

# The Climate Connection

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# Episode 6: Global schooling

#TheClimateConnection  
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## Episode overview

The focus of episode 6 is on educational institutions themselves, and what they can do to promote climate literacy. Our first guest is Asha Alexander, the dynamic principal of a large kindergarten in Dubai and UN climate champion who is a pioneer in climate literacy. In *From the Field*, we journey to Croatia to find out about 'The Green Schools Initiative', and how we can make environmental changes in our own schools.

Similarly, in our second interview, Beccy Wigglesworth from International House World talks about their environmental sustainability programme, joining Rose Aylett in reflecting on the role of the ELT industry as a whole in creating a more just world, and how language can be a central part of that. *The Green Glossary* takes us on a whistle-stop tour of localized varieties of English spoken around the world, looking at words including *kaitiakitangai* (Māori), *bayanihan* (Tagalog) and *jugaad* (Hindi).



Asha Alexander



Beccy Wigglesworth



Rose Aylett

## In this episode

Language education is more than just about teaching language, in this case English, it is part of a broader education.

You know, actually we can only, each of us, only do little things, but if we all do little things together it's a big thing.

Make the learning as tangible as possible.

Even as an adult, I had no idea of the extent of my ignorance regarding climate science.

Climate change is not felt or understood in India as it is in the West, and these differences in viewpoint must be taken into account when choosing words to use.



# From the field

At the crossroads of central and southeast Europe, Croatia is a country of around four million people. As we learn in this episode's From the Field, its attitude towards recycling and the environment has been somewhat mixed. But in modern Croatia, there are many schools – and programmes such as the [Green Standard Schools initiative](#) – which are helping to change that.

# Green glossary

There is no such thing as just 'English', but rather many different forms of the language are spoken across the world. In this episode's Green Glossary, we explore Indian English, Philippine English and New Zealand English and examine the words which they use to talk about the climate emergency.

The word cloud below shows the climate and English language related words used in this episode. Find out more about some of these words at the Oxford English Dictionary website: [www.oed.com](http://www.oed.com). The OED have kindly made these words open access, so you can look them up even if you are not subscribed.



- [Bayanihan](#)
- [Climate justice](#)
- [Dirty energy](#)
- [Ecological](#)
- [Hydro](#)
- [Jugaad](#)
- [Kaiitiakitanga](#)
- [Language contact](#)

- [Lexicon](#)
- [Loanword](#)
- [Refill station](#)
- [Renewable energy](#)
- [Resource management](#)
- [Sachet culture](#)
- [Sachet economy](#)
- [Sari-sari store](#)

- [Self-sufficiency](#)
- [Single-use plastic](#)
- [Solar](#)
- [Sustainable](#)
- [Trusteeship](#)
- [Wind](#)



# Teaching ideas

Why not use extracts from the podcast in your classroom? Here are some ideas of how you can use the interviews with Asha Alexander and Rose Aylett and Beccy Wigglesworth in episode 6.

## Interview 1: Asha Alexander

### Before listening: Introductory discussion task

Asha lives and works at a school in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates. In groups, discuss what you think are some of the main climate-related issues of this location.

### While listening: Notetaking task

Asha mentions the following topics in this conversation. Make notes about each of them:

- Climate change certification
- Climate literacy
- Climate responsibility
- Tree planting
- Her children's attitude to learning about the climate
- Hotel survey about food
- The Covid-19 pandemic
- Language learning and climate change

### After listening: Contextualising task

Asha talks about a survey which her students did about wasted food in a local hotel. In groups, students should discuss what similar project they could do in their local area, or in their school.

This could then be done as a project, where students design and implement the research. They then have to report back to the rest of the class about what they did.

## Interview 2: Rose Aylett and Beccy Wigglesworth

### Before listening: Reflecting on your environment

1. In groups, students should discuss the following questions:
  - Is your school environmentally-friendly? Why / why not?
  - Do you personally act in an environmentally-friendly way at school?
2. Ask students to share their views with the whole class.

### While listening: Notetaking task

1. Beccy and Rose make the following statements in the conversation. In each case, students should think about: (a) what she means, and (b) whether they agree with her:
  - a) 'If everybody in the world does something, even if it's a little thing, then together that contributes to a big impact all over the world.' (Beccy)
  - b) 'We all know that part of being a human these days has a detrimental effect on the environment.' (Beccy)



- c) '[One of the main roles of education is ...] preparing critical global citizens, and students who are really interested in taking an active and positive role in the world.' (Rose)
- d) 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.' (Rose)

### After listening: Contextualising task

1. Beccy talks about the 'Protecting our planet' badge which schools can get for promoting good environmental practices. Ask students to find out more about this programme by visiting [International House](#). If this is not possible, share with them the main ideas.
2. In the same groups, students discuss what changes could be made at your school which would mean they could be eligible for this badge.

## Glossary

The following words and phrases appear in episode 6. You may wish to look them up if you are unfamiliar with any of them.

