

The Climate Connection in Cuba

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The Climate Connection



Introduction

About the work of the British Council in Cuba

The British Council is the UK's organization for cultural relations and educational opportunities.

We build connections and trust between the people in UK and people from other countries, with offices in around a hundred nations around the world.

In the case of Cuba, we have had a presence for more than 20 years now during which we have collaborated with the Ministries of Culture, Education, and Higher Education.

Our English program is mainly focused on providing training opportunities for English language teachers and teachers-to-be from all along the island.

Through this presentation you will find how our office has joined the global actions that our organization has developed through its initiative “The climate connection”.

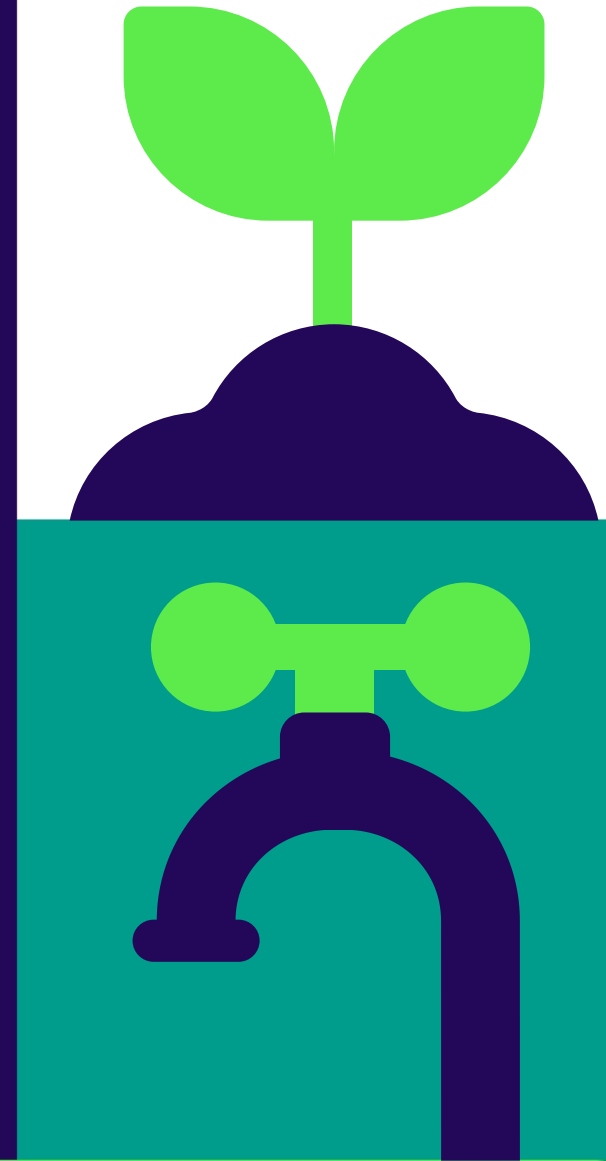
And a summary of the training actions and events that to address this topic we have carried out together with our local partners.



Main Topics

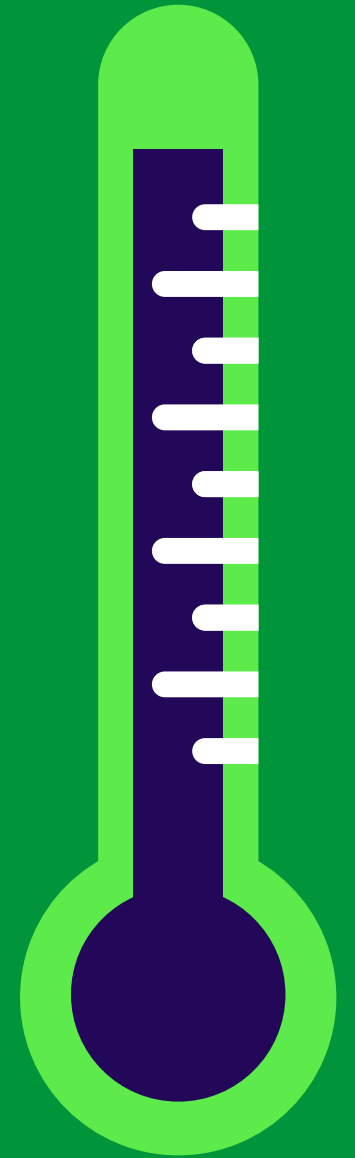
What is The Climate Connection?

