

# Telling the stories of the future

A guide for facilitators

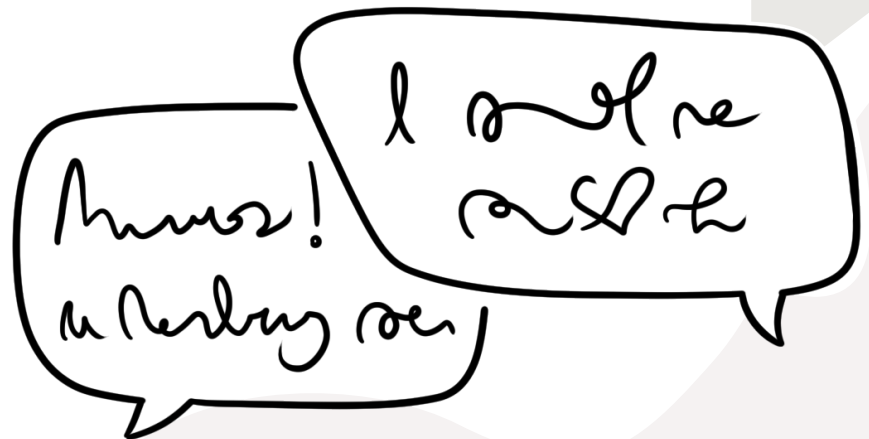


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This workshop takes inspiration from Ayotola, Shu, Carla, and Samiha—the four fictional characters whose journeys we follow in the Earth for All book throughout the Too Little Too Late and Giant Leap scenarios.

This workshop entails an immersive methodology to talk about the future we can build together by designing our daily lives of tomorrow. Through creative exercises and engaging discussions, we aim to unleash the power of our imagination and visualise the impact of the choices our governments make today on our lives for decades to come.



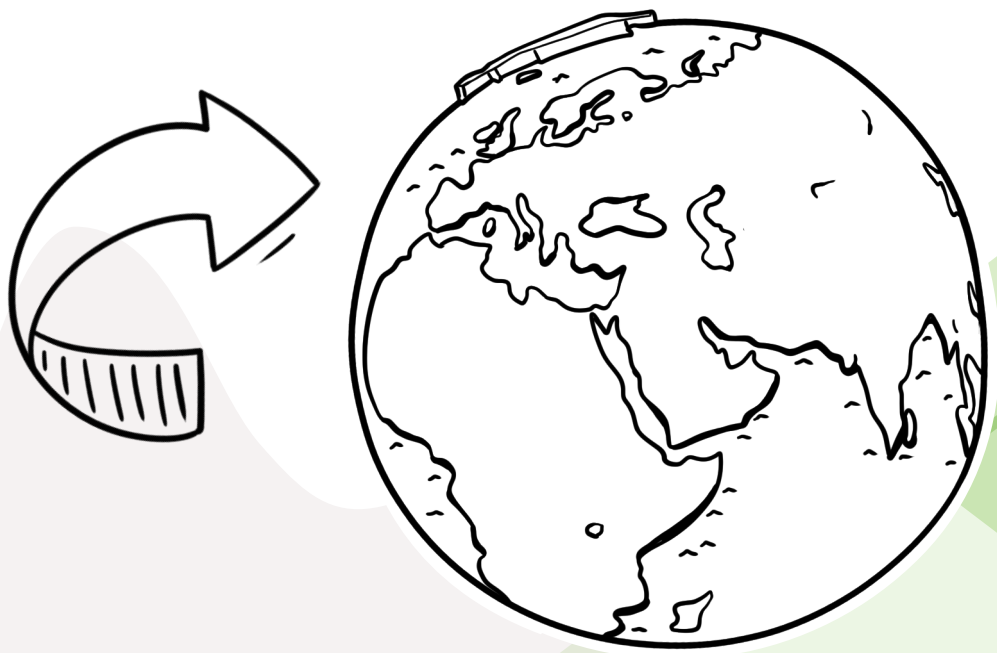
# About Earth4All

The Earth4All initiative is guided by clear principles:

1. We can achieve wellbeing for all within the limits of our planet.
2. The crises we face are interwoven and need to be approached with a systems thinking perspective. For example, we cannot solve the climate crisis without also tackling the poverty and inequality crises, and vice versa.
3. Solutions must work for the majority, and they must be seen as fair and just or they risk rejection.