- ambassador
- apportion
- biodegradable
- citizen
- consumption
- detrimental
- fertiliser
- initiatives
- integrated
- internship
- inundated
- mitigate
- pandemic
- perception
- premises
- pushback
- robotics
- seamless
- signal

## Bonus material

Visit the podcast website, [www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection](http://www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection) for bonus material.

You can find a link to the podcast and the transcript of this episode at <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/professional-development/podcast>

## Social media

Please share your views about this episode, and the series as a whole, on social media using the hashtag **#TheClimateConnection**.

## Podcast feedback survey

Please tell us what you thought about this episode of the podcast and our podcast show notes by completing this short online survey.

Survey link: <http://bit.ly/PodcastFeedbackSurvey>



# Links



British Council Teaching English  
[www.teachingenglish.org.uk](http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk)

## Oxford Languages

Oxford Languages, the home of language data  
[languages.oup.com](http://languages.oup.com)



Green Standard Schools  
<https://greenstandardschools.org/>



International House World Organisation  
<https://ihworld.com/>



Global Issues Special Interest Group  
<https://gisig.iatefl.org/>



# Detailed notes

Use these notes to find out more about the contents of episode 6.

Phrase	Explanation and Further Information
<b>Interview 1: Asha Alexander</b>	
GEMS The Kindergarten Starter in Dubai	Find out more about the school at <a href="https://www.gemslegacyschool-dubai.com/">https://www.gemslegacyschool-dubai.com/</a> .
UN certified Climate Change Leader	Find out more about what this means, and how Asha's school is leading the way, through <a href="#">this link</a> .
The UN CC:Learn and EduCCate Global	Visit <a href="https://unccelearn.org/educate/">https://unccelearn.org/educate/</a> and <a href="https://www.educateglobal.org/">https://www.educateglobal.org/</a> to find out more about these initiatives.
Hammersmith and Fulham Borough Council	A local council in London – <a href="#">see here</a> for more information about what they do. <a href="#">This video</a> also contains details of this trip.
The Guardian	A UK-based newspaper. Visit <a href="https://theguardian.com/">https://theguardian.com/</a> .
Plant a Legacy	<a href="#">Click here</a> for more details about this initiative.
COP25	Details about COP25 can be found at <a href="https://unfccc.int/cop25">https://unfccc.int/cop25</a> .
COP26	Details about COP26 can be found at <a href="https://ukcop26.org/">https://ukcop26.org/</a> .
A glacial burst in the Himalayas ... in Uttarakhand	<a href="#">This article on Wikipedia</a> contains more information about this disaster.
Texas having a power outage	<a href="#">This article on Wikipedia</a> contains more information about this disaster.
Composting	Composting is the process in which plant and food waste is broken down into a substance which can be used for increasing soil fertility. Find out more <a href="#">here</a> .
That's the gauntlet I have thrown	This phrase means 'to issue a challenge'. <a href="#">See here</a> for more information about the history of this phrase.
Naysayers	A word used to refer to people who are negative and complain about things a lot of the time.
Organic fruits and vegetables	Fruits and vegetables which are grown naturally, without the use of chemicals or pesticides.
The Climate Diaries and it's published on Amazon	You can get this book at <a href="#">this link</a> .



## From the Field

Jantar International House in Split	The school website can be accessed <a href="#">here</a> .
The Green Standard Schools initiative	Green Standard Schools is a global, not-for-profit association of language schools that are seriously committed to protecting the environment. Find out more at <a href="https://greenstandardschools.org/">https://greenstandardschools.org/</a> .
Content and Language Integrated Learning	Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) has become the umbrella term describing both learning another (content) subject such as physics or geography through the medium of a foreign language and learning a foreign language by studying a content-based subject. Episode 4 of The Climate Connection, <i>Where there's a CLIL there's a way</i> , focuses on this particular topic.
The war in Croatia	<a href="#">This BBC profile</a> contains a brief chronology of the recent history of Croatia.
Northland	Visit <a href="https://www.northland.edu/">https://www.northland.edu/</a> for more information.
21 <sup>st</sup> century skills	This term is generally used to refer to non-language skills which can be developed in the classroom – e.g. critical thinking, co-operation, collaboration and creativity.

## Green Glossary

Different types of English	Click <a href="#">here</a> for an article which discusses some of the main types of English spoken around the world.
Philippine English	Click <a href="#">here</a> for a useful summary from Wikipedia about Philippine English. The Oxford English Dictionary also has a very interesting update about new words in Philippine English <a href="#">here</a> .
The Philippines and climate change	Amnesty International identify The Philippines as a country at serious risk from the climate crisis in <a href="#">this article</a> .
Climate Vulnerable Forum	An international partnership of countries highly vulnerable to a warming planet. The Forum serves as a South-South cooperation platform for participating governments to act together to deal with global climate change. Find out more at <a href="https://thecvf.org/">https://thecvf.org/</a> .
COP21	Find out more at <a href="https://www.cop21paris.org/">https://www.cop21paris.org/</a> .
Benigno Aquino, Jr	President of the Philippines between 2010 and 2016. You can read his obituary on the BBC website <a href="#">here</a> .
Bayanihan	Bayanihan (buy-uh-nee-hun) is a Filipino custom derived from the Tagalog word 'bayan' for nation, town or community. Bayanihan literally means 'being in a bayan' and it refers to a fundamental aspect of Filipino culture: working together as a community to achieve a common goal. <a href="#">Read more about it here</a> . You can read an interesting blog about Bayanihan amongst undocumented migrants in the Netherlands <a href="#">here</a> .





