Conference of the Parties and will be attended by over 200 countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - a treaty agreed in 1994. The UK is hosting the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November, 21.

The COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

What does the Paris agreement say?

It says nations must:

- Reduce the amount of harmful greenhouse gasses produced and increase renewable types of energy like wind, solar and wave power
- Keep global temperature increase "well below" 2C (3.6F) and to try to limit it to 1.5C
- Review progress made on the agreement every five years
- Spend \$100 billion dollars a year in climate finance to help poorer countries by 2020, with a commitment to further finance in the future.

Image source: [Newsround article](#)

These links provide a useful **summary** about COP26:

- Student friendly article by Newsround, [Climate Change: What is COP26 and Why is it Happening in Glasgow in 2021](#)
- [Understanding COP26](#) by the COP26 Coalition of civil society organisations
- [COP26 Explained](#) – an in-depth guide to what COP26 is aiming to achieve from the official UK COP26 committee.

Try these two short films for some inspiration showing that change is possible and positive:

- [What if?](#) – 10 years after The Age of Stupid this film is set in a parallel universe (9mins)
- [Can we transform the world in 12 years?](#) – From BBC Ideas, examples of rapid change (5mins)

3) Waltham Forest Climate Summit content and how to take part

If you haven't registered yet please take 3 minutes to [complete this form](#).

The Waltham Forest Climate Summit has been planned with support of a Teacher Advisory Panel and a Youth Advisory Panel to make sure it is as relevant, useful and accessible as possible. Each day has a theme to help organise the resources and to link to Daily Actions with relevant learning opportunities, **but any online content can be used on any day during the Summit week or beyond.**

[Click here for a summary of the programme and keynote films](#)

[Visit the Suntrap Climate Summit webpage for information on the themes.](#)

Link to a pdf of the full programme coming soon.

Each day of the Summit includes:

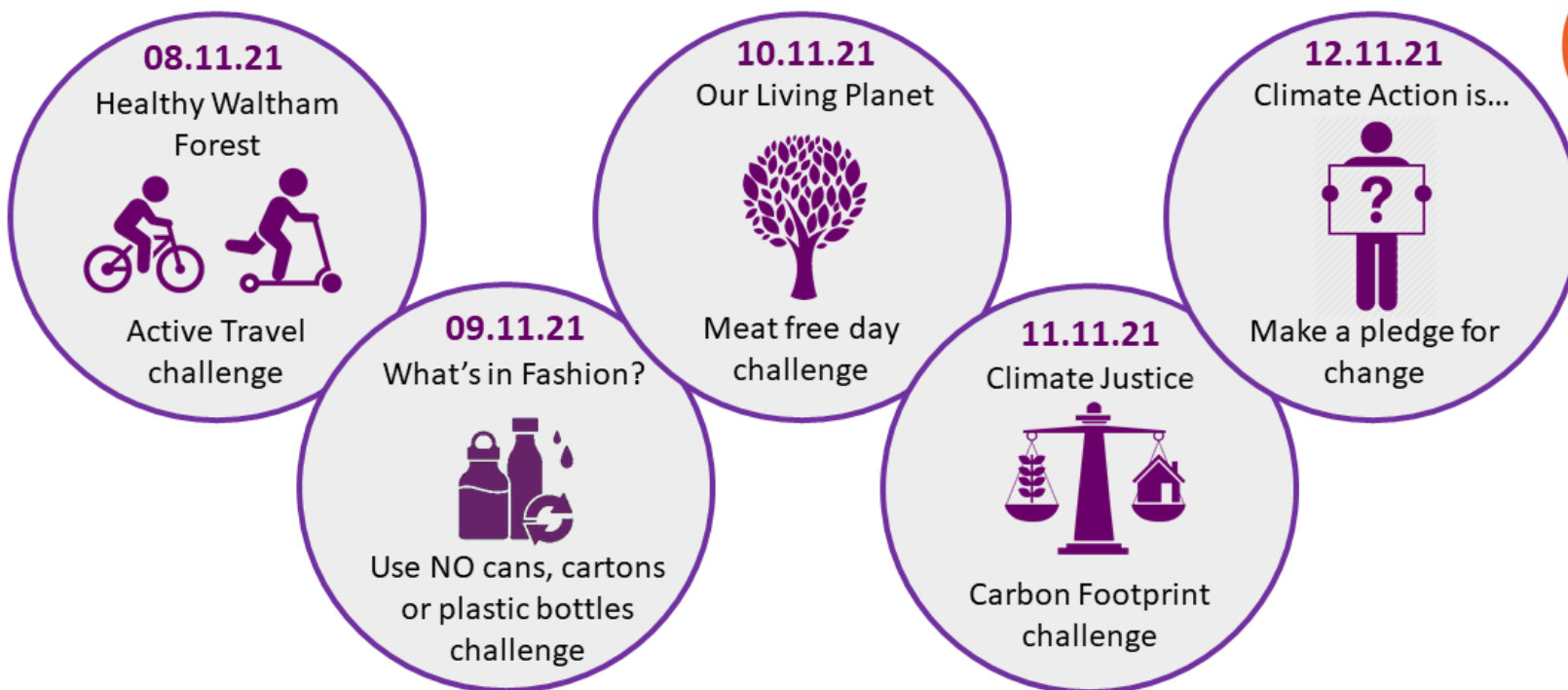
- A Daily Action for all ages. Can your students do all five to complete the [Climate Action Challenge](#)?
 - An accompanying information sheet includes longer term, whole school actions and mental health and well-being ideas – [see the Healthy Waltham Forest Action sheet here](#)
- A primary school Keynote Video with learning ideas – [see Day 3's keynote ideas here](#)
- A secondary school Keynote Video with learning ideas - [see Day 2's keynote ideas here](#)
- Free lesson plans, tool kits and other quality resources provided by other organisations
 - These will be organised by KS1 & KS2, KS3 & KS4, Post 16 and include lots on interesting reading and podcasts for all school staff
- A live, online twilight CPD session for teachers and school staff (except on Friday 12 November 2021) – [read more and register here](#)

