



Discover. Share. Act.
[www.britishcouncil.org/
climate-connection](http://www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection)
#TheClimateConnection

The Climate Connection



Working together for our planet





Bringing **new voices and solutions** to the climate challenge

The British Council's Climate Connection programme supported the UK's ambitions for a 'whole of society' COP and is continuing to champion this now, in the UK's COP Presidency year, with its commitment to making climate action as diverse, inclusive and equitable as possible.

In the lead-up to COP26 and beyond, we've reached over 245 million people around the world, inspiring many to act on the climate crisis, by amplifying new voices, establishing new connections and supporting climate action and dialogue through the arts and culture, education and English.

Building on the British Council's extensive UK and worldwide networks, the Climate Connection has provided a global platform for collaboration and co-operation.

We have brought underrepresented voices – especially those most affected by climate change – into the conversation, for example, by ensuring women and marginalised groups can participate in climate research and grant opportunities.

We have put young people at the heart of climate solutions, giving them opportunities to raise their

voice, deliver real community-based actions and explore their role as future climate leaders.

We have supported the arts, education and English sectors to explore alternative ways to address the global climate crisis – through creative and artistic expressions, innovative research solutions and climate-focused educational approaches and curricula.

And we have strengthened shared climate solutions, by supporting co-operation between communities, young people, artists, researchers, teachers, academics, leaders and policymakers throughout the UK and around the world.

At COP26, the Climate Connection emphasised the ways in which the UK is supporting inclusive climate action, by sharing the successes and experiences of programme participants from around the world. This ensured diverse voices and innovative solutions could inform the conversations of leaders and decision-makers, as they worked towards establishing the historic Glasgow Climate Pact – a set of commitments to address global climate change, agreed by almost 200 countries.

Turning commitments into **action**



In the words of the UK's COP President, the Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, when speaking at the Climate Connection's Global Knowledge Exchange summit: 'our task now is to turn those commitments into action; so together, let's make 2022 a year of delivery.'

To support this, the Climate Connection is building on its global legacy of promoting inclusive climate action across the arts and culture, education and English sectors, through a range of new initiatives.

Globally, we are continuing to support regional climate initiatives, such as the inaugural Regional Conference of Youth Asia and Pacific 2022, which welcomed more than one thousand young attendees to contribute to dialogue and action on climate change. We are continuing to increase access to climate resources for English language trainers and school teachers, support new Creative Commissions to engage the public in climate dialogue, and provide opportunities for scientists and climate experts across the Commonwealth to come together and explore climate solutions.

In Egypt – in support of COP27, in Sharm El Sheikh – we have launched new programmes to raise the voices of young people and women, in relation to the climate debate. We're also supporting new Creative Commissions, establishing new partnerships between universities in Egypt and the UK to explore climate issues, and aiming to reach climate ambassadors across Africa through English language training.

Through an innovative 'green partnership', we are also supporting the British Embassy in Cairo to deliver a joint climate plan with Egypt, in the lead-up to COP27, helping to ensure this global event raises awareness of climate issues and brings wider voices to the climate debate.

The Climate Connection and COP27

Through new and ongoing initiatives, we are showcasing the impact of youth engagement, education, culture and English as powerful tools to tackle the climate emergency and bring about lasting positive change.

The Climate Connection in Egypt

To support a successful COP27, we are providing a platform for inclusive voices at the conference, by engaging with networks of young people, education professionals, students, academics, researchers, artists, civil society leaders and policymakers to participate in meaningful dialogue and bring about real change.

In **education**, we are giving school students in Egypt and the UK the chance to participate in the World Climate Simulation – an in-person, role-playing activity linked to the UN climate change negotiations, where participants can explore the necessary speed and level of action that nations must take to address global climate change.

Our **higher education** grants have supported 15 new partnerships between UK and Egyptian universities to work on climate issues through fellowships and transnational education courses. Our policy workshops on health and food and agriculture, in partnership with the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and the UK Universities Climate Network, have brought together leading scientists from UK and Egyptian universities to produce key insights for policymakers in the lead-up to COP27, with a focus on real climate solutions.

