



How to #TalkClimate

The secret to talking about climate change is to listen and learn from the other person.

When the time is right, share your perspective starting with a story.

1. Ask Permission

- Hey, can I talk to you about something?
- Do you have a few minutes right now?
- Something is bugging me, can I talk to you about it?

2. Ask an open-ended question about the other person's thoughts on climate change

- What are your thoughts about climate change?
- Are you worried about climate change?
- How have you been thinking about climate change lately?
- What have you heard about climate change?

3. Listen- Do not interrupt

Ask curious questions:

- Can you tell me more about that?
- How do you feel about that?
- Compared to your childhood, are today's winters any different?

Pro tip: Resist the urge to respond, even if you disagree. Be open minded and do not judge. It's not your turn until you learn something about the other person.

4. Repeat back to them what you hear vs. responding

- It sounds like you...
- This is what I heard you saying... is that right?
- Like you said...
- That's a good point, I never thought of that.

Pro tip: Leading with listening will help build a relationship. By making the other person feel validated and safe and will help grow trust and rapport - which will be important if you want them to listen to you.

5. Share your personal connection to the issue/your experience

- Can I tell you what I've been thinking about?
- The first time I heard about climate change...
- I realized that I needed to do something...

Pro tip: The point is not to convince. Start with your personal story of climate change and try to do it in a way that aligns with their values. Sharing a fact about climate change that ties to your experience can help ground your story (Minnesota's winters are warming faster than any other state in the U.S.)

6. Keep the conversation going

- What do you think?

Pro tip: Turning it back to them gives you another opportunity to listen. That is what a conversation is- a two way exchange of ideas. Go back and forth for as long as it feels right.

7. Thank them and share what you've learned

- Thanks for taking the time to talk...
- I really appreciated what you said about...
- I'm glad I could hear your perspective...
- I've learned more about...

8. Ask them to join you in solutions

- Want to go to the climate event with me this Saturday?
- I am learning more about _____, want to join me?

The goal is not necessarily to change someone's mind in one conversation, but to **open the door just a bit more**, and to make way for future conversations and action.

Maintain a tone throughout the conversation that **promotes listening and learning**.

Be confident-your experience of climate change is your expertise. Sharing your story will help prompt listening, understanding, and empathy, which is what is needed in the world right now.