

Personal Circle Climate Action Plans (PCCAPs)



Purpose: To make the issue of climate change seen and heard daily in our communities with the level of concern necessary for resolving this extreme crisis.

The primary purposes of PCCAPs are:

1. to engage and support one's personal circle of influence in raising the level of concern about climate change and to make the issue seen and heard daily in our communities such that it becomes a critical electoral issue for elected representatives, civil servants, members of the media, and the electorate at large
2. to initiate family members' engagement with elected representatives regarding climate action
3. to initiate ICAPs and to encourage the initiation of additional PCCAPs
4. to encourage commitment to personal actions that are aligned with the goal of resolving the climate crisis.

Rationale: Given the urgency and critical concern within the latest IPCC report, Personal Circle Climate Action Planning will serve to engage and support one's personal circle of influence in the process of addressing the urgent issue of global warming. Central to these meetings will be advocacy - beginning the process of making climate change common in everyday conversations and of alarm and concern to all citizens such that governmental action is taken to address this issue.

Method:

1. Initiate an extended meeting with one's personal circle to discuss how this circle will proceed given the IPCC report's findings that GHGs need to be reduced by 45% by 2030 and by 100% by 2050 to avoid 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial global temperature averages.
2. Prior to the meeting, provide links to informative sources that clarify the situation. Include links that are in a variety of media formats and at a variety of levels. We included: <https://xkcd.com/1732/> (a graphic representation of the situation with notes) and <https://medium.com/@parismarx/climate-change-is-a-class-issue-cd6c143d38f6> and <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/> (site with current official statement of latest scientific report for those experts out there - includes a summary and headlines if time is short).
3. Provide the family with an agenda a week before:
 - a. A short explanation of why you felt the need to instigate this meeting (2 minutes).
 - b. Open time for questions related to understanding the issue of climate change in general - just to ensure we are on the same page. We will have a summary of the situation that we can give out ahead of time if that simplifies this - as I don't want to take much time on this. (10 minutes)
 - c. Open discussion (1 hour) about what our family is planning to do to play our role in the changes necessary. Focus on a goal-centred approach and make sure your goals are SMART - specific (what do you want to do?), measurable (how much or how often will you do it?), attainable (how will you do it?), realistic (can you do it?), and time-bound (by when will you do it?).

d. I suspect that this will fall into two categories:

i. Advocacy -

1. **It is crucial that the ‘personal circle’ begins to initiate ICAPs in the institutions in which they work and that they ask the members of those institutions to initiate PCCAPs and ICAPs within their communities. If people are able to commit to doing this, set a time by which to follow up with them to offer encouragement and get updates.**
2. Another important goal of your PCCAP is to tell as many people as possible about your PCCAP. Get each person at your meeting to identify the 5 most receptive people in their lives to talk to about their PCCAP. The most important goals of your conversation are to get them to initiate their own PCCAPs and ICAPs. If people are able to commit to doing this, set a time by which to follow up with them to offer encouragement and get updates.
3. Brainstorm a list of elected representatives, civil servants, and media contacts / journalists that are in the family’s networks. The governmental contacts would be people to contact about political climate action; the media contacts / journalists could be people to contact about the initiation of high-profile ICAPs or a groundswell of ICAPs in a given sector / industry.
4. Another important goal of your PCCAP is to encourage people in your family to write to and/or visit their elected representatives about the climate crisis. If people are able to commit to doing this, set a time by which to follow up with them to offer encouragement and get updates.

ii. Personal actions to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

e. Summary and wrap up (15 minutes) - empowerment not panic.

4. Continue with providing resources and encouragement and a place for sharing actions in the weeks following the PCCAP. Resources can also be found on the Citizen’s Climate Lobby website: <https://canada.citizensclimatelobby.org/volunteer-resources/>.

Institution Climate Action Plans (ICAPs)

Purpose:

The primary purposes of ICAPs are

1. to engage the institutions in which one is involved in raising the level of concern about climate change and to make the issue seen and heard daily in our communities such that it becomes a critical electoral issue for elected representatives, civil servants, members of the media, and the electorate at large
2. To develop an institutional action plan that addresses the climate crisis in a broad range of ways. It is crucial that the action plan includes ways of reducing the institution's carbon footprint.
3. To initiate additional ICAPs and PCCAPs

A secondary purpose of ICAPs is to encourage commitment to personal actions are aligned with the goal of resolving the climate crisis.

Method:

1. Initiate a meeting with the leaders of the institutions with which one is connected (places of worship or businesses or schools, etc.) to discuss how the institution will proceed given the IPCC report's findings that GHGs need to be reduced by 45% by 2030 and by 100% by 2050 to avoid 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial global temperature averages.
2. During the meeting, ask that at the next general meeting of the institution, some time will be set aside to explain the situation and to present or devise an action plan that includes advocacy as well as actions to address the climate crisis. Offer to devise a plan prior to the general meeting. When devising the plan, focus on a goal-centred approach and make sure the goals are SMART - specific (what do you want to do?), measurable (how much or how often will you do it?), attainable (how will you do it?), realistic (can you do it?), and time-bound (by when will you do it?).
3. Be prepared to provide links to informative sources that clarify the situation. Include links that are in a variety of media formats and at a variety of levels.
4. Ensure that the plan includes the call to advocacy, including this crucial step that members **begin to initiate ICAPs in the other institutions in which they work and PCCAPs in their extended social communities and that they ask the members of those institutions to initiate PCCAPs and ICAPs within their communities.**
5. Ensure that resources are available to support the community. Resources can be found at <https://canada.citizensclimatelobby.org/volunteer-resources/> and in many other places online.
6. Encourage the institution to make this climate action evident on the letterheads and advertising related to the organizations.