

Language Teaching for the Planet

Colm Downes: Technical Lead 'Language Teaching for the Planet'

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Language Teaching for the Planet

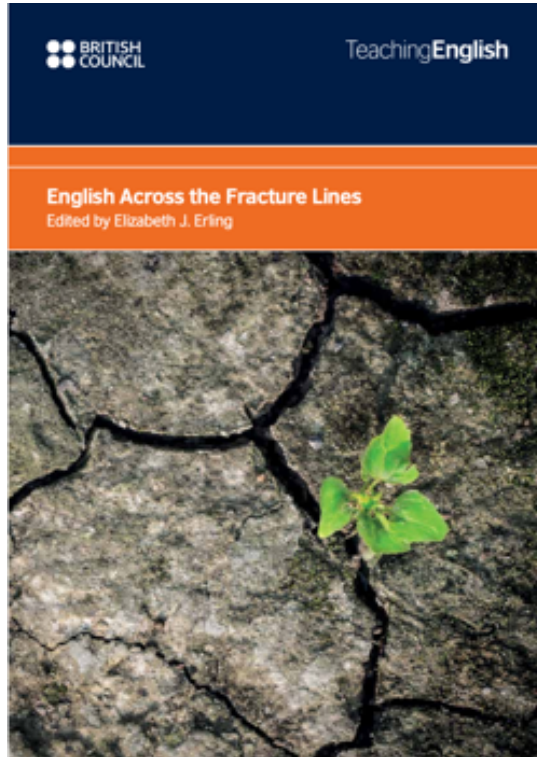
Climate change is the greatest challenge of our time, affecting every nation, society and individual across the world. In the British Council's recent soft power survey of 37,158 adults aged 18-34 across the 36 survey countries, climate change was perceived to be the most important issue facing the world today. The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) is a key opportunity for the UK to play a leadership role in the global effort to address this pressing issue through international collaboration and cooperation.

The British Council is supporting the UK's role in COP26 through a global programme centred on climate change, including a specific strand focussing on environmental sustainability in English language teaching and learning called 'Language Teaching for the Planet'.

Through this strand of the global programme, we are working with experts in the field to develop high quality resources to help build the capacity of national ELT teacher associations, schools and teachers to integrate environmental issues in English language curricula – raise awareness of these issues; equip learners with the language skills to understand, discuss and engage critically with climate change issues, and promote solutions to local and global environmental problems.

Colm Downes, Technical Lead 'Language Teaching for the Planet', British Council

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“Given the fragile and shifting conflicts that affect global populations, and in light of the combined effects of military conflict and environmental degradation, **all those involved in English language education need to consider how we might contribute to building a safer and more sustainable world** and how English language students – wherever they may be – might be encouraged to analyse, understand and act on environmental problems...

...In our role as English language educators, and regardless of whether we are involved with recent refugees, migrants or international students, it is important that we offer our students opportunities to address the pressing problems of our times and to work towards building a safer, more stable and environmentally sustainable world.”

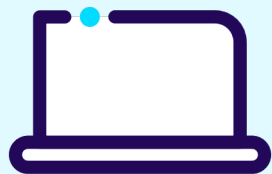
Roslyn Appleby, Environmental fragility and English language education, **English Across Fractured Lines**, British Council 2016

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<u>ONLINE COURSE</u>	<u>PDF LESSON PLANS</u>	<u>PODCAST SERIES</u>	<u>GLOBAL RESEARCH GREEN ELT SECTOR</u>	<u>GLOBAL COMPETITION</u>
Owain Llewellyn, Daniel Barber, Cristiana Osan	ELT Footprint	Chris Sowton Kris Dyer	Christopher Graham Deepa Mirchandani	Teachers & Students

- Develop resources and deliver capacity-building initiatives to train teachers how to integrate climate change issues into the English classroom. We will also run a global competitions for teachers and students in collaboration with national English language teacher associations.
- Produce a podcast series (8 x episodes) exploring, discussing and highlighting global innovations integrating environmental approaches in English language teaching from around the world.
- Produce a report highlighting global efforts being taken to make the ELT sector greener, promote and facilitate environmental responsibility, reduce environmental impact and incentivise sustainability. Initiatives from the ELT sector may include national governments, policy makers, administrators, ELT publishers, public and private language schools, teacher associations, universities, as well as action by individuals.

