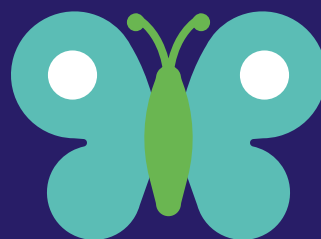


The Climate Connection

Partnering for a better future



Committed to tackling the climate emergency

As the UK's cultural relations organisation, we connect people in the UK with countries worldwide to tackle the global climate emergency.

What we do

We connect UK expertise in education, English and arts and culture with the rest of the world to develop new solutions, partnerships and platforms that can address climate change.

We enable innovative ideas

By providing opportunities to connect, learn and collaborate in arts and culture, education and English, we are supporting new and unique climate solutions.

We connect diverse expertise

By establishing partnerships across countries and sectors, we are bringing a more co-operative and inclusive approach to addressing climate change.

We amplify under-represented voices

By creating platforms for marginalised groups to enter the climate debate, we are giving a voice to those most affected by climate change.

Our core focus

Building skills and knowledge

Our education and English projects, resources, training and study opportunities help people gain the knowledge and skills to act on climate change.

Enabling creative responses

We support people across the arts and cultural sectors to develop new responses to the climate challenge and bring new dimensions to their work.

Protecting cultural heritage at risk

Our Cultural Protection Fund preserves heritage at risk from climate change and mitigates its effects on valued cultural heritage across the world.

Contributing new climate research

We bring new insights and analysis to the global climate debate through our growing body of research across arts and culture, education and English.

Our sustainability commitment

We have a social responsibility to deliver our projects and services with a lower carbon footprint. We are already on track to reduce our carbon emissions by 33 per cent, compared to 2017, and have pledged to achieve net zero emissions by 2040.



Our global impact

The Climate Connection is our global platform for addressing the climate challenge.

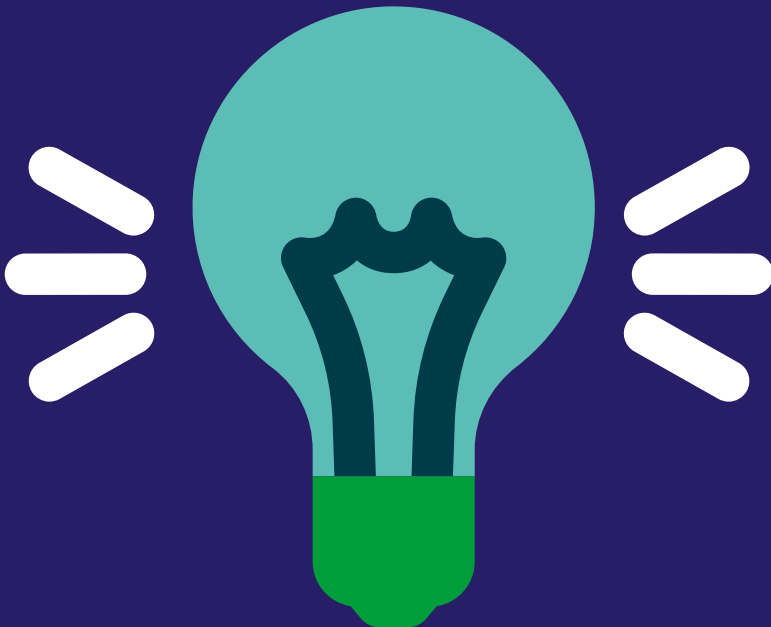
Since 2020, it has inspired millions of people around the world to explore, create and collaborate on new solutions to tackle climate change through the arts and culture, education and English.

Reached 441 million people in over 200 countries and territories

Connected with more than 7,600 partners around the world



Directly engaged more than 3.4 million young people globally



Putting young people at the heart of the climate dialogue

Our research, projects and platforms address how climate change is affecting young people globally, how prepared they are to deal with looming threats and what skills they need to be part of the just transition.

More than 32,000 young people, in 87 countries, contributed to the global climate debate by adding their voices to our **Global Youth Letter** – a collective statement of intent that helped to inform discussion and debate in the lead-up to COP26.

Our **Climate Skills** programme is building an evidence base on the green skills young people need and will train 12,000 globally in the next three years.

We support events that focus on how to connect young people and policymakers, including a **panel discussion chaired by COP26 President, Rt Hon Alok Sharma**, looking at ways to include young people in climate dialogue and action.

Through our continuing **partnership with YOUNGO**, we support young people across the globe to gather and participate in both global and regional Conferences of Youth.



