

CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS: TOP TIPS

We talk to friends and family about the things we care about, so many of us will want to talk with them about climate change. However, we know bringing up climate change can sometimes be daunting.

To help make having those conversations easier, try following Climate Outreach's principles of **REAL TALK**:

Respect your conversational partner and find common ground

Find out what you have in common with the person you are talking to and show them that you respect their concerns, priorities and values. Many people feel blamed and judged when they talk about climate change, which is likely to make them defensive or withdraw from the conversation.

Enjoy the conversation

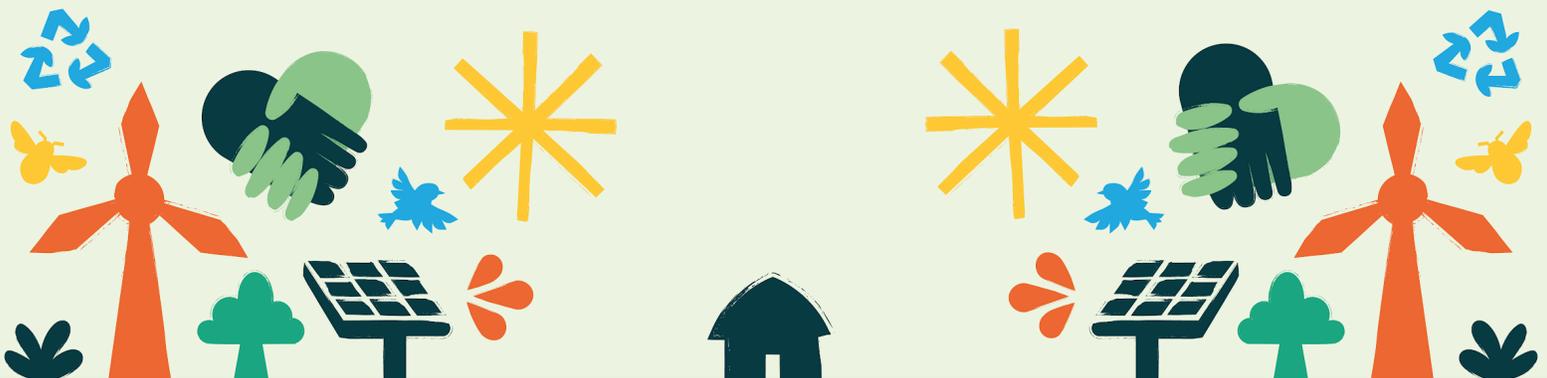
If you enjoy yourself, you are far more likely to be authentically engaged with, and connected to, the person you are talking to - and they are more likely to feel positive about the conversation too.

Ask questions

Rather than lecturing your conversational partner about your views, ask about what climate change means to them. Give them the space to reflect on their own experiences and views on the issue.

Listen, and show you've heard

Stop talking! Concentrate on genuinely listening to what the other person is really trying to say - and take the initiative to check you've understood them correctly.



Tell your story

You don't need to know everything about climate science to talk about climate change. Your climate change story - how you became engaged in the issue and why it concerns you - is one of the most powerful communication tools available to you.

Action makes it easier, but doesn't fix it

Taking some kind of action on climate change can make conversations easier to start - and make it feel less overwhelming. People make decisions about their behaviour partly based on what others they respect and trust are doing, so your actions will influence others. You may still struggle with the size of the problem, and it can help to acknowledge that in your conversation.

Learn from the conversation

See the experience as a way to learn about how others think about climate change, about the topic itself - and about how to have a good conversation. Every climate exchange is a small experiment!

Keep going and keep connected

Every climate change conversation you have is valuable. Keep having them, and find opportunities to connect with the many other like-minded people around the world who are also now talking about, and taking action on, climate change.

*This advice was taken from **Climate Outreach's "Talking Climate Handbook"**. If you would like more information, you can access the full handbook [here](#).*

