

A 6 Week Climate Change Elective for Secondary Level

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Secondary school education has traditionally followed a disciplinary structure. While this provides rigorous training in core subject areas it can lead to little to narrow coverage of topics like global environmental change, which require integrated cross-disciplinary thought. One option to facilitate thinking across the additional secondary disciplines is to offer elective project-based modules, which have the additional benefit of imparting problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

Here we present a six week project-based elective on the science and solutions of climate change, recently trialled with Sixth Form students at a co-educational international school in the Netherlands (the British School of Amsterdam). We describe the module's four-part structure, from initial delivery of an overview on climate change to the student presentations of their completed projects. In particular, we provide a detailed description of the scoping process through which the students formulated their group projects from a diverse set of possible themes (e.g., adaptation, carbon emissions, communication) and decided upon an integral end product. Finally, we present examples of the projects undertaken, illustrating how scientific information and technical skills were employed.