

7-11 – 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 7-11.

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?
- How sustainable was your business 10 years ago?
- How sustainable is your business now?
- Is sustainability important to your business? Why? Why not?
- What things make your business's carbon footprint bigger?
- How have you made your business more sustainable? For example, you have recycled materials or planted trees.
- Have you been successful so far?
- What are the next steps to make your business more sustainable?
- Do you want to have a positive effect on nature and the climate?
- Do you think you will reach your sustainability goals in 10 years' time? Why? Why not?
- Will you tell people if you reach your sustainability goals? If so, how?
- Do you try and help other businesses to be more sustainable? Do they help you too?
- Do you share the sustainable things your business is doing with the community?

Additional questions

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

- What thing has been most helpful to make your business more sustainable?
- Does your business have any official certificates or logos for sustainability? For example, Fairtrade, FSC (Forest Stewardship Council), Cruelty-Free International, B Corp, etc.
- Has it been tricky to be more sustainable? If it has been tricky, how have you worked through this?
- Do you have a team who work on sustainability at your business? What do they do?
- Do the people who work for you know that you are trying to be more sustainable? Do they like to help you be more sustainable?
- How can young people know if a business is greenwashing?
- What made you want to be more sustainable?
- Did you suddenly try to be more sustainable, or did it happen over a long time?