



Handout 3 - Letter from the Future Activity

In this activity, you will be writing a letter from the year 2050. In this letter, you will describe what life is like based on the data shown in the Global Calculator. The future will be determined by which climate pathway you choose to pursue in the Global Calculator.

Instructions:

1. Go to <http://tool.globalcalculator.org>.
2. Choose a climate pathway in the bottom third section of the tool, under the pull-down menu labeled “--- Example Pathways ---”. Examine the second and third pages of the handout for descriptions of each pathway.
3. Once choosing a climate pathway, examine the data by clicking through the various tabs at the top of the tool (listed “OVERVIEW,” “LIFESTYLE,” “TECHNOLOGY AND FUELS,” etc.). This will be the information informing your letter.
4. Craft your letter. Below are some ideas of what you might consider addressing in your letter:
 - Did the world reach the goal of keeping warming below 2° Celsius?
 - Generally, how much hotter is it in the year 2050?
 - Will greenhouse gas emissions reach zero? If so, at what year?
 - Are there any emergencies? (Hint: look at the “Warnings” tab on the Global Calculator.
 - How much has the demand for energy grown?
 - How many appliances does the typical household possess?
 - How many kilometers do people travel by car, in general?
 - On average, how many cars per person are there? Are cars getting more efficient? What kind of fuel are they running on?
 - How have people’s diets changed? What are they eating more and less of?
 - How are buildings getting energy?
 - Are more or less things being sold?
 - How has the landscape changed on earth?
 - How much money was lost or saved in following this pathway, versus allowing a “business as usual” approach? (Hint: in the “COSTS” tab, compare your current pathway with “IEA 6DS.”



Climate Pathway Descriptions

Distributed Effort: A general approach in which greenhouse gas emissions are curbed across all sectors.

Consumer reluctance: This pathway assumes a general approach in which greenhouse gas emissions are curbed across all sectors, but also that consumers are reluctant to make any lifestyle changes.

Low action on forests: This pathway assumes a general approach in which greenhouse gas emissions are curbed across all sectors, but reforestation is not pursued.

Consumer activism: This pathway assumes a general approach in which greenhouse gas emissions are curbed across all sectors, but also that consumers are active in pushing for lifestyle changes.

IEA 6DS: The “6° Celsius Scenario” forecasted by the International Energy Agency. This is a “business as usual” scenario where no attempts to curb greenhouse gas emissions are taken.

IEA 4DS: The “4° Celsius Scenario” forecasted International Energy Agency. This is scenario is based on pledges made by countries to limit their greenhouse gas emissions.

IEA 2DS: The “2° Celsius Scenario” recommended by International Energy Agency that keeps warming around 2° Celsius.

Shell Mountains: A pathway developed by oil company Shell. It assumes government intervention, and focuses on using natural gas and relying on (unproven) carbon capture technology.

Shell Oceans: A pathway developed by oil company Shell. It assumes little government intention and a continued reliance on fossil fuels.

Friends of the Earth: An ambitious, comprehensive plan developed by Friends of the Earth, an international network of environmental organizations.

Mott MacDonald: This pathway, developed by engineering design consultancy Mott MacDonald, focuses on using energy efficiently, lifestyle change, and technological innovation.

Climact: This pathway, developed by consultancy Climact, aims for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 through efforts and initiatives across all sectors (energy, transportation, agriculture, waste.)

ICEPT: A comprehensive plan created by the Imperial College Centre for Energy Policy and Technology research center.

RCP8.5: A pathway based on carbon emission concentration adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), RCP 8.5 is the “business as usual” scenario in which no changes are made to curb greenhouse gas emissions.



RCP6: A pathway based on carbon emission concentration adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), RCP 6 assumes greenhouse gas emissions are stabilized, but not reduced.

RCP2.6: A pathway based on carbon emission concentration adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), RCP 2.6 assumes action is taken to reduce greenhouse gases.

TIAM-UCL 4DS: A pathway developed by University College London resulting in a general rise of no more than 4° Celsius across the globe.

TIAM-UCL 2DS: A pathway developed by University College London resulting in a general rise of no more than 2° Celsius across the globe.

WEC/PSI-Jazz: The “Jazz” pathway developed by a collaboration between the Paul Scherrer Institute and the World Energy Council, this scenario assumes limited governmental intervention to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

WEC/PSI-Symphony: The “Symphony” pathway developed by a collaboration between the Paul Scherrer Institute and the World Energy Council, this scenario assumes governmental intervention in curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Vegan Society: This pathway assumes dramatic reductions in the consumption of meat and animal products.

Cambridge Architectural Research: A pathway developed by architectural design consultancy Cambridge Architectural Research with a focus on energy-efficient construction.

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Chatham House - Low Meat: A pathway developed by the non-profit organization The Royal Institute of International Affairs that focuses on minimal consumption of meat.

Chatham House - High Meat: A pathway developed by the non-profit organization The Royal Institute of International Affairs that focuses on high consumption of meat.

World Nuclear Assoc (Allegro): A pathway developed by the World Nuclear Association that assumes a rapid expansion of nuclear power.

World Nuclear Assoc (Largo): A pathway developed by the World Nuclear Association that assumes the slow expansion of nuclear power.