Tagalog	A language which has around 24 million native speakers. A further 45 million people speak it as a second language.
Jacinda Ardern	The Prime Minister of New Zealand / Aotearoa since 2017.
Loanword	A word adopted from a foreign language with little or no modification. Commonly-used loanwords in English include <i>cafe</i> (from French), <i>bazaar</i> (Persian), <i>kindergarten</i> (German), <i>opera</i> (Italian), <i>lava</i> (Hawaiian English Creole), <i>patio</i> (Spanish), <i>tsunami</i> (Japanese), <i>chocolate</i> (Nahuatl), <i>yin</i> and <i>yang</i> (Chinese), and <i>moped</i> (Swedish).
Māori	The indigenous Polynesian people of mainland Aotearoa / New Zealand.
Kaitiakitanga	Kaitiakitanga means guardianship and protection. It is a way of managing the environment, based on the Māori world view. Find out more <a href="#">here</a> .
Climate Outreach	Climate Outreach are leading experts in climate change communications, aiming to ensure impacts are understood, accepted and acted upon across society. Find out more at <a href="https://climateoutreach.org/">https://climateoutreach.org/</a> .
Climate Action Network International	Climate Action Network (CAN) is a powerful global network of more than 1,500 civil society organisations in over 130 countries driving collective and sustainable action to fight the climate crisis and to achieve social and racial justice. Find out more at <a href="https://climatenetwork.org/">https://climatenetwork.org/</a> .
Renewable energy sources	There are seven types of renewable energy sources, namely: solar, wind, hydroelectric, ocean, geothermal, biomass and hydrogen. <a href="#">Click here</a> for a more detailed explanation by the US Energy Information Administration.
Jugaad	The BBC describes the phenomenon of 'jugaad' <a href="#">in this article</a> .
Refill station	<a href="#">Click here</a> for an interesting newspaper article about zero waste refill stations.
Sari-sari shop	A convenience store found in the Philippines. The word sari-sari is Tagalog meaning 'variety' or 'sundry'. Such stores occupy an important economic and social location in a Filipino community and are ubiquitous in neighbourhoods and along streets. Sari-sari stores tend to be family-run and privately owned, operating within the shopkeeper's residence



## Interview 2: Rose Aylett and Beccy Wigglesworth

IATEFL's Global Issues Special Interest Group	<a href="#">The IATEFL Global Issues SIG (GISIG)</a> is one of several special interest groups that make up part of IATEFL, the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language. Comprising a diverse membership of English language teachers, teacher trainers and academic managers, working all around the world both in state educational systems and the private sector. GISIG aims to foreground global issues, such as human rights, equality, conflict resolution, consumerism, working conditions, sustainable development and social responsibility, within English as a second language education.
International House World Organisation	Founded in 1953, International House is a global network of 150 affiliated language schools in more than 50 countries. Visit <a href="https://ihworld.com/">https://ihworld.com/</a> for more information.
International House's environmental sustainability scheme	Visit <a href="https://ihworld.com/about/environmental-sustainability/">https://ihworld.com/about/environmental-sustainability/</a> to find out more about this programme.
Old fogies	People who are old-fashioned in attitude, ideas, manners
Cat and dog home	A place where stray cats and dogs are taken (which don't have an owner). Other people can go there, and if they pass some checks, can take them home and become their new owner.
Carpooling	Sharing a car when going to work, in order to reduce costs and help the environment.
Protecting our planet badge	Details about the criteria for this badge can be found at <a href="#">this link</a> .
GISIG 25th birthday party last year	Details about this event can be found at <a href="#">this link</a> on the GISIG website.
Margaret Mead	Margaret Mead was an American cultural anthropologist. Find out more about her <a href="#">here</a> .
Green consumer	A green consumer is someone who is aware of his or her obligation to protect the environment by selectively purchasing green products or services. A green consumer tries to maintain a healthy and safe lifestyle without endangering the sustainability of the planet and the future of mankind.
ELTA-GB	Find out more about the English Language Teachers Association of Guinea Bissau at <a href="#">this link</a> .
Togolese English teachers organisation	The Facebook group for this organisation can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
International Earth Day	Held on 22 April every year. Find out more at <a href="https://www.un.org/en/observances/earth-day">https://www.un.org/en/observances/earth-day</a> .



Learned helplessness	Learned helplessness is a state that occurs after a person has experienced a stressful situation repeatedly. They come to believe that they are unable to control or change the situation, so they do not try — even when opportunities for change become available.
CELTA courses	The CELTA from Cambridge is a qualification for teaching English as a foreign language. It is considered the most widely recognised English teaching qualification in the world. Find out more <a href="#">here</a> .

