

# What climate Change Means to Me

Student  
Presentations

## What to choose

I pace around the house – room to room– 30 years of fashioning – all the things Jenny & I have gathered. I grab frames of photos. How do you choose what to bring away from our lovely house?

Our family said we paid too much for the house but we loved it at first sight, set at the edge of a beautiful forest. We were young and idealistic, we wanted to live near nature and enjoy all its natural beauty – we didn't mind working for it.

We had a good life in it – going for walks and treks in the forest and the great birthday parties for the kids – oh my God the photos and videos .... I race upstairs and start searching for them. Where does Jenny store them?

Sydney fire service issued a Medium alert for our area this morning – the bush fire is heading this direction – some miles off. We could be graded to Emergency alert later in the day. Advised to pack and prepare for evacuation. I called Jenny. “Come quickly – don't panic – drive carefully”. Trying to stay calm, stay in control.

I rush around the house – picking things up and dropping them again. What can you fit into 2 cars – your life possessions? Jenny arrives sobbing and rushes into my arms. “Oh Mike” – she says “What are we going to do”. “We need to be quick now”, I say “ but stay in control and make good choices

**Dia dhaoibh a chairde. Is daltaí muid ó Mheánscoil Gharman in Inis Córthaidh and** we are 'The Bin Debunkers'. Our initiative is to raise awareness on how we should dispose of our everyday waste in schools and in the home. We want to save our nation from contamination.

**As Greta Thunberg once said, “No one is too small to make a difference”. We have set out to debunk all the recycling and composting myths, save energy and give life to old materials.**

We decided to spray-paint our school bins a different color. We have a whole school color scheme for waste management; Green for Recycling, black for the compost bins and red for waste. **We monitor the bins on a regular basis and inform the class teachers if their class is failing to comply.**

We have spoken at school assemblies<sup>1</sup> and squeezed in an educational performance at our school Christmas concert.

We also have an active composting system on site. Some of the compost feeds our red tiger wormery and the the rest is used in the school's polytunnel.

**We are going to meet the local primary school students to spread our word to the younger generation. We also hope to speak on our local radio and hopefully TG4 soon.**

We are creating habits that we will carry out throughout our lives. It's time to spread the good news.

**And remember, when you say you are throwing it out, there is NO out.**

Be trashy, compost and recycle as if your life depended on it.

Dia Dhaoibh ar maidin. We are two transition year students from Meánscoil Gharman. My name is Matilda Ní Mhaonaigh and this is Emily Ní Shionóid. We are currently working to promote some of the Sustainable Development Goals in our school and in our community as part of our science and art classes.

We are collaborating with Irene Cadigan and the Enniscorthy Sustainable Town Project Initiative to deepen our understanding of the current environmental issues in our area and to develop a more sustainable future for everyone.

We are designing a story map. Esri **Story Maps** let you combine **maps** with text, images, and multimedia content. They make it easy to harness the power of **maps** and geography to tell our **story**. We plan on teaching our story of sustainability in Enniscorthy on a national and European level by the end of 2020.

We want to improve our area and also develop a sustainable model to inspire other schools and areas around Ireland to follow suit. You can follow our story by following the Enniscorthy Sustainable Town Project on Facebook.

Are we there yet? We are on a journey to create a more sustainable future. The question is 'Are you with us'? As we quote from the masterpiece that is Mean Girls "Get in Loser" we're going to save the world.

The reason I care about the climate crisis isn't because my homeplace is going to be immediately affected by climate change - it's because other places will be, and eventually I will be too.

It is immoral for some humans to stand by while other humans are at risk. The Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean, for example, will be underwater by 2030 if global temperatures rise by more than 2 degrees

-jane

Ellen Curran , Presentation School , Wexford

To me climate change is a crisis that needs to be dealt with now.

I am only 15, yet I'm fearful for my future and that of my children, which shouldn't be the case.

I feel a huge burden resting on my shoulders to make a drastic change to my own life, so this is why I cannot comprehend why so many of my fellow human beings don't feel the same fear and pressure that I feel every day to make a difference.

Sarah – Presentation School Wexford

Climate change is natural. It happens all the time. But the extreme changes over the past few years are unheard of, unnatural and soon will be unstoppable . Hurricanes, floods, tropical storms and record heat are just the beginning.

I'm a teenage girl. I should not be fearing for my future, and the futures of my descendants. I should not be horrified when I see the reports on the news of floods destroying towns and lives, wildfires caused by intense heat tearing regions apart, species being wiped off the face of this Earth and ice caps crumbling into the rising sea. This is the possibly the biggest challenge my generation will face. It will dictate the lives of generations to come.

To quote Greta Thunberg, “We are in the beginning of a mass extinction and all (leaders) can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth.”

Jody Boyle, Presentation School, Wexford

Climate change, to me at least, means the end of the world. I know that sounds dramatic, but it is the end as we know it. The areas we always saw as cold are turning hot.

It terrifies me to think that in a hundred years the world will look so different - my children won't know the same world I do.

I don't want that to happen, human beings aren't angels, but we have proven time and time again that we are a resilient, close knit bunch, who will face any challenge head on. This challenge though - we are burying our head in the sand. Why? We are scared. It is the biggest issue our species has ever known and it is frightening.

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But if we all work together, we can overcome it, it will just take the right people to listen and the right mindset to take action.



Ella

I believe we are all stewards of the land. We do not own it we merely mind it for our short stay on this planet.

It is of my opinion that we must care for our home. If we can all make one small change for the better the difference will be immense.