

Uniting for a Sustainable Future
Climate Change Discussion Group (Table #8)
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Table focus: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact

1. Why should this goal be included in the Sustainable Development Goals?
 - a. Individual efforts—decreasing air conditioning use,
 - b. We need each of us to consider what we can do in our homes and our individual lives.
 - c. Consider water usage, including the use of water in toilets
 - d. Everything is interdependent
 - e. It starts with me.
 - f. We need to work as a community
 - g. Population has doubled since 1970 and our use of resources has not taken into consideration the scarcity.
 - h. The whole planet's ecosystem, with species dying off, fish, mammals, birds. Biodiversity will suffer in ways that we cannot anticipate.
 - i. 40% of species have gone extinct.
 - j. Rising sea levels and less fresh water as a result threaten all communities.
 - k. Choice of crops raised is
 - l. Because Anthropogenic Climate Change is real.
 - m. Tipping points are real and we need to act on our own behalf.
 - n. If we don't address climate change right now, we will experience absolute chaos, and so we have to act now. Societal chaos includes war, social upheaval, and population displacement.
 - o. My group
 - p. My group
 - q. My group
 - Group 2.
 - r. Most urgent of all of the 17 items
 - s.

Ranking

13.3

13.2

13 a and b

13.1

2. Which targets from the OWG document are most important?
 - a. Improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.
 - i. Education will create a groundswell of support. Building the political will to create change will occur through education.
 - b. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.
 - i. Corporate social responsibility needs to be required.
 - ii. Private and public responsibility need to be considered.
 - iii. National priorities and prejudices come into play.
 - iv. Cultural biases need to be acknowledged.
 - v. Prevention is more important than resilience or adaptation at this time.

- vi. More democratic participation in public sectors will make politicians and public policy more accountable.
 - c. Rich countries need to contribute to LDCs in making a big difference in those countries. Distribute \$100 billion to LDCs because they can best use those resources.
 - i. This amount is not enough.
3. How do you think the OWG document should be applied to United States policy making and legislation?
- a. Need Congress, especially the Senate, to pass UN treaties related to the climate, including Treaty of the Seas and the Convention on Climate Change.
 - b. Amount paid to LDCs to help mitigate and implement measures to respond to climate change needs to be increased.
 - c. Teach about sustainable development and cradle-to-cradle life cycle assessment in public education policy.
 - d. Encourage learning and research on the science of climate change.
 - e. Follow up on the goals stated in the Future We Want document from the UN Rio +20 Climate Conference.

Set Carbon prices to cover the real costs including cost to the environment and to encourage investment in sustainable energy .

Enforceable limits on carbon emissions for all.

Mass action to move from conversation to action

Develop political will.

4. What needs to be done to integrate goals into state and local policies?
- a. Carbon tax needs to be passed.
 - b. Encourage local, state, and national entities to consider new ways to manage garbage. Strengthen incentives to recycle and reuse.
 - c. Anaerobic digesters need to be encouraged.
 - d. More regulation of pollution and building practices.
 - e. Clean water, waste water, and grey water uses need to be implemented in local policy for sustainable planning.
 - f. Tiered-rate policies for water and power
 - g. We need to regulate feed lots, hydraulic fracturing, and extraction of all minerals.
 - h. Give tax credits for sustainable practices.
 - i. Tax well heads.
 - j. Each city should adopt a sustainability plan across all departments.
 - k. Incorporate sustainability in all urban planning including expansion of solar use in all new construction
 - l. Encourage Mass transit.
5. What will be the obstacles to making progress on this goal at the global, national, and local levels?
- a. Lack of political will
 - b. Ignorance
 - c. Indifference
 - d. Repeal Citizens United.

- e. Vested interests of industries that rely on fossil fuels: automobile industry, coal, oil,
 - f. Global capitalist practices that focus on profit to the detriment of the environment
 - g. Global cooperation/
 - h. National-media controlled and limits expansive news coverage
 - i. National-getting congress to act
 - j. Multinational corporations –getting them to act
 - k. Lack of education awareness and apathy particularly among youth
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6. Which stakeholders and coalitions will be important to engage in order to make progress on this goal and its targets?
- a. Environmentalists
 - b. Interfaith Coalition for the Environment
 - c. Institutions of Higher Education
 - d. All institutions of education
 - e. Corporate responsibility groups and leaders
 - f. Global philanthropy groups—Clinton Foundation, Gates Foundation, Sierra, Greenpeace, all energy coalitions
 - g. We need to put the climate on the platform of every political party.
 - h. Multinational Corporations
 - i. Intl Governments
 - j. Divestment movements and campaign
 - k. Global Citizens
 - l. Philanthropy
 - m. EPA and other government agencies
 - n. Lobbying groups
 - o. Global youth
- Action Model: talk among ourselves and begin to buy environment