

YOUTH FOR THE PLANET:

Taking Climate Action in Your Own Community

Grades 7-10



WILD CLASSROOM



LESSON OBJECTIVES



By the end of this slideshow, you'll be able to:

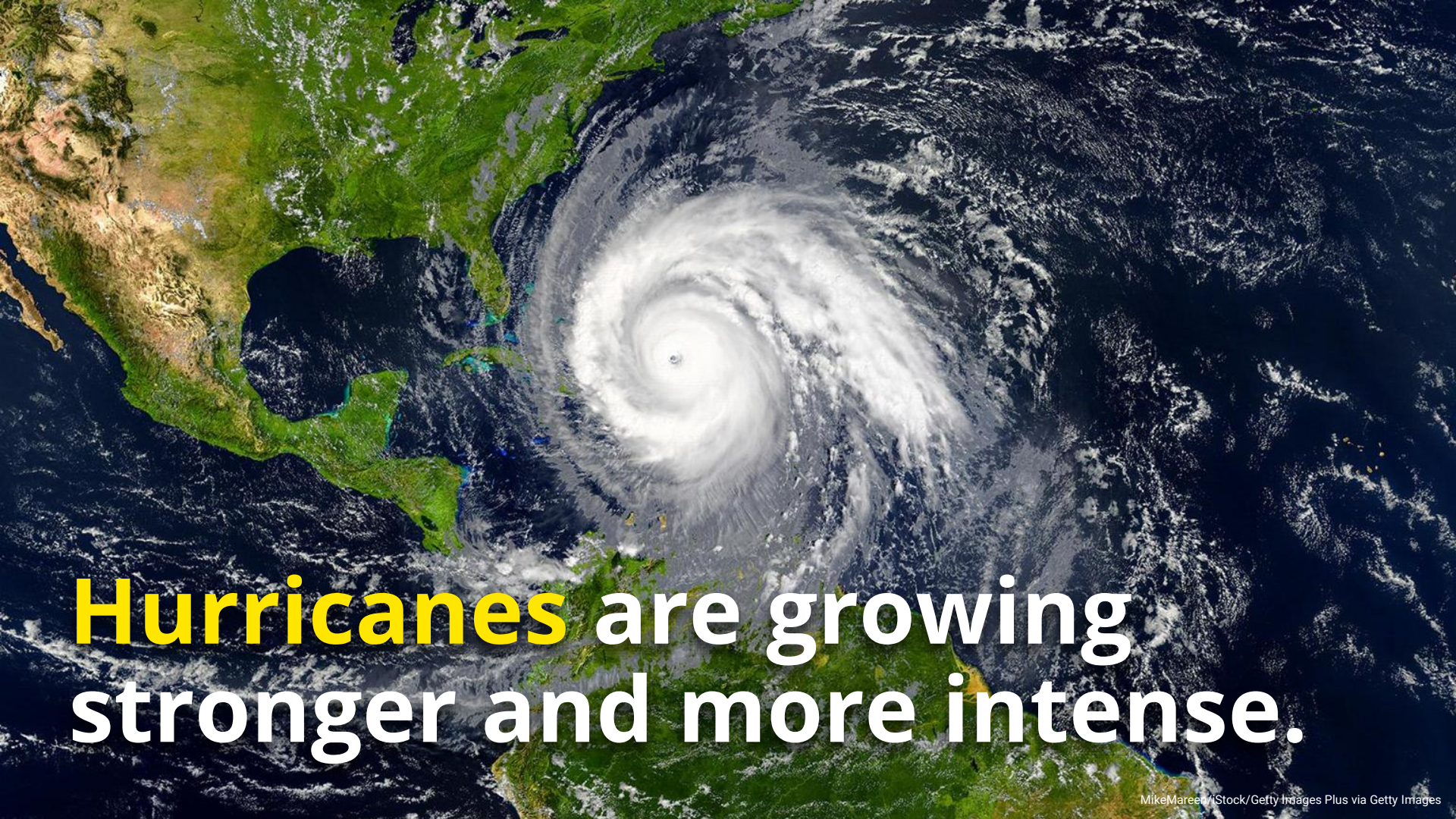
- Recognize some of the effects climate change is having on communities around the U.S.
- Understand the main natural and human-made causes of climate change.
- Identify the actions young people are taking to address the effects of climate change in their communities.
- Make a plan of climate actions you can take at home, school, or in your own community.

