



Action Guide 01

Raising awareness

Zonta International's [Statement on Climate Change: a Gender Equality Issue](#) (the Statement) contains recommendations for Zontians and governments to promote gender-equal climate justice.

Zonta Says NOW is developing a series of Action Guides to implement the Statement. The Action Guides focus on selected recommendations and use Zonta Says NOW's five-step process to generate some ideas for action. The five steps are: gather the facts, lead by example, use our voice, advocate, and collaborate.

The Zonta Says NOW Working Group encourages members, clubs, districts, and Unions/Caucuses to use the Action Guides as a starting point. **Every country has different priorities and cultures, so please feel free to adapt and add actions as required.**

Please email any suggested improvements to info@zontasaysnow.org.au.

Recommendations covered by this Action Guide:
<p>Zonta International calls on its <u>membership</u> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase their own awareness of climate change and on its gender-related consequences and raise awareness locally. • Include gendered climate change advocacy actions in their advocacy plans. • Support the inclusion of women at the national and local tables of decision-makers on environmental sustainability. • Promote girls' education and the inclusion of climate literacy in schools, as well as to promote girls' science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) studies to increase gendered scientific and technical contributions to climate change mitigation. • Advocate for national policies that take into account women's economic opportunities and ensures their full and equal participation in the economy.

Which of these ideas inspires you to take action?

1. Gather the facts

Ideas for action	Yes/No
Increase your awareness of climate change and its gender-related consequences through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading anything you can find, including the Zonta Says NOW Fact Sheet, UN Act Now and UN Gender and Climate Change. • Watching videos, e.g. David Attenborough documentaries, TED talks • Attending climate change webinars and workshops e.g., UN agencies, TED Countdown. • Listening to podcasts from reputable sources e.g., Outrage and Optimism podcasts, Jane Goodall Hopecasts. 	
Learn more about the Sustainable Development Goals and what is happening in your state, region, and local community.	
Engage speakers at club meetings, area workshops and district conferences to address the topic of climate change and its gender-related consequences.	
Form a club or area 'book club' to discuss books you have read on women and climate change e.g., The Future We Choose (available in many languages), Right Here, Right Now , All We Can Save .	

2. Lead by example

Ideas for action	Yes/No
Individual actions:	
Consume less- rethink what you buy and reduce, reuse, repair and recycle goods.	
Shop locally and buy sustainable products that are not wrapped in plastic.	
Avoid wasting food. Try growing some of your own food sustainably.	
Find alternatives to plastic wrap to store food.	
Think about what you eat and the resource impacts of its production and transportation.	
If you are a farmer – manage your farm according to the principles of sustainability.	
Re-consider travel: walk, bike, take public transport and car share if you can.	
Going on holidays – choose sustainable travel and accommodation options.	
Save energy at home - increase insulation, switch off lights and choose energy-efficient appliances.	
Consider renewable energy for the home.	
Support the use of electric vehicles, e.g., electric bikes, cars, and buses.	
Join climate action groups, e.g., Zonta Says NOW.	
Support organizations working for gender-equal climate action, e.g., UN Women, CSW and 1 Million Women.	
Club actions:	
Apply the 5 Rs to club purchases: reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink, repair.	
Provide members with information to recycle goods appropriately.	
Use digital technology to minimize the use of printed materials.	
Hold events at venues easily accessed by public transport.	
Promote car sharing to attend meetings and events.	
Give speakers 'green gifts' or donations to the Zonta Foundation For Women.	
Choose a bank with green credentials.	
Include more plant-based dishes at events.	
Invite speakers to talk about recycling goods correctly, the circular economy and energy saving.	

3. Use our voice

Ideas for action	Yes/No
Individual actions:	
Start conversations - about what you have learned about gender equality and climate change and your actions - with your family, friends, neighbors, and work colleagues.	
Share your activities and experiences on your social networks to motivate others.	
Give presentations at local schools and organizations to explain how the climate crisis and gender inequality are connected.	
Advocate and act to raise awareness of climate justice issues e.g., health, safety and economic problems exacerbated by climate change. Actions could include participating in peaceful marches.	
Write feature articles in local magazines, drawing on information gathered in Zonta Says NOW publications and Intercontinental Think Tank meetings.	
Club actions:	
Appoint a <i>Zonta Says NOW</i> champion in the club to highlight activities and recognize members' actions.	
Include gender equality/climate change awareness-raising sessions regularly at club meetings and in club programs.	
Arrange a climate competition among members to reduce their own climate footprint in their daily lives	
Develop climate/gender equality elevator speeches or lists of facts as conversation starters that members can use (with practice).	
Visit elected officials to ascertain their position on gender equality and climate action or ask them to speak at a club meeting.	
Share your success stories with Zonta International.	
Share narratives by Think Tank members that show how environmental actions are globally interconnected.	

4. Advocate

<i>Ideas for action</i>	Yes/No
Club actions:	
Include gendered climate change advocacy actions in club advocacy plans.	
Promote Zonta International Awards as part of advocacy, e.g., organize an event on Women in Science with climate-related scientists to promote girls' science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) studies – and the Women in STEM Scholarship.	
Reach a wider audience. Explore the link between health, environment, community safety and saving money with climate actions, e.g., talk to politicians about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitioning to electric vehicles. • Installing solar lighting at bus stops. • Planting street trees. 	
Create an award for Women Taking Climate Action to recognize community leaders and women's contributions to climate advocacy.	
Encourage Zontians to be community representatives on local government sustainability / climate action / environmental action committees.	
Area/District/Caucus actions:	
Advocate for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's inclusion at the national and local tables of decision-makers on environmental sustainability. • National/regional/local policies that consider women's economic opportunities and encourage their full and equal economic participation. • Gender-equal representation in parliament (countries with more women in parliament adopt more stringent climate change policies). • Reduced plastic production (and a ban on single-use plastics that pollute the environment, including marine life and impact food production and livelihoods). • Fair distribution of limited natural resources, e.g., water. 	
Identify community leaders engaged in gender-equal climate action on NGO internet sites and explore opportunities to work with them, e.g., inviting them to present at area workshops, district conferences or interdistrict events.	
Present research done by Zonta Says NOW to clubs to further enhance advocacy work.	

5. Collaborate

<i>Ideas for action</i>	Yes/No
Encourage a mentee in Zonta's Mentorship program or a Golden Z Club member to talk to their peers about gender-equal climate action.	
What makes Zonta Says NOW unique? Write a script, direct, and produce a film about Zontians confronting climate hazards.	
Host an intergenerational gender-equal climate forum with Z Clubs, Golden Z Clubs and Zonta Clubs and invite local politicians and community members. Discuss the local level of climate literacy in schools and the community.	
Co-host an event with Soroptimists and Rotary or another community group to raise awareness on local climate justice issues.	
Promote and join campaigns with like-minded organisations, e.g., UN Women, 1 Million Women, and Plastic Free July.	
Collaborate with local government and community organisations on sustainability projects, e.g. work with your Z Club/Golden Z Club, local government and local school/university to recycle cans and bottles to raise funds for Zonta or local land regeneration projects.	
Link your club website to Zonta International, District, Caucus/Union (if applicable), and other climate justice websites.	