

# 26,000 Climate Conversations

Talking about climate change is a form of climate action.



Climate change is one of the greatest challenges humanity has ever faced, yet we often hear from the same voices and many people never talk about it.

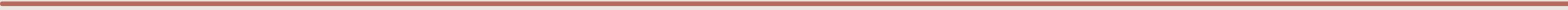


You don't have to be an expert to talk about climate - it affects everyone.

We invite you to initiate a conversation with a friend, family member, or a colleague, for 2 minutes or 2 hours!

The following pages relate to different aspects of climate change and offer conversation starters.

Once you complete the conversation, please head to the 26,000 Climate Conversation campaign website to log it- <https://talkclimatechange.org/>



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We seek to disrupt the climate echo chamber

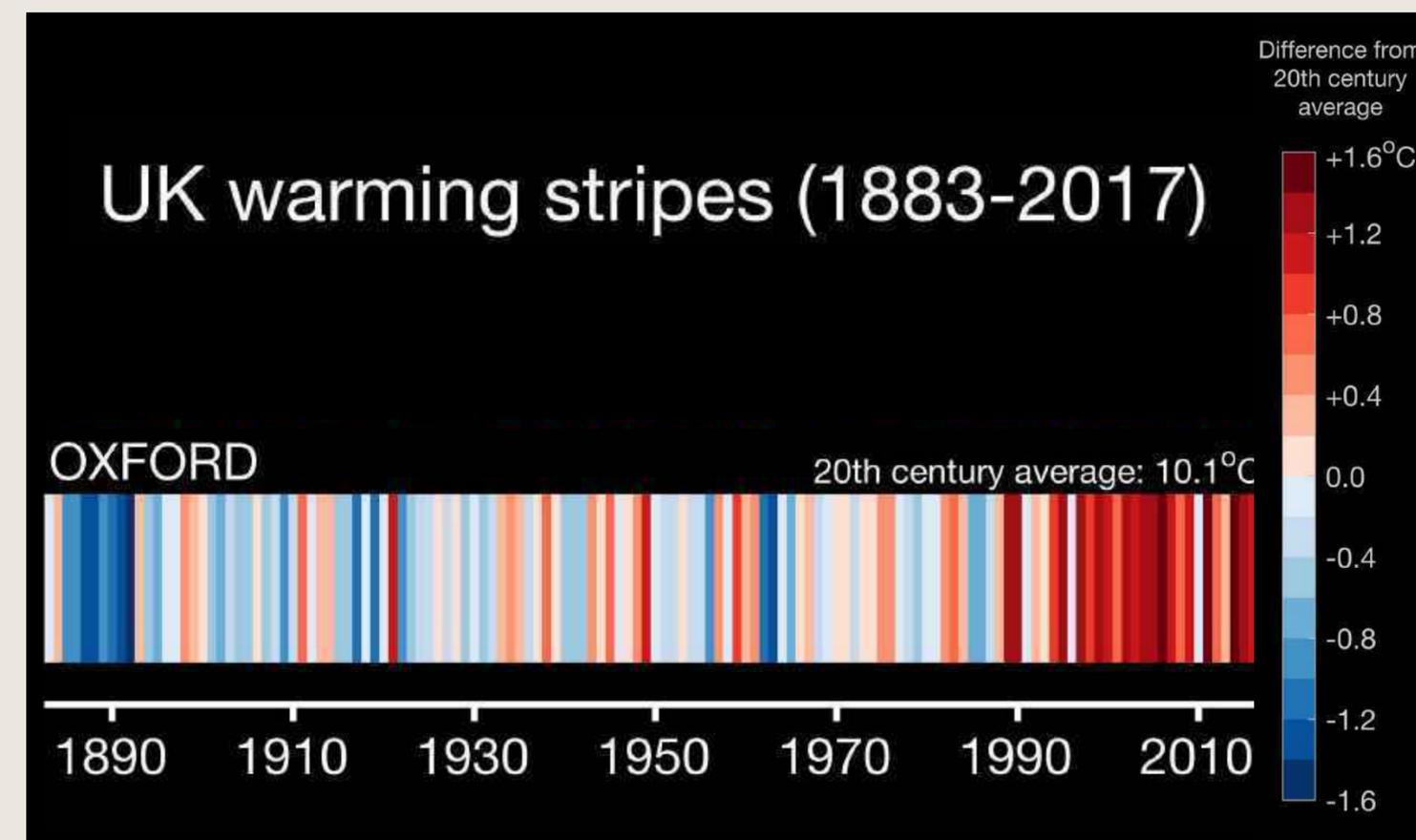
Our goal is to encourage 26,000 conversations about climate, logged on our website to share by the first day of the UN COP26 Conference in Glasgow.

