Three stories of real people's experiences

Story 1 – Megan in the UK

Megan lives in Somerset, in the south west of England. She is worried about how the climate crisis is increasing flooding in her home village. She says:

'The floods mean the fields around our village are regularly covered with fertile silt, but if the water stays too long the crops are ruined. If there is heavy rain in the autumn there is a danger that fallen leaves will block the drains and the centre of the village will flood. One summer I ended up thigh-deep in flood water, battling to keep one of the drains flowing! I am worried about how slowly politicians and businesses are reacting to the climate crisis. There is more extreme weather now, such as Storm Eunice in 2022, which meant my school had to shut for a day and also brought trees down in my village, blocking roads. There is a strong community in my village and I hope that this will be used to tackle environmental problems in the future'.

Story 2 – Maurice in Jamaica

Maurice lives on the island of Jamaica in the Caribbean. He is a farmer and also runs a company called Kromanti Experience, offering tours to holiday-makers that teach them about his community, the Maroons, and their history in Jamaica. He takes tourists to visit Nanny Falls, a famous waterfall named after a Maroon hero from history, Queen Nanny. Maurice says:

'Due to the changes in climate, we are increasingly experiencing periods of heavy rainfall, when we don't usually expect it. This makes life as a farmer difficult as crops are planted and reaped at certain times of the year with dry and wet periods affecting this. Although we don't experience severe flooding on a regular basis, heavy periods of rainfall can affect the river levels, which has potential to force me to cancel some of my tours as it is too dangerous to cross rivers or go up to Nanny Falls. I am fortunate to have a business but the income is not always consistent as it is dependent on tourism and the weather conditions'.

Story 3 – Lauren in Kansas, USA

Lauren lives in Kansas. Kansas is hot in summer and much cooler in the winter. It has beautiful rivers, and rolling green hills covered with trees or fields to the east. Lauren says:

'We've experienced longer periods of drought, followed by intense thunderstorms, which cause flooding. I don't recall learning much about the climate crisis in school growing up, and I've needed to do more of my own reading and reaching out to understand what's happening to our world. I am also a therapist-in-training, and a number of clients I have worked with have dealt with extreme anxiety over their lack of control in dealing with the climate crisis; I think we will be seeing this more and more. Additionally, there is much division in the United States about how to handle the climate crisis, and it is stressful to see such division over something so important when action needs to be taken now. I also hope that more communities are educated to understand the climate crisis and understand what needs to be done'.

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