

Climate Stories Project: How to Conduct a Climate Change Interview

<http://www.climatestoriesproject.org/>

Overview: Talking to people about climate change can be difficult. We often make assumptions about other people based on what they know or believe regarding climate change, rarely taking the time to consider where such knowledge and beliefs come from. Conversations about climate change can seem boring, turn nasty, or worse, never get started in the first place. However, talking about climate change—bringing it out into the open through discourse—is a critical first step to actually addressing the challenges of climate change.

This project posits that one effective strategy in talking to people about climate change is to ask them about their own lives and personal stories in relation to climate change. It's OK if you are not an expert about climate change, and it's OK if the person you want to interview isn't an expert either. People do not need to be experts in climate science or climate policy to tell their climate change stories. Simply sharing something about ourselves and our relationship to climate change is an important first step. We are all witnesses. Each person's story is important.

Technical details: You can record a Climate Stories Project interview on your phone, your tablet, your computer, or any electronic device that has a recording function. The audio doesn't need to be of the highest quality, but make sure you conduct the interview in a quiet place without much distracting ambient noise.

To begin: Introduce yourself and the project to the person you will be interviewing. Explain the goals of the project—to provide a forum for people to share their own stories and personal reflections on climate change—and that you'd like to talk with him/her about climate change and record his/her story for the project. Ask the person if you can record the interview and then submit selections from that recording to the Climate Stories Project website. If the person agrees, ask him/her to sign the release form.

Specific questions to ask during the interview:

- 1) Could you please introduce yourself and where you live?
- 2) Could you talk about the changes you may have noticed in your local environment over the past several years? (For example, changing weather, temperature, seasons, changes in plants and animals, sea level, water resources, glaciers)
- 3) How do you imagine your/your family's/your community's future will be affected by climate change?
- 4) How do you feel about climate change? Describe your emotional responses to climate change as you think about yourself, your family, and your community.
- 5) How do you imagine the future? What kind of world would you like to see in terms of the relationship between different groups of humans, between humans and the natural world, between humans and the climate?

After the interview:

- 1) Thank the interview subject for her time and emphasize that her story will be an important contribution to the project.
- 2) Ask the interview subject to email you a photo of himself/herself to include with the story on the website. Follow up with the person if necessary.
- 3) Send the audio file, photo, and signed Terms of Service (on website) to Jason Davis at jason@climatestoriesproject.org for inclusion on climatestoriesproject.org