

11-14 – QUESTIONS FOR BUSINESSES



This resource is designed in partnership with WWF-UK as part of the Takeover Challenge.

This year the Takeover Challenge is a campaign called 'How Green Can You Go?' which focuses on encouraging children to think about business and sustainability. This resource includes questions to help young people in their workplace visit investigate and find out about the sustainability of a business so they can report back on what they want to see from their future employers with regards to sustainability. The questions are designed as a tool to guide pupils rather than as something they must follow. The resource is designed for ages 11-14.

Key questions

We have drawn together a list of some key questions pupils might want to ask. Feel free to use these as a guide, however we highly recommend your pupils create some of their own questions as well. Think about the type and size of business you will visit and what questions may be most applicable to them. The outcome is for young people to critically assess the journey a business has taken to be more sustainable. There is a focus on where the business was 10 years ago, where it is now, how it got to where it is now and where it hopes to be in the future.

- What is the name of your business? What does it do?
- What does sustainability mean to your business?
- Has your business always been as sustainable as it is now?
- Why is sustainability important to your business?
- What impact does your business have on climate and nature?
- What steps have you taken to make your business more sustainable?
- How do you measure your impact on climate and nature?
- Do you have targets to reduce your impact on climate and nature?
- Do you publish your progress and results? If so, how, where, and how often are these published?
- What was your carbon footprint 10 years ago? What is your carbon footprint now? What do you hope your carbon footprint will be in 10 years' time?
- What does sustainability at your business look like? Can you give any examples? For example, you reuse materials or use sustainable travel.
- Have you faced any challenges with trying to be more sustainable? If so, what are they and how have you worked through them?
- What sustainability practice has made the most difference to your impact on climate and nature?
- What are the next steps on your business's sustainability journey?
- Do you work with other businesses in your sector to be more sustainable?
- Do you promote your sustainability journey outside of your own business? If so, how do you do this?
- How aware are the public/your community of your sustainability efforts?
- Do you think you will achieve your sustainability goals over the next 10 years? Why? Why not?

Additional questions

If there is extra time, pupils might want to go into more depth by asking some of these additional questions.

- Do any of your products, services or suppliers have sustainable accreditation through an official body? For example, Fairtrade, FSC (Forest Stewardship Council), Cruelty-Free International, B Corp, etc.
- Do you have a team or individuals who work on sustainability at your organisation? If so, what is their team's name/their job title and what do they do?
- How aware and engaged are your employees in your sustainability efforts?
- Who else do you think needs to take action on climate and nature?
- Do you have any recommendations of how young people can spot greenwashing from businesses?
- What inspired you to be more sustainable?
- Did you suddenly try to be more sustainable, or has it been a gradual process?