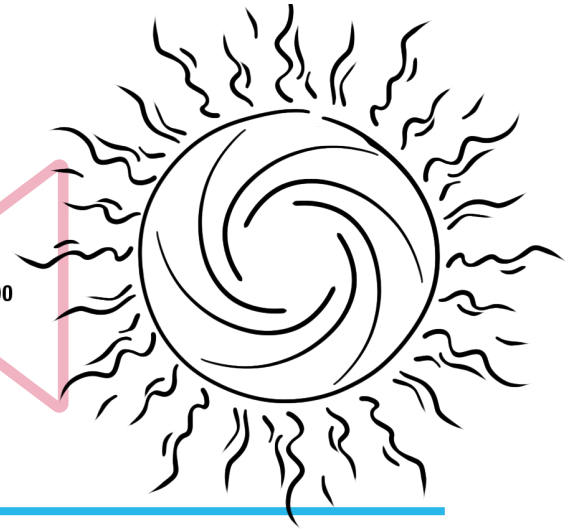
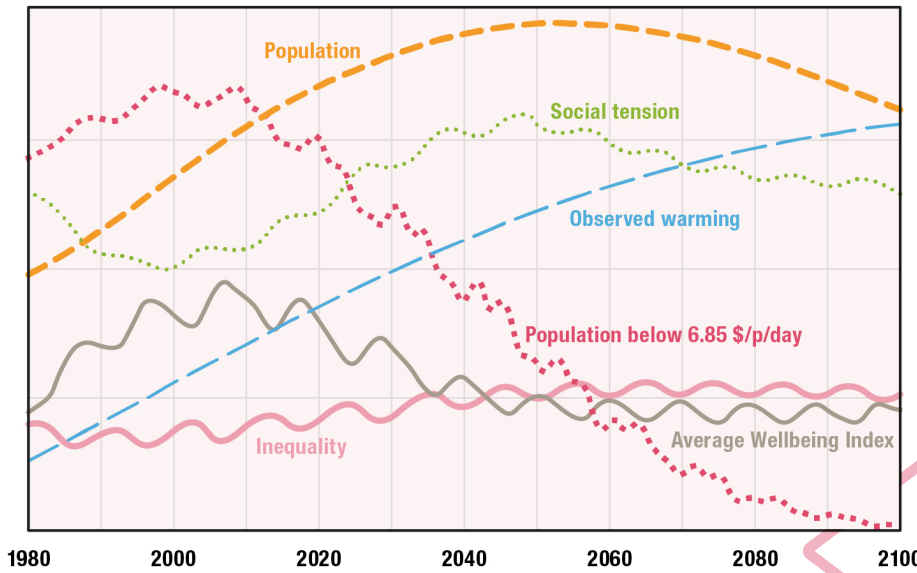
Transforming our economic system requires widespread support. To achieve this, we encourage citizens from all walks of life to engage in discussions about transformative ideas. Together, we can jumpstart the transformation of our economic system to one that puts wellbeing above growth.

[Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity](#) presents two science-based scenarios for the future: *Too Little Too Late* and the *Giant Leap*.



# 1. Main trends

## Too Little Too Late scenario



*Too Little Too Late* presents a future in which humanity continues on the same path, implementing incremental changes at a slow pace. The scenario produces the following projections:

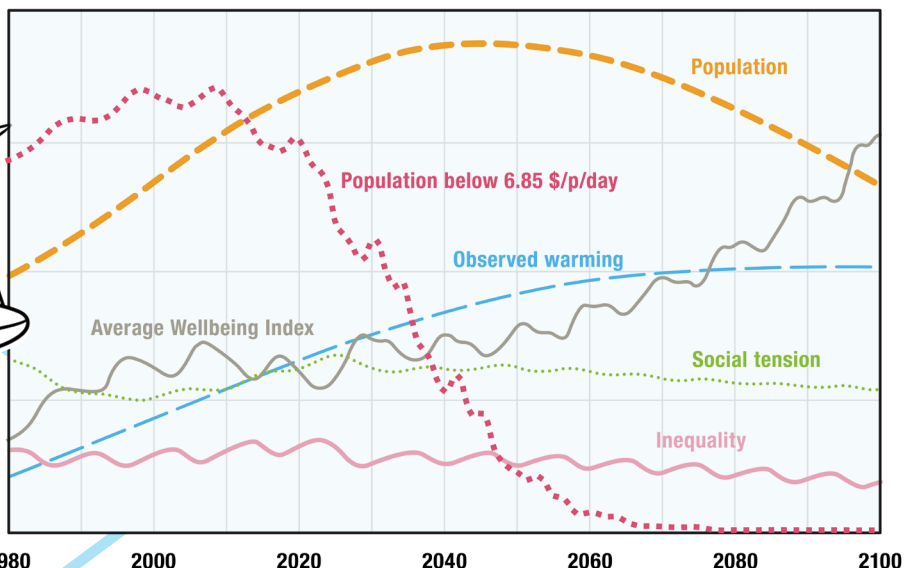
- ▶ The number of people in poverty slowly decreases to finally reach zero around 2100
- ▶ Social tensions rise this century
- ▶ Wellbeing levels significantly decreases
- ▶ The global average temperature rises to a catastrophic 2.5°C