We are continuing to place **young people** at the heart of climate dialogue and support future climate leaders. We believe young Egyptians from all walks of life have a huge role to play in shaping the future of climate action in Egypt, and we are working to include them in climate discussions at COP27 and beyond through initiatives such as our new Youth Voices programme. We are also focusing on promoting women's voices in the climate conversation through our climate and gender grants, which promote gender equality, equity and leadership in combatting climate challenges.

In **English**, our Climate Action for Language Education materials have so far been accessed by more than



© British Council Egypt

10,000 teachers across Egypt, while a further 400 teacher educators have enrolled in our Massive Online Open Course for effectively embedding climate topics in the classroom. Meanwhile, our One Million Climate Ambassadors project, delivered in partnership with Ain Shams University, is training researchers from Egypt and other African countries, who will go on to cascade to others across Africa.

In the **arts and culture**, seven new Creative Commissions are exploring climate change through the arts, science and digital technology, aiming to stimulate conversations and connections between the UK and Egypt by bringing people, cultures and communities together to understand each other's perspectives and collaborate on creative climate responses and solutions.

At COP27, the Climate Connection will engage with people in both the conference Blue Zone and Green Zone, showcasing the UK's commitment to inclusivity across climate change through education, culture and English.

The Climate Connection legacy

Since its inception, the Climate Connection has reached millions of people globally and helped to diversify the climate conversation with new perspectives and solutions across the arts, education and English, and we value all of the partnerships that have helped us achieve this incredible impact.

Reach and impact

Since 2021, the Climate Connection has:

- reached a total of 245 million people across 209 countries and territories
- directly engaged 22 million people worldwide through workshops, webinars and exhibitions
- inspired 223 million people through microsites, broadcasts and downloads
- connected with more than 7,500 organisations, including partnerships with English UK, Julie's Bicycle, the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the World Wildlife Fund and the Global Parliament of Mayors
- helped to established more than 300 new partnerships across the arts, education and English sectors
- raised more than 32,000 youth voices through research and campaigns, putting young people's views and concerns about climate change in front of leaders and decision-makers
- supported 180 youth-led, grassroots climate mitigation, protection and awareness-raising projects, involving thousands of community members and students globally
- given young science communicators a platform to inspire more than three million people with innovative, climate-related research, and built the capacity of young journalists to report on climate issues
- supported more than 500 researchers and established new university partnerships to enable international climate change collaboration
- inspired an estimated three million school students, by providing 18,000 teachers with climate-related resources, training and partnership opportunities
- helped young fashion designers showcase their creative climate responses to an online audience of more than 4,000 people
- supported 17 climate-focused cultural collaborations across 85 countries, viewed by more than one million people online
- supported curators and artists across the UK and Balkans to engage more than 600,000 people through creative responses and exhibitions on the climate crisis
- supported English teachers in 120 countries to embed climate issues in their lessons, through more than 48,000 resource downloads, 19,000 podcast listens and 6,000 online course participants
- diversified the climate conversation with experts and organisations from across the cultural and education sectors through roundtables, research and essays.



We have put young people at the centre of climate action

Projects such as Challenge Grants for Young People, Creative Commissions and #DestinationZero have enabled young people to take real actions on climate change and address climate-related challenges. Initiatives such as FameLab Climate Change Communicators, Future News Worldwide and Green Careers have given young people a platform to communicate and advocate for climate issues. Large scale research such as the Global Youth Letter and Youth Perception Research have raised previously unheard voices of young people and put their views directly in front of decision-makers.

We have built the capacity of early-career researchers to work on climate solutions

Opportunities such as Researcher Links, Commonwealth Futures and the COP26 Trilateral Research Initiative have built the capacity of early-careers researchers to conduct collaborative, interdisciplinary, international research, which has expanded their understanding of other disciplines and contexts and improved their ability to work on solutions to climate-related challenges.

We have helped organisations enter new networks, increase their credibility and establish new partnerships

Working with the Climate Connection has given many partner organisations more credibility in their sector, and enabled them to access new networks and audiences. For some, it has also led to lasting partnerships with organisations overseas and in the UK.