A photograph of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, taken during sunset or sunrise. The bridge's iconic red-orange towers and suspension cables are silhouetted against a bright orange sky. The bridge deck is filled with cars, and the surrounding hills and water are also bathed in the warm, orange light. The overall mood is dramatic and urgent.

Climate change
is already happening.



The **sea levels** of U.S.
coastlines are rising.



Hurricanes are growing
stronger and more intense.



**There's been an increase in
droughts and heat waves.**

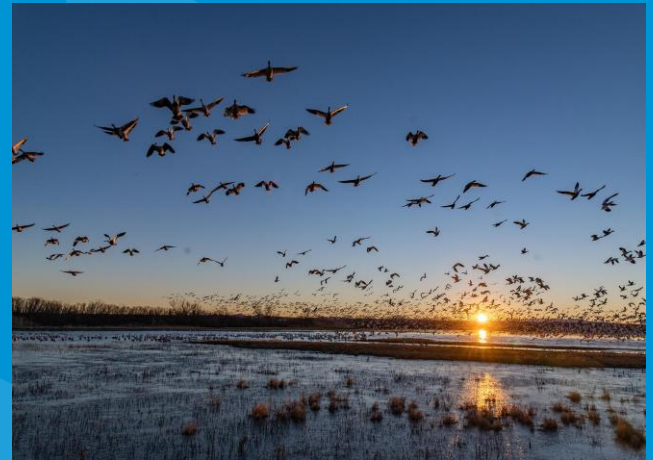
We're experiencing
longer and more intense
wildfire seasons.





Precipitation patterns are becoming unstable and unpredictable throughout the United States.

What are
**some effects of
climate change**
that might
impact your
own community?



What's Causing Climate Change?

Let's examine the natural and human (anthropogenic) causes.