*The Giant Leap* presents projections in which societies enact the five extraordinary turnarounds to achieve wellbeing for all on a (relatively) stable planet. The projections show:

- ▶ Poverty is eliminated around 2050
- ▶ Wellbeing rises
- ▶ The global average temperature stabilises below 2°C

# 1. Main trends

## Giant Leap scenario



Science shows it is feasible to redesign economic and social policies to put our societies on a pathway towards wellbeing for all within planetary boundaries. In other words, the *Giant Leap* is feasible, and we should aim for nothing less.

There is no “one size fits all” for economic systems change. There are different ways to reach the five extraordinary turnarounds depending on different social and political contexts. Actions to drive these turnarounds in North America are likely to be very different to actions in Africa, Europe, or Asia for example. However, one thing remains certain: to attain collective wellbeing on a relatively stable planet, taking the Giant Leap is imperative.

What do Earth4All’s two scenarios – *Giant Leap* and *Too Little Too Late* - mean for your future? What do the five extraordinary turnarounds look like in your context?

Together, we will seek to answer these questions in the following workshop.

You will be challenged to imagine a future where everything, ranging from the way we travel, educate, produce food, and trade products to how we engage with our communities, contributes to improving collective wellbeing on a (relatively) stable planet.

## Welcome to the Earth4All storytelling for advocacy workshop



### The power of imagining our collective future through stories

Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity tells the stories of two alternative scenarios for the future, which were generated using complex system dynamic modelling. The scenarios are based on interactions of different variables (population, wellbeing, CO2 emissions, etc.) across different regions of the globe throughout time. But what do these scenarios mean for us humans living collectively on planet Earth?

In response to this crucial question, we sought an approach that would make these scenarios understandable, relatable, and motivating for change. We created four fictional characters, born in 2020, whose journeys readers follow throughout the book. These characters help illustrate projections of the future under the Too Little Too Late and Giant Leap scenarios produced with the Earth4All model.

Our four characters are an invitation to think and talk about what the future would look like if we took the Giant Leap.

This workshop is a call to recognise the power of stories in bringing about change.

We underestimate the power of stories in bringing about change.

# The story of Carla

## In the Too Little Too Late scenario

Carla is born in 2020 in Los Angeles, California. Her parents moved to California from Colombia for the economic opportunities in the United States. Her mother stays at home to look after the three children, and her father works in the restaurant industry.

Carla is born at a time of deep uncertainty. A pandemic is sweeping the world. Cooperation between countries is limited. Levels of inequality not seen since the Great Depression have led to a rise in populism and authoritarianism in many regions. By 2030, Carla is growing up in a turbulent world.

Droughts and wildfires have become more intense in the Los Angeles area. For several months of the year, the air quality is so bad it is risky to go outdoors. Carla is taught to use water sparingly so there is enough for everyone. Carla's school is often closed due to air pollution across the city.

## In the Giant Leap scenario

Carla is born in 2020 in Los Angeles, California. Her parents moved to California from Colombia for the economic opportunities in the United States (US). Her mother stays at home to look after the three children, and her father works in the restaurant industry.

She is born at the dawn of unprecedented transformation.

The US adopts a universal basic dividend to help fight inequality, particularly as a stimulus during major shocks (like another pandemic), which then turns into regular transfers. This gives people economic freedom to retrain as some industries contract while others grow.

Carla celebrates her thirtieth birthday in 2050.

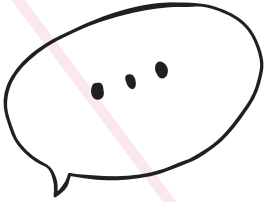
Carla is an office manager in a successful architecture business but decided to leave the extreme heat of southern California and moved north to Seattle. But she now feels the fires and heat are following her. Her brother has the same job and qualifications yet is paid much more than her. Because of her six-figure student loans and expensive rent, she lives paycheck to paycheck.