We have helped teachers embed climate change in the curriculum

Projects such as Climate Action in Language Education and Schools Climate Connection have supported teachers in schools and English teaching centres to explore and embed climate issues in their lessons and curricula.

We have engaged policymakers

Initiatives such as the Culture and Environment Roundtables and Cultural Relations Collection have contributed to building an evidence base and bring key actors together to support the role of culture in tackling climate change. Partnerships with the Global Parliament of Mayors and World Wildlife Fund have helped to put climate change on the agenda at the city level.

We have kickstarted a network of actors at the intersection of climate and culture/education

The Climate Connection has served as a focal point for global discussions on the role of culture in tackling climate change, laying the foundation for sustainable networks to form and flourish – with additional support.

We have engaged the public in climate dialogue

Projects such as Fashion Open Studio, Creative Commissions and Future Ecologies have given artists and creatives a platform to engage the public on climate dialogue through creative responses.

The Climate Connection at COP26

Across the two weeks of COP26, more than 300 partners, stakeholders and beneficiaries visited the Climate Connection Pavilion in the conference's Blue Zone, to share achievements and plan for future collaboration. The Climate Connection also supported activities in the conference Green Zone, such as film premieres and panel discussions.

In the lead-up to COP26, the Climate Connection supported 400 young people to attend COY16 (Conference of Youth) in Glasgow, through its partnership with YOUNGO (the Children and Youth constituency to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).



Committed to future climate action

Beyond COP27, the British Council will continue its environmental commitments by bringing new voices together to strengthen global climate co-operation. This means more opportunities for young people, students, artists, researchers, teachers, academics, leaders and policymakers across our networks to find creative and collaborative solutions to climate change.

Arts and culture

We will continue to support artistic and cultural expression and stimulate global conversations about climate change. Our [Cultural Protection Fund](#) will continue its work to mitigate the effects of climate change on valued cultural heritage across the world, by funding projects responding to the threat of climate change and natural disasters between now and 2025.

Education

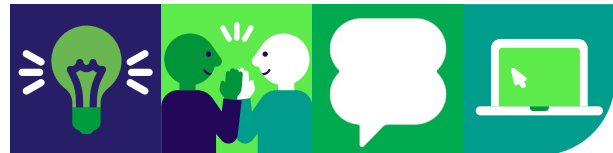
We will continue to support the next generation of experts in climate change, adaptation and resilience, by providing early-career researchers in nine Commonwealth countries with new research collaboration and professional development opportunities.

We will continue to support school leaders and teachers to integrate climate change and sustainability into their teaching by significantly growing the number of schools engaging with climate change resources. We will support climate change and sustainability education research and create space for schools to discuss the impact of climate change and the possibilities of climate action.

We will support youth-led projects with the knowledge and skills to scale-up their initiatives and cascade learning through self-managed networks. We will continue to showcase innovative solutions developed as part of the Climate Connection.

English

We will continue support English teachers to integrate climate and environmental issues into their teaching and aim to reach 500,000 teachers through our Climate Action in Language Education project by 2025.



Young people

We will continue to support young people to gain the skills, experience and connections they need to be positive changemakers at all levels. We will support youth-led networks such as YOUNGO, to extend our reach to young people around the world. We will continue to help build the skills of the next generation of climate leaders through our collaboration with the Climate Youth Negotiators Programme.

How?

By drawing on our **cultural relations approach**, we will promote the role of international co-operation in addressing shared development challenges, such as climate change, by providing a platform for building international connections, collaborations, trust and understanding worldwide.

By **strengthening co-operation** between the UK and the world, and across all parts of society, we will make climate action as inclusive as possible and enable everyone to contribute to a better future for our planet.

By **leveraging our unique role in the arts, education and English**, we will bring people across these sectors together to identify the crucial role they have in tackling climate change and enable innovative, creative and sustainable solutions to our shared climate crisis.

By **drawing on our extensive network**, we will support collaborative international partnerships, built on mutuality, to enable the sharing of knowledge, practice and expertise between the UK and other countries to find solutions that meet our shared aims for our planet.