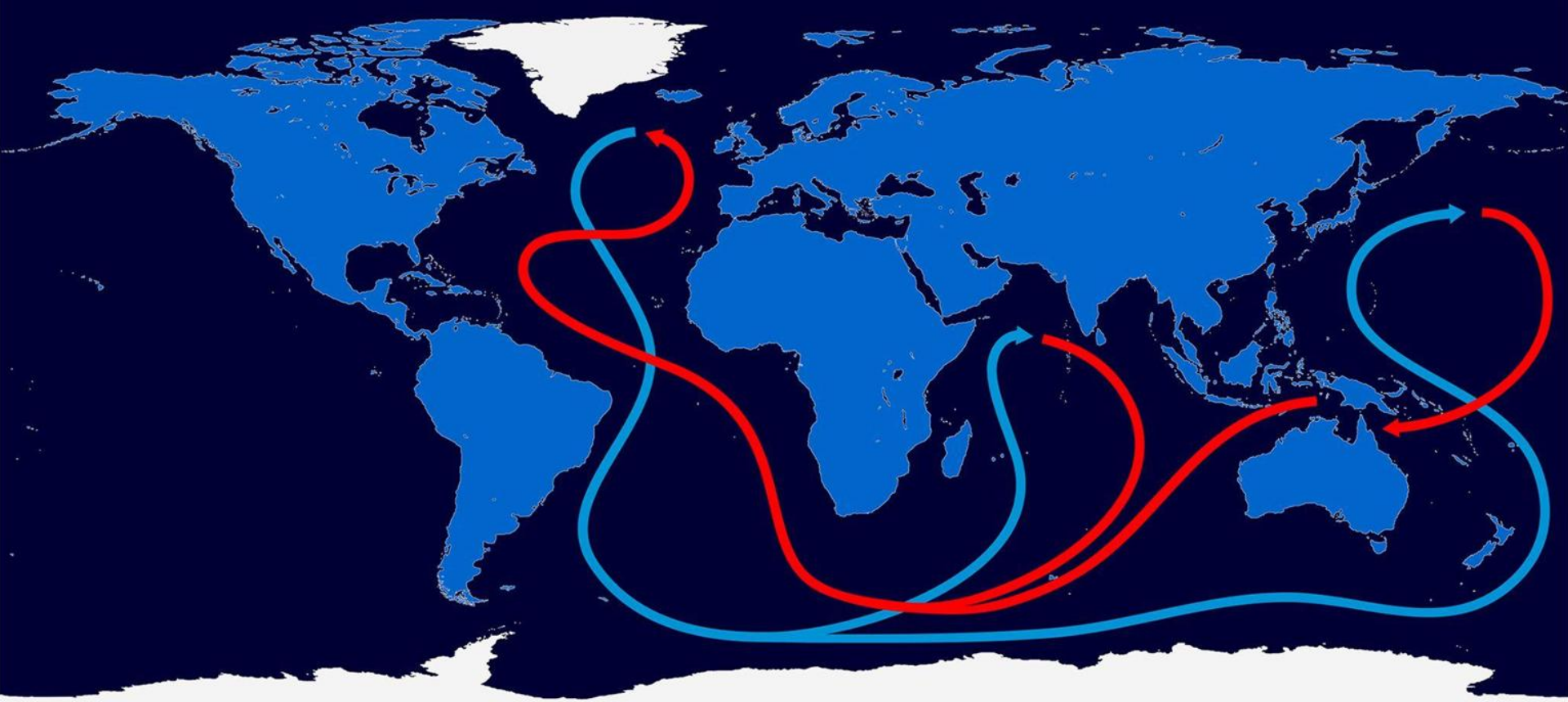
Natural Causes of Climate Change

- Volcanic eruptions
- Changes in the sun's energy output
- Variations in Earth's orbit
- Ocean currents



