

## GOALS AND STANDARDS

1. Analyze a climate change story to gain a greater understanding of a climate change topic.
2. Construct a written or oral argument using evidence.

**NGSS Science and Engineering Practices:** Analyzing and interpreting data; Engaging in argument from evidence; Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

**NGSS Performance Expectations:** MS-ESS3-3, HS-ESS3-4, HS-LS2-7

## LEVEL

6-7 grade or anyone new to learning about climate change communication.

## BACKGROUND



Climate change is a complex scientific issue. In order to teach climate change effectively, we must make the topic concrete for students and connect it to students' everyday lives. Yale Climate Connections does just that: YCC aims to help citizens and institutions understand how the changing climate is already affecting our lives. It seeks to help individuals, corporations, media, non-governmental organizations, government agencies, academics, artists, and more learn from each other about constructive “solutions” so many are undertaking to reduce climate-related risks and wasteful energy practices.

Through articles, videos, and daily 90-second stories broadcast on hundreds of radio stations nationwide, YCC “connects the dots” between climate change and energy, extreme weather, public health, food and water, jobs and the economy, national security, the creative arts, and religious and moral values, among other themes. The radio stories are a great way to spark discussion about climate change with your students.

## ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION (5-30 MINS)

Yale Climate Connections 90-second radio stories are a great way to spark discussion about climate change with your students. Whether you have an entire class period or only 5 minutes at the end of class, you can easily incorporate them into your curricula. The Question Bank is a great starting point for conversation about any of the stories. The questions can also serve as student writing prompts.

You can select questions for students to respond to, or you can have them choose. Of course, feel free to create your own questions and encourage students to pose questions of their own. Students are provided with a list of suggested radio stories by topic, but you and your students can use any of the hundreds of stories on the Yale Climate Connections site, as described in the Tips for Success below.



### As heat pumps gain popularity, winter electricity demand is growing

by YCC TEAM MARCH 17, 2026



### Hawaii teens take on the state – and win

by YCC TEAM MARCH 16, 2026



### How to help your garden withstand climate change

by YCC TEAM MARCH 13, 2026

Figure 1: Example radio stories from the Yale Climate Connections website.

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- When you listen to a radio story, select certain questions from the Question Bank for your students to respond to or have students select a few. No need to have students answer every single question!
- You can find radio stories through the Yale Climate Connections homepage where you can use our menu to search by topic. You can also simply click the magnifying glass in the upper right-hand corner of the screen to search by keywords. You can search stories by location, too (under the Radio Program tab on the homepage, select Story Locations).
- If you are looking for a more structured way to use the Yale Climate Connections radio stories, try out our Re-representation activity, our Jigsaw activity, or our Connecting Data to Storytelling activity.