

# Sustainability and climate change: what is our role as educators?

etas 36th annual conference and agm – zug – 18 january 2020 – sylvia goetze wake

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OUR STUDENTS ARE MARCHING



WHAT ARE WE DOING?

# Questions we may have...

- How can I **engage students** who may be **indifferent** to the climate crisis?
- Do I have enough **knowledge** to include **sustainability** in the classroom?
- Isn't this too **depressing**? Are there any solutions?
- How can I keep a **language focus**?
- What can be done in the **wider context** of my institution, associations and at conferences?

??????

**Write on a green post-it**

***Something  
related to the natural world  
or the climate crisis  
that is  
particularly important  
to you personally***

# Write on yellow post-its

*Something related to the future of  
the natural world  
and the climate crisis  
which you think (or guess or know)  
is particularly important  
to **your students***

# Inconsistent – are any of us not?



Is it just me, or is it a bit weird to hold up a banner in one hand extolling the virtues of burning capitalism, whilst in the other reading the screen of a mobile phone which was made in China by a Taiwanese company in factories with poor human rights records for an America multi-national using components shipped from all over Asia ? Just sayin'

Critical comment by a facebook user

We are all on a different path and we all see through different eyes. Current world issues that you are passionate about, aren't always what other people are trying to change... and that's okay. It's not everyone's job to save every part of the world but it is everyone's responsibility to thank every person who is doing THEIR part to save the world. Don't critique, just appreciate. Don't judge, just educate. We're all trying our best. **Thank you.**

**Intro to the  
World Café**



# World Café question 1 – the classroom

- What are **different ways** to include **climate** and **sustainability** in the classroom?
- How can the classroom serve to educate / **learn together** / learn **English** / go beyond the surface while talking about big issues ?

# World Café question 2 – your institution

- In terms of **sustainable practice** within your **institution** (energy, waste, food, community...) are there changes you have seen or made?
- What are ways to move forward?

# World Café question 3 – your association

- Could ETAS have a **sustainability Special Interest Group?** What would it do?
- How **'green'** are **conferences** and how could sustainable actions be promoted?

# Share your thoughts and continue the conversation

- Join the ELT community in talking about this on ELTfootprint.org (facebook page and website)
- Discover lesson plans or take an online course about sustainable language teaching: <https://eltsustainable.com/>
- Feel free to contact me about running this workshop, using lesson plans or any other questions / comments : [sylvia.goetzewake@unil.ch](mailto:sylvia.goetzewake@unil.ch)

# References

- Climate march photos from around the world:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2019/sep/20/global-climate-strike-millions-protest-worldwide-in-pictures>
- 'We are all on a different path': Quote by Carla Borthwick (inspired by Peta Kelly's book Earth is Hiring) and read by Daniel Barber at the 2019 Innovate conference at which he declared a climate emergency for ELT (<https://eltfootprint.org/about/> )