



## BEXHILL-on-SEA, A FAIRTRADE TOWN

### BUILDING THE WORLD WE WANT



Dear Fellow citizens,

We are embarking on a project to bring all our young people of all ages and members of different organisations together in order to promote a better world. We would be delighted if you, your family, your school/college, faith group, business, organisation, would participate in helping us to achieve this!

Obviously the world we want will need healthy air for us to breathe and an environment which is not too hot, not too cold, not too dry or too windy, not too wet for us or the food we grow.

Fairtrade farmers (and others too) are saying that their biggest threat is **climate change** and that they have caused the least change. The United Nations warned 2 years ago that urgent action is needed by us all in the next 9 years to avoid catastrophe. What is this all about and what does it mean for our world?

**Climate change:** *a change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.* (Oxford Languages).

### How can we address this issue?

Here are some **questions** which you may adapt appropriately to consider/discuss yourself and/or with the children and your friends:

- Which waste gas (produced from our carbon food) do we breathe out?
- Which gas does the leaves of plants and trees take out of the air?
- When we burn methane gas in our heating boilers at our home and school, which gas is given out into the air?
- Which gas in the air/atmosphere has been getting more abundant in the atmosphere, especially in the past 200 years in Europe and North America?
- Which gas in the atmosphere is largely responsible for causing too much heating of the air and the earth?

- Which gas is produced when a car, ship, plane burns petrol, diesel, aviation and fossil fuels?
- This gas is one of the gases causing our climate to change towards destruction. In my daily life am I producing more than I need to live?

**Perhaps the children/members of your organisation could investigate and answer the following:**

- Name 2 things I did today which causes the climate to change: .....
- One thing I did today to save energy was: .....
- Two ways I could cut down and prevent food waste are:.....
- How much water do I waste when washing my teeth? .....
- Think of clothes made from 'soil/field' to factory, to shop, to our room/cupboard. How many reasons can you think of to recycle clothes? .....
- Name 10 ways that clothes affect climate change: .....
- How many litres of water fill a basin at home? .....
- Approximately how many 'basins' of water are used at home each day? .....
- Which uses more water: a bath or a shower? .....
- Name the gas produced by cows which is about 70 times worse for the atmosphere than carbon dioxide? .....
- If the meat sold in shops comes from New Zealand, Argentina, Denmark or East Sussex, how many miles of transport is involved for each?.....
- Which of these, shipping or airplane carriage, causes a) least and b) most damage, to the atmosphere?.....
- When do we use a car from home when it is not necessary? And why? .....
- Give 3 reasons why leaving a window open at home is not 'good' when the heating is on: .....
- Each person produces carbon and each one has a carbon 'footprint'. Using the internet to search for the criteria, what is your carbon footprint? And that of your family? .....

- In the UK, 1 person has the same footprint as 21 people in the Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire) in Africa - see if you can find it on the map – next to the equator). The Fairtrade system is helping them to plan to adapt to survive changes in the climate. Find out more on the Fairtrade website: [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)
- Find the sections where “5 ways Fairtrade Farmers Protect the Environment” and “8 ways Fairtrade Farmers Protect the Environment”. Which would be your top 3 ways? .....

## **Special Activity!**

This is the **special activity** we would love you, children and perhaps their families to complete. Alternatively it could be done as part of a class, group or whole school/scout group/various organisations or any individual.

1. Cut an A4 sheet of paper into two diagonally, which will then look like bunting flag pieces. Write the best words, phrases, sentences or draw/paint pieces of art/pictures to represent a summary of the questions/answers above on at least one, you may need to use many! Let our message be clear...."We care about climate change and working together to make a better world!" This is a measure of how we want to build the world we want ...you can do it !!
2. Share your ideas and thoughts with others.
3. Put them together like a string of bunting. You might like to take photos at different stages as you progress.
  - How long is your family's?
  - Your class
  - Your school
  - Your organisation
  - Your faith group
  - My street's
  - Firm

Along with the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a huge YEAR for the UK re **climate change**, we need to act now to save our global village i.e. us and our environment. The world SUMMIT will be held in November, COP26, in Glasgow.

OUR BUNTING from our community of BEXHILL could tell them our story.

Our REVISED DATE, the first Sunday in July,

SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY AT 12oc, midday

to meet up in solidarity and measure our length of bunting messages probably around the De La Warr Pavilion to give one big shout for Climate Justice for one and all.

**NB.** We will have an alternative date and venue just in case of rain and the paper nature of our lengths of bunting!!

As a school, class group, scout/guide group, Faith group, organisation etc you may wish to have your own assembly gathering before this as a preparation. No matter how small or large you are, every effort will count. Your piece of Bunting with your hopes will represent your efforts.

If you or any representative of your group would like to join us for planning, you will be very welcome. Please reply to this email.

**Thank you.**

**Jack Doherty**

On behalf of the Bexhill Fairtrade Town Committee and our many allies.