

Frequently Asked Questions

**Make The Link -
Climate exChange**

Interested in Getting Involved?

Here are some things you might like to know about the Project. For more information, or to link your school with schools in Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, Bulgaria, The Netherlands, and around the UK, please contact Plan UK's School Outreach Officer, Rachel Landman, at:

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Who are Plan UK and The Citizenship Foundation?

Plan is one of the largest child-centred community development organisations in the world, helping children and their families to break the cycle of poverty.

The Citizenship Foundation is an independent education charity that works to encourage and enable individuals to play an effective role in a democratic society.

What will the students learn through this project?

The aim of the project is to promote learning, dialogue and action on climate change. The project supports Geography, Citizenship, ICT, Languages, Science and Media Studies curricula. The emphasis is on practical steps students might take as a result of this enhanced knowledge.

What does the project cost?

The project is fully funded by the EU and is FREE to UK secondary schools.

All accompanying teaching resources are provided FREE of charge to participants along with training, technical support and lots of ideas! Involvement in the project also gives you access to a dedicated interactive web platform with tools and resources to support linking with others, additional learning and taking action on issues raised in the classroom.



How many students can take part?

Any number of pupils and class groups from your school can get involved - the more the better!

Who is involved?



The project links secondary school students in three European countries (the UK, Bulgaria and The Netherlands), and three African countries (Kenya, Malawi and Senegal).

Will learning resources and teaching support materials be provided?

Yes! - the project will provide teachers with flexible and engaging lesson plans, teaching notes and reference materials on the science, politics and social dimensions of climate change. A series of 7 lessons will form the core of the course.

The course materials also include materials aimed specifically at your students, and all participating students will be able to access the fully interactive web platform which includes online discussion forums, school pages and a gallery of young people's projects. The learning resources and web platform will facilitate cross-cultural and multi-language exchanges, and encourage students to work with one another on local, national or international climate change mitigation activities, and advocacy campaigns.

How will we access the learning resources?

Schools will be sent a package of hard copy resources and information on how to access the website. Resources will also be available online. Our online portal and resources have been developed with the security of students as a main priority and in full compliance with child protection policies of the UK government.

How much time will it take?

The learning resources have been designed to take approximately 7 hours of classroom teaching time to deliver. They could be used on a once a week basis, or more or less frequently as convenient.

How does this relate to the curriculum?

The materials have been developed to align with the key stages 3 and 4 curriculum framework, particularly in the Citizenship, Geography, Media Studies, ICT, Modern Language and Science subject areas. Participating in this project also provides an international dimension to your school's programs, and qualifies your school for the DCSF International School Awards.

What equipment will our school need in order to participate?

Although not necessary for every lesson, you will need to have computers and internet access to utilise the dedicated Make the Link - Climate exChange web platform.

How reliable is the technology?

The web platform will be thoroughly tested before going live to participating schools. Technical and user support will also be available throughout the project in case any issues arise.

What support is available for participating teachers?

In addition to training workshops to give you ideas on how to deliver the climate change lessons, a dedicated support officer will be available at all times to respond to queries, support your activities and troubleshoot any problems with the web platform.

The support officer can also arrange for Local Councillors, MPs, MEPs and celebrities to visit your school, and help you to organise community events and get media coverage of your school's activities.

What is the timeline for this project?

Schools can participate for one, two or three years, according to their preference.

Why should we choose this specific project?

Climate change is a current and important issue to young people of school age. This project will increase students' understanding of the issues around, and causes of, climate change, and the things they can do locally, nationally and internationally to address the effects of climate change on their lives.

By engaging with vulnerable groups through the project, both in the EU and Africa, students will also develop a greater understanding and appreciation of other cultural groups, self awareness, and open mindedness towards difference. This will lead to changes in attitude and behaviour, fostering a a greater sense of global citizenship.

Will the children visit a developing country?

The project aims to link people in low carbon impact ways, so we won't be organising travel as part of the program. However, the relationships you establish with other schools could be followed up by your school independently of the project.

We already link with a school overseas - can we get them involved in this project?

Why not? The web platform is open to anyone who is interested in engaging with others and taking action on climate change. You can get your linked school involved by joining them up online.

What about child protection?

Plan's work is focussed around the needs of children. Children are at the heart of our work. Our online portal and resources have been developed with the security of students as a main priority and in full compliance with child protection policies of the UK Government. All usernames and passwords for the web platform will not disclose full names of pupils or teachers.

More about Plan's work...

Each year, Plan funds more than 20,000 new projects and thousands of on-going ones.

We work in 48 countries with more than 3,500,000 families and their communities across Africa, Asia and the Americas each year to promote child rights and lift millions of children out of poverty.

Plan's work to promote child rights is based around 8 core areas which are:

**Education | Health | Water & Sanitisation | Protection | Economic Security
Emergencies | Child Participation | Sexual Health, including HIV**

www.plan-international.org



Citizenship Foundation



If you have any questions please contact Rachel Landman: rachel.landman@plan-international.org or 020 7482 9777