



Write a Letter to Your Government Representative!

Stacy Clark, author of *Planet Power*, has helped many kids write letters to their government officials. Here are her tips!

We know that your voice matters, and we want to help you put it into action! One great way to use your voice is by writing a letter to your local government representative to let them know that you believe **protecting the planet is important**.

Below is a guide for writing your letter:

1) Think about an issue that is important to you. Make a list of things you'd like to change or do differently to protect the planet. Do any of these ideas need new laws, funding, or technologies in order to happen in your community? Those are the ideas that a government representative might be able to help with.

2) Find a local government representative to whom you want to write. You can search online for the leaders who represent your neighborhood. If you live in the U.S., go to <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials> where there are links to your local, state and federal officials. If you live outside of the U.S., you can also search "Who are my elected leaders?" online or ask your teachers or family for help. (Note: In different countries, local lawmakers may be called something other than a "representative." Be sure to check to be sure that you are addressing your letter correctly).

3) Begin your letter by introducing yourself. My name is (your first and last name) and I am a student / homeschooler who resides in your district.

4) Explain why you are writing. What do you want?

Here are some examples:

- You may want to ask for electric vehicle charging stations at your school or library
- You may want a solar farm built in your neighborhood
- You may wish to see a local river or ocean jetty be used to harness electricity

6) You'll want to explain why your request is important to your life and the lives of your family and friends. Depending on where you live, you could mention that wildfires / hurricanes / droughts / arctic thawing — all made worse by climate change — are changing the world and making it unsafe for you and your future.

5) Include a fact or two that you have learned about the subject.

For instance, you could write that you read a book or attended a science fair. You learned that renewable energy reduces the need for fossil fuels, and burning fewer fossil fuels means healthier communities and the chance to reverse climate change.

7) Thank your representative for their time. You may also ask your representative to write back to you. Be sure to include your name and address on both your letter and envelope. And don't forget to sign your letter!

(Note: You can include a drawing to illustrate your vision!)

On the next page you'll find an editable template you can use if you would like additional help. Simply type your information in the blank spaces and print it out!



LETTER TO MY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

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The Honorable

RE:

Dear :

My name is and I am a year-old who lives in your district.

I am writing to you today to let you know that I asked my family to buy electricity from a company that provides renewable power, but they were unable to find one. All of the companies in our area sell electricity that comes from a coal or natural gas-fired electricity plant. I am hoping that you can help me change that.

I know from reading books that burning coal and natural gas pollutes the air and makes climate change worse, so switching to renewable energy is a good idea.

It is important to me and my family that we can buy clean electricity. We hope that you will support the development of wind, water and/or solar projects so that my family and friends can look forward to a brighter future.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I would appreciate it so much if you would kindly write back to me at your convenience.

Sincerely,