

## CREATIVE AND HANDS-ON SDG EDUCATION

### Engaging students in COP26 in Glasgow

The Fondazione AEM, in partnership with the World Access to Modern Energy (WAME) project, is inviting teachers and students (12-16 years of age) to learn more about the COP26 taking place in Glasgow from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021 as well as encourage them to take part in the action needed to protect our common home – planet earth.

For 25 years world leaders have met annually to attempt to tackle one of the biggest challenges facing mankind – climate change.

While nation states are the official members of these annual meetings, absolutely everyone are affected by climate change and if we are to succeed in this enormous challenge, then we must all take responsibility for our actions. The young generation will be greatly affected by the decisions, or lack of them, taken in Glasgow, and as such they have a right to be heard. However, they are also the trend-setters of the future and as such carry a responsibility in making sure these are sustainable. While it is reasonable to ask our politicians to take the decisions needed to protect our future, we must also walk the talk ourselves.

This activity can be organized as an extra-curricular activity, or as part of the national curriculum. Engagement in this project requires a minimum engagement of four lessons and access to the internet. The project tools and engagements are available in English or Italian.

### Why is COP important for our Planet?

#### STEP 1 – [Watch the documentary “Breaking Boundaries - the science of our planet” by Sir David Attenborough and Johan Rockstrom on Netflix](#)<sup>1</sup>

Featuring Sir David Attenborough and Professor Johan Rockström – this documentary explores the science behind the devastating impact humanity has had on Earth since the dawn of civilization, revealing an urgent truth about the health of our planet. The film details just how far we’ve pushed Earth beyond the boundaries that have kept our planet stable for millennia, and what steps need to be taken to turn things around.

At the core of Breaking Boundaries lies a key message of action: stay innovative, cooperate, and make the next decade one that safeguards the future of our planet. The science is clear on what humanity needs to do. Only when we listen to these facts – and pay attention to the undeniable urgency – can we create a future where nature and people thrive.

**Activity:** *Ask the students how they feel after watching this documentary. Ask them to reflect on what they can do in their everyday to take action and help fight climate change.*

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.netflix.com/watch/81336476?trackId=13752289&tctx=0%2C0%2C78a077c4bf71df7b5ec5008525ca5d7f975c8087%3Ad4a929f5d16fde3bb4c9b4d1c26c6d54ff69c566%2C78a077c4bf71df7b5ec5008525ca5d7f975c8087%3Ad4a929f5d16fde3bb4c9b4d1c26c6d54ff69c566%2Cunknown%2C>

## STEP 2 – Understanding the Paris Agreement and why COP 26 is so important

Watch the WWF short explanation of the Paris Agreement<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-4F5MJEeqs>

The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC) was established at the first Rio Earth Summit in 1992. The UNFCCC has 197 “parties” (196 states and 1 regional organization) to the Convention. The Parties to the Convention meet every year at the Conference of the Parties (COP). The meeting of the UNFCCC in Glasgow in November 2021 will be the 26<sup>th</sup> COP – therefore called COP26.

The UNFCCC establishes agreements between the Parties to act on climate change. The first agreement was the **Kyoto Protocols**, which set binding emission reduction targets for 36 industrialised countries and the European Union (first phase running from 2008-2012 and second phase from 2012-2020).

The 2015, the COP21 in Paris closed with the adoption of the **Paris Agreement**: a new global accord on tackling climate change. The Paris Agreement, is distinctly different from the Kyoto Protocols, as it calls for action from all signatory parties and not just the industrialised nations. The Paris Agreement includes mitigation efforts (cutting green house gas emissions), adaptation efforts (responding to the impacts of climate change), loss and damage (response to climate catastrophe), and it also agreed that wealthier nations should provide finance and technology to help poor and vulnerable countries to take action.

The Paris Agreement works on a **5-year cycle of increasingly ambitious climate action** carried out by the parties. By COP26, parties are requested to submit their first updated pledges for climate action known as **Nationally Determined Contributions** (NDCs). Many parties, including the European Union, the United Kingdom, Norway and many other have already submitted their revised NDCs.

The UNFCCC takes scientific guidance from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC), who present their Assessment Reports (AR) every five years, with the most recent AR6 published in August 2021. The IPCC also produced a special report on keeping global temperature rise to 1.5C in 2018. Recommendations for a global ‘net zero’ emissions target by 2050 are underlined in both reports.

## STEP 3 Ask the students to complete the Energy and Climate Interactive Worksheet

Depending on the age-group undertake one of the following activities

10-14 year old - Click [HERE](#)<sup>3</sup>

14-16 year old - Click [HERE](#)<sup>4</sup>

These worksheets have been designed to be completed independently by students at home or in school. Internet access is needed to complete the worksheet. The worksheet has to be downloaded and saved, then the student can include answers in the relevant areas, when worksheet has been completed it must be saved again and submitted to the teacher.

**Activity Lesson 1:** Ask the students to prepare a short presentation of the findings they explored in their interview and to highlight what they consider the most urgent issue for the leaders at COP26 to address.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-4F5MJEeqs>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.wame2030.org/lessons/19/interactive-worksheet-series-energy-and-climate-change-10-14-year-olds-in-english>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.wame2030.org/lessons/21/interactive-worksheet-series-energy-and-climate-change-14-16-year-olds-in-english>

## STEP 4 [Energy Messages – Having your say at COP 26](https://www.energyportraits.org/energy-messages)

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Energy Messages provides an opportunity for students all over the world to share their concerns, ideas and solutions with the public at large during COP26. From 1<sup>st</sup> September till 15<sup>th</sup> November WAME will collect messages from students and these will be shared on our social media channels during COP26 in Glasgow.

The aim of the project is to give students a safe place to express their voice and a place where they feel they stand together with their peers in other parts of the world. The decisions and commitments made by the politicians will have an important impact on the quality of life for future generations, as such they carry a huge responsibility. As the impact of the decisions made today will have such significant implications on future generations it is only fair that they are listened to as part of this process.

While the youth must be listened to, they must also take responsibility for their own action. Therefore, we invite students to make their own commitments towards climate actions. They can become more sustainable consumers, they can become more sustainable travelers, and they can choose future studies and careers that contribute to a more sustainable future.

**Activity:** *Ask the students what they think are the main tasks for the politicians at Glasgow. Then ask them how they think they can personally contribute towards a more sustainable future for all. Examine the various responses and submit the key messages online (assignment to be completed individually at home or as an open class activity with group discussions).*

## HOW TO JOIN THIS INITIATIVE?

During the month of **September and October 2021**, we encourage teachers to engage in the lesson plan outline here and to encourage their students to submit Energy Messages which we will collect and display on our social media during COP26 – LET’S GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE DURING COP26!<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.energyportraits.org/energy-messages>