



CLIMATE AMBASSADOR GUIDEBOOK

FALL 2021

**CLIMATE
ACTION PLAN**

DOUGLAS COUNTY | CITY OF LAWRENCE



CLIMATE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Climate Action Ambassador program is an important part of the development of the Climate Action Plan for City of Lawrence and Douglas County.

A Climate Ambassador is someone concerned about the impacts that climate change will have on our health, livelihoods, and landscapes in our community. All you need is a willingness to connect with people you already know, have conversations, and share what you learn to help enhance the community voice in our climate plan in late 2021 and early 2022.

Who can be a Climate Ambassador?

You! There is a conversation waiting to happen that only the people in your circles (family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.) can have at this moment in time. We all have unique backgrounds and lived experiences that influence how we are affected by climate change. That's what we want you to tap into. There is no age restriction and no previous experience needed. This guidebook provides guidance to make it as easy as possible. So, what are you waiting for? Let's do this.

How to become a Climate Ambassador

1. **Let us know you're in.** Click here or go to <https://tinyurl.com/uz4b9dds>
2. **Pick the types of activities you are interested in leading.** We have lots of options to choose from: some can be done around the dinner table with the whole family, some can be done via group chat, some can be done in a classroom, others are more structured. It can take as little or much time as you can give. Find something in this guidebook that works for you.
3. **Plan the activity and invite people to join you.** Identify people or groups you are already connected to (could be your family members, friends, co-workers, religious groups, service organizations, neighbors, etc.) and invite them to join a conversation.
4. **Host the activity.** Commit to having at least one conversation or activity with people you already know.
5. **Share feedback and ideas** that come from your conversations and activities to shape the Climate Action Plan for our community. <https://tinyurl.com/jjdznv22>

CLIMATE AMBASSADOR ACTIVITIES

Here are five suggested activities for Climate Ambassadors to choose from. Each activity includes a description, suggested age range, ideal group size, time needed, materials, and detailed instructions (look for hyperlinks to even more resources). You are also welcome to create your own activity! After you lead your activity, tell us how it went by filling out the [Ambassador Feedback Form](#). Your feedback will help us create the Climate Action Plan.

PERSONALIZED CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



Ages 10+



15 min

CONVERSATION STARTERS

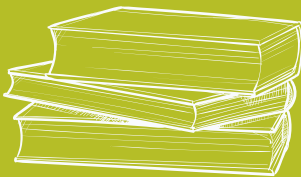


Ages 5+



5 min

BOOK CLUB



Ages 10+



45 min

WATCH AND DISCUSS



Ages 10+



>30 min

PHOTOVOICE



Ages 7+



45 min

SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT



PERSONALIZED CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



Ages 10+



15 min

Group Size:

2-200

Materials:

- Timer
- Paper and something to write with or a computer

Many people ask what is the single most important thing an individual can do to take climate action. We all have different skills and there is so much work to be done. This activity will help people identify how they can most meaningfully take climate action by creating their own personalized climate action plan based on their unique set of skills and interests.

STEP 1

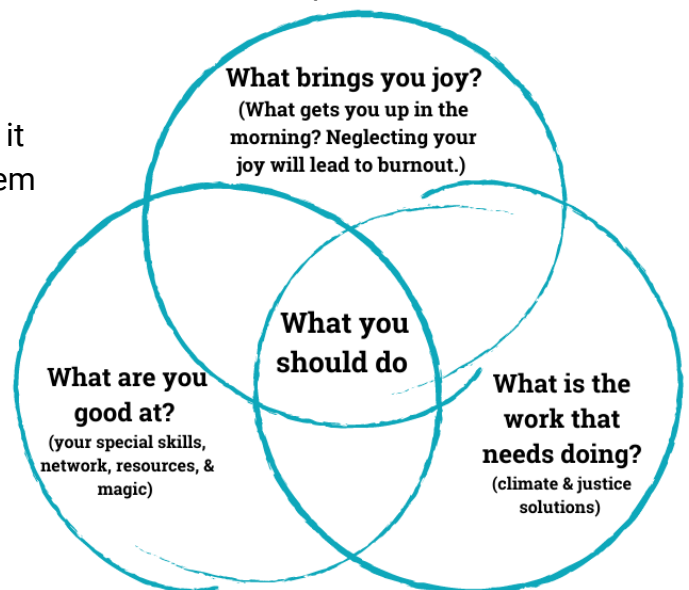
Decide who you want to do this activity with and if it will be in-person or virtual. Invite people and let them know the activity will take about 15 minutes.

STEP 2

Welcome people, let them know the purpose of the activity, and pass out materials.

STEP 3

Instruct everyone to draw three large circles that overlap in the middle. Draw an example for them.



STEP 4

Instruct people to take 60 seconds to individually and silently write a few things down in the top circle that bring them joy. Take another 60 seconds to silently write a few things in the bottom left circle that they are good at. Take another 60 seconds to silently write a few things in the bottom right circle that describe the work that needs to be done as it relates to climate.