In 2080, Carla still works long hours and knows she won't be able to afford to retire for another decade. Her sedentary lifestyle and processed food diet, as well as the frequent heat dome events over the US West Coast, make her vulnerable to health conditions. She dies of diabetes at age 65.

As citizens of Earth, more feel they have a fair share of the wealth generated from the world's commons: Earth for All! This principle evolves into a Citizens Funds that pays a universal basic dividend, where industries pay for the use of common resources.

Policies to redistribute wealth fairly are now adopted in most countries and quickly ramp up. By 2050, the top 10% take less than 40% of the national incomes in all regions.

In the US, Carla's family receives around \$20,000 every year from the Citizens Fund, as a universal basic dividend. The fund is built from fees charged on top wealth holders, real



estate, and on companies that use natural resources and public commons such as social media data usage. This means her family can afford to eat healthier foods, have access to better healthcare, and put money aside for education, hobbies, and travel.

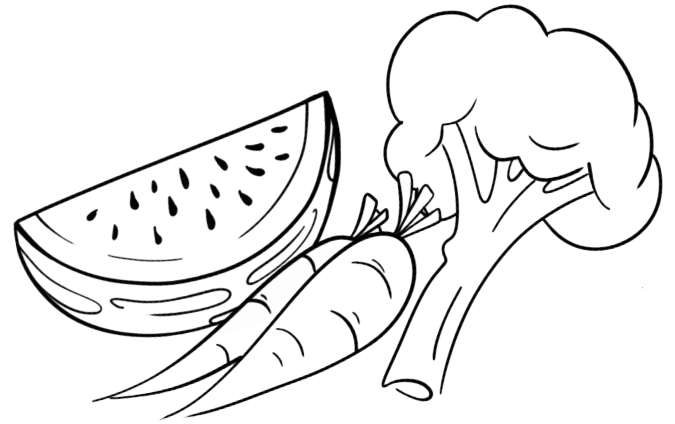
Around the world, people are eating healthier diets with less grain-fed red meat and more fruits, vegetables, nuts, and seeds.

Food loss and waste is reduced along the whole food chain by better logistics, smart apps, and packaging. By 2050, most farms use regenerative and/or sustainable intensification techniques. Thanks to large public-private initiatives, trees and forests are starting to grow back on previously degraded lands, stopping the decline in the world's forests.

Carla is now 30 years old. She has finished university with a degree and is at the early stages of her career. She does not expect to have the same career throughout her life. Instead, she sees opportunities to have several careers in different sectors. She is supported by an active state.

Every month Carla receives a universal basic dividend. This provides a level of economic security that allows her to take more risks. In Seattle, Carla has trained as an architect and designs passive homes for community housing, while her partner is a corruption analyst.

Floods and storms are a regular occurrence, but measures have been taken to mitigate their effects—green spaces and trees in strategic locations—and new urban and sewage infrastructure make the city liveable.



Carla has not ever experienced a stable climate, as once existed back in the 1900s.

Extreme weather events come and go without toppling entire cities or nations. But she still copes pretty well because her government is investing in her future.

Carla and her partner are now planning for their first child, as they can afford to, partly thanks to the universal basic dividend. They buy a flat in a pedestrian-only city in the suburbs of Seattle, and Carla cycles to work. They don't own a car, as it is more convenient, cheaper, and faster to use bikes or public transport to get around. Both Carla and her partner have healthcare coverage, as do all US residents since 2030. Unlike in her parents' time, health expenses aren't a concern, and her wellbeing is insured through coverage of both physical and mental conditions. Carla's diet is healthy and nutritious, composed mostly of fresh fruits, nuts and vegetables produced just around the corner. On special occasions, she treats herself to a steak from beef raised with regenerative agriculture. Carla is famous in her neighbourhood for her salsa, which she brings to community events. In 2057, she wins a prize for the best salsa in Seattle.

Aged 60, Carla can retire. She still gets the universal basic dividend on top of her pension.

# Guide

## Before the workshop:

To organise and advertise your event, follow the steps in our [Guide to Organise Events](#).

Download [the Earth4All introduction video](#) to your computer.

## Setting:

This workshop can be run online or in-person.

In-person: groups of three participants.

If online and with more than five participants, plan for break-out rooms.



