

What is a COP?

Saving the planet requires individual changes and global changes to be made [1]. To make big decisions, world leaders need to meet to **share ideas** and **negotiate** on what they believe should be done to protect the planet. A meeting like this is called a **Conference of Parties** or COP. There are lots of COPs on different topics. These topics can include **biodiversity** or **desertification** [2,3], but here we are talking about the climate COPs.

Parties? Is there a celebration?

'Parties' in this case doesn't refer to a celebration. Instead, a Party is simply a member of a group of countries who have signed an **agreement**. For climate COPs, these Parties have signed onto the **UNFCCC** – an agreement to combat '*dangerous human interference in the climate system*' [4]. There are **197** Parties to the UNFCCC [5]. All of the Parties have their own opinions on the climate, which makes negotiation a difficult task!



Can I go to a COP?

Yes! There are different zones inside the conference centre: a **Green Zone** and a **Blue Zone** [6]. Members of the public can enter the **Green Zone**. In the Green Zone, there are lots of activities for visitors to do: listen to talks, interact with events, and meet likeminded people! [7] The **Blue Zone** is where negotiations take place. Decision makers, world leaders and delegates can enter the **Blue Zone**, members of the public usually are not allowed inside the **Blue Zone**.

Where are COPs hosted?

Unless a country offers to host a COP, COPs are held in **Bonn**, a city in **Germany** and often last around two weeks [8]. COPs have been held in countries from around the world: COPs provide the host country with an opportunity to show the world how committed they are to **climate action!**



Climate COPs from 1995 - 2023

Berlin, **Germany** - COP1

Geneva, **Switzerland** - COP2

Kyoto, **Japan** - COP3

Buenos Aires, **Argentina** -
COP4

Bonn, **Germany** - COP5

The Hague, **Netherlands** -
COP6

Bonn, **Germany** - COP6-2**

Marrakech, **Morocco** - COP7

New Delhi, **India** - COP8

Milan, **Italy** - COP9

Buenos Aires, **Argentina** -
COP10

Montreal, **Canada** - COP11

Nairobi, **Kenya** - COP12

Bali, **Indonesia** - COP13

Poznan, **Poland** - COP14

Copenhagen, **Denmark** -
COP15

Cancun, **Mexico** - COP16

Durban, **South Africa** -
COP17

Doha, **Qatar** - COP18

Warsaw, **Poland** - COP19

Lima, **Peru** - COP20

Paris, **France** - COP21

Marrakech, **Morocco** -
COP22

Bonn, **Germany** - COP23

Katowice, **Poland** - COP24

Madrid, **Spain** - COP25

Glasgow, **Scotland** - COP26

Sharm el-Sheikh, **Egypt** -
COP27

United Arab Emirates -
COP28



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Plot the climate COPs



Great St Mary's, the University Church
The University Church, Cambridge

How many climate COPs have been in:

- Europe _____
- Asia _____
- North and Central America _____
- South America _____
- Africa _____
- Oceania _____

Do you think this is fair? Should other areas hold more COPs?

Where do you think the 2024 climate COP should be held and why?



What is a COP? References

[1] Singh, 2020. *'Individual action versus systemic change: lessons from COVID-19 on climate change'* Available at: <https://socialsciences.nature.com/posts/66491-individual-action-versus-systemic-change-lessons-from-covid19-for-climate-change>. Accessed 05.08.22.

[2] Convention of Biological Diversity Official Website, 2022. *'Conference of the Parties'*. Available at: <https://www.cbd.int/cop/>. Accessed 05.08.22.

[3] UNCCD Official Website, 2022. *'Conference of the Parties'*. Available at: <https://www.unccd.int/convention/governance/cop>. Accessed 05.08.22.

[4] Scottish Renewables Website, 2022. *'A Beginner's Guide to COP26'* Available at: <https://www.scottishrenewables.com/news/585-a-beginner-s-guide-to-cop26>. Accessed 05.08.22.

[5] UN Climate Change Official Website, 2022. *'Type of Party to the Convention'*. Available at: <https://unfccc.int/process/parties-non-party-stakeholders/parties-convention-and-observer-states>. Accessed 06.08.22.

[6] UN Climate Change Official Website, 2022. *'Conference of the Parties'*. Available at: <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/supreme-bodies/conference-of-the-parties-cop>. Accessed 05.08.22.

[7] United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26, 2021. Google Arts and Culture Website. *'What are COP26 and the Green Zone?'* Available at: <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/what-are-cop26-and-the-green-zone-cabinet-office/wQWBUIYXXjLV-g?hl=en> Accessed 05.08.22.

[8] Nelsson and Rice-Oxley, 2021. The Guardian. *'50 years, 25 Cops: the slow-motion movement to save the planet'*. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/oct/30/50-years-25-cops-the-slow-motion-movement-to-save-the-planet>. Accessed 05.08.22.

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