Wales Summer School, September 2023

Climate-related games

At the Summer School, we had a short session about games that u3a groups could make use of, either within their groups or perhaps to engage others outside of their groups.

We had a quick run-through of the on-line Financial Times Climate Game. This can be 'played' by a single person or in groups, which provides an opportunity for much discussion.

A recent article in The Conversation discusses how 'tabletop games' (board games, card games, role-playing games) have '...a unique ability to engage players in complex systems.'...and 'inspire players to take action in the real world'. This article is available at:

https://theconversation.com/how-board-games-can-get-people-involved-in-climate-action-209707

Since the Summer School, another relevant article has been published:

https://theconversation.com/what-can-board-games-teach-students-about-climate-change-213601

Games mentioned in these two articles are (mostly but not all board games):

- Carbon City Zero
- Solutions
- Kyoto
- Daybreak
- CO2: Second Chance
- Somewhere Everywhere Water Rising
- Nunami
- Daybreak
- Carboniq
- Climate Call
- Catan: Global Warming
- How Bad Are Bananas
- En-Roads
- Tipping Point (card game)
- Horizon: Forbidden West (digital)
- Terra Nil (digital)

We are also aware of Climate Fresk.

And there is always the possibility of home-made games (e.g. group discussions around the 'waste hierarchy', with cards to be put in order; or putting various countries in order of their CO2 emissions, ecological footprint and other factors).

It would be good to link this list to the 'toolkit' section of this website. Ideally we need a volunteer to review the games so that it is more informative than a simple list. Probably this can be done on the basis of on-line reviews, rather than having to acquire and test all the games! Anyone willing to take on this task please contact Nick Ward at nick.ward1@outlook.com