



Guide to COP26

November 2021



What is COP26?

COP 26 is a big meeting where many different countries come together to agree how to tackle climate change. It's happening this year in Glasgow.

What does COP stand for?

COP stands for 'Conference of Parties'.

The 'Parties' are all the countries that signed up to tackle climate change back in 1994.

When does COP take place?

The conference takes place every year, this will be the 26th meeting, so it's called COP26.

Do you remember Greta Thunberg's famous speech in Madrid in 2019? That was at the last COP meeting, COP25.

What's special about COP26?



Firstly, it's a year later than planned because of covid.

But, there's another reason this COP is special. To understand why, we have to rewind back 6 years....

What happened at COP21?

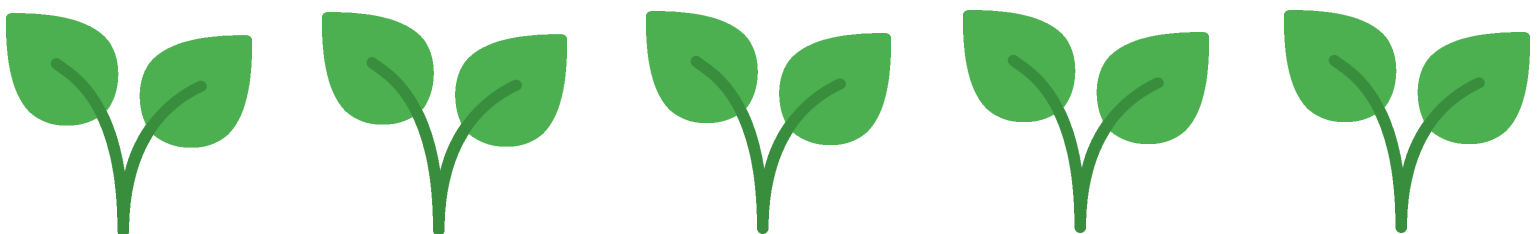
In 2015, at COP21 in Paris, the participating countries signed 'The Paris Agreement'. This was an important moment because every country agreed to work together to limit global warming to below 2 degrees. They agreed to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and to make money available to make those changes possible.

How will 'The Paris Agreement' be reviewed?

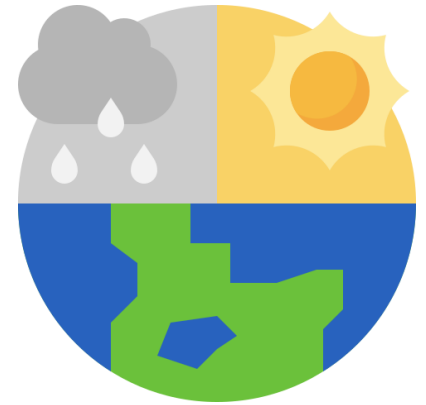
In that meeting they also agreed that every 5 years, each country would reveal their target for how much they are going to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by.

What does that mean for COP26?

Fast forward back to today, COP26 is special because this is the first time since the Paris Agreement that countries will be sharing their progress and targets. It's a bit like handing your homework in, but on an international scale.



What do children think about climate change and the environment?



This year the Children's Commissioner for England did a massive survey of children in England. It was called The Big Ask.

We spoke to over half a million children about lots of different subjects. We know from this survey that children in England are passionate about climate change and the environment.

39% of children we spoke to said that the environment was one of their main worries about the future – it was the second highest answer, so this tells us it's a priority for children.

What did you tell us?

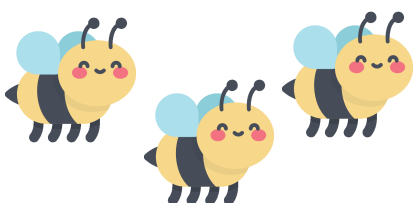
'If we don't fix climate change, we won't have a future.' 12-year old.

'[We need] a better earth without plastic pollution. Looking after our wildlife better.' Girl, aged 8.

'The effects of it may be irreversible, and it is very daunting for young people to have the responsibility of dealing with its effects.' 15 year old.

'I want to invent things that will help animals that are in danger. That will help me because they are part of my eco system.' – Boy, aged 6.

So, children are worried about the environment, and feel responsible for taking care of it as they grow up.



What can be done?



Children had loads of ideas for how to take care of the environment. You have told us you want to be involved.

You want to work with adults to solve these challenges. You also saw an opportunity to work in careers which helped the environment, such as green energy or ecology.

So, it's really important that children's voices are heard at COP26. That's why, Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England, will be there with children and young people to tell the adults how you feel about the environment.

She will use what you have told us in The Big Ask Survey to make sure all the adults know how passionate and committed you are to solving climate change, and how you want to be involved in the solutions.

How can I find out what is happening at cop26?

You can follow @childrenscomm on Twitter or @childrenscommissioner on Instagram to keep up to date with the Children's Commissioners' time at COP26.



What do you think?



Write or draw your hopes for the environment:



Write or draw your worries for the environment:



Write or draw things you could do to help the environment:



Discuss what you have written or drawn with your friends, family or teacher and see whether you think the same things. Come up with ideas of things you could do to help the environment together.



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