Some themed days will include additional ideas for families and inspiration such as podcasts and book recommendations for all ages.

a) Climate Summit themes and actions at a glance

Waltham Forest Climate Summit

Monday 8 – Friday 12 November



| | Monday 8 November | Tuesday 9 November | Wednesday 10 November | Thursday 11 November | Friday 12 November |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| Theme | Healthy Waltham Forest – air, water, travel | What's in Fashion? - fashion, consumption, waste | Our Living Planet – food and nature | Climate Justice – Think global, act local | Climate Action is... |
| Daily Action | Active travel – walk or cycle to school | Use NO cans, cartons, glass or plastic bottles | Meat free day | Calculate your carbon footprint | Make a pledge for change |
| Primary school keynote film | Students from two local Primary Schools talk about air quality and what the School Streets initiative means for them. | Artists from Chingford Plaster Works share why they care so much about reusing waste materials and how they do it in fun, creative ways | Local ecologist and author Michael Holland helps us look at the natural world around us in new and surprising ways. Did you eat sunshine for breakfast? | Young Ugandan's from SALVE International share what they think about the climate crisis and why they run a monthly Inequality Debate with young people around the world | Students at Barncroft Primary school taking part in OrganicLea's Green Influencer Project tell us all about their actions for reducing the school's climate impacts. |
| Secondary schools & colleges keynote film | A young climate activist talks about why they care about the climate and how cycling makes a difference while at the same time enjoyable. | Founder of Leyton based Trashion Factory explains what inspired her to start a business that gives clothes a second life and what is the circular economy | Food waste saving app Too Good To Go explains just why food waste is such a major climate and biodiversity issue as well as being hugely unjust. | Global Majority v. the Government - tbc | Serena Bashal from Chingford discusses her experience of being part of the youth delegation to COP26 and making climate action her career. |
| Teacher/school staff twilight CPD session | Running a People's Assembly with students. How to include your whole school in creating a School Climate Action Charter. Led by LBWF Climate Action Outreach Coordinators | Zero Carbon Schools An introduction to this curriculum based programme run by Waltham Forest based social enterprise, Green Schools Project. | How to Become an Eco-School in Waltham Forest. LBWF are supporting schools to take part in the nation Eco-Schools programme. Join this session to find out how. | Getting climate change into the curriculum and schools mindset. Hear from teachers who are involved in campaigns to get climate change education the attention it needs. | No Friday session More details and registration for all CPD sessions here |

[Click here for Climate Summit day by day activities from Barn Croft Primary School](#) for ideas on how to tailor the programme to your school.

