

LET'S TALK CLIMATE

A quick guide on talking climate change

How to navigate climate conversations around the family table, around the water cooler at work, on the bus, Saturday sports and more using our **TALKWELL** principles.

Tell your story

You don't need to know everything about climate science to talk about climate change. Your climate change story - how you became engaged in the issue and why it concerns you - is the most powerful communication tools available to you.

Action makes it easier to talk about it

Taking some kind of action on climate change can make conversations easier to start and make it feel less overwhelming. People make decisions about their behaviour partly based on what others they respect and trust are doing, so your actions may influence others.

Learn from the conversation

See the experience as a way to learn about how others think about climate change, about the topic itself - and how to have a good conversation. Every climate exchange is a small experiment.

Keep talking & keep connected

Every climate change conversation you have is valuable. Keep having them, and find opportunities to connect with the many other people who want to talk about and take action on, climate change.

What do you think? Ask questions

Rather than lecturing your conversational partner about your views, ask what climate change means to them. Give them space to reflect their own experiences and views on the issue.

Enjoy yourself

If you enjoy yourself, you are far more likely to be authentically engaged with and connected to the person you are talking with - and they are more likely to feel positive about the conversation too.

Listen & show you have heard

Stop Talking! Concentrate on genuinely listening to what the other person is really trying to say - and take the initiative to check you have understood them correctly.

Look for common ground

Find out what you have in common with the person you are talking to and show them that you respect their concerns, priorities and values. Many people feel blamed and judged when they talk about climate change which is likely to make them defensive or withdraw from the conversation.



Key Takeaways

- This is a deeply emotional topic so **be kind, empathetic, curious and generous**. Remember there is no logic to emotion.
- **Asking permission at any time** during a conversation builds trust. If possible, ask permission. Once started ask for permission to continue.
- **Seek first to understand**. Be curious, ask questions, like: What do you think? How do you think that happens? Listen to the answers. Feeling heard is powerful.
- **Connect on common ground and values**. If people believe they can do something. They can make a difference. They will be more likely to act. Be inspiring and encourage others on their own path.

Reference: climateoutreach.org/resources/how-to-have-a-climate-change-conversation-talking-climate/

You can find a copy of these principles on our website at parentsforclimatenz.org today!