

Telling Your Climate Story

Everyone has a climate story. Climate change is and will continue to affect every community on Earth. You do not need to be a scientist or policy expert in order to share your climate story. You just need to care about the place you live and share your observations of the changes around you, how they are affecting you and your community, and how you are responding to them. Your stories will help give others a better understanding of how climate change is happening right here, right now, and will inspire action.

There is no right way to tell your climate story. The most successful stories weave personal experiences into the larger issue of our changing climate. Humor can lighten up the mood and it's always a good idea to try and include some given the heaviness of the topic. **Finishing with hope is a must.** And most importantly, speak from your heart. Keep it simple and to the point.

Think about the following questions to help you craft your story:

- Who are you and where do you live? What in your local environment or community is special to you?

- Describe the moment when you realized that climate change was affecting your life. How did you feel?

- What specific climate-related changes have you seen or experienced in the places you care about?

- Describe your emotional response to climate change as you think about yourself, your family, and your community.

- How do you imagine the future? What advice would you give to the world about climate change?

- What changes are you making in your own life and/or in your community to respond to climate change?