

Climate Emergency - Green Feeding for Climate Action

We are no longer talking about global warming but instead about global heating. We no longer refer to climate change, but instead to the climate emergency and the urgency to take action.

In November, 2019 11,000 scientists from over 150 countries officially declared a [Global Climate Emergency](#). The United Kingdom and Ireland had officially declared an [environment and climate emergency](#) in May 2019, followed by [Canada declaring a national climate emergency](#) in June 2019. Towns and villages all over the world have taken the same step.



The problem is how to tackle this emergency. Among the actions to be taken the scientists include the [need to switch to a more plant-based diet](#) and to search for 'natural solutions' to improve human health and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainable healthy eating begins at birth. So we need to start out as we intend to continue, by breastfeeding and avoiding ultra-processed foods. This means taking actions to protect, promote and support Green Feeding.

Green Feeding means taking action from birth to safeguard the health of humans and the environment, indeed of all life on our planet, Mother Earth.

Green Feeding means promoting, protecting and supporting optimal breastfeeding. Breastfeeding is a valuable natural resource that leaves almost no carbon or water footprints, needs no packaging and creates no air pollution from manufacturing and transport.

Green Feeding means introducing, after six months of age, complementary foods that are safe and nutritious, and produced using local products and sustainable agriculture.

Yet breastfeeding and sustainably produced complementary foods are under threat from the aggressive marketing of formula and breastmilk substitutes

and of commercial complementary foods. These industrial products are over-processed, over-packaged and over-promoted. They require energy and water to manufacture, materials for packaging, fuel for transport and water, fuel and cleaning agents for daily use. And they generate Greenhouse Gases such as carbon dioxide and methane.

Advocacy documents were prepared for groups and policy makers in time for the World Health Assembly in May 2019, and for elections in Europe and then in Canada. They aim to provide information about Green Feeding to encourage all actors in the movement for climate action, the public, students, politicians, and decision-makers, to include Green Feeding in their priorities and integrate Green Feeding into their policies.

These advocacy documents are being kept updated as the content becomes more and more relevant :

- **The 2-page document Key Messages indicates ten priority areas for action:** <https://www.gifa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-Green-Feeding-Key-Messages-Nov6.pdf>
- **The document Key Messages is also available in French:** <https://www.gifa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019-Green-Feeding-Key-messages-FRENCH-16oct2019.pdf>
- **The document, References and Resources provides details of the 75 publications consulted :** <https://www.gifa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Green-Feeding-References-and-Resources-May.pdf>
- **Two more detailed documents examine the specific contexts for Europe with worldwide validity and for Canada. According to the situation in each country, different issues can be selected for priority attention. Many of these issues are valid for countries all over the world.** The numbered citations in the European and Canadian documents refer to these 75 references and resources.
- **For Europe/Worldwide** the document is based on the ten key priorities for action of the Green movement : <https://www.gifa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-Green-Feeding-Europe-Worldwide-Nov6.pdf>
- **For Canada**, the document builds on the priorities of the Federal Green party, and Green initiatives in Ontario: <https://www.gifa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Green-Feeding-Canada-June.pdf>

Geneva, Switzerland, and Guelph, Canada, May 21st-June 21st and November 18, 2019