Try the following three prompts for a conversation:

*What do you think about climate change?*

*What do you think should be done about it?*

*What could we do after this conversation to help make a difference?*



UK warming stripes 1883-2017 - Climate Lab Book-

The 26,000 Climate Conversations campaign encourage conversations outside of the climate echo chamber ahead of the UN conference in Glasgow (COP26) in November. Your thoughts matter.

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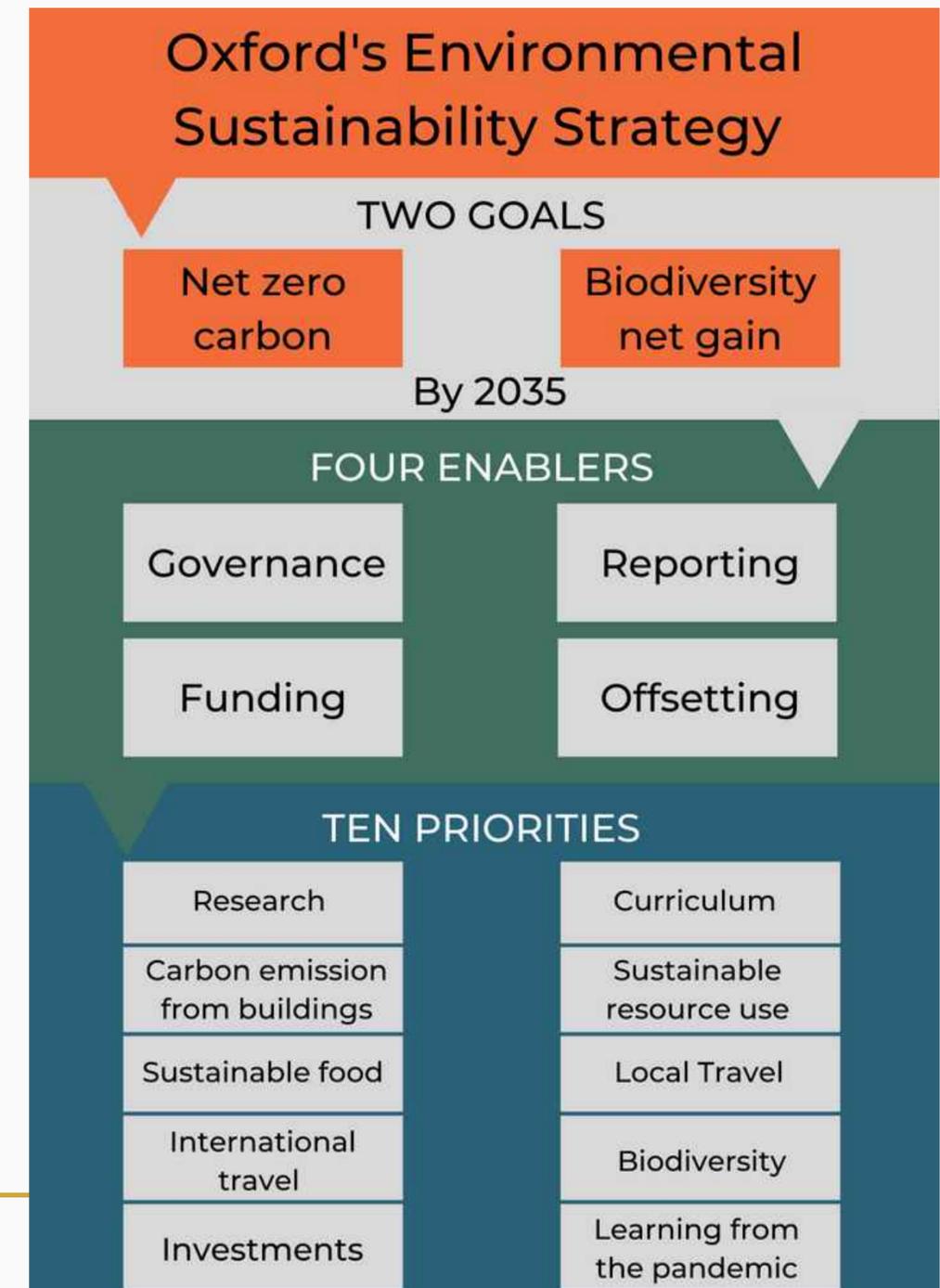
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The following prompts relate to University goals, and can be used for conversations with other University members

- What existing University sustainability and environmental policies do you know of?
- Where do you think the University could be doing more?
- What changes would you like to see in your Department?

