

Green Talent Assembly Plan (KS 3 & 4)

Assembly aim:

The Green Talent assembly aims to introduce students to the concept that they have the opportunity to earn a living in a meaningful way whilst addressing the environmental challenges of the 21st century. The PowerPoint presentation introduces 3 cases studies from www.realcoolfutures.com. These are people currently working in jobs which, in very different ways, make a positive contribution to environmental issues. These case studies will inspire students to think about how their talents and skills could help them get a job which also makes a difference.

Context:

The only thing we can guarantee about the future is that it will bring change. Green Talent aims to show young people that there are opportunities to use their talents in the workplace, to earn a living and become part of the solution that will address the environmental challenges we are facing. At www.realcoolfutures.com we have gathered an inspirational bank of case studies; personal stories showing a wide variety of ways in which people are already contributing and responding to environmental challenges, like climate change, through their work.

Resources:

Green Talent Assembly PowerPoint, data projector.

Hyperlinks to films on www.realcoolfutures.com are embedded in the PowerPoint (play slideshow to activate them) but, if you don't have internet access, the PowerPoint itself covers the same material.



Assembly Presentation Script:

Slide 1

Many young people are concerned about climate change and the environment, but often it's difficult to see what society is doing about it and, more specifically, it's not clear how you can contribute. We believe that as you grow up and take a job you don't have to leave behind ideals and aspirations to make a positive contribution. As a society facing the challenges of the 21st century, we don't have all the answers we require. Green Talent aims to highlight the need and huge opportunity for young people to use your talents, skills and creativity to help build solutions for the future, and during this assembly we will show how it can be done.

Slide 2

The only thing we know about the 21st century is that it is going to bring all kinds of challenges and changes. These are going to affect everything about how we live our lives, the jobs we do, where we get our stuff from, how we grow our food, how we travel and holiday. Change is nothing new, but climate change is going to take us into new and uncharted territory...

You might think of the '70s as ancient history, but I grew up in the 1970s and can remember black and white TV with only 3 channels. I got through my higher education without using a computer, and I was terrified that the world was going to end in nuclear meltdown. Think how the world has changed in my lifetime - and how I worried about the wrong things - then have a go at projecting forward to 2050 and guessing what will be different. [You'll have your own tales of 'ancient history' to shock and astonish your young people!]

Slide 3

There are some well thought out predictions of change, and there is scientific agreement on the fact that the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is higher than at any point in the past 650,000 years. This increase is making the planet warmer; 11 of the 12 hottest years on record occurred between 1995 and 2006. The government's Climate Change Act of 2008 has committed the UK to cutting carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 (compared to 1990 levels). This is going to have huge impact on every aspect of our lives – our houses, our transport, our food and our jobs.

Slide 4

The world's population is expected to rise from the current 6.9 billion to 9 billion by 2050, more than 30% higher than today. All of these people are going to need a place to live, food to eat and a job to do.

[See www.worldometers.info/ for world statistics updated in real time.]



Slide 5

It can all seem a bit overwhelming. The scale of the issues is so massive - climate change, poverty, melting glaciers, population growth and so on. The difference one person can make as an individual could seem so tiny as to be pointless... what's the point of turning off the light switch or walking to school - how can that possibly make a difference? Well, you are not just an individual but part of the bigger picture.

Slide 6

The only way forward is for individuals to join together with other individuals who share their views. People starting work now won't retire until they're 68. That's a lot of years and time and energy which you can choose to use for good, or not so good. And you don't have to spend your time measuring Arctic ice or tying yourself to a tree. New jobs are being created all the time - it's very likely that you'll end up doing something that hasn't even been invented yet. Here are some people already making a difference through their work.

Slide 7

Tom Kay, ethical surf clothing company owner

- Founder of Finisterre, an ethical surf clothing company based in Cornwall.
- Has a degree in Marine Biology.
- The company aims to make products that are top quality, long-lasting and recyclable.
- Finisterre sources its materials locally or ethically wherever possible. The clothes are made in Devon and Tom is working with a local farmer to start using British wool.
- Loves his job because it represents everything he's passionate about in life - surfing, environmental and ethical initiatives, and top quality technical products. He wishes someone had told him to follow his passions when it comes to choosing your job, because if your heart's not in it, it's a waste of time.

Film available here:

www.realcoolfutures.com/case-study.php/tom-kay-ethical-surf-clothing-company-owner



Slide 8

Danny Francis, solar panel installer

- Works for a company that installs solar panels for all kinds of different clients and on all kinds of different buildings. The job involves working outside, mainly on the roof, fitting panels, connecting them up and ensuring that all the electrics to the unit inside the building are installed and working properly.
 - Originally trained as a roofer, but thought that solar was going to be the way forward so went back to college to train in electrics.
 - Loves working outside and feels he's part of making a difference, both to the way we use energy and helping cut down on the use of oil and coal.
 - Once the solar panels are installed the homeowners know that their house or office is being powered by the sun, so no more energy bills and a massive cut in their carbon footprint.
- Film available here: www.realcoolfutures.com/case-study.php/danny-francis-solar-panel-installer-2

Slide 9

Maddie Brant, sales and marketing manager

- Works for Spiezia Organics who make 100% organic skincare products which are produced without using harmful chemicals. Her job is to promote, market, and increase the sales of these products.
- Her job means a lot to her because it makes her feel good to work for an organisation that cares about the environment, cares about what goes into its products, and cares about local sourcing and sustainability.
- She left school with 2 GCSE equivalents, but went back to college later and has a BA in Fine Art. On-the-job experience has got her where she is today, but most people would have a degree in marketing or public relations.

Film available here:

www.realcoolfutures.com/case-study.php/maddie-brant-sales-marketing-manager

Slide 10

There are over 100 of these case studies available at www.realcoolfutures.com. You can search according to your interests and talents, and find out about people currently doing jobs which are making a positive difference to the environment - and which you might not even know exist. It's your planet, your talents, your future. What part will you play?

