

# LET'S TALK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

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Climate scientists say that climate action starts by talking about climate change. But in the Chicago region, up to two-thirds of residents rarely or never discuss or even mention it.\* You can help.

## Here are tips for starting your own climate conversations.\*\*

- Know that whoever you are, whatever you do makes you the perfect person to talk about climate change, especially with friends, family, neighbors.
- Have a goal of simply having a conversation, not to convince.
- Watch for an opening, perhaps a friend mentioning a recent heavy rainstorm.
- Establish a genuine personal connection.
- Bond over shared concerns and values. Are you both gardeners? How is all the rain changing how you garden or what you plant? Maybe you share concerns as parents or neighbors.
- Don't know what the other person values? Learn through more conversation. Listen without interrupting and judging, and with an open mind. Ask questions.
- When it's your turn, talk about what concerns you, your experiences.
- Connect the dots between your shared values and how climate change is already affecting us and the things we care about here and now. Concern for advancing racial justice, for instance, is a chance to share that more extreme weather events brought by climate change impact low-income communities and communities of color hardest.
- Promote "rational hope" and inspire action by sharing positive, practical solutions. One example from *Third Coast Disrupted* is planting milkweed. It benefits monarch butterflies and other pollinators impacted by climate change, while helping to reduce flooding, storing carbon, and more. See a variety of solutions at [www.drawdown.org/solutions](http://www.drawdown.org/solutions).

\* "Yale Climate Opinion Maps 2020," Yale Program on Climate Change Communication

\*\* These tips apply to the 90% of Americans who accept that climate change is happening. Sources: Katharine Hayhoe, Ph.D., Climate Scientist, and Renee Lertzman, Ph.D., Climate Engagement Strategist. For more on the topic, see Katharine Hayhoe's book *Saving Us*.