

SOLUTIONS

Worksheets for teachers

TAKING ACTION

1. There are many actions we can take at local level to combat climate change. Local governments play a major role in making cities more climate-friendly – a very important task, since urban areas account for between 60-80% of global energy use and about the same share of CO₂ emissions!

Can you think of any city-based solutions to climate change? Here are a few to get you started:

- Car-free days
- Developing green areas
- 'Climate-proofing' buildings

2. In 2016, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy was launched to accelerate climate action at local level all around the world. It currently has more than 9,000 signatories!

- a. Go on their website and find out whether the place you live in is a signatory. Have you noticed any special measures being taken to combat climate change in your town?
- b. As a class, draft an invitation to a local politician to come and visit your school. Tell them why you are interested in climate action and ask them to outline some of their key policies and reasons for joining the Covenant (or not). Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions!

TAKING ACTION

3. Cities and governments can only do so much – it is also up to YOU to fight climate change as an individual!

Put a tick next to the climate-friendly habits below, and a cross next to the unfriendly ones.

- Throw your food in the bin as soon as it reaches its 'best before' date.
- Keep the lights switched on when you leave your room or home – you want to be able to find your way back if it gets dark later.
- Open the window when you have the heating on during the winter – it is important to have a small draught of fresh air.
- Buy exotic and out-of-season fruits and vegetables at the supermarket – blueberries from faraway countries taste much better than local ones!
- When shopping for new household appliances, tell your parents to consider appearance and value for money above anything else.
- You can put all your waste in the same-colour bin bags, as long as you separate it for recycling beforehand.
- Throw your mobile devices in the bin when you get a new one – the gold and mercury inside are natural elements and can easily decompose.
- Don't compost – decomposing food produces methane, which is bad for the soil.

Oops... that's right, those are ALL wrong! In small groups, correct and rewrite the above sentences to make them useful for those trying to adopt climate-friendly habits.