

CLIMATE COPS



**BRIGHT IDEAS FOR
SUSTAINABLE LIVING**

A TEACHING TOOLKIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-14

Lesson 4

Sustainable development:
what is it?



After completing this lesson you will...

- know what sustainable development is
- be able to name and explain some examples of sustainable development.





Sustainable development: what is it?

- a) Development that involves improving the quality of human life, and is achieved in harmony with improving and maintaining the health of ecological systems.
- b) Development of land or water to make it more profitable or productive or useful.
- c) Development that involves a low income per capita country becoming more industrialised.
- d) Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.¹

1. Our Common Future, 1987, The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED).



Test questions

Carbon trading

- 1) What is carbon trading?
- 2) What is the Kyoto Protocol?
- 3) How does carbon trading help the environment?





Test questions

Agenda 21

- 1) What is Agenda 21?
- 2) Agenda 21 was the product of a major international meeting in 1992. What was the meeting called?
- 3) Can you name three of the major areas covered in Agenda 21?



Test questions

Home energy audit

- 1) What is a home energy audit?
- 2) List three potential recommendations that could follow from this service.
- 3) How does this service help the environment?





Test questions

Carbon offsetting

- 1) What is carbon offsetting?
- 2) List three examples of carbon offsetting.
- 3) How does carbon offsetting help the environment?





Sustainable development: the fact fair

- Using the information on the information cards create a fact fair poster.
- Your poster should communicate the following:
 - What your example of sustainable development is.
 - How it works.



Sustainable development: the fact fair

- But...
- You can only use five words on your poster.
- You will have to draw everything else.
- You can use your chosen five words as many times as you like.
- You can use numbers and symbols (e.g.£ and +).
- The name of your example initiative cannot feature in any way among your five chosen words.



How did you do?: carbon trading

- 1) Carbon trading is a system under which a number of countries are given a limit on the greenhouse gas emissions they can produce in a year. They can then set a limit for their businesses. If a business or country does not need all of its emission allowances it can sell them to another country or business which needs more.





How did you do?: carbon trading

2) The Kyoto Protocol is the agreement that 170 countries made to make reductions in their emissions of greenhouse gases.





How did you do?: carbon trading

- 3) Carbon trading helps the environment by giving a financial value to emissions. Businesses and governments try not to emit too many gases as they will have to pay for them. It also means that countries and businesses that reduce their emissions are rewarded financially.



How did you do?: Agenda 21

- 1) Agenda 21 is a United Nations programme / document on sustainable development.



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How did you do?: Agenda 21

- 2) Agenda 21 was produced after the Earth Summit in 1992 for which 172 Governments met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to talk about the environment and sustainable development.



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How did you do?: Agenda 21

3) Agenda 21 covers a number of areas including:

- combating poverty
- promoting health
- settlement and development
- atmospheric protection
- deforestation
- conserving biodiversity
- control of pollution
- protecting fragile environments.



How did you do?: home energy audits

- 1) Home energy audits involve people looking at their homes, evaluating how much energy they use and how they can be more energy efficient. They can be carried out independently online or with the help of a professional.





How did you do?: home energy audits

2) Possible recommendations following an audit include:

- loft insulation
- draught proofing
- cavity wall insulation
- double glazing
- hot water tank insulation
- time controls for water heaters
- use of low energy light bulbs.



How did you do?: home energy audits

- 3) Home energy audits help reduce the impact of domestic energy use on the environment. Research shows that individuals account for over 40% of the UK's energy use and carbon dioxide emissions.²



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2. Government White Paper on Energy, May 2007, page 50,
<http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/page39534.html>



How did you do?: carbon offsetting

- 1) Carbon offsetting is the act of managing greenhouse gas emissions by compensating for any emissions generated with a 'carbon neutralising' activity.





How did you do?: carbon offsetting

2) There are a number of offset methods available. These include:

- tree planting
- encouraging the use of renewable energy in developing countries
- avoiding deforestation.



How did you do?: carbon offsetting

3) Most carbon offsetting schemes help the environment either by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases or by increasing the absorption of carbon dioxide by new or existing trees.