*Would you like to become involved in achieving these changes? If so, get in touch with the Environmental Sustainability Team to learn more.*



# 26,000 Climate Conversations



## What are we talking about?

Important terms and discussion points for conversation



### What is COP26?

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26 (Conference of Parties), is the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference.

It is scheduled to be held in the city of Glasgow, Scotland between 31 October and 12 November 2021.

This conference is the first time that Parties are expected to commit to enhanced ambition since COP21 in Paris.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Conference of Parties was postponed in a year.

### 1.5 Degree

The Paris Agreement aims to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognising that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.

### 'Ratchet mechanism'

Parties (i.e. nations) are required to carry out every five years, as outlined in the Paris Agreement, a process colloquially known as the 'ratchet mechanism'.

Each country is expected to submit enhanced nationally determined contributions every five years to ratchet up ambitions to mitigate climate change.

This is the first iteration of the ratchet mechanism.

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These prompts relate to tools to mitigate climate change



✓ What's more important for tackling climate change – individual behaviour change or broader policy change? Do we need both? Why or why not?

✓ How do you think we ended up in a climate crisis?

✓ What actions do you think led us here and why?

"People often ask me what they can do about climate change and my answer is always: Talk about it! Engaging in personal conversations in diverse contexts is the most powerful individual climate action."

Dr Friederike Otto  
Associate Director,  
Environmental Change Institute,  
University of Oxford

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Which of the following climate change terminology are you familiar with?

Would you like to learn more?

Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement, (AKA the Paris Accords) is the international treaty on climate change adopted in 2015. It covers climate change mitigation, adaptation, and finance. The Agreement was negotiated by 196 parties at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Scope 1, 2, 3 emissions

Emissions are characterised by their source: Scope 1: Direct emissions, created locally, e.g. from the gas used for heating; Scope 2: Indirect emissions e.g. from electricity generation for use in University buildings; Scope 3: All other indirect emissions from activities of the organisation, including emissions from travel, procurement, waste, water and investments

Carbon Offsetting

A carbon offset is a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases made in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. Offsets are done through investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency measures, land-use changes (e.g. forestry), etc.

Net zero carbon

The process of accounting carbon emissions associated with its Scope 1, 2 and 3 activities, reduce them as much as possible and then balance residual emissions through carbon offsetting to reach net zero carbon.

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The following prompts relate to individual action.

What do you think individuals can do about the climate crisis?

*What changes have you made? Or are you thinking of making any?  
How would these changes affect your life?*



In addition to individual choices, what should we do as communities to fight climate change?

Do you think humans have a responsibility to protect other living things?



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"We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it."

—President Obama (2014)

*Do you think you have ever seen or directly experienced climate change?*

*Do you agree with this quote?*



Images from: COP26 Explained, <https://ukcop26.org/>

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What do you think fair and equitable solutions to the climate crisis would look like?

How to distribute responsibilities for tackling climate change is in many ways about deciding what is 'fair' based on individual countries' circumstances, historical role in creating emissions and how vulnerable they are to climate change impacts.

*Are some people more vulnerable to climate change than others?*

*Can we address climate change and sustainable development challenges at the same time?*

Do you think we need climate justice?

The term "climate justice" seeks to reframe climate change from simply an environmental problem to an ethical and political issue. Climate justice is rooted in the fact that climate change will have unequal impacts on people and places.

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Climate crisis Football Business Environment UK politics Education Society Science Tech Global de

## Cop26 will be 'rich nations stitch-up' if poorer countries kept away by Covid

Environmental activists demand delay to Glasgow climate talks if costs and travel restrictions block attendance of those worst-hit



▲ Oxfam campaigners pose as G7 leaders on Swanpool Beach near Falmouth, Cornwall. Photograph: James Veysey/Rex/Shutterstock

The Cop26 climate summit in Glasgow should be postponed until the government can ensure that the talks won't be a "rich nations stitch-up", a diverse coalition of international organisations has said.

With less than two months to go before the talks, the Climate Action Network

The Guardian, Tue 7 Sep 2021 21.50 BST

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Do you think we need to rethink our economics to help mitigate against climate change?

For decades, economic growth has been the key goal of economic policy – but what are the drawbacks of this, especially for the environment?

*Economic growth is often seen as essential for improving prosperity and raising individuals out of poverty, but can the economy grow infinitely on a finite planet? Should economic growth even be our goal?*

Some, especially government and industry players, have argued that market mechanisms will be the key to tackling climate change. This includes setting a price on carbon, emissions trading schemes, or putting a price on “ecosystem services” like biodiversity, soil erosion control, or flood protection.

*Do you think these policies can work?*



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