The Climate Connection is a global platform to promote the dialogue, the cooperation, to share ideas and to motivate actions that contribute to tackle the serious climate crisis that our planet is currently going through.



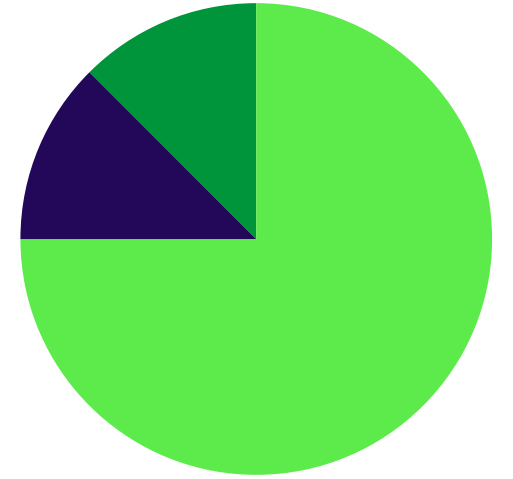
Why is this so important this year?

In addition to working towards the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goal #13 of the 2030 agenda, there is a special reason why the British Council has come out with this initiative this year and that is because of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties, also known as Cop26, that is currently being held at Glasgow, United Kingdom with the presence of heads of state, experts and campaigners to work together for solutions/actions/agreements to tackle climate change.



British Council free resources

- ❑ Podcasts
- ❑ Webinars
- ❑ Trainings
- ❑ MOOCs
- ❑ Lessons plans for different educational levels
- ❑ Many more



Where to find them

With the aim to promote these resources and make them easily available to our teachers we have been sharing every Monday through our Facebook page some of these resources and we will continue to do so.

Another contribution of our office on this regard is that we have been sharing those resources through the bimonthly editions of our newsletter #English4U, so you are on time to join it in case you haven't and also I recommend you to visit the Americas website for updated news, training opportunities and much more.





Useful Links

Visit our British Council Cuba Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/BritishCouncilCuba>

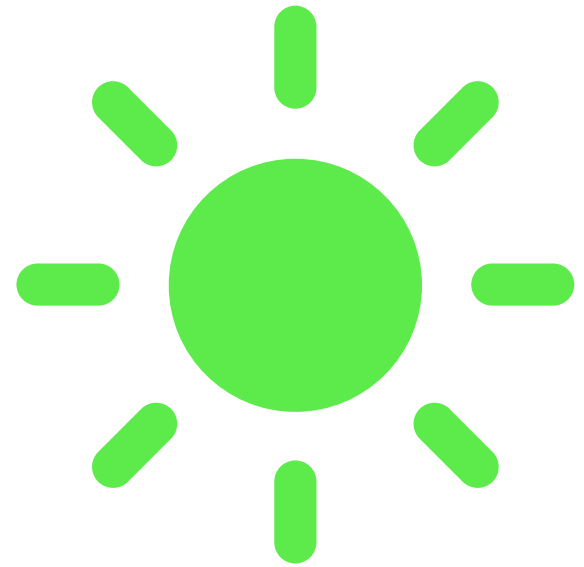
Subscribe to our #English4U newsletter
<https://caribbean.britishcouncil.org/es/boletines-electronicos>

Visit our Americas dedicated website
<https://americas.britishcouncil.org/es/climate-connection>

