

ACTIVITY 1A.

“Beyond Our Own Lens”



CLIMATE CHANGE IS A
PROBLEM, BUT I HAVE
BIGGER PROBLEMS.

INTRODUCTION

A just transition is experienced differently depending on people's circumstances, identities, and worldviews. In this activity, participants will explore how values and lived experiences shape perspectives on climate action. By identifying the frames and priorities behind climate-related statements, they will practice connecting climate action to what matters most to people in ways that are relevant, respectful, and inclusive.

THE ACTIVITY

Provide real-world quotes or common objections about climate action and ask participants to reflect using the questions in the grid. This activity encourages participants to step outside their own worldview and practice seeing through the eyes of others.

Step 1: Show a quote

- Present a short statement (e.g. from media, community voices, or politicians).
- Ask: “What is this person really saying?”
- Encourage participants to listen beyond the literal words.

Step 2: Identify the frame

- Invite the group to reflect: “What identity, belief system, or lived experience might shape this perspective?”
- Note that multiple frames may coexist. Capture different suggestions without judgement.

Step 3: Explore the concern

- Prompt reflection: “What issue/feeling might be driving this comment - fear, disillusionment, pride, survival, dignity?”
- Encourage participants to think both emotional and practical.

Step 4: Reframe climate change

- Ask: “If you were looking at climate change from this perspective, what would it mean? What might this person fear losing, or hope to gain, in a transition?”

EXAMPLES OF QUOTES

Facilitators are encouraged to include stories and other quotes.

- “Why should we care about carbon taxes when I can't pay my rent?”

Maria is a single mother working long shifts to keep up with the rising rent in her city. Every month is a struggle to cover housing, childcare, and groceries. When she hears politicians debate about carbon taxes, it feels irrelevant. For her, survival today feels more urgent than policies aimed at an uncertain future.

- “Green policies are killing our farms.”

Johan runs a mid-sized family farm passed down through generations. Recently, stricter environmental regulations have forced him to cut livestock numbers and invest in costly new equipment. He is proud of feeding his community, but he feels his livelihood and his identity as a farmer are under attack. Climate policies do not feel like support; they feel like punishment.

- “These protesters block traffic and hurt workers, not billionaires.”
- “There's a housing crisis and they can't build more affordable homes because of environmental regulations.”
- “I know flying is bad but the train is too expensive.”
- “The organic, vegan options at the supermarket are way too expensive - only rich people can afford to eat that way.”
- “Why should I change my own behavior if rich people are flying in private jets?”
- “We only just started being able to afford having a car, now I'm supposed to pay for a fancy electric one?”