



Lesson 4: A Sustainable Future

Student Activity Sheet – *Write a letter to get your voice heard!*

Your final activity for *Ocean Connections* will be using your voice for our planet. Letters are just one way that we can **be the change we want to see in the world**. Letters are a direct way to communicate what we want to leaders in our country and make sure we are heard by them. For this activity, you will write a letter to a leader, company, or your school urging them to support our planet in some way. It is up to you to decide who you will write to and with what solution. After everything you've learned this week, there's so many problems and solutions you can recommend. Reflect on the solutions we talked about – renewable energy, companies changing the materials they use, and policy and laws that protect our planet and the animals that live there. Maybe you want solar panels, a garden, or local food in your school. Maybe you want Apple to start making computers out of recycled materials! You have the freedom to choose.

Directions:

- Step 1: Choose where you're sending your letter and what solution you're proposing
- Step 2: Use the internet to find the address of the place you are sending it to and write it down
- Step 3: Write your letter – either type and print it or handwrite your letter on a piece of paper. Make the letter personal and refer to the tips below! We've also included two examples for inspiration.
- Step 4: Bring your letter to class for the final steps!

Letter Format

[Date]

[Who its being sent to – you will need to look this up]

[Name]

[Address]

[City, State]

[Zip code]

Dear [Name],

[Body of the letter:

Include 1-3 paragraphs in your letter. We suggest introducing yourself and your suggestion. Provide background information on the topic that you want them to understand. Explain why it's important to do something about this problem, and then include your reason for writing. What do you want this person to do? Why do you think this should happen? Why is it important to you? How will this help our planet?

Sincerely,

[Your name]



Example: To a policy maker

March, 18 2021

Hawai'i State Capitol
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI
96813

Dear Senator Chris Lee,

I'm Carissa, a student that lives in Kailua and cares about our planet. I grew up going to the ocean every day with my family, and it was an important part of my childhood. I've recently learned how much trouble our oceans are in, and how this problem needs to be solved by all of us.

I'm writing this letter to ask you to please declare a climate emergency in Hawai'i. In March, many neighborhoods in Hawaii were flooded from severe weather. After storms and swells, plastic washes up on our coastlines. Temperatures are rising around the world. We need politicians like you to lead the way on taking climate action.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Carissa Cabrera

Example: To a company

March, 18 2021

Coca Cola Headquarters
1 Coca Cola Plz NW
Atlanta, GA
30313

Dear Coca Cola leadership,

I'm Carissa, and environmentalist from Hawai'i. Plastic and other trash ends up on the beaches in my neighborhood all the time, and I see Coca Cola products every time I do a beach clean up. Your company is the #1 plastic polluter in the world. Plastic pollution isn't just harming our planet, it's harming all of the living things we share it with, and all of us. Plastic from Coca Cola products is entangling and drowning sea turtles, dolphins, and whales, too. Humans are even consuming plastic because it's everywhere!

You must take responsibility and do something immediately to stop Coca Cola products from ending up in our oceans. Only 9% of plastic is recycled, so it's not a solution. However, you could make drinks in aluminum only, which can be recycled over and over and over. This would be an easy switch since you already have aluminum cans for your drinks. I'm asking you to please reconsider how you create your products to be better for our oceans, because we need you to. We don't have much time.

Thank you for reading this.

With aloha,
Carissa Cabrera