

A Day of Climate Action: A School-Wide Event to Reduce Carbon Emissions

The scientists, politicians and environmental activists profiled in *The New York Times Magazine* story “Losing Earth” spent years in the late 1980s advocating for a global treaty that would commit 65 countries to a 20% reduction in their carbon emissions by 2005. Although this agreement was never reached (see the final chapter of the story to find out why), many individuals and their communities began reducing their carbon footprints by making informed choices about the products they use, the food they eat, their means of transportation, and more.

How can you and your school community contribute to reducing your individual and collective climate footprints? What could you commit to for one day, one week, one month, and into the future?

Instructions:

1. Research ways that individuals have made different choices to reduce their carbon footprints. *Consider: What parts of our daily routines contribute to carbon emissions? What are alternatives to those routines?*
2. Brainstorm changes you and your community can make to reduce carbon emissions using a table like the one below:

| | Actions that adds carbon dioxide to the environment | Alternative action that reduces carbon emissions |
|-----------|---|--|
| My life | | |
| My school | | |
| My city | | |

3. Plan an event where your entire school takes at least **one action together** for one day to reduce your carbon emissions. For ideas on how to communicate the impact of the action, check out the activity ideas in “[Visualizing Climate Change](#).” (link)

Share images from your event by emailing education@pulitzercenter.org or via social media @pulitzercenter #LosingEarth