The Role of Teachers

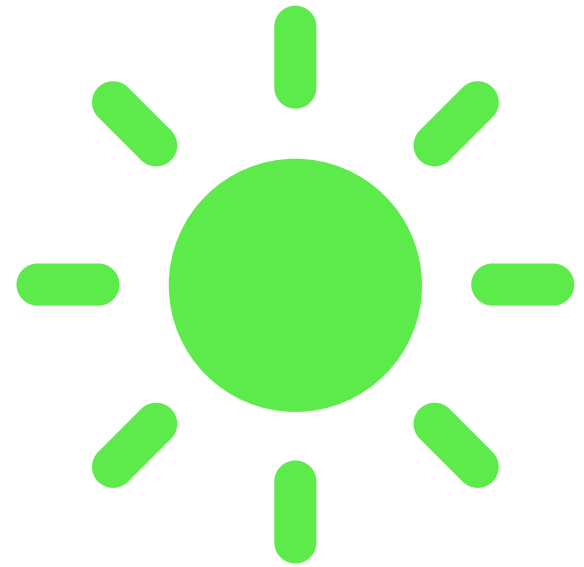
Why is it so important that teachers have access to those resources to include Climate Change in their lessons plans?

- ✓ Climate Change negatively impacts our lives in so many ways. And you as teachers play a critical role to raise awareness and to motivate actions among your students, your institutions and in your communities.
- ✓ Teachers inspire and motivate their students and they can influence their attitude towards climate change, both inside and outside the classroom.



The Role of Teachers

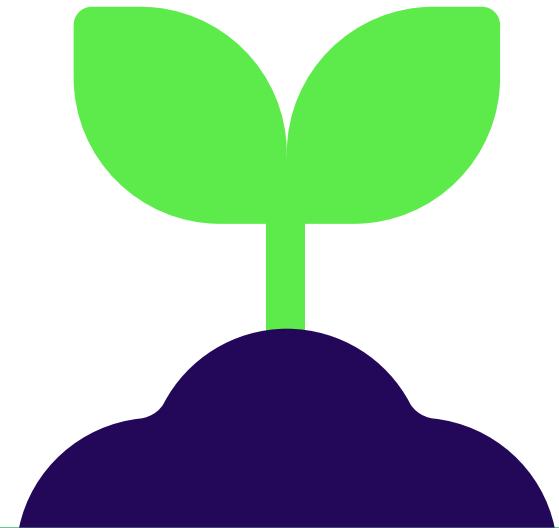
- ✓ Teachers are not climate change experts and they are not expected to be, however they should be ready and equipped to motivate proactivity among their students and they can do so by facilitating this important conversations in the classroom and in summary empowering students to make a difference.
- ✓ English Language Teachers will not only teach English grammar, phonetics, vocabulary and so on when addressing climate change in their lessons, they will be also leading their students to become more sensitive towards this topic and to understand how important it is that they play their part in this global fight.



Our Main Partners

All the work we have done and will continue to do in Cuba is possible due to the close collaboration and mutual support relationship generated with our main local partners. In order to plan, deliver and replicate these training actions that are part of our program we count on the strong and long-lasting alliance with:

- ❑ The Ministry of Education (Mined)
- ❑ The Ministry of Higher Education (MES)
- ❑ Universities like: UCI, UCLV, UCF, UO
- ❑ The APCELI teachers' association
- ❑ The ALC GELI teachers' association



**Many
thanks to all
of them**

What actions have we done as part of this collaboration?

- ❑ Introducing environmental issues into ELT organised and facilitated by the APCELI, the CNC and in collaboration with the University Marta Abreu
- ❑ We supported the participation of 3 Focal points teachers on the Climate Action in Language Education professional development course. These 3 teachers have multiplied these training and design new ones
- ❑ Environmental education in English language teaching, summer training organised and facilitated by the ALC GELI in collaboration with the University of Oriente



What actions have we done as part of this collaboration?

- ❑ Climate change and girl's education global webinar. We supported the participation of 3 female focal points teachers
- ❑ National webinar “We can make the difference” with the Ministry of Education
- ❑ Introducing Environmental Issues into Foreign Language Teaching online postgraduate course with the UCLV
- ❑ Trainings on Climate Change with the Ministry of Education

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Impact of those actions

- ❑ We have reached around 500 teachers from all educational levels
- ❑ All Cuban provinces have been represented, including the Special Municipality of Isla de la Juventud
- ❑ 60% of the benefited teachers belong to basic education
- ❑ The 64% of teachers engaged are female teachers
- ❑ Approximately one in two teachers participating in these actions is under 35 years old



Lesson on National TV as an example of best practice

On October 12, the first of a series of TV lessons on Environmental Issues, was aired on Cuban television as part of this collaboration between the Ministry of Education and the British Council.

