



Cardboard Carnival: Resource Pack Introduction



A Message from Birmingham to the World:
Join the Cardboard Carnival!
Welcome to the 'Cardboard Carnival'
Resource Pack! It's great so many of you
are joining us to make a powerful, playful
statement on climate justice, connecting our
local efforts in Birmingham with the global
conversation at COP30.

The 30th UN Climate Change Conference
(COP30) is being held in Belém, Brazil, in
November 2025. This vital global summit will
see world leaders discuss and negotiate how
to accelerate the necessary transition away
from fossil fuels, deliver climate finance, and
strengthen global resilience to climate
change impacts.

While the formal negotiations take place far
away, the fight for a fair and sustainable
future is happening right here, in our own
communities. Young people have been, and
continue to be, at the forefront of driving
change—and this is our platform to connect
our voices and show solidarity.

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What is the Cardboard Carnival?

The Cardboard Carnival is a creative, youth-led event connecting local action with global solidarity. It's a chance to transform everyday waste—cardboard and other reusable materials—into vibrant, meaningful art and protest. We will be building a collection of imaginative, loud, and impactful creations that convey your hopes, fears, and demands for climate justice.

This carnival is a one-day event; it's a culmination of collective imagination and action. It's about building a movement, bringing people together, an act of solidarity across the World.

The Main Event

Mark your calendars! The Cardboard Carnival will take place on Saturday, 15th November 2025, from 10:00 am in Birmingham. The day will be split into two exciting parts:

- Morning (10:00 am - 1:00 pm): A final, energetic build session where groups will put the finishing touches on their cardboard creations.
- Afternoon (1:00 pm - 3:00 pm): The Carnival starts! A vibrant, joyful, and purposeful gathering that will include a playful parade and connect with international groups online to share our collective call for climate justice.
- The Carnival on the move - to be confirmed (and weather dependent) we'll meet with other young climate activists at a place in town, to be determined!





About This Resource Pack

This pack is your guide and toolkit for the journey to the Carnival. We know that the best creations and the most impactful messages take time and collaboration. That's why the resources inside are designed to be used by leaders and young people before the 15th of November.

The activities inside will help your group to:

1. Unleash Creativity: Learn skills and techniques for working with cardboard and waste materials to construct powerful banners, costumes, props, and carnival art.
2. Develop Your Message: Translate complex climate issues into clear, creative, and compelling messages that will make your voice heard at the Carnival and beyond.
3. Connect Locally: Build solidarity and excitement within your group and with other participating groups across the region.

The time for small steps is over. By turning everyday waste into extraordinary art, you are demonstrating the power of reuse, creativity, and collective action. We can't wait to see your incredible creations and hear your voices amplify the call for climate justice on 15th November. Let's build a brighter future, one box at a time!



Understand the Issues:



There are better resources and people out there to help explore the key themes of COP30, from climate finance to the just transition, and discuss how they affect young people in Birmingham and globally.

We want to focus on what young people want to explore, be it hyper local, like Tysley incinerator and Birmingham's appalling recycling, or wider, bigger issues like rising sea levels and impacts of increased extreme weather events.

Here are some useful links:

- [COP30 announces ambitious Thematic Days, invites the world to Belém](#)
- [Teach climate and energy](#)
- [Friends of the Earth Resources](#)
- [Take action for our planet](#)
- [Why Climate Action Now](#)
- [Carnival on wheels](#)



For more information, or to share your progress, please contact: marcus.belben@gmail.com





Mask making

A simple, cheap and quick way to make masks is with gummed tape - remember if you are moulding it to a head live (which is fun) that you make sure something is preventing the tape sticking to hair, which is unpleasant. Also always make sure you have provided easy breathing for your model.

Decorated cardboard boxes can also be a quick and easy way to make a mask.

An advantage of this method is that the mask can be fitted carefully to the head well, and that the gummed paper dries quickly, so once you have the basic head part you can move on quickly to decorating/ adding to your mask.

Also check out puppets if someone doesn't want to make a mask. Here is a [Wet 'n' Stick art video](#) using a balloon as the model.

Need

Cardboard

[Gummed tape](#)

Nice to have: balloons, scissors



Chinese Dragon head Woodcraft 2015, Mask making workshop, Evergreen Rest Home 2012



Lanterns

Always a good addition to a march, adds an element of risk (i.e. flames!). There are plenty of good resources for this, like this one:

<https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/ideas/make-willow-lanterns>

One thing I'll add is that there is a plentiful supply of free willow along pretty much any river or canal in Birmingham (looking for it and cropping for it can be another activity). Fresh willow this time of year is very supple and does not come with the problems of soaking for hours beforehand that 'wicker' in craft shops, which more suited to basket weaving than lanterns anyway.



Woodcraft Folk Lanterns 2022

Need

Supply of Willow

Nice to have:

Tissue paper, garden wire, masking tape



Puppetry workshops at Camp 100, Woodcraft Folk



Cardboard forest/ animals

Plenty of scope for creativity here. We will have some kind of installation at the Edge for 15th November, so anything you make beforehand can be added to this

Need

Cardboard

Nice to have: [Gummed tape](#), other stuff for recycling



Examples from CREATE Festival 'Cardboard Forest' 2025 the Edge



Puppets

Depending on whether you're making for shadow puppets or regular puppets, these can be 3D or 2D. Either way it can be nice to introduce translucent material like sweet wrappers which let the light through and can add colour to a shadow puppet theatre.

For shadow puppets, it's useful to have a knitting needle, hole puncher or something pointy (but not too pointy!) so you can make lines of small holes which can act as lines on your puppets. It's also fun to add moving parts using [Brass paper fasteners](#)

For 3D puppets, clean milk bottles make an ideal starting point for a quick head.

We'll provide overhead projectors and expert drama and puppetry tips for performances on 15th November.

Need

Card

Good to have: Sellotape, gummed paper, sweet wrappers, brass paper fasteners, clean plastic bottles

<https://hallgreenarts.blogspot.com/2012/06/field-for-olympics-more-workshops.html>



Shadow Puppetry Woodcraft 2016, 'Field of the Olympics' puppets 2012



Get it on Wheels!

Find an old supermarket trolley or an old pram - anything with wheels. Please bring to the Edge on 15th November. If it's not on wheels, think about how it could be transported easily in a carnival. We're planning on a short carnival depending on weather to meet up with other campaigners, location to be confirmed.

If it can't be transported, please bring it anyway to be a part of our giant collaborative installation.

Dinosaur on Wheels for Bham Pageant 2013

Puppets at Kings Heath Library 2012



[Carnival on wheels](#)