



### Topic vocabulary

#### WASTE

rubbish (*n*), pollution (*n*), to reduce (*v*), to reuse (*v*),  
to recycle (*n*), toxic (*adj*), to clean up (*pv*)

#### POSITIVE CHANGES

affordable (*adj*), sustainable (*n*), concept (*n*), creative  
(*adj*), to upcycle (*v*), to immerse (*v*),  
biodegradable (*adj*)

**TITLE** POWER TO CHANGE

**SHIVANI** Hi, I'm Shivani and this is our series about what young people are doing to help **reduce** climate change.

Thanks to a competition run by the British Council I've been able to find out what students from schools around the world are doing. The students made videos about their projects and how they're putting them into action.

As young people we've got great power to help change things for the better.

Let's head straight to India. The students from a junior college are using their skills and knowledge to help a village get light.

**SHIVANI** The village has electricity from one of the big companies. But they can't afford to pay for it. So, the students developed an **affordable** and **sustainable** solution.

**STUDENTS IN INDIA** To tackle the problem of electrification in our first phase we have introduced the **concept** of *akashdeep* - a 1.5 litre plastic bottle is filled with distilled water and a few drops of bleach. The bottle is then fixed onto the roofs of houses by drilling a hole. The sun rays incident on the water in the bottle get refracted, undergo multiple reflections and total internal reflection due to which light is let out. This phenomenon illuminates the room with brightness equal to a 60 watt bulb.

**SHIVANI** Isn't that amazing! It shows that when we work as a group we can achieve incredible things. One very simple thing we can all do together is **clean up** the rubbish around us.

**SMK KUNAK JAYA MALAYSIA** So, today we are going to talk about plastic waste management. Are you guys ready? I can't hear you! Let's get started.

**SHIVANI** In Malaysia teachers and students work together to clean up the water and the area around two villages. They collect plastic waste to reduce water pollution and clean up the area around it. Look how much rubbish they collected.

**SHIVANI** We can also **reuse** the waste materials that we have.

**RUZAWI SCHOOL ZIMBABWE** At Ruzawi we have started a recycling system where we separate all our rubbish. The recyclable rubbish goes to Clean Marondera where it is made into all sorts of useful things.

**SHIVANI** In Zimbabwe the students joined up with a community organisation called Clean Marondera which helps people reduce, reuse and **recycle**.

They learnt how to make bags out of **upcycled** milk cartons. How cool is that!

**SHIVANI** In India the students used their **creative** skills to solve a very different problem. Every year during the festival of Ganesh people take statues of the god and **immerse** them in water. But these statues are made of plaster of Paris and usually painted with **toxic** paints.

**SHIVANI** The students began to create fully **biodegradable** statues of Ganesh made of mud and straw. They then painted them with natural colours like coal and turmeric.

And then asked people to put them in buckets at home and not in rivers. It helps prevent water **pollution**.

**STUDENT IN INDIA** I am sure Lord Ganesha is happy with us and will help us bring this climate revolution into all the homes in the coming years.

**SHIVANI** I think making environmentally friendly statues is a brilliant idea and I'm going to work on that with my family.

What could you do to make your celebrations more sustainable and help tackle climate change?

All these projects are incredible and I hope they've given you lots of ideas too. Imagine if we all did just one more thing to help reduce climate change and look after the environment.

Until the next time here's a song composed and performed by Cheska from the Philippines. You'll also see the school's amazing artwork all made from recycled materials.