

ACTIVITY 1B.

“From Differences to Dialogue”



PURPOSE & INTRODUCTION

This activity helps participants engage in meaningful climate conversations across different worldviews by identifying shared values and connecting climate action to everyday concerns.

Addressing climate change as a systemic issue offers an opportunity to make essential systems, such as housing, transport, and access to clean air and water, more fair, healthy, and inclusive. The challenge is helping people see themselves in this opportunity. Meaningful engagement starts with connection, not facts.

THE ACTIVITY

1. Review guiding communication principles

- Make sure that you share accurate information without exaggerating - this reduces trust. Use key figures and statistics if you know them.
- Use accessible language - even though we may use acronyms or scientific terminology everyday, it does not mean that this is the case for everyone.
- Acknowledge the other person's experience. Even if you disagree, they still deserve dignity and to be treated with respect.
- Ask questions if applicable. This allows you to better grasp what the other is saying.
- Try not to paint an overly negative outlook. This can make people disengage and feel more hopeless about the topic.
- Ground the conversation in something tangible, and even better if it applies to the person you are speaking to. This helps them connect to the information at a more personal level.
- Acknowledge privilege - or power imbalances - with the person you are speaking to. They may be looking at things from a different perspective due to their world experiences.
- Be kind - this will go a long way when speaking with someone you disagree with!

2. Warm-up reflection

Ask participants to think of someone in their life who does not see climate change as a top priority. What do they care deeply about? Invite a few people to share, and write down key values they mention on a board (e.g. safety, tradition, jobs, faith, independence).

3. Scenario Roleplay

Break into small groups (3-4 people). Distribute the scenario cards, each with a short statement representing a common concern or worldview. Each group chooses one person to play the role of the speaker on the card. Others take turns responding: reframe the conversation by linking climate action to something the speaker values.

Example:

- “I care more about putting food on the table than some abstract climate issues.”
- “Solar panels are for rich people. That is not for someone like me.”

Each group chooses one person to play the role of the speaker on the card. Others take turns responding: reframe the conversation by linking climate action to something the speaker values.

4. Debrief & Group Reflection

- What worked well in your conversations?
- What was difficult to respond to?