

GREENHOUSE GASES

Gases that cause
global warming

CO₂ = CARBON DIOXIDE

One of the main gases that
causes global warming

NEWS CYCLE

WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?

Could the coronavirus kickstart an environmental recovery?



Lockdowns across the world have seen some industries grind to a halt. Now, global leaders want to turn challenges into opportunities. Not only do they want the world to build back better, they want it to build back greener too.

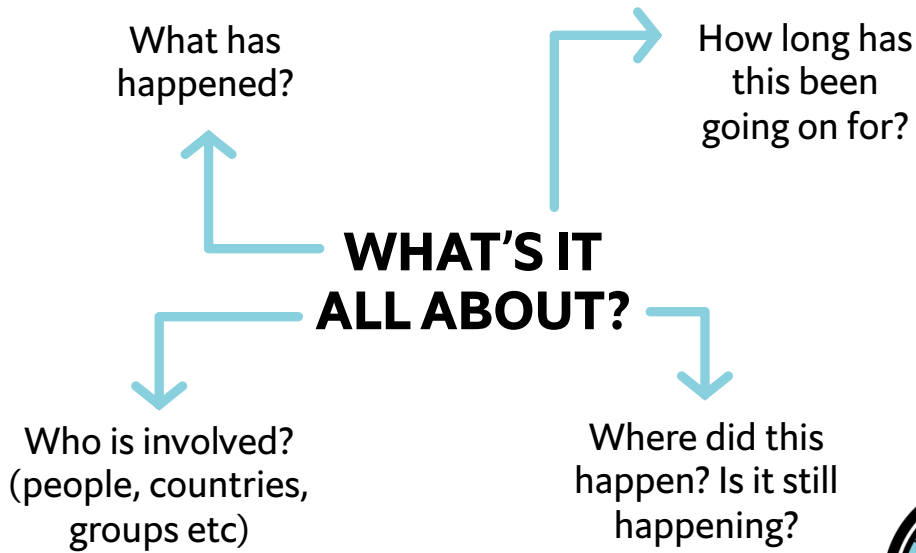
From January 2020, some countries introduced lockdowns: the roads cleared, planes were grounded and some factories closed their doors. The greenhouse gases and pollution in the atmosphere significantly reduced. Scientists say that no other event in history has ever caused such a drop in CO₂ levels.

However, as activity returns to normal, so will pollution. Experts believe the positive effects of lockdown are short-term. Some are also worried that governments and businesses will spend less money on the environment than they did before because they see other things as more important, such as getting customers back.

Climate activists are calling for permanent change. They want leaders to think about the environment when making decisions about the future. Harriet Forster, a sixth-form student who worked with her father on a scientific paper about climate change, said that this time of uncertainty was a “massive opportunity” for governments to change direction.

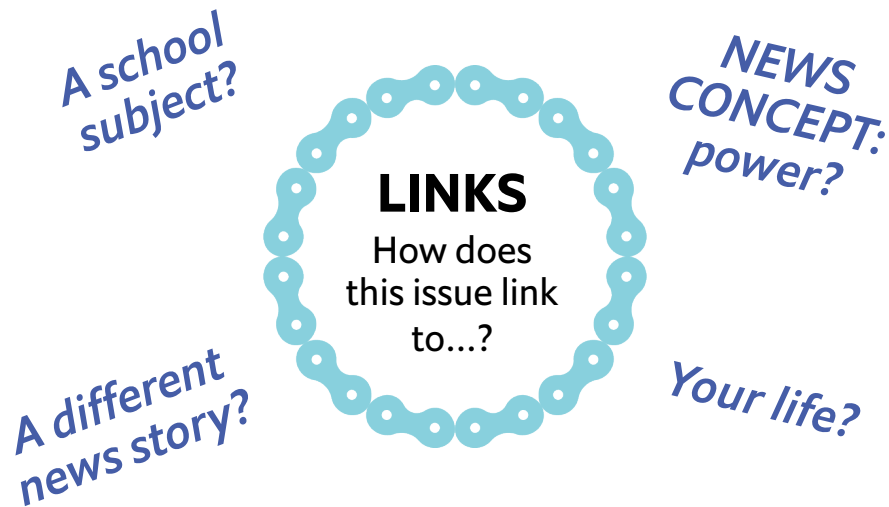
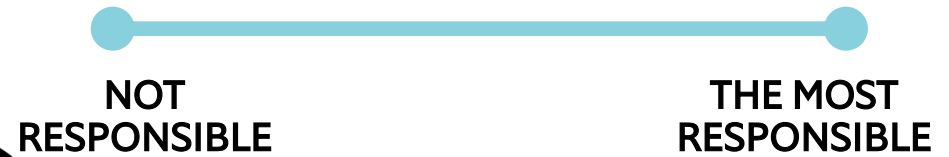
In November 2021, the UK hosts the 26th Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), bringing together country leaders, climate experts and campaigners. The aim is to agree on ways the world can work together to tackle climate change. The changes countries could make as they recover from the pandemic will be a big part of that conversation. The big question is: how do we keep the world moving whilst saving the environment?