The Climate Connection at COP28

Building on our legacy of enriching the debate at COP26 and COP27, we are using COP28 to further amplify the role of education, English and arts and culture in addressing the climate challenge.

Alongside our pavilion in the conference Blue zone, to showcase the ways we support people to tackle climate change globally, our contribution to COP28 includes:

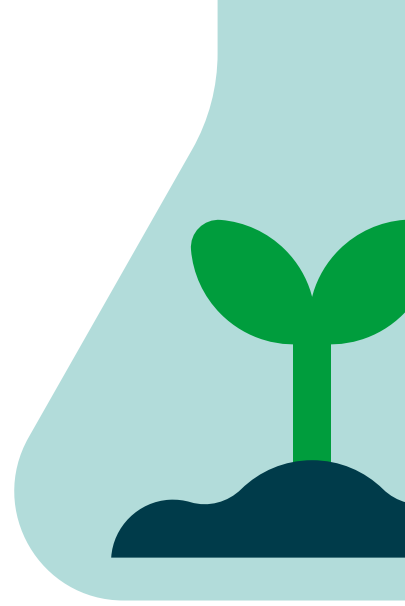
- hosting sessions and panels to explore the role of education and culture in addressing climate change
- In partnership with the UK government, hosting a panel discussion on embedding climate change education and developing resilient education systems
- contributing to a range of sessions and discussions organised by our partners
- delivering a practical workshop for English language teachers on climate-related classroom activities that can be used with different age groups
- organising our annual Live at COP MOOC for teachers and educators to learn more about current global issues and to take positive actions towards a sustainable future
- organising a World Climate Simulation event, where school students participate in a pseudo UN debate on achieving net zero carbon emissions.



Find you more about our support of COP28 at:

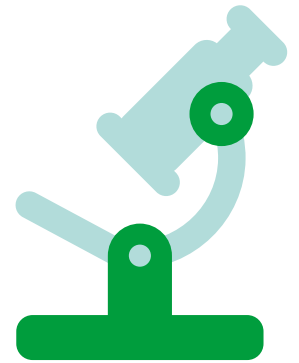
www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection/get-involved/cop28

Building skills and knowledge to tackle climate change



Our social action training has enabled young community leaders around the world to deliver climate change projects so far benefiting 114,000 people.

Our education and English projects, resources, training and study opportunities help people gain the knowledge and skills to take action on climate change.



Equipping young climate leaders

Our **Challenge Grants for Young People** have equipped young changemakers around the world with enhanced leadership and advocacy skills to deliver grassroots, community-based solutions to climate challenges.

Through continued support, many of these projects are now being upscaled to address the most pressing climate challenges affecting communities.

Meanwhile, our global **Climate Skills** programme will strengthen the capacity of local organisations to equip 12,000 young people with the green skills they need to achieve a just transition.

Embedding climate education in schools

Our **classroom resources, teacher training and school partnership opportunities** strengthen teachers' and students' understanding of climate issues and how to be responsible citizens.

Our classroom resources linked to the **Sustainable Development Goals**, such as Life on Land and Life Below Water, take learners on a journey to discover the beauty and biodiversity of the environment, the impact of climate change and how to protect our planet.

Meanwhile, our **World Climate Simulation** events give students a taste of what it's like around the UN negotiating table, as they take on the role of national delegates to reach a global agreement on climate action.



Boosting green skills

Our **partnership opportunities** for technical and vocational education colleges in the UK and around the world are helping to strengthen green skills and renewables training and to meet the demands of the jobs of the future.

For example, colleges in the UK and Morocco are partnering to embed innovative tech-based approaches to green skills training, such as Go-Pro-enabled delivery and VR classrooms.

Enriching English learning

Our **English resources and teacher training courses** are enabling climate issues to be explored in English lessons around the world.

Our **Climate Action in Language Education** course supports English language teachers around the world to integrate environmental issues into lessons and inspire learners to take climate action.

Empowering early-career researchers

Through **scholarships, fellowships and university partnerships**, we support early-career researchers to connect internationally and strengthen their capacity to conduct collaborative research in response to the climate emergency.

For example, **Commonwealth Future Climate Leaders** fellows are early-career researchers from ten countries, who are taking part in a three-year training and research programme with UK academics to develop sustainable collaborations in cutting-edge climate action research.