Volcanic Eruptions

**Changes in the
sun's energy output and
variations in Earth's orbit**



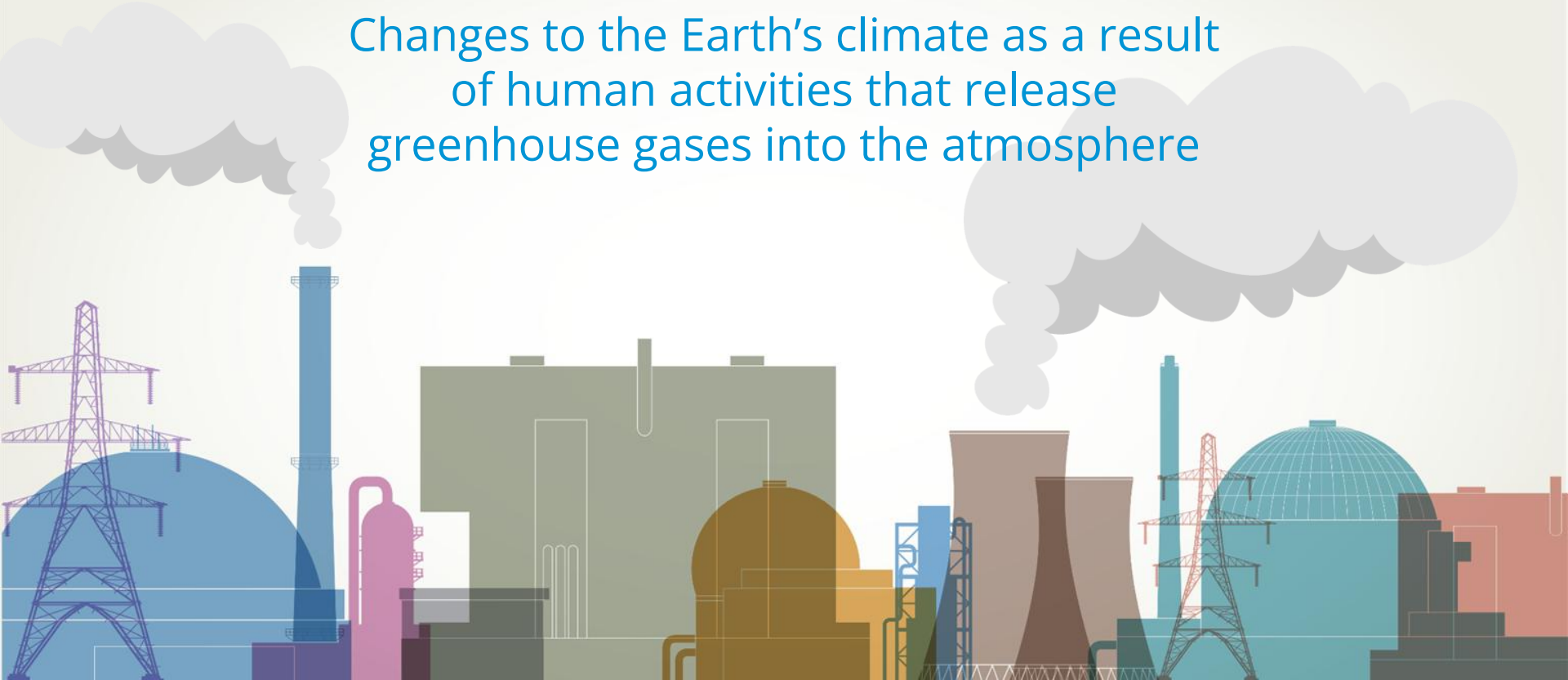
Ocean Currents



How certain are climate scientists that human activity is causing our current climate change instead of natural causes like volcanoes or the sun?

Anthropogenic Climate Change:

Changes to the Earth's climate as a result
of human activities that release
greenhouse gases into the atmosphere



Human Activities that Cause Climate Change (Anthropogenic)

- Generating power
- Powering buildings
- Manufacturing goods
- Transportation
- Deforestation
- Agriculture
- Overconsumption

About how much of the world's electricity is produced using renewable sources like wind or solar power?

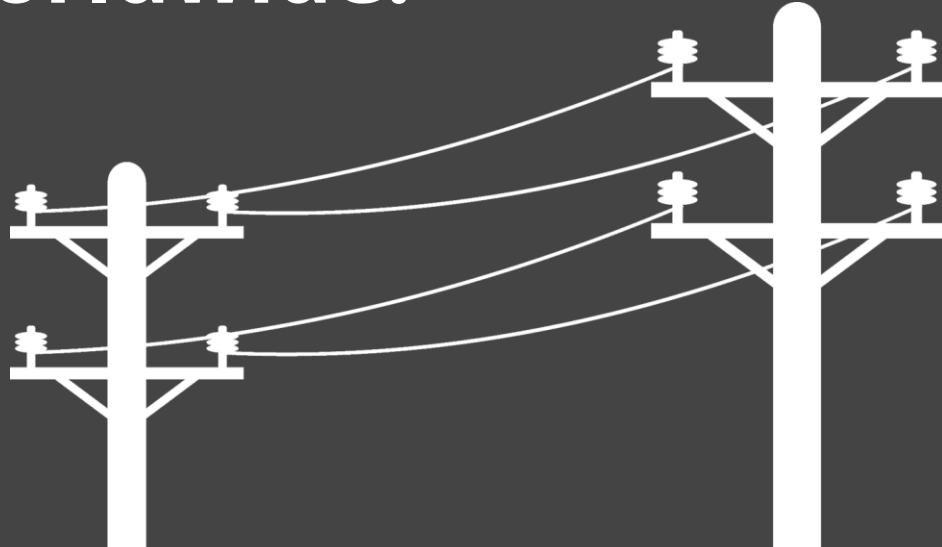
A. $\frac{1}{8}$

B. $\frac{1}{4}$

C. $\frac{1}{2}$



Homes and commercial buildings
like shops and factories use
more than half of all the electricity
we make worldwide.



