



Welcome to the Civic Lab!

This resource page includes conversation starters and materials for exploring climate change.

### Conversation Questions

1. How would you explain climate change to someone who knew nothing about it?
2. What responsibility do humans have toward animals and other living things that are affected by our actions on the planet?
3. How is Skokie affected by climate change?
4. Do you think you contribute to climate change? If so, how? Calculate your carbon footprint here: <https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>
5. Family question: Should there be laws that tell car makers that all new cars need to keep the air clean?

### Key Definitions

These definitions are from *Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary*:

- *Climate* – noun, the usual weather conditions in a particular place or region
- *Weather* – noun, the state of the air and atmosphere at a particular time and place; noun, the temperature and other outside conditions (such as rain, cloudiness, etc.) at a particular time and place

### Core Resources

These items were selected by our librarians as core resources for the Civic Lab.

For adults:

- *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *Thunder & Lightning: Weather Past, Present, Future* by Lauren Redniss

For young adults:

- *Chasing Ice* from Docuramafilms
- *Evidence* by Mary Oliver



The Civic Lab at Skokie Public Library offers information and thought-provoking activities to support dialogue and engagement on issues that affect our community.

For children and families:

- *Where's the Elephant?* by Barroux
- *Climate Change: Discover How it Impacts Spaceship Earth* by Joshua Sneideman and Erin Twamley

### **Additional Resources**

These library materials are excellent choices for further exploration.

For adults:

- *The Water Knife* by Paolo Bacigalupi
- *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate* by Naomi Klein
- *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert
- *More Than Honey* from Zero One Film

For young adults:

- *Ship Breaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi
- *Breathe* by Sarah Crossan
- *Beasts of the Southern Wild* from Fox Searchlight Pictures
- *We Are the Weather Makers: The History of Climate Change* by Tim Flannery; adapted by Sally M. Walker
- *The Age of Miracles* by Karen Thompson Walker

For children and families:

- *A Warmer World: From Polar Bears to Butterflies, How Climate Change Affects Wildlife* by Caroline Arnold
- *Arctic Thaw: Climate Change and the Global Race for Energy Resources* by Stephanie Sammartino McPherson
- *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss