



# 2008 Project

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Weather is the condition of the atmosphere measured in short lengths of time (hours and days). Climate, however, is the average weather over decades and centuries in a specific location. We can look out our window and see how weather changes every day, but we need data that has been tracked over hundreds of years to understand how the climate may be changing.

Climate tracking is important to communities around the world because the information is used to plan, predict, and make decisions on activities like planting crops or hunting and fishing. People also use data to anticipate the impacts of climate on the economy, food and water availability, tourism, disease control, and many environmental issues.

Why is climate important to us? By gaining a greater understanding of the Earth's complex climate systems, we will be able to work together now and in the future to develop the innovative solutions that will benefit us all and continue to improve the world in which we live.

Can FLL teams make the necessary Climate Connections?

**1. Research** how climate affects your own community. *Identify* a problem caused by climate in your area, analyze climate data about the problem, and discover what your community is doing about it. *Find* another community somewhere in the world with the same issue and identify any solutions they are working on.

Discuss the various ways climate impacts your community and your lives. Look at climate data available for your area as it relates to your climate problem. Consider talking with experts who work in a climate-related profession every day, such as climatologists, farmers, foresters, and community leaders. Then find another community in a different geographical area that is experiencing a similar problem. *Consult the FLL Topic Guide for additional project resources.*

**2. Create** an innovative solution based on the information you gathered. See if others, on a local or even global level, could use your innovation to solve this climate related problem or improve on an existing solution.

Consider all the potential solutions to your problem and how great an impact you can have. Talk with experts to see what ideas are already being developed or used. Build your climate connections by creating an innovative solution for your chosen climate problem that could be applied in both communities and adopted by even more communities who face a similar issue.

**3. Share** your research and solution. Once you have researched and developed your idea, get out there and share it! Take what you have learned to build awareness of the problem and promote your solution, highlighting your research. Use this project to see just how great an impact you can have on your community and your world!