

# GREEN SCENT

SMART CITIZEN EDUCATION  
FOR A GREEN FUTURE

## Current Barriers to Accessing Information about the Climate Crisis

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 101036480.

# What is GreenSCENT?



# What are the main barriers people with disabilities face in accessing environmental information?

- Lack of availability of alternative information formats, for example: audio, alt txt, text to speech.
- Complex science, sentences structures and jargon in environmental communication
- Disinformation or “fake news”
- ...

# UN Sustainable Development Goals



**“Google teams up with  
UN for verified climate  
information”**

## United Nations, Climate Action, 22 April 2022.

“Millions of people around the world go to Google to get information about climate change and sustainability. Now, when users search for “climate change”, they will find authoritative information from the United Nations in 12 languages. **In addition to organic search results, Google is surfacing short and easy-to-understand information panels and visuals on the causes and effects of climate change, as well as individual actions that people can take to help tackle the climate crisis.**”

# Climate Change Panels

Climate change :

Overview

Effects

Causes

Actions

## Causes

From [the United Nations](#)

As greenhouse gas emissions blanket the Earth, they trap the sun's heat. This leads to global warming and climate change. The world is now warming faster than at any point in recorded history.

### Generating power



Generating electricity and heat by burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas causes a large chunk of global emissions. Most electricity is still produced from fossil fuels; only about a quarter comes from wind, solar and other renewable sources.

[Learn more about generating power at UN.org](#)

### Manufacturing goods



Manufacturing and industry produce emissions, mostly from burning fossil fuels to produce energy for making things like cement, iron, steel, electronics, plastics, clothes and other goods. Mining and other industrial processes also release gases.

[Learn more about manufacturing goods at UN.org](#)

### Cutting down forests



Cutting down forests to create farms or pastures, or for other reasons, causes emissions, since trees, when they are cut, release the carbon they have been storing. Since forests absorb carbon dioxide, destroying them also limits nature's ability to keep emissions out of the atmosphere.

[Learn more about cutting down forests at UN.org](#)



More causes

## Definition

From [the United Nations](#)

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, but since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels (like coal, oil and gas), which produces heat-trapping gases.

## Actions

From [UN ActNow](#)



Save energy at home



Walk, cycle or take public transport



Eat more vegetables



## People also search for

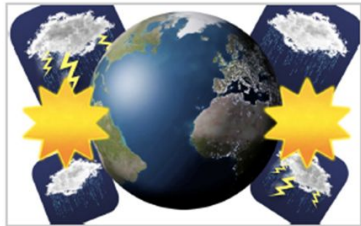


# Example 1: Easy News: Extreme Weather and Climate Change

04 August 2021

## Easy News: Extreme weather and climate change

This Easy News story is about the extreme weather that has occurred recently and climate change. It was translated by Ben.



Recently there has been unusual extreme weather across the world, including heatwaves in the USA, Canada and UK and floods in Europe and China.



## Example 2: British Met Office Change Weather Maps to Improve Accessibility



## Example 3: [Discussion on a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill in Easy Read](#)



# Key Questions and Future Research

- How can we ensure that information about the climate crisis is accessible to a wide range of people?
- What measures can we put in place to support people with disabilities when accessing information about the climate crisis?
- As more extreme weather events occur, how can we ensure that people with disabilities can access vital information?
- How can we recruit more people with disabilities in STEM to work in our fight against ecological collapse?

# Preliminary Conclusions

- Access to clear and scientifically verified information is crucial to understand the scale of the challenge of the climate crisis.
- It is important that we develop a strategy on how to communicate environmental information effectively in a range of formats.
- People with disabilities will be disproportionately affected by the climate crisis therefore it is vital that we ensure that access to information about the climate crisis and related scientific issues is prioritised.
- Can we develop a Universal Design approach or offer tailored solutions?
- More research is needed to understand current barriers and propose solutions

**Questions?  
Suggestions?  
Get in contact!**



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Thank you



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