

# yourclimateyourlife

## Role cards

### Paramedic

There have been over 2,000 heat-related deaths this year. People are suffering from heat strokes, dehydration and sunburn. And it's been like this every year for ages. We've had to change the equipment in ambulances to deal with it. All ambulances have air-conditioning and it costs the NHS a fortune.

In the winter we go out to patients in all weathers. We find people who have been blown over in severe gales, or struck by flying debris, crushed by falling trees or collapsed buildings.

### Minister for Health

I spend most days dealing with health problems to do with climate change. Skin cancer and eye problems have gone through the roof. There are 5,000 more skin cancer cases every year, and this has been going on for the past 70 years.

We spend a lot of money subsidising high factor sun-creams for everyone to afford. We're running TV adverts on the importance of wearing broad-brimmed hats and sunglasses. We've had patients with eye cataracts increasing by 2000 a year. And malaria is even a problem. Who would have thought that a few years ago?

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## Commuter

The office has had to close several times this summer. I catch a train, and then the tube, to work in central London. Temperatures have got so high, that the tube has become unsafe. Transport for London simply has to close it down.

Last winter severe gales and flooding stopped the trains so I stayed at home then as well. My company has introduced flexi-hours so its employees work at work and it doesn't lose money.

## Older person

I've been in a residential care centre for the last two years. It's more comfortable here than it was at home because there's air conditioning and the nurses give out cold flannels to cool us down in the summer.

I don't like this climate change. I haven't been outside for months now. It's too hot. Older people like me can't cope. We're losing a lot of friends in here – they're just giving up. What quality of life have we got in this heat? Remember, we are the most vulnerable people in society.

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## Ice-cream seller

Business is good. I'm selling ice-creams and lolly-pops from my electric ice-cream van these days. The only trouble is, I'm having to get up earlier and earlier. It's too hot mid-day and people want ice-creams from about 10am until 12; and again later on in the afternoon. Lots of people are taking to having siestas in the heat of the day.

It's costing me more now in electricity charges. The fridges are on the coldest temperature all day. And even then, I tell my customers to eat up quickly. Most ice-creams melt within a minute or two!

## Caterer

My business is doing well, but it always has, and I don't think it's got anything to do with climate change personally.

We get more orders for salads these days. People want light food – salads, fruit, ice-cream. And they like to have a variety of cold drinks to choose from, so this is good for business.

We've had a few cases of food poisoning, which hasn't been great. Now, that's down to climate change. Nothing to do with us! It's happening all over. There have been 10,000 extra cases of food poisoning every year from the hot weather. We've bought extra fridges, and only take food out to the tables at the last minute, so we're coping fine.

## Electrician

I've been an electrician for many years and my business has grown year-on-year. I get loads of work in the summer; loads of it. The phone's going 24-7: 'Can you come and fix my air-conditioning system?' 'Do you do fit solar panels?'

I say yes to everything, so I've had to take on extra staff. The trouble is people are buying air-conditioning systems without really knowing how to use them. They leave them on all day and night and never bother to clean them. So, whose fault is it when it breaks down, I ask them?

Winters are just as busy with all the storms and power-cuts. More people are getting generators, and booking me to install them.