Free, in-person lessons

- Suntrap Forest Centre is offering free outreach sessions as part of the Climate Summit week
- Chingford Plasterworks is running workshops from their pop-up shop in Chingford

Booking in advance is essential

Your school can take part however it wants but here are some ideas to get your started:

- Tell your students about the Climate Summit, daily themes and week-long Climate Action Challenge before the week.
 - Art and design students could make a sign per day/ theme to go up in reception to remind people and share knowledge about that issue.

Download and adapt these assembly slides for your school

- [Download KS1 assembly slides](#)
 - [Download KS2 assembly slides](#)
 - [Download secondary school assembly slides](#)
-
- Discuss the Climate Summit in a teacher's meeting and make sure every student gets at least one lesson that includes knowledge about the climate crisis and what we can do about it.
 - There are options for every subject teacher to make connections to climate and sustainability.
 - Engage the different clubs and teams in the school. It doesn't have to be just the eco-club that takes action. Talk to the sports teams about what they could do?
 - Arrange for the keynote films to be shown in assembly or form time. The films and accompanying pdfs [will all be available here](#) by Monday 1 November.
 - A group of students could design how to creatively communicate with the rest of the school on the lessons and actions take place during the Climate Summit week.
 - More information below about making and sharing [individual pledges](#) and a [School Climate Action Charter](#).
 - Inform families and the wider community why your school is taking part in the Waltham Forest Climate Summit, after all everyone can take part in the Climate Action Challenge

Climate Action is...

...educating

...vital

...creative

...fun

...asking big questions

...supporting eco-anxiety resilience

...changing habits

The theme of the final day of the Climate Summit is 'Climate Action is...'.

This is to broaden the understanding of what the climate emergency challenge is as well as how we can all respond. Climate Action needs to take place in every possible way, from personal choices to international policies.

People are much more motivated to act if it is through doing something that appeals and resonates for them so have the conversation and discover what your student's climate action is.

Many issues are linked; while healthy eating or litter picking aren't directly connected to carbon emissions you can easily map how if addressed, they can to overall lower impact lifestyles and improving biodiversity.

Climate conversations can be difficult – Check out the [Force of Nature podcast](#) or the [Climate Psychology Alliance](#) for lots of support understanding eco-anxiety.

4) The Climate Action Challenge

Complete each Daily Action during the Climate Summit week to achieve the Climate Action Challenge.

To reward students' efforts, from all the classes that complete the Challenge and make Pledges, one Primary School class and one Secondary School class will be selected to have a free educational visit from the Suntrap Team and their reptiles.

It is a personal challenge so an important part of it is setting goals which are a bit of a challenge. On each Daily Action information sheet are ideas for how you and your students could challenge themselves a bit more if the suggested Action is easy.

- Encourage older students to write their own challenges

This is an individual challenge but it is much more fun, and even better for the climate if we all get other people to do it too.

Many people find talking to others about important issues a bit intimidating

- Getting someone else you know to do some of the Daily Actions could be part of your personal challenge.

IMPORTANT: To celebrate how many people complete the Daily Actions and how people personalise their Climate Action Challenge we have an online form. **Please enable your students to share their actions through an online form in class time.**

They can also share actions and pledges on social media if the school allows (see Climate Action Pledges section).

KS1 and Lower KS2 – [Share your challenge success & pledge as a whole class](#)

Upper KS2 and above - [Share your challenge success & pledge individually](#)

5) Individual Climate Action Pledges and how to share them

Make a pledge to show your commitment to tackling the climate emergency during COP26.

The Daily Action for the final day of the Climate Summit is to make a Climate Action pledge. A pledge is a formal promise or commitment. By announcing it out loud or by writing it and putting their name on it people are more likely to feel compelled to keep their pledge. This interesting video titled [The Science of Persuasion](#) explains how, (6 mins in from the start).

Example Climate Action pledges:

- *I pledge to have a healthier, more environmentally friendly diet by having three meat free days a week for a year.*
- *We / Class xxx pledge(s) to grow two different vegetables that we can eat in Spring and Summer term*
- *I pledge to lower my carbon footprint by buying less fast fashion items and learning new skills to customise clothes from the charity shop.*

Check back soon for videos of pledges from South Grove Primary School students and Chingford Foundation Secondary School students.