The space in the middle that overlaps all three circles is where each person should spend their time and energy. Give them another 60 seconds to write down a few things that fit in the middle.

Invite them to pair up with one other person and share and discuss their diagrams for 5 minutes.

In the last few minutes, bring the whole group back together and invite a few people to share with the larger group.

STEP 5

Tell us how it went by filling out the Ambassador Feedback Form: <https://tinyurl.com/jjdznv22>

CONVERSATION STARTERS



Group Size:
>2

Materials:
• conversation starter questions

Use provided conversation starter questions to talk with your family, friends, or neighbors about a topic. The first question on a topic opens the conversation in a friendly way, the second and third questions dig a little deeper. These questions are meant to start conversations, not arguments or debates. Take turns to listen, learn, and be curious. No other preparation is needed. The conversation will probably be at least 5 minutes, and could be longer depending on how many questions you ask and how many people participate.

STEP 1 Pick one or more conversation starter questions from the [list of over 30 questions: https://tinyurl.com/9tusnc5p](https://tinyurl.com/9tusnc5p)

STEP 2 Decide **who** you want to ask the question or questions to.

STEP 3 Decide **how** you want to have a conversation. Here are some options:

- Group text
- Post on social media
- Video chat
- In-person (eating with friends, in a classroom, waiting for the bus, ice breaker to start a meeting, etc.)

STEP 4 Start the conversation and remember these simple ways to make it a good one:

- Listen with respect:** People will have different opinions and experiences. We are different in so many ways, and we can learn a lot from hearing about other people's feelings, thoughts, words, and perspectives.
- Conversations involve more than one person:** Be prepared to ask and answer questions so that there is a balanced conversation.
- Ask for consent to share:** Ask if people are comfortable with you sharing some main points of your conversation so that it can influence the Climate Action Plan. *It's okay if they say, "no."* Just by having the conversation, you have helped more people talk about issues related to climate.

STEP 5 Tell us how it went by filling out the Ambassador Feedback Form:
<https://tinyurl.com/jjdznv22>

BOOK CLUB



Ages 10+



45 min

Group Size:

3-15

Materials:

- book, e-book, audiobook

Read a book with a group and have a guided discussion about climate action. We put together two suggestions to get you started. You can have one or multiple sessions to discuss the material. There is a lot to talk about! Book lists for kids and teens are in the [Watch, Listen, Play, and Discuss activity guide](#).

Braiding Sweetgrass, by Robin Wall Kimmerer

KU and Haskell Indian Nations University are exploring this book together as a part of the Common Book (<https://experience.ku.edu/common-book>).

This thought-provoking collection of essays weaves together botany, the teachings of Indigenous peoples, and Kimmerer's own experiences as a mother, teacher, and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Her essays explore the intertwined relationship between humans and the countless plant species that co-inhabit our planet, considering ways in which we can learn from plants as we seek to build a more sustainable world.

- KU students can get a free copy here: [Braiding Sweetgrass Get the Book | Office of Academic Programs & Experiential Learning \(ku.edu\)](#).
- The Lawrence Public Library has the print book and unlimited access to the eAudiobook and eBook on Hoopla.
- Dr. Kimmerer will give a public talk and have conversations with KU and Haskell students on [November 10-11, 2021](#).

Book Discussion Tools

- [Discussion And Question Guide](#)
- [Potawatomi Glossary](#)
- [Scientific Terms Glossary](#)
- [Three Sisters Sheet](#)



<https://tinyurl.com/jjdznv22>

All We Can Save, edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson

All We Can Save is an anthology of writings by 60 women at the forefront of the climate movement who are harnessing truth, courage, and solutions to lead humanity forward.

All We Can Save Circles is a ready-made book club with discussion and facilitation guides. Each Circle is a self-organized small group committed to reading All We Can Save together over the course of 10 sessions. The aim is to foster meaningful conversation and allow every voice to be heard. A Circle can be as small as 3-4 people, but 6-10 people is probably the sweet spot.

WATCH, LISTEN, PLAY, AND DISCUSS -PART 1



Group Size:
3-15

Materials:

- access to podcast, video, art, game, etc.

Gather a group of people to talk about an interesting podcast, video series, piece of art, movie, video game, etc. and how it relates to climate. This activity may take longer than 30 minutes if you decide to watch, listen, play as a group and then have a discussion. Use these resources or use your own!

STEP 1

Decide who you want to do this activity with and what you want to talk about. Check out the book lists, gaming, art, podcast, movie, and other recommendations as a starting point.

STEP 2

Share the book, movie, etc. with the group so they can digest it before you meet or invite everyone to do it together.

STEP 3

Talk about the experience as a group.

- What was surprising or a new idea to you?
- What hopes and dreams do we have about this topic?
- For real change to happen, who has to work on this?
- What can this group do today or very soon about this topic?
- What can Douglas County and/or the City of Lawrence do today or very soon to make progress on this topic?

STEP 4

Tell us how it went by filling out the Ambassador Feedback Form.

