

COP26 and STEM@CGI

CGI is passionate about all aspects of STEM, especially caring for the environment and building a sustainable future. The climate crisis is one of the most significant issues facing our planet and it is the responsibility of everyone to be the change that we want to see.



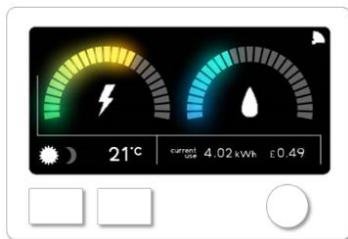
So, what is COP26?

COP26 is a global event hosted by the [United Nations](#) that focuses on climate change and how countries are planning to tackle it. COP stands for 'Conference of the Parties', the event will be attended by countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) IN 1994. 2021 will be the summit's 26th meeting, hence COP26. The event is taking place in Glasgow from 1-12 November and will see more than 200 world leaders attend.



What is the UK doing to tackle climate change?

UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, pledged that 2020 would be a “defining year of climate action”. Since then, the Government has bought in targets for transitioning the country to electric cars, as well as pledging to reduce the country’s carbon emissions to “net zero” – meaning that we will release virtually no carbon into the atmosphere - by 2050.



What can I do to help tackle climate change?

Everyone can take small steps to help with climate change, from using less electricity to cycling instead of driving, all of these little changes add up to make a BIG difference. Check out our [Environment](#), [Smart Cities](#), [Smart Homes](#) and [Renewable Energy STEM from Home](#) packs for more information and fun environment-themed activities.

Try your hand at our fun STEM COP26 activities below, Make your own Secchi disk to measure water transparency and birdfeeder to encourage wildlife in your garden.

Activity 1: Make your own Secchi disk

This activity will take 30 minutes

What is a Secchi disk?

Created in 1865 by Pietro Angelo Secchi, the Secchi disk is a device used to measure water transparency in open waters such as the ocean and lakes. The Secchi disk is slowly lowered into water, the depth at which it is no longer visible is measured, and this determines the clarity of the water.



Why do we need to measure water clarity?

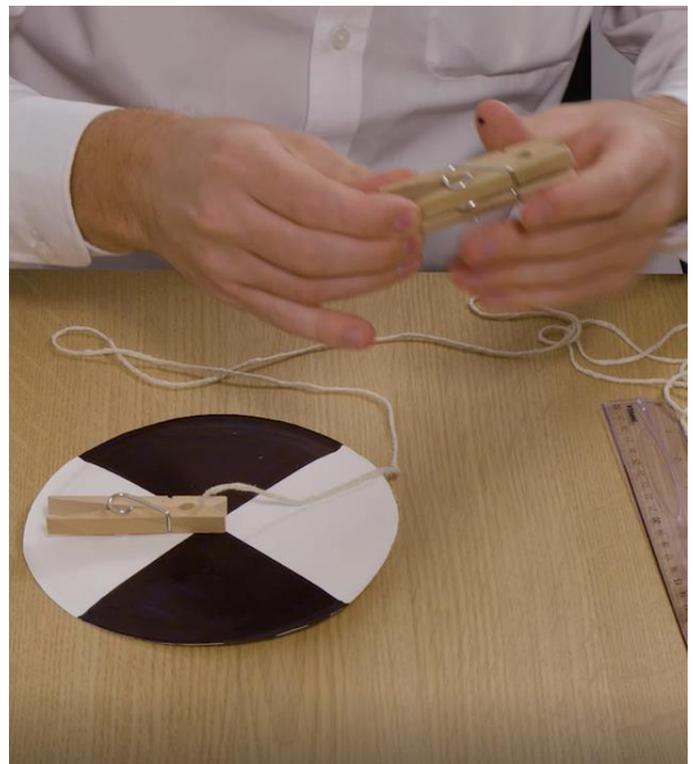
Measuring water clarity tells us the health of the area of water, often indicating the light penetration into the water and the level of algae. [Project Seagrass](#) use Secchi disks to determine water clarity at seagrass sites, allowing them to understand the conditions of the area and allow the seagrass to thrive.

Watch our [Secchi disk video](#) below to make your own and learn how to use it. Access our **Secchi disk readings template** to log your findings.

You will need:

- Tape measure
- Clothes pegs
- String
- Padlock/weight
- Pens
- Scissors
- Paper Plate
- Ruler

Make your own Secchi disk

The CGI logo is displayed in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

Activity 2: Make your own bird feeder

This activity will take 30 minutes

Why have a bird feeder in your garden?

Providing natural food sources for birds can help parents to feed their chicks, whilst allowing you to experience nature in your own garden! Bird feeders supplement natural food sources, allowing more baby birds to survive and giving birds energy for migration.



Watch our demonstration [video](#) and try it out for yourself!

You will need:

- Plate
- Pen
- Scissors
- Lollipop sticks/twigs
- String
- Paper/card
- Plastic bottle
- Bird seed



Make your own bird feeder

CGI