↑  
Explore the Earth4All Storytelling zine by the 50 Percent [on their website](#)

### Living Conflict in Colombia

by Yanika Rosa

Colombia - nothing Patricia De La Cruz isn't used to. In alarm clock because now she wakes up to the sound of get ready, too. Her mom, Miriam, woke up really early to help around the house as much as possible. Patricia tries to help around the house as much as possible, on top of being a single mother. Once everyone gain focus on her dream to become a lawyer one day.

re life, and she feels a calling to use her education to do means "the place between rivers" in the local e and ends at the Caribbean Sea. These different beautiful array of natural resources. Despite different world, Duibdo sometimes experiences drought from fall turns into flooding and erosion, and the city sewer system. Although Duibdo sits on a s to be one of the most isolated in the nation and s like Patricia, live in shacks made from wood or learn early on to stretch resources as much as can water.

### Koko

by Gabriel Ebitri

al city of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Usually, the air in the city is airing gasses, factories and cars, and natural water bodies in petroleum floating on their surfaces. But the year Koko is 19 pandemic - the city is cleaner, and scientists say it is However, the lockdown also prevents her mother from clinic to give birth, where she is sure to get some help. ome into the world on the floor of the one rented room her two elder brothers. This room is located on the far front slums where about 500,000 people are living. mber will exponentially increase in the coming years, violent cultism that leads to a feeling of insecurity felt

But Koko is a child born at a turning point, a time filled with potential. And as though the earth is happy to be appeased by the lockdown, the floods that usually visit the city every year cancel their visit. Scientists predict that if the city goes on as though in lockdown for five more years - with the oil exploration and most carbon-emitting activities stopped, but of course with relief provided - the life expectancy of even the slum dwellers will increase.

write stories at first, but then realize that social peace here means a brutal police force beating out the dreams of the perspective-less with clubs. Her parents will become laciturn, their vocabulary uses to the endlessness of the desert, do not find room in the colors of the sand dunes. She will learn the many words for rain and deportation custody during a hunger strike and will eventually take a boat across the rising Mediterranean. If she survives she will still never arrive anywhere because no one will ever hear her story.

### Ikram

by Marieta Abou



the mountain village on the edge of the Sahara, while the e close the parliament in order to establish social peace his subsequent speech - the classical Arabic words were village on the edge of the Sahara people preferred to of the many different words for the rain and the colors ere only twice. Insufficient rainfall had already halved the year when the president closed the parliament. Insequentially also the village population, new to the arists who came to photograph the stars, and whose dea and natural capital created a rising sense of he mountains.

will leave the village as a child. In 2026, the first time rather will cause the family's cooling cave house to be ousins living in Europe, the family will move to the he mountains.



## Suggested running time: 1h30

00:00 - 00:05	<b>Welcome</b> , <a href="#">introduction to Earth4All</a> , <a href="#">short clip</a>	
00:05 - 00:20	Short slide deck on the importance of storytelling, introduction to the <i>Too Little Too Late</i> and <i>Giant Leap</i> scenarios.	
00:20 - 00:25	Instructions for the workshop ( <i>Annex 1</i> )	
00:15 - 00:25	<b>Part 1: the setting</b> ( <i>Full instructions and prompts in Annex 1, part 1</i> )	
	Participants create a character born in 2020 in their region of origin <u>or</u> where they live now.	Participants write a short paragraph (5-10 lines) about the context of their character.
00:25 - 00:40	<b>Part 2: Too Little Too Late</b> ( <i>Full instructions and prompts in Annex 1, part 2</i> )	
	<b>5 min:</b> Participants draft the timeline of their character based on the projections of the Earth4All model for the <i>Too Little Too Late</i> scenario and any additional insights and data they can source.	<b>5 min:</b> Participants write a short paragraph (5-10 lines) describing the storyline of their character between 2020 and 2100 along the <i>Too Little Too Late</i> scenario.
	<b>5 min:</b> Participants share with the rest of their group the key events in the lives of their character.	
00:40 - 01:00	<b>Part 3: The Giant Leap</b> ( <i>Full instructions and prompts in Annex 1, part 3</i> )	
	<b>5 min:</b> Participants draft the timeline of their character based on the projections of the Earth4All model for the <i>Giant Leap</i> scenario and any additional insights and data they can source.	<b>5 min:</b> Participants write a short paragraph (5-10 lines) describing the storyline of their character between 2020 and 2100 along the <i>Giant Leap</i> scenario.
	<b>10 min:</b> Participants share with the rest of their group the key events in the lives of their character.	
01:00- 01:10	<b>10 min break</b> , encourage participants to discuss their characters or key events with participants from other groups, mingle.	
01:10 - 01:25	<b>Part 4: Visualising the future</b>	the table, participants draw a glimpse of the life of their character in 2050 along their <i>Giant Leap</i> storyline.
	On one single sheet of paper divided into the number of participants on	
01:25 - 01:30	<b>Wrap-up</b>	Facilitator presents the <a href="#">different ways to engage with Earth4All</a> and encourages the participants to continue this conversation with people around them every day.
	Participants are encouraged to continue developing their storylines and either send it to Earth4All or to post it on social media with the hashtag <b>#Earth4All</b> .	

