



Educator Factsheet: What Is the IPCC?

IPCC stands for **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** and is a body of the United Nations (made of 195 countries) bringing together the world's best climate and policy scientists to produce regular reports on the science of climate change.

How often are these reports published?

The reports are published every four years (released in stages) and include three parts:

Group 1: Covers the physical understanding of the climate system and of climate change

Group 2: Covers impacts, adaptations and the most vulnerable regions, groups of people and systems

Group 3: Covers global solutions to mitigate climate change and its effects

Why are the reports so important?

They provide objective information based on evidence, rather than making recommendations.

What are the main points of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report?

The state of climate change

- Human activity is the cause of the warming of atmosphere, the oceans and the land, due to increased greenhouse gas emissions due to energy use, land use and land use change.
- The current magnitude of the current climate changes has not been observed for centuries.
- There is strong evidence for human responsibility for increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events including heat waves, torrential rain, droughts and tropical storms.

Climate change: impacts now and future scenarios

- Temperatures will continue to rise until at least 2050, but keeping temperature rise within 2 or even 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels is still within our reach, and requires sharp and sustained reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Within increased temperatures, there will be increased frequency and intensity of extreme heat episodes on land and in the oceans, heavy rainfall, drought in some regions, tropical storms, decreased Arctic sea ice, sea cover and permafrost.
- If carbon dioxide emissions continue to increase, the oceans and land will be less able to absorb it.
- Some impacts of climate change will be irreversible for thousands of years
- Climate and weather extremes are disproportionately affecting more vulnerable communities, driving displacement, acute food insecurity and malnutrition

Mitigation and adaptation

- To stop global warming, we must at least achieve carbon dioxide neutrality and significantly reduce emissions of other greenhouse gases.
- A rapid and quick reduction in greenhouse gases can quickly lead to a more stable climate.
- Safeguarding biodiversity is key to climate resilient development.

Having the right policies, infrastructure and technology in place to enable changes to our lifestyles and behaviour can result in a 40-70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

What is the key message to learners?

While the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report provides a clear outline of the risks of inaction and the importance of change, we can celebrate the important work of scientists and organisations bringing together the most comprehensive understanding of the climate emergency, its impacts and the knowledge of what needs to be done to reduce the risks.



National Education
Nature Park and
Climate Action Awards



For more quality-assured learning resources visit
www.educationnaturepark.org.uk

Led by



Natural
History
Museum

With



RHS

THE
ROYAL
SOCIETY

Commissioned by



Department
for Education

Partners



Learning
through
Landscapes



Manchester
Metropolitan
University

NBN Trust
Making data work for nature

Royal
Geographical
Society
with IBG
Advancing geography
and geographical learning

UK Centre for
Ecology & Hydrology

Working with

esri UK
THE SCIENCE OF WHERE