

Activist guide to hosting a climate change film party.

Party preparation

Scratch your head

Sit down and have a think about what you could do to make your party a night to remember. Who will you invite? Do you fancy a green-themed party? Maybe combine the film party with a meal, or a discussion if you want to think about the issues in more depth?

Get working on your invitations

The more people you get to come to your party, the more people will be talking about and taking action on climate change. Try to avoid sending paper invites but make the most of Facebook, Bebo etc instead. You might like to invite the people from your local Oxfam shop to your party. And if you're hosting a public film screening, at a community centre, for example, the staff there may be able to help you publicise your event.

Share transport

Ask your guests to walk or to use public transport to get to your party – and put them in touch with one another so they can share transport.

Invite local politicians and/or local press

Because climate change is such a topical issue, your local mayor or MP, or the local press, might be interested in coming to your film party, so invite them along. If you're unsure who your local MP is, go to www.theyworkforyou.com

For advice on how to contact your MP, see www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/campaign/activists/downloads/howto_influencepoliticalprocess.pdf

For tips on contacting the media, see www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/campaign/activists/downloads/howto_spreadmessageinmedia.pdf

Plan for action

Hopefully, your guests will want to take action on climate change themselves. There's lots they can do, from personal actions that reduce their own carbon footprint, to telling the politicians that they must do more as well:

- Go on line and tell the Prime Minister to go to the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen in December, and push other world leaders for a fair and safe global deal on climate change: www.oxfam.org.uk/actionlist
- Order climate change posters, petition forms and action cards for people to sign on the night: www.oxfam.org.uk/activists/materials
- Record a short video on your mobile telling others why you are holding your film party and why they should take action too. Upload it to YouTube to reach the masses. The more humorous it is, the more hits you'll get.



Every time you take a campaigning action, you are joining the climate change movement and helping to fight poverty. There are plenty more actions you can take in our Climate Change Action Guide: www.oxfam.org.uk/actionguide

At the party

Have fun!

Climate change may be a serious issue, but that doesn't mean that you can't enjoy learning about it and getting together with your friends and family to take action. So have a great party, pull up a comfy chair, and enjoy the film!

Debate the night away

After the film(s), allocate a good amount of time to discuss what people thought. How do they feel about climate change now? This might be one of the first times some people have had the chance to think seriously about what climate change means for the future, so make sure you have the facts to hand and encourage them to engage in the debate – especially if it happens while they're helping you to clear up!

Remember, we need as many people as possible to take action on climate change, so please get all of your guests to take some of the actions set out on page 2.

Reduce and recycle

Try to limit the amount of waste your film party produces. Recycle plastic bottles, glass, paper. Avoid over-packaged party food: why not make your own cakes and treats with Fairtrade ingredients? For more tips on recycling, see www.recyclenow.com

Eat your greens

You could extend your 'green' theme to the party food, too! Green jelly; green-iced cakes; mint ice cream; green salad; guacamole dip and green veggies to dip in. Of course, Fairtrade, local, and organic foods will get you extra cred!

Souvenirs

What about giving your guests something to remind them of the evening, so they don't forget the commitments they make at your film party?

Wave them goodbye!

If people are keen to get involved after the event, tell the about “The Wave”, a massive demonstration planned for 5 December in London and Glasgow. This is being organized by the Stop Climate chaos coalition, which includes Oxfam. Find out more at www.stopclimatechaos.org

If they're really keen to take more actions locally, give them our Action Guide: www.oxfam.org.uk/actionguide

Help and support

If you are planning to do any media work at your event, or want to invite politicians, we may be able to help. Here is a list of your Regional and national Oxfam contacts. You can also order posters, action cards and other useful resources for your party here www.oxfam.org.uk/activists/materials

Regional contacts

South West of England

Fiona Remnant, 0117 916 6482, fremnant@oxfam.org.uk

London and South East of England

Lucy Aitken-Read, 0207 802 9973, laitkenread@oxfam.org.uk

Midlands

Will Tucker, 0121 634 3611, wtucker@oxfam.org.uk

Wales

Bethan Harper, 0300 200 1269, bharper@oxfam.org.uk

North of England

Nicola Sansom, 0161 234 2786, nsansom@oxfam.org.uk

Scotland

Sarah Watson, 0141 285 8875, sawatson@oxfam.org.uk

Questions and answers

Why is Oxfam concerned about climate change?

Climate change is affecting some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. Our emergency and development staff, and partner organisations all over the world, are now reporting an increase in incidents linked to climate change: melting glaciers in Tajikistan; extended droughts and weather variability across Africa; more frequent and more extensive flooding in South Asia. It is becoming increasingly clear that the greatest burden of climate-related disasters is falling on those living in poverty. Oxfam is concerned about this direct effect on the people we work with.

Can I organise a public film screening?

The simplest way to show a film is to host a small film party at your home. But if you would like to organize something bigger – at your local community centre or village hall, for example, or for your Scout or Guide group, or at your WI meeting – you will probably be required to pay a licence fee by the film's distributor, who you will need to contact. Or contact the Activism Team for further advice: active@oxfam.org.uk, 01865 473123.

How do I get hold of the films?

Most popular films about climate change, such as *Age of Stupid*, or *An Inconvenient Truth*, should be available in your local DVD shop, public library or online. www.indiescreenings.net/

How do I answer questions about climate change?

Climate change is a complicated issue, even for the scientists. There are lots of contradictory opinions, myths and rumours around – and your film party guests may ask you about them. You don't have to be an expert, but you can be sure that climate change is real, and we have evidence of its human impact, Here & Now.

Learn more at www.oxfam.org.uk/climatechange

Oxfam's suggestions!

The Age of Stupid (2009) Oscar-nominated Pete Postlethwaite, stars as a man living alone in the devastated world of 2055, looking back at “archive” footage from 2007 and asking “why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance?”

An Inconvenient Truth (2006) This documentary offers a passionate and inspirational look at Al Gore's fervent crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress in its tracks by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it.

Six Degrees (2007) This fascinating film visualises the devastating ecological impact each single degree increase in temperature could have on our planet over the next century.

11th Hour (2007) Narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, this captivating documentary explores the perilous state of our planet, and the means by which we can change our course.

Wall-E (2008) A new computer-animated cosmic comedy, starring a determined robot named WALL-E (whose purpose is to clean up a polluted earth), a pet cockroach and a heroic team of malfunctioning misfit robots.

Who Killed the Electric Car? (2006) This film paints a picture of an industrial culture whose aversion to change and reliance on oil may be deeper than its ability to embrace ready solutions.

Too Hot Not To Handle (2006) Find out how businesses, local governments, and citizens are taking positive actions to reduce global warming emissions.

... as well as Oxfam's own – *Sisters on the Planet (2008)*! Watch four inspirational women, in both rich and poor countries, who are determined to do whatever they can to put a stop to climate change and you too will be inspired to join the fight against climate change.

These films have been selected solely as a way to provoke discussion around climate change. The content or opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Oxfam. Every time you take a campaigning action, you are joining the climate change movement and helping to fight poverty. There are plenty more actions you can take in our Climate Change Action Guide: www.oxfam.org.uk/actionguide