## After the workshop:

If you run an Earth4All-themed event, we would love to hear about it!

Please tag us on social media, send us your photos with a few quotes from your participants to [info@earth4all.life](mailto:info@earth4all.life). or or fill in [our report template](#). Don't forget to use the hashtag **#Earth4All** on social media.

If the participants wish to share their stories with Earth4All, they can email us at [info@earth4all.life](mailto:info@earth4all.life).



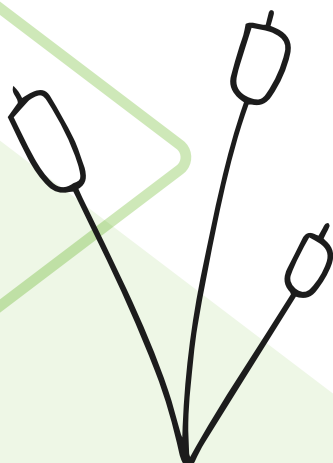
# Annex 1

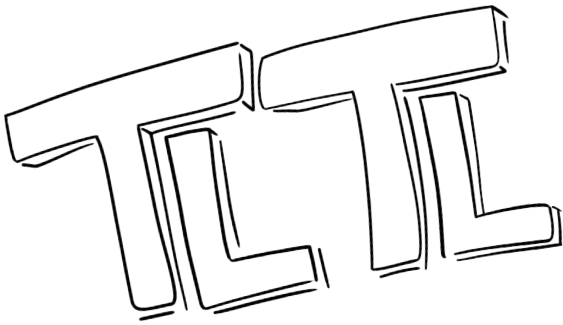
## Part 1: setting the context

This part sets the scene for both the *Too Little Too Late* and the *Giant Leap* scenarios. For this part, you are to set the context for your character. This can include the socio-economic background of the family they are born into, but also the bigger picture of their region.

Some prompts are listed below to guide participants.

Your character is born in 2020. What is the world like? What are people talking about? Were there recent elections, or recent natural events near where your character was born? What kind of community, town or city does your character live in, etc.? What is your character's family structure? What is their parents' income and how does it compare to the rest of the community?





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## Part 2: Too Little Too Late

This is the section where you build your character's story based on current projections available in academia, *Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity* or any other credible source. Imagine how your character's life would be in the next decades if we take the *Too Little Too Late* scenario - and continue with business as usual. Remember you are telling a story - think about agency versus determinism (what events are taking place that your character can't control but how does your character react to them). Try to be as realistic as possible. If you want to advocate for a specific issue in your character's country or community, write your story with that angle in mind.

Remember to use the graphs and figures available to you in the [Earth4All Trello Board](#) and on our [website](#).

[Additional prompts are listed below to guide participants.](#)

[How will the climate crisis impact the region or city where your character lives? How will a changing climate affect housing? Job security? Water supplies? Food supply? How will political leaders address these issues?](#)

[How will these extreme weather events, and growing food insecurity impact citizens' trust in political leaders? In turn, how will that affect democracy, security, or social tensions?](#)

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## Part 3: The Giant Leap

This is the section where you get to present an alternative vision for the future. A world with less poverty, lower levels of inequality, empowered communities, healthier food, and higher energy security. Imagine what the world could look like if governments prioritised increasing the wellbeing of their citizens and protecting the planet.

To guide participants, you can use the following prompts:

Your government invests to protect your community from climate change – what new infrastructure appears where you live? Are there new ways to commute, to produce food and energy? How does that impact what is taught at school?

Healthcare is free for all, and everyone is guaranteed a decent pension. You have enough money to live comfortably and only work three days a week. What do you do with your free time? How do you engage with your community?

Every month, you receive \$500 as a Universal Basic Dividend from a Citizens Fund. What do you use the money towards?