<https://tinyurl.com/jjdznv22>

Videos/ Movies

- Project Drawdown, **Climate Solutions 101** is a 6-part series designed to connect people with climate solutions.
- **Kiss the Ground**, 2020, TV-G, 62 min Documentary Film. Science experts and celebrity activists unpack the ways in which the earth's soil may be the key to combating climate change and preserving the planet.
- **Wall-E**, 2008, Rated G, 1hr 38min Director Andrew Stanton.
- **Mad Max: Fury Road**, 2015, Rated R, 2 hr, Director George Miller.
- Watch **Black Panther** (2018, Rated PG-13, 2 hr 14 min) and read with this article '[Wakanda Doesn't Have Suburbs](#)': [How Movies Like Black Panther Could Help Us Save the Planet](#)

[NASA's Climate Kids website.](#)

Explore the big questions about climate, weather, and our planet. The site has videos and interactive games.

WATCH, LISTEN, PLAY, AND DISCUSS- PART 2



Group Size:
3-15

Materials:

- access to podcast, video, art, game, etc.

Podcasts

- Brains On! is an award-winning audio show for kids and families. The mission is to encourage kids' natural curiosity and wonder using science and history...but there's no age limit on curiosity and episodes of Brains On can be enjoyed by anyone.
- How to Save a Planet: How to Save a Planet is a podcast that asks the big questions: what do we need to do to solve the climate crisis, and how do we get it done?
- Mothers of Invention: Mothers of Invention gives focus to the stories of black, brown and indigenous women and girls who have been innovating from the front lines of climate change for generations — all over the world.
- Zero Hour Talks: This youth podcast is produced by Zero Hour, a global, youth-led climate activism group.
- Story-telling/Story-listening: This 4-part series uplifts Indigenous perspectives on climate change and decolonization.
- HEATED: A podcast on how COVID-19 and the climate crisis are inseparable

Book lists for kids and teens:

- Environment, Climate, and Sustainability Picture Books
- Environment, Climate, and Sustainability Kids' Non-Fiction.
- Environment, Climate, and Sustainability YA Non-Fic
- Environment, Climate, and Sustainability Kids' Fiction
- Eco-fi and Cli-fi for Teens

Book list for adults

- True Power for Climate Recovery.

Gaming

- Sustainable City in Minecraft. This free map is available as a download in the Minecraft Marketplace "Education Collection" and within Minecraft: Education Edition. Six lessons are designed to give students a sense of stewardship for the planet, from sustainable food production to waste management, learning about the components of a sustainable home, exploring alternative electricity, and more.

PHOTOVOICE



Ages 7+



45 min

Group Size:

>3

Materials:

- cameras
- way to print or view photos

Photovoice is a way for people to use photographs and/or video to picture their environment and experiences and to express their thoughts about them. The goal is to have a group of photographs that can be used to make a powerful statement about a topic.

- STEP 1** Decide who you want to do this activity with. Decide as a group what the focus of the project will be. Here are a few ideas to get started:
- Where is a place you are afraid of losing because of climate change?
 - Where is someplace you walk, bike, drive everyday? What do you see during your journey that you would like to change?
 - Where are the places that are frustrating or where you feel uncomfortable?
 - Where are the places that you might want to go, but are hard to get to? Why are they hard to get to?
- STEP 2** The photography phase of a Photovoice project can last as little as 30 minutes and as long as a few weeks. Decide on a length of time that works best for your group.
- STEP 3** Decide how the photos will be shared/ displayed and if participants will remain anonymous. This could be a post on social media or a display in a public place (a school, place of worship, work setting, a front porch, etc.)
- STEP 4** Go out and take pictures! Remember that safety comes first.
1. Always be aware of your surroundings! Do not put yourself in danger when taking pictures.
 2. Discuss as a group how to protect yourself if you are in a dangerous situation.
 3. Do not take pictures of people unless you have their permission. Participants may find themselves in situations where they may be catching people in private, embarrassing, or illegal behavior. Discuss as a group how to ask permission to take a photo of a person and how to react if they refuse.
- STEP 5** Discuss, reflect, and display
1. Get your group together virtually or in-person.
 2. Each person shows their pictures and explains why they took them.
 3. Challenge people in your group to think about how these images might influence decision makers and the public.
 4. Decide as a group how to display the work in a public setting (virtually or in public place).
- STEP 6** Tell us how it went by filling out the Ambassador Feedback Form.
<https://tinyurl.com/jjdznv22>

**SOMETHING
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT**



Don't see something on this list that fits your style? Consider this your invitation to do something completely different.

HERE ARE YOUR ONLY REQUIREMENTS:

- gather people in some way related to climate
- write down some of the key points
- fill out the Ambassador Feedback Form

<https://tinyurl.com/jjdznv22>



REMEMBER TO
TELL US HOW IT WENT BY FILLING OUT
THE AMBASSADOR FEEDBACK FORM!

[HTTPS://DOUGLASCOUNTYKS.ORG/CLIMATE](https://douglascountyks.org/climate)