Well-designed climate change education can have a tremendous impact.

It is essential to helping people of all ages understand climate change and take informed action in communities around the world. But what does well-informed climate change education look like?

To understand the most effective strategies for climate change education, experts at the University of Florida (UF) conducted a systematic review of empirical research to explore the impact of climate change education efforts.¹

**BOTTOM LINE**

UF’s analysis of peer-reviewed research revealed that climate change education programs achieve a variety of positive outcomes. Most commonly, programs increase climate knowledge, but they also can impact learners’ level of concern about climate change, their problem-solving skills, and behaviors.¹ Effective climate change education programs are personally relevant and meaningful, use engaging teaching strategies, encourage deliberative discussion to explore and navigate disagreements and controversial issues, engage participants in the scientific process, address misconceptions, and/or incorporate school or community projects for participants to take action.
SNAPSHOT OF FINDINGS

Effective climate change education helps participants learn in the face of controversy.

It uses deliberative discussion.

The students had a variety of recommendations about how to address the climate crisis. When participants were engaged in articulating and defending their ideas, and explaining how they arrived at their conclusions, they showed an improved understanding about climate science and solutions. These strategies were also helpful in understanding why perceptions of climate change vary.

It addresses misconceptions.

The variety of commonly held misconceptions about climate change presents challenges to educators. Educators must recognize common and often subconscious thinking in learners and in themselves, and work to overcome them with analogies, experiments, or well-placed questions.

IN SUMMARY

UF’s research review suggests that climate change is best taught with effective, well-tested education methods of experiential activities around relevant and meaningful impacts of climate change. In addition, effective climate change education can help build problem-solving skills by engaging learners in classroom and community projects to increase awareness. Finally, students learn more if they are prompted to assess their own ideas, talk through the evidence, and explain their thinking. Understanding and applying some or all of these strategies for climate change education can help educators improve their practice and deepen their participants’ learning.