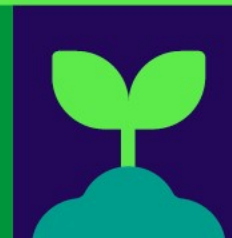
The class is also part of Cuba's experience in remote teaching, and it was aimed at more than 1,800 first- and second-year students of English in pedagogical careers all over the country. It also reached over 100 train the trainers' teachers from the different provinces.

The 80 percent of these future teachers will become primary school teachers.

Full video available here for free:

<http://curricular.cubaeduca.cu/education/category?id=2499&type=content-manager>

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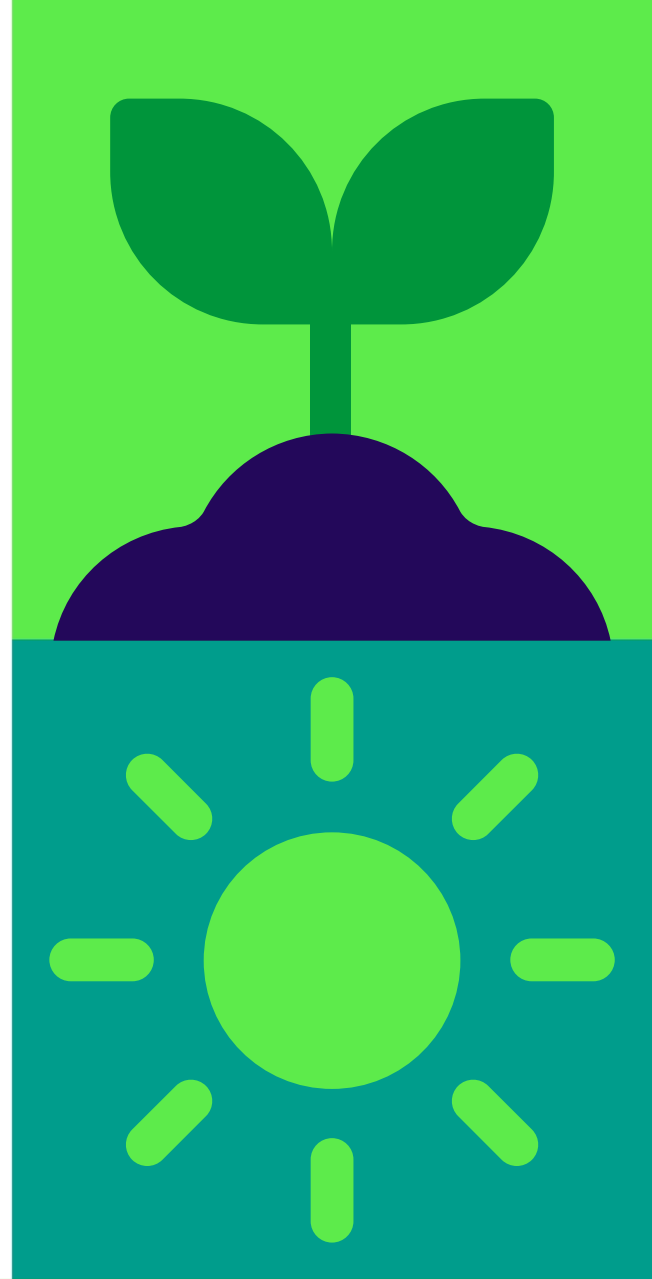
British Council Cuba 'Environment and English Teaching' contest winners and awards

We are very pleased about the number, quality and diversity of the proposals received that include: community projects, lessons plans and class systems and as well as by the wide representation of provinces, genres, age groups and educational levels.