Help students make a pledge that is about real climate action and that is achievable by asking:

- **What subject that you've learnt about this week is it helping?**
 - Related it back to any of the daily themes or other lessons they've done.
 - In the online form for sharing pledges they will be asked to select up to 3 hashtags, i.e. #fashion, #repair, #waste reduction
- **How long do you think you can do this for?**
 - Whether it is one week or forever, putting a time frame on it helps people think about a pledge more realistically.
- **How do you think sticking to this pledge is going to make you feel?**
 - If this answer isn't a positive one, it's best to help them think of something different!

Spread the word and inspire others:

The pledges are submitted on the same online form as the challenges. Waltham Forest Council will display some of these pledges anonymously around the borough to inspire other people. We will also make infographics after the Climate Summit to display the collective efforts and intentions of students, schools and colleges.

KS1 and Lower KS2 – [Share your challenge success & pledge as a whole class](#)

Upper KS2 and above - [Share your challenge success & pledge individually](#)

#WF4ClimateAction

If your school uses social media or the students are allowed to, please share pledges and any other climate commitments via:

- @wfcouncil (twitter)
- @SuntrapCentre (twitter)
- @Suntrapforestcentre (Instagram)
- @lbwalthamforest (Instagram)

Make a Climate Action display:

A display of individual and/or class pledges in a shared space at school it can remind students and staff of their commitments and reinforce the learning from the Climate Summit lessons.

You can display pledges grouped by the key issues they are addressing



Mapping connections between pledges helps to show none of these issues exist in isolation



This mapping method can also be used to highlight all the climate, environment and sustainability related lessons and activities the school or college is undertaking.



6) Making a School Climate Action Charter

Turn individual intentions into a whole school commitment to climate learning and action.

Drawing together all of the informed and positive intentions of the pledges can help your school take the next big step towards making climate learning and action more central to your school's vision and practice. A student-led Climate Action Charter is a great way to do this.

Below is one framework for how to collaboratively write this charter, but there are many ways of going about it.

EXAMPLES: Check out the [Camden Schools Climate Charter](#) and a [Charter for Trees, Woods and People](#) for inspiration.

Step 1: In classes or year groups organise everyone's pledges can be organised by:

- Themes/ issues being addressed, i.e. air pollution, food waste, justice/equity

Make a mind map with THEMES written in the middle

OR

- Types of action being taken, i.e. learning new skills, creative communication, responsible citizen

Make a mind map with CLIMATE ACTION IS... written in the middle

Step 2: An eco-committee, or similar group, can use the headings on the mindmaps to come up with some whole-school goals.

- Encourage them to think about what is achievable in the short term, sustainable in the medium term and ambitious long term.
- Who needs to take action to achieve the goal
- Does it need a target number or date
- You could suggest other sub-heading to guide the students to think about different areas of school life such as:
 - Curriculum, campus, community
 - Carbon savings, Caring culture, Green skills & careers

Step 3: Organise a discussion or People's Assembly so other students can have their say on the whole-school goals the eco-committee comes up with.

- There will be a twilight CPD session on running a People's Assembly with students on Monday 8 November, 4 – 5pm

Step 4: Share the proposed School Climate Charter with the school leadership and Governors.

- Perhaps they can add some more ambitious ideas
- It is important to get the leadership to agree and sign it

Step 5: Make sure everyone knows about it

- Art or design students can communicate it visually.

Monday 8/11/21 Day 1 'Healthy Waltham Forest'

We are encouraging all pupils to walk, bike or scoot to school. During registration Year 4 will collect them to create graphs.

Children will do the Daily Mile or Take 5 at some point in the day. Take 5 just involves playing some music and the teacher modelling some exercises to it at the front and pupils copy.

Tuesday 9/11/21 Day 2 'What's in Fashion?'

All year groups will design a fashion item using recyclable materials such as plastics, paper etc.

Wednesday 10/11/21 Day 3 'Our Living Planet'

The whole borough is enjoying a meat free school lunch. Children will watch a video by local author and ecologist Michael Holland about plants and their uses. They will then investigate the plants in their environment.

Thursday 11/11/21 Day 4 ' Climate Justice'

Encourage pupils to sit with their families and work out their carbon footprint and bring in the results. Creating posters themed around reducing, recycling and reusing.

Friday 12/11/21 Day 5 'Personal Pledges'

Hopefully a video of Yr 5 & 6 will be shown at the summit showing their pledge to tackle food waste at Barn Croft and what they have done so far.