

Elders Climate Action 2019 Talking Points



How to use these talking points

You may have the chance to speak with reporters, congressional staffers, and Members of Congress, and passers-by about why you are attending this event. We encourage you to come prepared for these conversations, in which you may only have a few seconds to convey your thoughts.

We want you to speak truthfully in your own unique voice. Because we each have our own style of speaking, these talking points are more effective when you tailor them to your perspective, instead of reciting them word-for-word. We encourage you to take only what works for you and tweak it to reflect your voice.

Authenticity is not the same as spontaneity. Practicing what you want to say about why you care about climate change will help you strengthen your message. If you need support in customizing these points or would like help rehearsing the ones that you've worked out, please let us know. We would love to help.

2019 Talking Points

Why are you here?

- I am here with Elders Climate Action, a national organization of elders mobilizing to take action on climate change and air pollution for the sake of our grandchildren's health.
- I traveled from {insert your location} to Washington to tell the people who represent me in Congress how deeply concerned I am about climate change.
- Hundreds of people from more than (insert #) states have come here today to raise our voices together. We care deeply about climate change and we want immediate action. Nothing less will do for a problem of this scale.

What do you think about climate change?

- Where I live in {Insert City, State}, climate change is affecting my community through {insert examples}.
 - [Possible examples: Heat waves, drought, wildfire, extreme weather, algae blooms, sea level rise, sunny day flooding, Lyme disease, longer and stronger pollen season, etc.]

- Climate change is real, it's happening now, and it threatens the health of my children and grandchildren. This is a climate crisis, and we need bold action right now.
- A changing climate will trigger more asthma attacks, respiratory illnesses, and other serious health effects. Elders and Children will disproportionately bear the burden of these health problems.
- We have an obligation to our grandchildren now and to future generations to protect them by reducing dangerous pollution from power plants, cars, trucks, and more.

What should we do about climate change?

- It's time for American leadership on climate change. We want more renewable energy, more energy efficiency, cleaner cars, green jobs, and healthier communities.
- Right now, our federal government is rolling back air, water, and climate protections. Our health and our children/grandchildren's health is on the line. We need our leaders in Washington to protect our health and future from the health dangers caused by climate change.
- We want our leaders to set a goal: Eliminate the pollution that is causing climate change by 2050. That means 100% clean energy, across the entire economy. It's ambitious, but we can do it. And for our grandkids, we have to do it.
- 100% Clean Energy by 2050 is going to give us climate solutions that will also clean up the air our families breathe. Given that more than 40% of Americans live in counties where the air is unhealthy to breathe, this is truly priceless.

The power of elders

- I consider it part of my job as an elder/grandparent to protect my children/grandchildren from climate change.
- Grandparents are fierce protectors of our grandchildren's health. We know that air pollution and climate change harm our kids.
- That's why we are coming together today and every day to demand a solution to the climate crisis.

Questions? Contact Elders Climate Action, info@eldersclimateaction.org