

GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK FILM SCREENINGS

Discussion guide

Use this handy guide to get the most out of your screening and create space for inspiring conversations

Introduction

Film has a unique power to bring people together, spark conversation and inspire action. This guide is here to help you make the most of your screening - before, during and after the film. Feel free to adapt the guidance to suit your context.

Before your screening

A warm, welcoming start sets the tone for everything that follows! Here are a few simple things to do before you press play:

Introduce yourself and your group

Tell people who you are, why you're here, and what your group or organisation does. Keep it short and human - this is about connection, not credentials or statistics.

Share why this matters to you

Take one to two minutes to share a short, personal story about why you care about the subject of the film. The most powerful stories are specific and personal - a particular moment, a place you love, a person who inspired you. The more concrete and real your story is, the more it will resonate with the people in the room. If you're screening a film about nature, share what you love about the natural world and what you want to protect. If it's about community action, share a moment when you saw people come together and it gave you hope. Your story doesn't need to be dramatic - it just needs to be real.

Create a comfortable space

Let people know they're in a safe, welcoming environment. Remind them they can step outside at any point if they need to. Some films touch on topics that can stir up strong feelings - grief, anger, hope, sadness - and all of those responses should be valid and welcome here. Let people know that however they're feeling after the film, there's space for it in the conversation. Looking after one another is part of community action.

Top tip! Be comfortable with silence! It's tempting when the room is quiet to try and fill it by answering questions first or to keep talking. Often, people just need a moment to collect their thoughts and reflect on what they would like to share. Sit with the silence, and let people answer when they feel ready.

After your film

The conversation after the film is where the magic happens! Here's a simple structure to help make the most out of your time together.

Start with a one-to-one conversation

Ask people to spend a few minutes talking with someone they don't already know. This is an easy way to break the ice and hear a perspective different from your own. You might want to prompt them with one of these questions. Feel free to adapt them to the context of your film:

- What stood out for you about the story?
- If the film had a main character, what stayed with you about them?
- What excited, surprised, moved or challenged you?

Share back with the group

Invite people to share what came up in their conversations with the wider group. Three to five minutes is more than enough time - you're not looking for consensus, just building a connection with your audience.

Have a deeper conversation in smaller groups

Split into small groups of three or four and explore these questions together:

- What has the film made you want to stop, start or keep doing?
- What's one thing you will commit to after today? Encourage people to be specific - not "I'll get more involved" but "I'll come to the next meeting" or

"I'll speak to my neighbour this week." The more concrete, the more likely it is to happen!

You can encourage people to share back however feels right for your group; post-it notes on a wall, a few words to the room, writing on a shared mural, or simply saying it out loud. There's no right or wrong way to share back, and you can use the moment to get creative!

Top tip! If you are having a panel discussion after your screening, you can direct these opening questions to your panel before opening up to the audience. Whether it's a panel or a group conversation, we'd always recommend starting with that one-to-one reflection. It means everyone in the room, not just the panel, has had a chance to process and connect before the wider discussion begins.

Make your ask

If you have something specific you'd like people to do - for example, join your local group, sign up to a campaign, come to your next event, write to their politician - this is the moment to say so. Be soecific with what you want them to do - with dates, times, template letters or flyers, and importantly, what impact they will have. People are more likely to take action when they know exactly what's being asked of them and why it matters!

Closing the evening

It's important to end the event in a way people feel connected, excited, and clear about next steps. Below are some tips to help you finish with another

- When your next event or meeting or action is - and remember to be specific about what you'd like them to do (come along, bring a friend, continue the conversation)
- Where they can find out more about Great Big Green Week and what's happening in their area: greatbiggreenweek.com
- That what they've done tonight - showing up, watching, talking, listening - is itself an act of community. It matters.
- To make sure they've connected with at least one new person tonight - whether that's swapping numbers, following each other on social media, or simply knowing each other's names. The relationships people build at events like this are often where the community action begins.

Hosting a screening as part of Great Big Green Week? Make sure you add event to our interactive map {LINK} so more people in your area can find it and join in!