



This is your moment. Don't lose what you love to climate change just because no-one knew you cared

## VALENTINE'S DAY IS GOING GREEN

In February 2015, over 100 charities and groups will be working together to bring real heart to Valentine's Day. The Climate Coalition will be asking people from all walks of life to make, wear, show and share green hearts to celebrate the things we love but could lose to climate change: from bees and butterflies, to chocolate and our coastlines.

Here is a range of one hour classroom wonders, assembly ideas and whole school community events to help you help children in your school to reflect on the things in the world they want to protect – and inspire creativity and action around climate change.

This resource offers those of you already teaching on climate change ways to celebrate or reflect on that learning by doing something a bit different. For those of you that are new to the issue, it has a host of ideas to help you start to engage children on the theme of climate change with some links to brilliant resources that dive deeper in to the issue.

### WHERE TO START:

This film might help get you and your pupils going: [ForTheLoveOf.org.uk](http://ForTheLoveOf.org.uk)

Here are a few other resources which might be useful:

Primary:

[CAFOD](http://CAFOD.org.uk) | [Oxfam](http://Oxfam.org.uk)

Secondary:

[CAFOD](http://CAFOD.org.uk) | [Oxfam](http://Oxfam.org.uk) | [WWF](http://WWF.org.uk) | [Christian Aid](http://ChristianAid.org.uk)

### KEEP US POSTED!

Please share what you do for Valentine's Day! Post updates and photos on Twitter,

Facebook or Instagram of the brilliant activities you're doing, using the hashtag [#ShowTheLove](https://www.instagram.com/ShowTheLove). (Not on social media? You can email us pictures to [campaigns@theclimatecoalition.org](mailto:campaigns@theclimatecoalition.org) if you're happy for us to share them online.)

### SPREAD THE LOVE

- Invite local media into your school to see what you've been doing or share photos and stories with them
- Send your Valentine's Cards to your local MP and invite them to come in to school to discuss what the Government can do to help
- Send on a green message to inspire another local school and set them the challenge to turn Valentine's Day green
- Want to do more online? Upload a picture of what you love (whether it's bees, beaches or Bangladesh) with your message of love for Valentine's Day at [ForTheLoveOf.org.uk](http://ForTheLoveOf.org.uk)





This is your moment. Don't lose what you love to climate change just because no-one knew you cared

## CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES: ONE HOUR WONDERS

### *Make Green Valentine's Cards*

Discuss with pupils what they love most and how it is threatened. This can then become the subject of a Green Valentine's Card with the message "For the Love of..." to be given to friends or family:

- Sponge green paint onto card through a heart-shaped stencil
- Print with heart-shaped printing blocks cut from fruit or vegetables
- Stick a picture of your own For the Love of... subject (or any inspiring image) behind a heart-shaped window cut into card
- Make a heart-shaped collage by sticking natural or recycled materials onto card

### *Make Green Heart Badges*

Made from recycled materials eg buttons, shells, bottle-tops. If children make two they could wear one and gift one.

### *Bake Valentine's Day Biscuits with heart-shaped cutters.*

Use heart-shaped cutters and place a green boiled sweet in a hole in the middle before baking to produce biscuits that can be hung up on your Valentine's Tree (see sheet 4).

### *Write Green Valentine's Poems*

Roses are Red, violets are blue, try writing a poem that says something new.

Try starting with these verses:

Forests are green, Oceans are blue...

or

Mountains are high, Oceans are deep...

or

Deserts are hot, the Arctic is cold...

Why not publish your poems in a whole-school or class book?

### *Sow Green Hearts*

Encourage pupils to think about where their food comes from and have fun growing food. Sow cress seeds onto heart shaped pads of cotton wool. Sown 2 weeks in advance, they'll be ready to harvest by Valentine's Day.

### *Make Heart-shaped Collages*

Made from natural materials, eg beans, pulses, seeds and shells, these can form a beautiful longer-term display.

### *Make a Heart Chain*

Talk about things we can all do to fight climate change. Pupils can write these onto a paperchain of hearts. How many pledges can your school gather?