Our legacy:

- With our climate resources, training and partnership opportunities, school teachers have inspired an estimated 3.4 million school students on climate topics.
- We have supported English teachers in 120 countries to embed climate issues in lessons through over 50,000 training, resource and podcast interactions.
- We have helped more than 500 early-career researchers improve their ability to work on climate-related solutions and expand their understanding of new disciplines and contexts.
- Our seminars and policy dialogues have connected training providers, policymakers and industry partners from 15 countries to explore new solutions related to green skills and sustainability.
- We have given young science communicators a platform to inspire more than three million people with innovative, climate-related research.
- Cohorts of young journalists have strengthened their capacity to report on climate issues.
- Education providers have used our opportunities to help establish sustainable international research collaborations on climate and environmental research.

Supporting artistic and cultural responses to climate change

We support people across the arts and cultural sectors to develop new, innovative responses to the climate challenge, and help them connect with the science and climate sectors to bring new dimensions to their work.

Through 30 international cultural collaborations, partners from 85 countries have developed new creative responses to climate change, viewed by more than four million people online.

International climate collaborations

Our **Creative Commissions** bring together artists, community organisations, scientists and young people to develop creative responses to the climate crisis. The results of these collaborations offer alternative and imaginative ways to look at and understand climate challenges, while helping to raise public awareness of climate issues through exhibitions, video artworks and online platforms.

Discover more of our Creative Commissions at: www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection/be-inspired/creative-commissions



Visit the Museum of Plastic

Imagine a future where single-use plastic is only ever found in museums. Take a virtual tour of the Museum of Plastic 2121, one of our Creative Commissions, to discover a world where plastic pollution is a thing of the past.

<https://cura.tours/mop2121>

Listen to the Mermaid's Tears

Listen to a story about microplastics in our waterways – known as ‘mermaid’s tears’ among climate scientists – one of 12 stories in Arabic and English developed for our We Still Have a Chance Creative Commission.

<https://greenfutures.exeter.ac.uk/article/we-still-have-a-chance-digital-recordings>



Photography by Camilla Greenwell.



Promoting more sustainable festivals

Cultura Circular responds to the environmental impact of festivals by providing grants to create a more sustainable festival sector across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Festival Ciudad Mural Puebla, México

Our legacy:

- Through our Creative Commissions, artists have gained skills to develop exhibitions and collaborations that deal with climate. For many, this is the first time they have explored the theme of climate change in their creative work.
- We have helped young fashion designers showcase their creative climate responses to an online audience of more than 4,000 people.
- We have supported curators and artists across the UK and Balkans to engage more than 600,000 people through creative responses and exhibitions on the climate crisis.
- We have helped to diversify the climate conversation with experts and organisations from across the cultural and education sectors through roundtables, research and essays.



Protecting cultural heritage at risk from climate change

Our Cultural Protection Fund preserves heritage at risk from climate change and mitigates its effects on valued cultural heritage across the world. It funds projects that directly respond to the threat of climate change and natural disasters.

Examples of Cultural Protection Fund projects

- In Sudan, we are helping to protect intangible heritage of pastoralist communities at risk due to climate change.
- In Egypt, we are helping to protect two medieval Islamic monuments in historic Cairo – Yahya al-Shabih and Safiyy al-Din Jawhar – currently at risk due to climate change-related threats, while engaging women and children in urban greening projects.
- In southern Iraq, we are helping to protect and promote the country's unique, endangered inland watercraft heritage, which is in rapid decline due to the ongoing impact of climate change.

Discover more Cultural Protection Fund projects at: www.britishcouncil.org/arts/culture-development/cultural-protection-fund

Since 2016, we have awarded £50 million in funding to 149 Cultural Protection Fund projects in 16 countries.

Contributing new climate research

Examples of our climate-focused research

Our research on **enhancing climate change education in schools** informs governments and education organisations on priorities for enhancing climate change and sustainability education in schools.

Our research on **the role of cultural relations in climate action** explores topics such as the Youth Strike for Climate, how education can offer new approaches to the climate crisis, and ways to make sense of climate change in the digital age.

Our research on the **leading arts and climate trends in the UK** provides insights into the top eight trends in artistic approaches to climate change and sustainability, along with case studies on best practices.

Our research to understand **the impact of our Climate Connection programme** took the form of discussions with partners and stakeholders in front of a global audience.

Discover more of our climate research at:
www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection/be-inspired/research-essays



If you are interested in partnering or collaborating with us to develop projects and solutions to address climate change with a focus on education and culture, please get in touch.

climateconnection@britishcouncil.org