

# Climate Crisis Presentation Overview for New Presenters

Welcome to a growing number of people who are helping to wake up their communities to the rapidly growing climate crisis! We are delighted to have you on board.

First, a little background. I developed this presentation sometime after reading a paper called *Deep Adaptation* by Jem Bendell, which made a life-changing impression on me. It motivated me to spend several months doing my own research on the climate crisis. During my research, I took pages of notes, which I eventually organized into categories. This helped give me the big picture and deepened my understanding of the crisis. I then realized that maybe the chart that emerged from this would be helpful to other people.

That was the origin of this presentation. I consider it a work in-progress, and pass it on in the hopes that everyone doing this will find ways to improve it, especially as new information comes out on the various aspects of the crisis. I know that it is not totally comprehensive, but you will see that there is a tension to hold in the amount of information and the time available to share it. So far, two hours feels about right, and seems to allow ample time for discussion.

The presentation has four parts:

- **The Opening:** This is designed to prepare the group for the disturbing news they are going to hear. It includes:
  - ❖ Introductions
  - ❖ Your own story
  - ❖ Context on the seriousness of the crisis
- **The Presentation:** This is where you present Key Points printed on 8 ½ x 11 colored sheets under column headings (see photo page). There is a scripted transition for each column and a separate document of additional explanation that you may want to give for some of the a Key Points. There are 3 places in the presentation where you stop and ask a few reflective questions, which is a separate document. This helps those attending to better absorb and appropriate what you are presenting.
- **Group Exercise:** The last column is titled, “What We Can Do.” This comes from participants. There are a couple of options for how to engage the group in a brainstorm, and add their ideas under the last column. This could be focused on what changes they can make in their own lives; however, because these changes will not really help to mitigate climate change, we suggest you focus on what can be done at a community level.
- **Closing:** There are three things that happen here:

- ❖ The group is given a sample handout that lists possible ways to respond to what they have just heard. The list is inspired by *Deep Adaptation*. It also includes a list of resources, which you will need to modify for your area.
- ❖ We think it is important to give those attending some kind of action they can take right away. You will need to decide what is appropriate in your area. In our area, we offer a Climate Adaptation Circle for those who feel they would like a place they can come to share what they are going through in dealing with inevitable social collapse and to discuss questions/concerns they have about the future. We use the “4 Rs” of *Deep Adaptation* as a framework. So one action we offer is to sign up for this group. Sometimes there is a petition to sign or a march coming up, or some other climate-related activity. We have the sign-up sheets on a table in the back so they can do so on the way out.
- ❖ Finally, we close with a 2-3 minute talk by Greta Thunburg. If you don’t know who she is, look her up on YouTube. You will find numerous videos. The one we are currently using is Greta talking to the UN at the COP24 Conference. Listen to others and see which one you want to use. There are new ones almost every day! If you don’t have a projector and screen, don’t worry. We find just playing it on our iPad works well. Simply hearing her voice is incredibly powerful.

If you find this format is not quite what you need, feel free to change it. I would love to know what changes you make though. It would be wonderful if those of us doing this could collaborate on making this as powerful as possible.

### **Getting Started**

The materials in the Zip drive are in three folders: Presentation Materials, Additional Materials, and Marketing Materials. Open the Presentation Materials first and print the Instructions. That will guide you through the rest of the materials in that folder. When you’ve digested the Presentation Materials, take a look at the Additional Materials folder. These are materials you might want to use with your presentation, e.g., attendance sign up sheet.

### **Sharing the Presentation**

The last folder, Marketing Materials, offers some samples of things I’ve used in marketing. You’ll have to modify these with your own information. I started doing presentations by getting a free room in a church and just inviting people we knew. They gave me the encouragement to begin contacting groups in town. The following are some potential places to contact:

- Religious organizations (churches, synagogues, mosques, temples)
- Climate groups (not everyone has the big picture, even if they are involved)
- Nature Conservancies
- Senior centers
- Schools (with some modification)
- Libraries

You might also try doing public presentations that you publicize to various groups, such as service clubs, and post flyers around town. A church might allow you to use a room for this. There are two flyers in your materials, one for a public presentation and one for organizations.

The most important thing about where you do this is to make sure there is an **14-15 foot flat, blank wall** and room for theater style seating (see photo). Be aware that the chairs need to be close enough to the wall that everyone can easily see the printing on the sheets (see photo).

I hope that, with the instructions provided, you easily will be able to start giving the presentation in your area. Remember, it's all about creating the political will to take action. I hope you will share your successes and any bumps in the road with the rest of us.

Warmest regards,  
Linda Hamilton