The manufacturing of goods was responsible for what percentage of greenhouse gases in the United States in 2020?

A. 5%

B. 24%

C. 67%



The cars, trucks, ships, and planes that we use to move ourselves and our goods are the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

TRUE OR FALSE?



**Globally, we cut down
about 12 million hectares
of forest every year.
That's like losing a
forest the size of which
U.S. state each year?**

A. Rhode Island

B. Pennsylvania

C. Texas

Approximately how much of the food and beverages we purchase each year are produced in the United States?

A. 25%

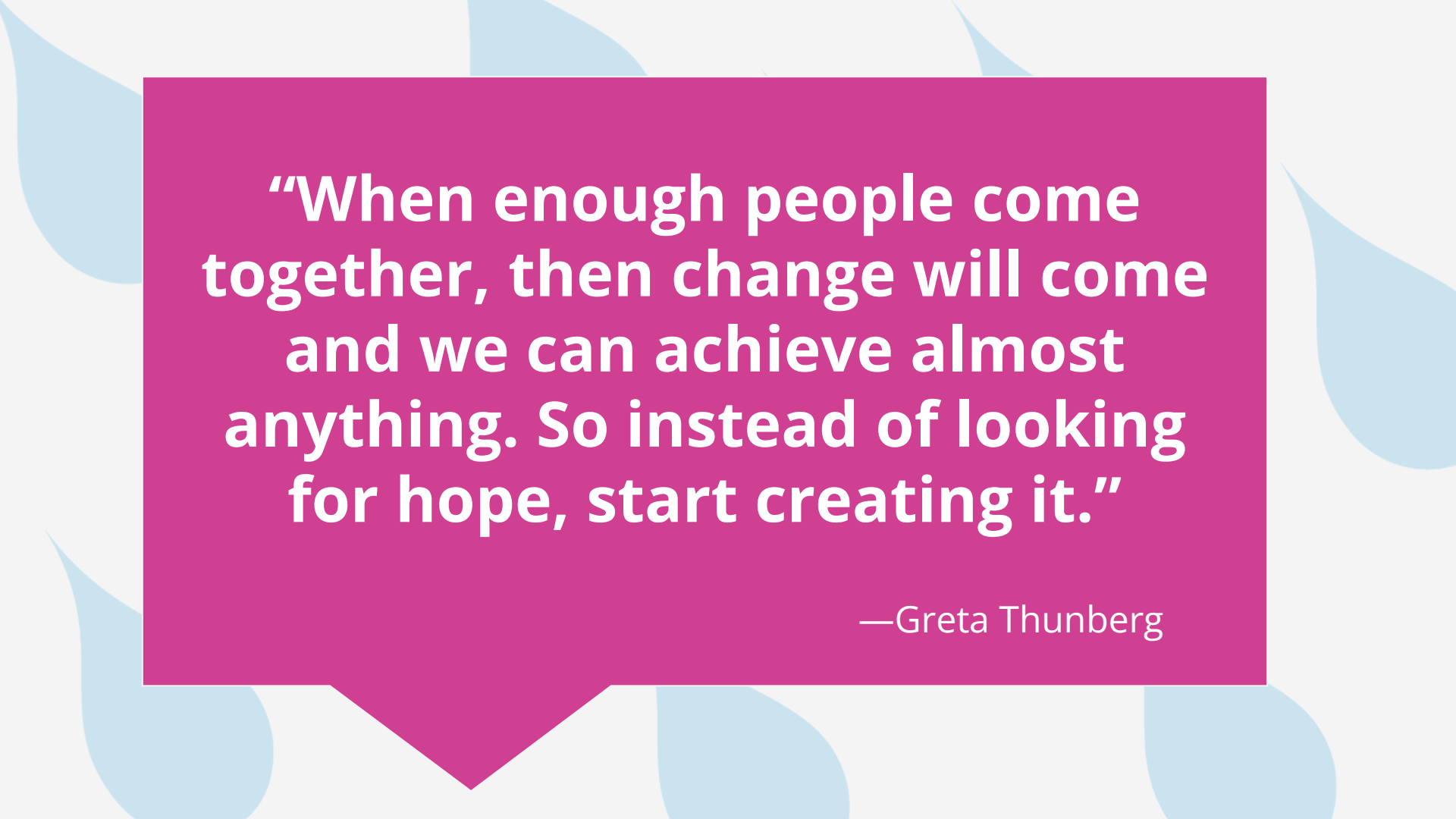
B. 58%

C. 90%



WHAT ABOUT US?

