

# Thoughts on the Environment

 **Step:** One - Get Connected!

 **Time:** 20 min

 **Space and materials:**

- Large room or space;
- Printed papers displaying 'Agree' and 'Disagree';
- List of statements about the environment.

 **Description of the tool**

1. Stick the 'Agree' and 'Disagree' papers on two walls across the room.
2. Explain that you will read a list of statements. The participants who will be standing in the middle of the room will have to move accordingly to each side of the room depending on whether they agree or disagree with each statement. They will be able to state the extent to which they agree or disagree by standing right next to the wall (strongly agree/disagree) or by positioning themselves somewhere in the middle (neither agree/disagree, somewhat agree/disagree). Let them know there are no 'right' and 'wrong' answers.
3. Start reading the statements one by one:
  - *Human activity has very little to do with climate change.*
  - *Humanity can sustain itself with clean energy sources.*
  - *It is hard to imagine our world functioning without fossil fuels.*
  - *Eating meat is worse for the environment than driving a car.*
  - *There are political and financial forces that control the access and distribution of natural sources.*
  - *There is nothing that I can do to improve the environment.*
  - *The mass deforestation that occurs in Asian countries does not affect me in Europe.*
  - *My consumption patterns have nothing to do with harming the environment.*
4. After participants position themselves according to their beliefs for each statement, ask them to explain their thinking behind their beliefs and why they feel that way. A small debate can emerge from the opposing teams.

 **Additional remarks**

You may ask the individuals who agree to state why they feel like there is nothing that they can do to help in improving the current environmental situation. A discussion may occur in which the group that disagrees can state how every little action can contribute to improving the environment. It is possible to witness participants getting convinced and moving from one pattern of thought to another.