CLIMATE COUNCIL

CONVERSATION GUIDE:

FIVE TIPS FOR HAVING A CHAT ABOUT THE ‘C’ WORD (CLIMATE)

A conversation can change everything.

Most Australians already care about climate change, but don’t realise they are part of the majority.

Four in 10 say they’d do more if they knew everyone else was.

So grab a cuppa, and let’s talk!





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1. LISTEN FIRST.

Be curious and ask open-ended questions. It helps to treat this as a chat, not a lecture.

You are likely to learn what motivates others. And remember, you don't need all the answers, either.

For example:

- "Have you noticed your insurance bill going up?"
- "How are you coping with the heat this summer?"

2. FIND COMMON GROUND.

What do you have in common?

Is it a love of gardening, footy, or your kids? Start there, and explain how pollution is putting that at risk.

We naturally care more about our own community, so keep impacts local not global.

For example:

- "You're always in the garden, have you noticed it's harder to keep things alive this summer?"

3. MAKE CARING NORMAL.

Share why you care about climate, and that people who care are in the majority.
Explain what steps you're taking, what was challenging and how you overcame this.

For example:

- "I got a battery after the last blackout. It's saved me hundreds of dollars, and I know the next time the power goes out, my fridge will keep running. I wish I'd done it sooner, but it was hard to work out which battery to get."



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4. TALK UP BENEFITS.

The solutions are here, and they come with many benefits beyond cutting climate pollution.

Cleaner air to breathe, safer homes, and lower bills. Pick the one that matters most to the person in front of you, and back it with one fact.

For example:

- "Getting solar cut our power bills. And CSIRO says solar and wind backed by storage are the cheapest new power we can build."

WANT MORE?

Find the facts at:

www.climatecouncil.org.au

5. USE TRUSTED SOURCES.

There's a lot of misinformation out there.

If someone repeats it, stay curious: where did they read or hear that? Is it a trustworthy source? What's their motivation? Lean on widely trusted sources, and consensus.

If it's going nowhere, finish on a friendly note.

For example:

- "99% of climate scientists agree: pollution from burning coal, oil and gas is making our summers hotter."
- "Solar and wind, backed by storage, is the lowest cost energy we can build in Australia, according to CSIRO."