How do our
actions contribute
to climate change?

A pink speech bubble with a pointed bottom is centered on a light gray background. The background is decorated with several light blue, teardrop-shaped leaf-like patterns. The text inside the bubble is white and reads:

“When enough people come together, then change will come and we can achieve almost anything. So instead of looking for hope, start creating it.”

—Greta Thunberg



Young people taking climate action in Florida

PROBLEM:

Miami Beach sits on a barrier island and is almost directly at sea level. This means sea-level rise is already having an impact on the city, and the problems associated with it will only get worse in the future if no action is taken.



Ways Miami Beach is Adapting to Climate Change

1. **Roads and sidewalks have been raised** to ensure they're still useable as sea levels continue to rise.
2. **New pump stations** have been built to lessen flooding by draining the city of water during rainfall and high tides.
3. **Updated building codes** for new construction have been written requiring that the ground floor be between 1 and 5 feet above the flood line.

Ways Miami Beach is Mitigating Climate Change



1. The city completed **8 miles of bike lanes** and **installed six long-term bicycle parking facilities—with repair stations**—in parking garages. A **free trolley** is also available to residents and visitors around the island as an alternative to taxis and cars.
2. **Over the next 10 years, the city will plant more than 5,000 trees** that will help capture water and remove pollutants from the air.
3. Miami Beach advocates for national climate policies and taking collective action to **set goals for emissions** by 50–52% below 2005 levels by 2023, net-zero by 2050.

Young people taking climate action in Oregon

PROBLEM:

Students in Portland, Oregon, are becoming frustrated by what they believe is lack of action regarding climate change on the part of Oregon's government leaders.

ACTION:

Students organized a school walkout and protest to raise awareness.



Young people taking climate action in Montana





**What can you do
to take climate
action in your
own community?**



**Taking Climate
Action at Home**

Taking Climate Action at Home



- **Be aware of waste—save leftovers** and avoid throwing away food that's still good.
- Use a **reusable water bottle** and fill it up with water from the tap.
- Keep your **home's thermostat** set a bit cooler in the winter and a bit warmer in the summer.
- **Reuse items** rather than purchasing new ones whenever possible.
- **Turn off the lights/electronics** when you're not using them.
- **Take shorter showers** (still shower though ... that's important!).
- **Plant a garden** of perennial and native plants.
- **Discuss renewable power options** with your parents and try implementing some.



Taking Climate Action at School

Taking Climate Action at School



- **Walk or bike** to school if possible.
- **Turn off lights** in classrooms that aren't in use. (Researching how your school is powered would be helpful too.)
- **Reuse your school supplies** (binders, bookbags, etc.) instead of buying new ones each year.
- Plant a **school garden**, start a **share table** for uneaten food in the cafeteria, and look for other ways to **reduce food waste**.
- **Cut back on paper usage** by going digital whenever possible.
- Encourage teachers to **include lessons about climate change** in all grade levels.
- **Start/join a school green club**.



Taking Climate Action in Your Community

Taking Climate Action in Your Community



- **Petition your local government** to create more green spaces/plant more trees.
- **Talk to your school board** about reducing food waste in the cafeteria.
- **Ask local businesses** to stop using plastic bags.
- **Participate** in community science efforts to document climate changes in your local area.
- **Write letters** to your local representatives about specific climate action you want them to support in your state.



CLIMATE
CHANGE

How are **YOU** going
to take action?



GLOBE
WARM