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ONLINE COURSE

Online course for Teachers & Teacher Educators: Working together with experts we are developing a series of 3 modules to help build the capacity English teachers and teacher educators to integrate environmental issues in English language Teaching. The three modules include (1) Introducing environmental issues into language teaching classes (2) Developing and delivering lessons with a sustainability focus and (3) Making sustainability part of your learners' lives.

Online course: 'Language Teaching for the Planet'

- 9 Hrs online course consisting of 3 Modules.
- Global launch in April / May 2021.
- This course will sit alongside existing online course 'Language for resilience' and courses in development 'Digital Citizenship' and 'Gender and Language Education'.



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PDF LESSON PLANS

Resources for Teachers: Working together with experts, we are developing a PDF book consisting of 12 climate change themed lesson plans for a variety of different age groups and language proficiency levels. These lesson plans will be accompanied by a theory section providing teachers with practical guidance on how to integrate climate change issues into the curricula and prepare new climate themed lessons suitable for local contexts.

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- 12 lesson plans
- Theory section
- Global launch in April / May 2021
- Written by 'ELT Footprint' founders



Similar to our UN SDG resource but focussed on Environmental Issues

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PODCAST SERIES

Podcast series for the global English Language Teaching community: We are creating a podcast series exploring, discussing and highlighting global innovations integrating environmental approaches in English language teaching from around the world. The series will encapsulate the key issues facing the world of ELT with regards to the climate crisis. This podcast series follows our 'Education in Focus' podcast series produced by the British Council South Asia.

Podcast Series: Climate Action in Language Teaching

- 8 Episodes
- Featuring leading ELT experts in the field
- Each episode accompanied by a PDF summary
- Global launch in April / May 2021

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PODCAST SERIES

1. Deeds not words

How should the ELT sector as a whole be responding to the global climate crisis?

2. Publish and be damned?

How is – and how should – the global climate crisis represented in ELT textbooks?

3. The ecological approach

What teaching methods should language teachers be using to address the climate crisis?

4. Greenhouse classes

How can language teachers make their materials greener?

5. The classroom environment

How can teachers green their classrooms?

6. Lean, green teaching machines

What should be in an English for Environmental Purposes Curriculum?

7. Fossil fuels and greener schools

What can ELT institutions do to minimise their carbon footprint?

8. Global informing

How is language learning and the climate crisis related to wider social justice issues?

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GLOBAL RESEARCH GREEN ELT SECTOR

Global Research – Green ELT Sector: Working together with experts in the field we are conducting research into ‘Green’ initiatives in the UK ELT sector and the Global English Language Teaching Industry. As part of this research, we are conducting interviews with key ELT stakeholders as well as a global survey for English language teachers, schools and universities.

The findings from this research will be used to published report highlighting global efforts being taken to make the global ELT sector greener, promote and facilitate environmental responsibility, reduce environmental impact and incentivise sustainability.

Green ELT Report

- A report including case studies highlighting green initiatives from across the ELT sector from around the world. These initiatives will include policies, initiatives and tangible actions which have been put into practice from ELT publishers, examination providers, languages schools, universities and individuals.
- The report will also present the findings of a global teacher survey focussed better understanding how English teachers are integrating climate change issues into their teaching practice, and the impact on language learning & learner behaviour.
- Report launch in April / May 2021.

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Our consultants will be using a series of online tools and interviews to gather and collate the data. The research will start on 25 January 2021 and data collection will be completed by 28 February. We plan to launch the final report in April / May 2021.

Teacher Survey: http://bit.ly/Survey_Teachers - open until Feb 12

- This global survey is open to all English language teachers around the world
- This global survey can be completed anonymously.



Schools & Universities: http://bit.ly/Survey_Institutions - open until Feb 12

- This global survey is open to all schools, universities around the world.
- This global survey cannot be completed anonymously, and should only be completed by one person from each institution.

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FUTURE PLANS

Future plans - to be confirmed:

- We plan to commission to produce a collection of ELT papers focus on language teaching and climate action - an edited edition similar to 'English across the Fracture Lines', but focussed on environmental issues and the climate crisis. Publication date Oct 2021.
- We plan to launch a global lesson planning competition for teachers - the top entries collated into a PDF global resources in Oct 2021.
- We plan to launch a global competition for language learners - top entries collated into a PDF global resource in Oct 2021.

Thank you

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