



Countries Take Action Against Climate Change

Extreme weather has been all over the news recently. There has been **flooding** in Europe, **fires** in America and **heatwaves** in the UK.

These weather events are connected to climate change. Scientists say the global temperature is 1.2 degrees Celsius higher



Photo: Glasgow.

than 150 years ago. The World Health Organisation says that as temperatures continue to go up, extreme weather might well happen more often.

In October this year, world leaders will meet in Glasgow, Scotland, for the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26). Here they will talk about how to fight climate change.

The leaders already agreed to cut carbon emissions. We can do this by using fewer **fossil fuels** and moving to renewable energy. They also suggest that we should **capture** more carbon. This means countries are trying to plant more trees.

Glasgow, where the event is, has promised to plant an incredible 18 million trees. They say that this will be about ten trees per person in the area.

Madrid is also hoping to create an urban forest by planting around half a million trees in their city.

What is climate change?

- Climate change is the change in average weather conditions over a long time.
- Scientists have studied the planet getting hotter over a long period. This is known as global warming.

Both cities hope that the trees will help capture some of the carbon in the air. And while this is only a small step, they hope that by taking action they can stop some of the effects of climate change.

Glossary

flooding When the ground is covered in water, often after the rain.

heatwaves A few days of very hot weather.

fossil fuels Fuels that cannot be used again, such as coal, oil and gas.

capture To catch.

Reflect

Can small steps make a big difference?



Questions

1. Find **three** examples of extreme weather events.

2. Who thinks that climate change is causing these weather events?

3. Why are international leaders meeting in Scotland in October 2021?

4. Which cities are going to plant more trees?

5. Why are cities planting more trees?

6. Is planting more trees enough to stop climate change completely?