



An Ode to COP26

Around the world and here at home,
Polluted seas have started to foam,
Ancient forests have lost their trees,
And skies are emptying of bumble bees.

As temperatures soar up into the sky,
We have to stop and wonder why?
Why is this happening? What have we done?
How will the future of our Earth be won?

Climate crisis is upon us, of man-made design,
Lots of work must be done until we are fine.
But before you panic and duck for cover,
Groups are working the whole world over.

The Swinomish people are protecting their waters,
Ensuring future food for their sons and daughters.
They build clam gardens in the intertidal zone,
Increasing the space this shellfish calls home.

But if we are to tackle the crisis head on,
We need much bigger things to build upon.
Laws must be made that you cannot flout,
It's the only way change will be brought about.

In Gabon where forests are vast,
The government is stopping mistakes of the past.
By increasing the protection of leafy green trees,
They're saving elephants, panthers and chimpanzees!

And once a year since 1995,
World governments meet to keep our planet alive.
The Conference of the Parties, shortened to COP,
Is where climate change policy comes out on top!

Scientists talk to ministers and businesses,
Making sure they understand what the situation is.
They share their research and everything they know,
Then they all work together on the best way to go.

Meetings have been held all over the world,
And year upon year new strategies unfurl.
1997 brought COP3 in Kyoto, Japan.
And a protocol was adopted (this is a fancy word for plan).

They agreed to reduce greenhouse gases,
A decision that is supported by the masses.
192 parties working hand in hand,
To stop global warming as they had planned.

By 2015 we knew this wasn't enough,
And we would have to do something a lot more tough.
In Paris, France at COP21,
A landmark agreement was decided upon.

The Paris Agreement set a temperature goal,
In which every country must play a role,
1.5 degrees of warming is the absolute max,
To reduce weather risks and climate change impacts.

In its 26th year COP is here on home soil,
And to make it successful there has been lots of toil.
It will be hosted in Glasgow at the start of November,
We really hope it becomes a COP to remember!

An in-person conference in this year of distance,
Is the greatest way to make the most difference.
Negotiations are easier when you're face to face,
And don't have to deal with connections in cyber space.

Alok Sharma is the president of this congregation,
And he has met delegates from every nation,
To prepare for the conference and climate talks,
And ensure every party walks the walk.

To measure the success of COP26,
There are 4 main aims which we hope to stick.
We hope to cover all climate change bases,
And insure the recognition of intersecting places.

The first is securing Paris, a mammoth task,
Deciding how it will be done is the main ask.
Countries must outline what they will do,
To ensure global warming stays well below 2!

The second aim is all about protection,
Communities, natural habitats and their connection.
Defences and restoration will be put in place,
Guarding the most vulnerable just in case.

Money makes the world go around,

And we hope rich countries will be bound,
To share their wealth with poorer friends,
Who in climate change have more to contend.

The final aim is to work together,
Which is the only way this storm can be weathered.
Governments, businesses and civil society,
Climate change action demands variety!

But over the years one group stands out,
With the biggest passion and loudest shout!
The youth of the world are up in arms,
To prevent the planet coming to harm.

They march the streets in school strike for climate,
Ensuring the discussion is anything but quiet.
They've taken countries to court for government inaction,
They represent far more than a dissenting faction.

They're fighting for the futures of themselves and their peers,
Taking on every challenge and facing their fears.
By mobilising groups and spreading the word,
Nothing will stop the youth voice being heard!

The crisis will seem like it's bigger than you.
And you might feel helpless in what you can do.
But change comes in every size,
And in many ways that can surprise.

Planes release toxins into the air,
So, more holidays at home is only fair.
Billions of tonnes of food are wasted in the UK,
Live within your means and stop the decay!

Switching to renewables may seem hard,
But a lot are produced here in our own backyard.
And something that is for those both short and tall,
Use your voice and your choice for the good of all!

The final thing you must remember,
With COP26 this coming November,
Is that climate action is an ongoing fight,
It's not something that can be won in just one night.

We are in it for the long run that's for certain,
But we shouldn't always see it as a burden.
Think of everything we can do if we work as a team,

Stopping climate change is much more than a dream!