

Read Me for KTCC Hosts

Why host a KTCC?

Kitchen table climate conversations provide an opportunity for friends, neighbours, and colleagues to gather in small groups to learn about the climate emergency and to develop personal confidence to take individual and collective action. The conversation can take place anywhere, perhaps around a kitchen table, but maybe on a summer picnic or in a workplace conference room. We are social beings, and the science of social change points to the huge value of sharing and learning together in small groups. These types of encounters are proven to be effective in creating grass roots commitment leading to large scale collective action. We need to mobilize to make the changes to our lifestyle and economy that will allow us to thrive in a post carbon world -- and this type of gathering can be a beginning for participants to work together to make changes happen within the community and across the country.

Customize or Use As-is

The format we have developed has a structure that is intended to lead the group through a shared experience. We have prepared a basic package of supporting materials that we feel will work for most gatherings. But we encourage hosts to look at the additional materials and feel free to personalize them, to fit the interests and needs of the group. If you are translating any materials into another language, don't feel that you have to match word for word.

Managing Handouts:

The agenda relies on handouts to support the conversation. The facilitator's agenda contains details about how to guide the conversation. Only a couple of the handouts have to be provided to each individual. Most can be shared so that having a ratio of one handout for every three people will usually serve the group. If individuals have laptops or phones that they can bring to the session, the problem of sharing images may be made simpler. It is possible to send out the handouts, which are clearly labeled to tie in to the agenda, ahead of time.

Brain-storming Materials

You will need a few sheets of large art-type paper that you can ideally hang on an easel (or step-ladder) so that you can carry out the brainstorming activity that is important to the process. Using black or blue markers that will photograph well is very helpful because people will likely want to take pictures of the results of their collective thoughts.

General Tips

Part of the facilitator's role is to maintain a balance between presenting and listening. It is also to help people stay on focus but not feel rushed. The Kitchen Table Climate Conversation is a partial process - we cannot cover everything. If people learn something, get to contribute a question and an idea or two, that is good. If the conversation motivates people to do more and feel good about doing it, that's great! It is also great if people leave feeling connected and hopeful. Consider a closing that draws the group together: a song, a poem, high fives or a moment of quiet.

We are here to help!

ClimateFast has volunteers who are available to review the agenda and materials with a host or facilitator and to answer questions that may come up as you plan your session. Don't be shy! Contact us at ktcc@climatefast.ca. Provide us with your proposed date for the session and any questions and we will get back to you. You are also invited to contact us after the session, to let us know how it went. We hope you enjoy the process!