Want to know more about this? Look here! [bbc.co.uk/news/av/science-environment-54018542](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/science-environment-54018542)



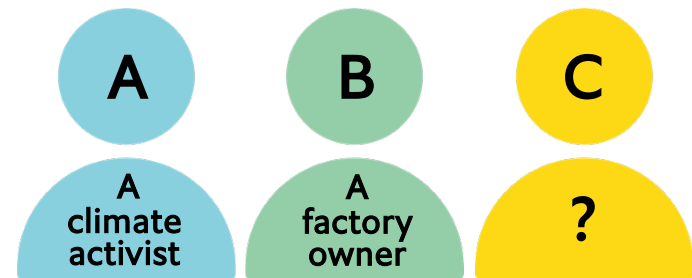
NEWS SCALE

How responsible are world leaders for reducing climate change? Mark your opinion on the scale below with an X. What about you? What about a business owner?



PERSPECTIVE FLIP

What would Person A think about this issue? How are they affected by the issue? Now flip to Person B and think about the same questions. Are any perspectives missing?



CHALLENGE: how is this issue developing in the news?

NEWS CYCLE WEEK 2 OF 2 THINKING HARDER

First, limber up by thinking about everything you learnt last week:

- What was the key information about this issue? (Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?)
- Why was this issue news? (How big was this piece of news? How many people does it affect? Is it global or local news?)
- What did you think about it? Did everyone you talked to have the same opinion?
- What have you seen about this in the news? How is this issue developing?

Then, take a ride through this week's activities.

WHAT'S THE FULL STORY?

As part of their plan to build back greener, the British government has promised to give

£40 million
to environmental businesses so they
can create more "GREEN" JOBS.

Experts predict that when lockdowns end, **pollution could get worse than before the pandemic.** For example, more people using their own cars to avoid busy public transport would create more CO2 emissions.

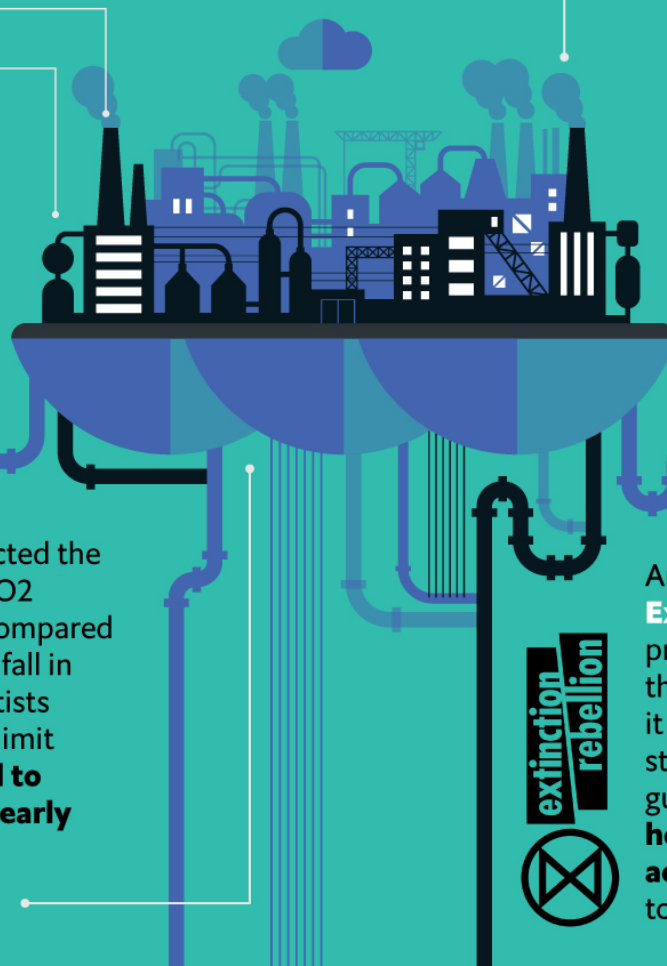
Throughout the global lockdowns, the demand for the majority of energy sources (including fossil fuels) fell, because people were using less electricity. **However, the demand for renewable energy sources rose by**

3%.

By the end of 2020 it is predicted the world will have reduced its CO2 emissions by just under 6% compared with 2019. This is the biggest fall in history. However many scientists believe that to do enough to limit climate change, **people need to reduce CO2 emissions by nearly**

8% EVERY YEAR UNTIL 2030.

An activist group called **Extinction Rebellion** has been protesting in large numbers throughout the pandemic, making it hard for its demonstrators to stick to social-distancing guidelines. It says it **wants to hold the government to account** for not doing enough to prevent a "climate crisis".



TURN THE COGS

1. This issue is about more than the temporary impact of the pandemic on the environment. Can you explain the bigger picture?
2. Why might some governments choose to spend less money on helping the environment? Why might some governments say now is the time we should spend more on the environment?
3. What do you think governments should do?

Support your answers with a fact and explain why.

SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS



Is there anything that would change your opinion on climate change?



What are three keywords we should use when talking about this?



How could world leaders keep the pollution levels going down once lockdowns are over?



What other perspectives might help you to think differently about this?

PUSH YOURSELF

Professor Piers Forster, an expert on climate change, is optimistic that positive changes will be made. He says, "Disasters are often historically the time of biggest change."

- Why do you think disasters help to create positive change?
- Can you think of any other examples of positive change coming from a disaster?
- What positive changes might come after the coronavirus pandemic?

TYRE CHANGE

Brakes on! Let's change the scenario.



Governments put their countries into lockdown to protect the environment?



Governments gave no money to help industries that use fossil fuels to recover?



Governments had to choose between helping people or helping the environment?

Challenge: can you spot this issue in the news? How has the issue developed since last week?