

UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE CHANGE

The Solutions: Taking Action to Reduce Climate Change

Presenter: Wanjira Mathai, Director of the Partnership for Women's Entrepreneurship in Renewables at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies at the University of Nairobi

Lesson Description

Learn about technologies - big and small - that are being used to reduce the effects of climate change, including solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, as well as the importance of preserving and maintaining forests and what you can do to help stop climate change.

Lesson Overview

1. The potential of renewable energy sources to reduce the effects of climate change.
2. An overview of the different types of renewable energy sources being developed.
3. The importance of stopping deforestation in order to alleviate climate change.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the ways that you use fossil fuels in your daily life? In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, where do you think you could reduce or eliminate the burning of fossil fuels? What daily activities or behaviors could you change? What daily activities or behaviors do you see that others could change?
2. Of the most promising renewable energy sources - solar, wind, hydro, geothermal - which do you think holds the most promise for residents of your community? Which do you believe will have the greatest impact? Have you seen any of these renewable energy sources implemented in your country or community? What ideas do you have for reducing greenhouse gas emissions?
3. What efforts are being made to educate people in your community on reducing the burning of fossil fuels and the level of greenhouse gas emissions? What are some of the behaviors and attitudes that people need to change when it comes to conservation and "green" living? What examples can you site of "green" living at home and abroad?

Developmental Actions

1. Develop your own or collaborate with other entrepreneurs or NGO's on a project to create innovative, scalable solutions to climate change.

About the Video Presenter

Wanjira Mathai is the Director of the Partnership for Women's Entrepreneurship in Renewables at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies at the University of Nairobi. Daughter of the late Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai, Ms. Mathai is the Chair of the Green Belt Movement, founded by her mother, and sits on the Board of Wangari Maathai Institute. She is a World Future Counselor, Advisory Council Member to the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, member of the Global Restoration Council and a member of the Earth Charter International Council. Ms. Mathai is a graduate of Hobart & William Smith Colleges. She earned graduate degrees in Public Health and Business from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health and Goizueta School of Business.