

# PEOPLES CLIMATE MOVEMENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

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## BACKGROUND

The Peoples Climate Movement believes that to change everything, it takes everyone. In the fall of 2019, the Peoples Climate Movement invited people from across the United States to share stories of winning bold climate action - each of whom defines winning differently; represents a unique regional, cultural, racial, and/or gender experience; and demonstrates the power that one person can have, build, or wield by working both alone and in coalition with others. As part of this project, the PCM Storybook and PCM Video were created to showcase their work. Told individually or together, these stories are connected by a deeply-felt, grassroots commitment to addressing climate change through a lens of racial justice and economic equity. We invite you to use the following materials and apply them to your lives and communities, beginning with an open discussion.

## USING THIS GUIDE

This guide + materials are to be used as an invitation to an open discussion about the climate crisis. We hope to help a wide array of audiences think deeply about the issues at stake and then take action. Rather than using all of the tips and points below, pick a few that speak most closely to your discussion.



## DISCUSSION TIPS

### Prepare yourself

- Be knowledgeable - While we do not expect you to be an expert on the issues, it will be helpful to have some understanding and background. Read through the storybook and preview the video several times. Learn more about Peoples Climate Movement and our partners.
- Be clear about your role: Remember that your role is to remain neutral and move the conversation along. Absorb and jot down any themes that come up to relay back to the groups.
- Know your group: The issues discussed will mean very different things for different folks in the space - understand your audience and be open to diverse viewpoints.

### Prepare the group

- Encourage community: Begin with introductions. Consider an ice breaker or activity too, i.e. "Why are you interested in learning more about the climate crisis?" or direct each person to list on a board/paper when they first learned of the climate crisis.
- Encourage discussion, not debate: Set agreed upon discussion norms at the beginning as a reminder that this is an open discussion and all views are welcome.
- Encourage active listening and understanding: Remind the group that listening is as important as discussing. If needed, pause for a breath between intense moments.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Following the video + storybook, allow your audience to have a quiet moment for reflection. Then move to some general discussion questions:

- What are some of your initial takeaways from the video + storybook?
- What does this tell you about the climate movement?
- What does this tell you about the climate crisis?
- Describe a moment, scene, or point that you found most interesting. And why?

## DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Once some of the general feedback is discussed, move into deeper points:

- What does bold climate action mean to you? What does it mean to build power?
- How can we keep on winning at all levels: individually, locally, nationally?
- How does the climate crisis relate to your life? Do you identify with any of the stories?
- How do the stories in CO, WA, ME, etc relate to your community? City? State?
- Reflecting on the stories and video, what can you commit to do to help stop the climate crisis individually? As a community?

## TAKING ACTION

After thorough discussion, connect to the larger movement by signing up at [www.peoplesclimate.org](http://www.peoplesclimate.org). You will receive updates, calls to action, and further information to keep you informed on the climate crisis.

## MATERIALS



PCM Video



PCM Story Book



Sample Agenda