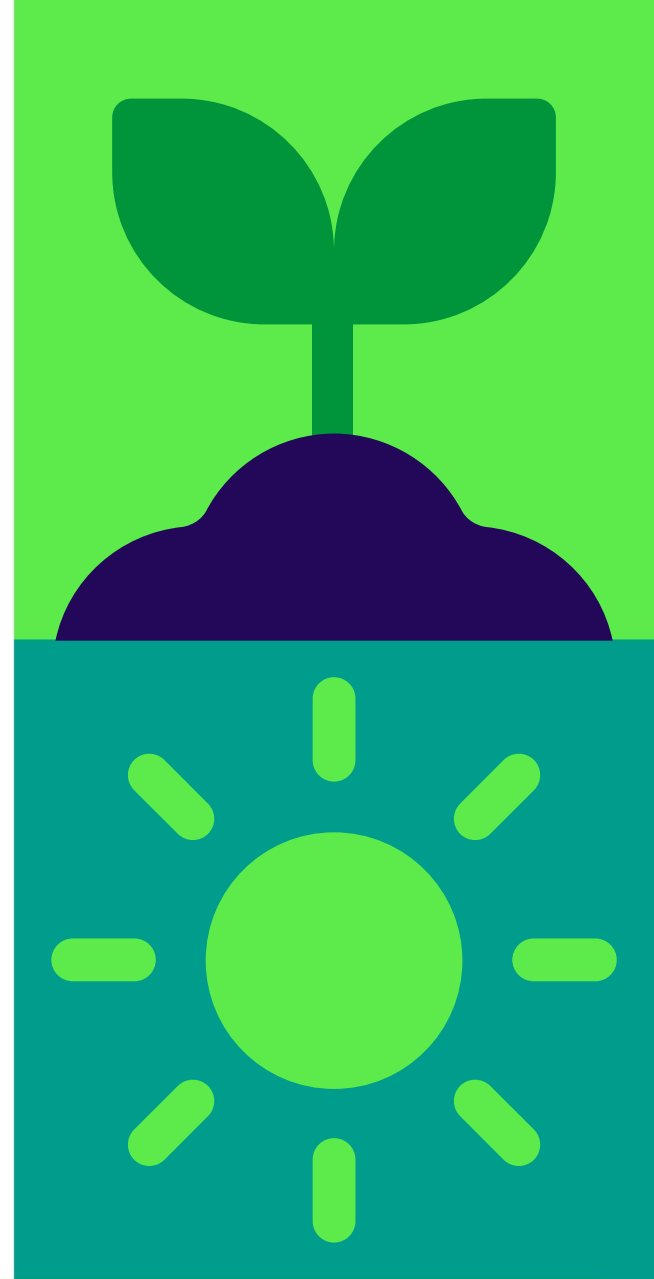
Who are the lucky winners?

- ❑ José Alfonso Hernández, teacher from the university of Pinar del Rio province
- ❑ Leslye Márquez Manals, teacher from the secondary school Hubert de blank from Havana province
- ❑ Gretter Guerra Cruz & Thalía Portal García, 5th year students of bachelor in foreign languages from the University Marta Abreu from Villa Clara Province.



Who are the lucky winners?

- ❑ Dianela Gallardo Noa & Yailín Flores Contino, teachers from the secondary school “República de Nicaragua” and methodologist from Dirección Municipal de Educación Cotorro, respectively, both from Havana province
- ❑ Bettsy Amalia García Jaime & Eviannis Débora González Turino, 5th year students of bachelor in foreign languages from the University Jose Marti Perez from Santi Spiritus province
- ❑ Lázara de la Caridad Orozco Gutierrez, 5th year student of bachelor in foreign languages from the University Marta Abreu in Villa Clara province.





AWARDS

**Congrats to all
of you!!!**

The awards include one year of full membership at IATEFL (UK's International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language) and an invitation to participate at BBELT British Council's international conference that will be held virtually in February 2022.

Find all about the
International Education
Week here:

<https://bit.ly/3nl590q>

Bring the world into the classroom

Thanks to everyone involved in all these actions and I will leave with an invitation to our next global event as part of the Climate Connection: the International Education Week from the 15 to the 19 of November, another great opportunity to keep learning and exchanging about climate change.

Thanks a lot & see you soon!!

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#COP26 #IEW2021

