**How can we talk about polarized issues?**

**Credit to Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, Climate Scientist, Texas Tech University**

**Bonding and Connecting**

* Start a conversation from a place of a shared value.
* What do we have in common that we both already care about and is affected by climate change?
* We all want to live in a place safe to live, clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, enough food to eat, good economy with good jobs, etc.
* Start from a place of shared values and connect them to a changing climate.
* Let me share from my heart with you why as a mother or grandmother I am concerned about climate change.
* Let me share with you from an economic perspective how climate change is impacting the economy.

**Explaining**

* Why is this happening, and why might we both care?
* DO NOT START WITH EXPLAINING!
* We have always been prone to billion dollar weather and climate disasters, however, these same risks are now exasperated by climate change.
* Example: Climate change did not cause Hurricane Harvey – it amplified it.

**Inspiring**

* How can we work together to tackle this problem in a way that is compatible with our values?
* If people think they cannot do anything about a problem, they will dissociate from the problem.
* Why waste emotional energy on something you cannot fix?
* Talk solutions – some people are taking sensible steps to prepare for

climate change:

1. Netherlands is building floating villages to combat rising sea levels.
2. Georgetown, Texas went 100% green (solar and wind power). Three college students in the business program made a pitch to the city council about how much money the city could save if they went green and they went green!
3. Fort Hood, the biggest US military base, decided to go with wind and solar power over natural gas. It is saving taxpayers $165 million.
4. Measure your own carbon footprint and work to reduce your carbon emission.
5. Eat lower on the food chain.
6. If everyone in America changed just one light bulb in their homes to LED, it would be the equivalent of taking one million cars off of the road.