

## Guide for using the Climate debate platform

### What is the purpose of the Climate debate platform?

IDEA has developed the Climate debate platform as a free and open online resource designed for youth workers, educators and teachers to engage young people in meaningful discussion about climate change and the green transformation. It provides carefully crafted case-studies, theory modules and discussion prompts that help learners explore complex environmental questions through debate-based pedagogy.

In using the platform, you can draw on premade materials which ease preparation and allow you to focus on facilitation: guiding reflection, enabling multiple perspectives and helping participants connect arguments to their personal, local and global lives. The ultimate aim is to foster critical thinking, debate skills and civic engagement. This methodological guide explains how educators, youth workers, and teachers can integrate the platform into their teaching, training, or non-formal education activities. It supports flexible use in classrooms, youth clubs, workshops, and civic education programmes.

The pedagogical foundations of debate methodology include active learning, where participants take responsibility for exploring real-world problems; dialogue, where understanding emerges through discussion; critical thinking, focused on evaluating sources and bias; civic relevance, linking debates to social and environmental challenges; and inclusivity, ensuring participation across diverse backgrounds. Educators and youth workers can use the platform to help learners:

- Develop analytical and argumentative skills
- Deepen understanding of climate change causes and consequences
- Build empathy toward global and local sustainability perspectives
- Strengthen communication, collaboration, and problem-solving abilities
- Foster environmental awareness and civic responsibility

### Using the platform

The Climate debate platform contains three main types of materials:

- Climate Case Studies present real-world scenarios involving dilemmas about policy, economy, ethics, and community responses to climate change.
- Theory and Background Sections introduce concepts such as sustainability, justice, adaptation, and mitigation.
- Debate and Discussion Prompts offer ready-to-use motions, questions, and perspectives suitable for group work or classroom debate.

Each resource can be used independently for a single discussion or combined into a longer learning module that includes research, reflection, and project work. The platform supports various implementation modes such as classroom lessons, youth workshops, project-based learning, cross-curricular activities, and online or blended sessions. Educators can select materials that best match their learners' context, whether in formal education or non-formal youth engagement.



The educator or youth worker acts as a facilitator rather than an instructor. Their task is to guide participants through the case, ensure understanding of key ideas, encourage equal participation, and moderate respectful dialogue. Facilitators help learners connect global challenges to personal and community experiences and lead reflection on lessons learned and possible next steps.

All materials are adaptable. Users are encouraged to select locally relevant case studies, translate or simplify content, and adjust the level of complexity to suit the age or experience of participants. Activities can range from informal opinion exchanges to structured debates, simulations, or role-plays. Educators may also integrate local data, multimedia, or community perspectives to enrich the experience. This flexibility allows the Climate Debate Platform to serve diverse educational settings, from lower secondary to adult education, and to foster both knowledge and civic engagement through critical, inclusive, and participatory learning.

You can also integrate our tools into broader educational goals connected to sustainable development and global citizenship, for example:

- European Green Deal themes such as transition, energy, or social justice.
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 13, 16, 17).
- Youth participation frameworks emphasizing agency and deliberation.
- Media literacy and misinformation resilience, especially when discussing climate narratives and public discourse.

### **Reflection, Evaluation, and Continued Use**

Reflection is a key part of every debate activity. After each session, facilitators should create space for participants to analyse what they have learned and how their perspectives evolved. Evaluation can take various forms, such as short written reflections, peer feedback, or group discussions. Participants can be guided to consider questions such as:

- What perspectives and values emerged in the discussion?
- How was evidence used, questioned, or challenged?
- What biases or assumptions became visible?
- How does the debate relate to their community, daily life, or possible actions?

Our platform is designed for continuous use and collaboration. Educators can build a sequence of sessions using different case studies to explore multiple dimensions of climate policy, ethics, and social responsibility. Repeated use allows learners to track their progress and expand their knowledge over time. Collaboration between schools, youth organizations, and international partners extends these discussions beyond the local level, fostering a global exchange of ideas. Users are encouraged to share their experiences, adaptations, and new debate ideas within the IDEA network to support collective improvement and to contribute to a growing community of educators and youth workers committed to climate education through debate.