This is your moment. Don't lose what you love to climate change just because no-one knew you cared

## ASSEMBLY IDEAS

Use assembly time to introduce the theme of climate change and to tell the wider school about the activities you are planning or have already done. Include the following ideas and information as appropriate to your school.

- Play a cheesy love song such as 'Love is In the Air' as pupils enter assembly and throw around some inflatable globes. Begin the assembly by explaining that, as Valentine's Day approaches, love is in the air but it's not 'who' we love with but rather 'what we love'. Show the For Love of film (see earlier link). Ask for thoughts from the floor about what pupils love about our planet. (You could pre-ask some pupils to have answers ready for this.)
- Explain that many of the things we love are under threat because our planet is changing – Earth is getting hotter and this is changing the climate and affecting weather patterns. It's sometimes hard in the UK to see the effects of climate change but in many parts of the world we know that the changing climate is already impacting some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities. It is causing more unpredictable weather, contributing to worsening extreme weather and leading to rising sea levels.
- According to a Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, scientists said they were 95% certain – the same degree to which we can be certain that smoking causes lung cancer – that this increase in temperature is almost all due to the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, and has been the main cause of observed warming of average global temperatures since the mid-20th century. Humans have created the problem and now humans have to fix it. We can all take small steps to make a difference to reduce the effects of climate change but we can also encourage world leaders to make the right choices to take the big steps that will tackle climate change around the world.

Introduce whatever Green Heart activities you are planning within school and give details of how pupils can join in.





This is your moment. Don't lose what you love to climate change just because no-one knew you cared

## WHOLE SCHOOL IDEAS

Showing the love for things we could lose to climate change could be a great way to promote family involvement. Invite parents to join in some or all of these activities...

- *Encourage everyone to dress in green for the day.*
- *Promote sustainable lifestyles with a Recycling Challenge.*  
Eg. Who can sort the (clean) trash into recyclables quickest?
- *Organise a freecycle market.*  
Everyone brings an agreed item e.g. a book into school, swaps and ends up with something new.
- *Encourage everyone to walk or cycle to school*  
Celebrate with a healthy breakfast on arrival.
- *Discuss ways we can all act to reduce our impact on the planet:*  
By walking or cycling, switching off and shutting down electrical equipment, reducing, reusing and recycling. Encourage everyone in the school to make a green pledge. These could be pinned to a board, hung from a Valentine's Tree or written into clay plaques.
- *The School Council could also explore ways of reducing the carbon footprint of your school.*  
Encourage the Head and School Governors to make Green Pledges too.
- *Plant trees to mark Green Valentine's Day.*  
Trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, contribute to wildlife biodiversity and provide zero miles food sources. And February is an ideal time to get planting (The Woodland Trust offers planting packs to schools and excellent ideas for using your woodland when it's grown).





This is your moment. Don't lose what you love to climate change just because no-one knew you cared

## CATCH IT ALL ON CAMERA!

The Climate Coalition is also asking young people to get creative and produce short films about climate change and its impacts for the Close-up On Climate film project.

Participants should be aged 5-18 and are invited to post a short film (2-3 minutes long) on the Climate Coalition website at [ForTheLoveOf.org.uk/closeup](http://ForTheLoveOf.org.uk/closeup). The website will go live on 4 February 2015 and films may be uploaded any time before the end of July 2015.

Films may be inspired by an extra-curricular climate change project, memorable climate change lessons in school or any other climate-related issue young people wish to share. There will be inspiration and resources from top climate change campaign organisations and technical tips from Into Film, the UK's leading film education charity.

We're asking participants to share their films with their political representatives and make sure that young people's voices are heard loud and clear as the Paris Conference draws closer. And we have exciting plans for the most creative and inspiring films to be featured prominently in the Climate Coalition's campaigning as the UK's representatives prepare to leave for Paris, so watch this space.

For all the information you need to submit your films as well as film-making guidance and other resources, visit [ForTheLoveOf.org.uk/closeup](http://ForTheLoveOf.org.uk/closeup).

Check the website for guidance to students on how to make and promote their films, and for resources designed to support learning and active citizenship.

