

## Discussion Questions for NWEI Menu For the Future Climate Add-On

*Assembled by the Local 20/20 Climate Outreach Action Group*

Below are a summary of readings and discussion questions on the topic of food and climate change, as a supplement to the Menu for the Future NWEI discussion course. There are a variety of potential discussion questions to choose from, pick the ones you like best!

- A. [“Food and Climate Change”](#) by David Suzuki
1. Was there anything in the article that you found surprising?
  2. What did you think about the “Local or organic?” section on imported New Zealand lamb being a lower carbon footprint than domestic lamb for the UK?
  3. What are you currently doing that is consistent with what the article recommends?
  4. Did the article inspire you to try anything different?
- B. [“The Water Footprint of Food”](#), from the Grace Communications Foundation. Also see this overview graphic [“The most effective individual steps to tackle climate change that aren’t being discussed”](#), by Phys.org.
1. In terms of the hydrologic cycle, what does it mean to USE water in food production? (See [watercycle diagram.](#))
  2. What are the implications of water USE at the local, regional, continental, and global scales?
  3. In food production areas that you are familiar with, what are some of the competing uses for water, e.g. ecological, municipal, industrial, agricultural, and recreational?
  4. Could human population management be effective in reducing demand on limited water supply?
  5. How is water consumption in food production related to Greenhouse Gases and Global Warming?
- C. [“The carbon footprint of 5 different diets compared”](#) by Shrink that Footprint
1. What surprised you the most about this article?
  2. Do you pay attention to what is in season when you buy fruits and vegetables?
  3. Knowing that dairy, especially cheese, has an impact on your carbon footprint; how does this impact your eating habits?
  4. Is there any justification for continuing to eat red meat?
- D. [“Climate Change is Transforming the World’s Food Supply”](#) from Live Science.
1. How might climate change impact food production in Jefferson County?
  2. How might climate change impact food nutrient value in Jefferson County?
  3. What might you do as an individual given the above?
  4. What might we do as a community given the above?
- E. Optional reading: [“Climate Impacts on Agriculture and Food Supply”](#) by the EPA