



**FAMILIES
FOR A
FUTURE**

TIPS & ACTION STEPS

TALKING #FORAFUTURE

ACTION STEPS

Talk with your family about *how* we can push for solutions together to the challenge we face.

Share a family photo to show you're #forafuture.

- Post a selfie with family, friends and a [personalized FOR A FUTURE sign](#).
- Tag #forafuture and @afuturedotorg

Ask others to join you in action at [afuture.org](#).

CONVERSATION TIPS

Focus on shared values and experiences.

- Your personal experience, not scientific facts and figures, is most compelling.
- The weather can be a good starting point.
- This is about concerns we all have – for our lives, safety, future, health, AND KIDS!

Talk, ask, and listen.

- Share how this is affecting your life.
- Ask others to share their thoughts and experience of climate impacts.

Distil the problem simply.

- Pollution from (fossil fuel) energy is overheating the earth and making us sick.
- Clean energy will stop the pollution but polluters are standing in the way of progress.
- We need systematic action from lawmakers, but too many are still serving polluters.

Share our actionable path to progress.

- We have the solutions. They carry huge benefits
- Most Americans (70%!) already support them.
- Elected officials must act. If millions of us speak out together we can push them to.

Ask people to join you in committing to action.

- Each of us can be part of speaking out *and* getting more people involved.
- We need pressure nationally, and in local communities. Everyone can help build it.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The problem is *pollution*, but our biggest challenge is actually *inaction*.

To break through, elected officials will need to see and hear that lots of people *care* about this.

But most of us still don't talk about it. It feels too big, too distant, too confusing.

Personal conversations with your friends and family are the best way to empower them to action.

This isn't about *convincing* anyone we have a problem. Most Americans already agree that we do.

Our role is to help people understand that we have a viable path to *solving* the problem, and how all of us can (and must) be a part of making progress.

TALKING TO KIDS

Being honest and answering questions is an important part of helping your kids make sense of their world. Like other difficult topics, it's worth a thoughtful approach.

- Consider your child's age.
- Find out what they already know.
- Brush up on the basic science ahead of time (see below), and then perhaps together, too.
- Address climate science, but don't overlook climate feelings.
- Give reasons to hope and ways to take action – without glossing over the challenges ahead.

MORE RESOURCES

[The most important thing you can do to fight climate change: Talk About It](#) - Dr. Katharine Heyho

[How To Talk To Your Kids About Climate Change](#) - Science Moms

[It's Time to Rewire America and Electrify Everything](#) - Saul Griffith

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

POLLUTION AND SOLUTIONS

GLOBAL WARMING... I THINK I GET IT. BUT I'M NOT SURE I GET IT?

Earth is rapidly overheating as a result of burning oil, gas, and coal to generate the energy that powers our homes and vehicles. Burning these fossil fuels releases **carbon pollution** (especially **carbon dioxide** and **methane**) into the atmosphere, which traps the sun's heat. We need a little bit of this **greenhouse gas** — it's what allows life on Earth. But the last 60+ years of carbon pollution overload are making Earth unsafe for us.

ISN'T THE CLIMATE ALWAYS CHANGING? EARTH USED TO BE COVERED IN ICE?

Carbon dioxide, and temperature with it, has fluctuated naturally over millions of years. But since humans began burning fossil fuels, the levels are off the charts — going up 100x faster than at any other time.

GLOBAL WARMING AND EXTREME WEATHER... WHAT'S THE DEAL?

Hotter world = stronger disasters. More heat in the atmosphere and ocean means more extreme weather of all kinds — from bigger heat waves, drought, and fires to stronger wind, rain and even snow storms.

DO FOSSIL FUELS ALSO IMPACT OUR HEALTH?

Extracting, processing, and burning oil, gas, and coal produce toxic chemicals which cause asthma, cancer, and other diseases. Globally, fossil fuel air pollution is responsible for **1 in 5 deaths**. It's dirty, deadly stuff.

SO WHAT'S THE SOLUTION? CAN WE ACTUALLY REPLACE FOSSIL FUELS?

Yes. In order to stop global warming we have to stop the pollution. That means phasing out fossil fuels. There is a straightforward path, using technology we already have, and some countries are starting to do it: Power everything with clean electricity generated from the sun, wind, and other non-polluting sources.

WILL OUR LIVES LOOK DIFFERENT IF WE ELECTRIFY EVERYTHING?

Yes! And no! We can have all the same things, but they will be cleaner and cheaper. Because renewable electricity is so much more efficient to generate and use, gradually replacing everything that burns fossil fuels with electric equivalents will actually *slash our total energy use in half* — saving us a ton of money!

WHY DOES THIS FEEL SO COMPLICATED?

Corporate polluters spent a fortune to manufacture doubt and confusion about the science, even though their own scientists forecasted and measured the impact of global warming decades ago. Today they acknowledge global warming, and fossil fuels' blame. But they claim we can't transition yet. It's a lie.

SO WHAT CAN I ACTUALLY DO? I PUT GAS IN MY CAR. AM I BAD?

While individual actions make a difference, what we need most is systematic change at the legislative level which makes clean, modern technology the default choice. Polluters want to make us feel guilty for living in a system they built in their favor. It's time for new rules, and elected officials have the power to make them.

CAN WE REALLY GET LAWMAKERS TO CARE?

Even in our corporate-dominated political system, when enough people demand something, lawmakers will respond. We just have to show them that they have more to lose by failing our families than by ignoring the big polluters they have been serving. We are 70% of Americans. If we all speak out they will listen.

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