

## Climate Conferences 2019: global negotiations & local action



**86%** of students are somewhat or  
very concerned  
about Climate Change

### What are Climate Conferences?

58 students from 8 secondary schools took part in a Climate Conference in Cheltenham Council Chambers as part of InterClimate Network's *Climate Voices* 2019 programme. Modelled on the **UN Conference of the Parties**, preparation for and participation in the first session enabled students to improve their grasp and understanding of the complex world of politics, climate science and global policy that is integral to climate change negotiations.

**Local Action** sessions focused attention on key areas where we can all make a difference, including in school: *Energy; Food; Transport; What we buy and use*. During this marketplace, students gained essential exposure to and inspiration from a great range of local initiatives and sustainability leaders; whilst the 'green' community welcomed the opportunity to share their expertise & give feedback on the many ideas of young change-makers.

### What were students looking for?

**Knowledge & understanding** of Climate Change

**More awareness** of its global impact

**Ideas and insight** into how we can tackle Climate Change locally and globally

**Building confidence** and experience



### Endorsement of teachers:

*"I have visited this event a few times and once again it has been thought provoking, relevant and pitched perfectly to challenge students' understanding and awareness on climate change."*

## Pre Conference Survey: Gloucestershire students' feedback



**71%** of students keep up with  
Climate news through school

### How are students already supporting Climate Action in school?

- **60%** of students **feel that they can make a difference in their school and community**
- **53%** of students told us they **recycle at school**
- **38%** said they are **part of an Eco-group**
- **27%** said they **have not yet had the opportunity to support climate action in school**

### ... and outside school

**80%** are **'helping my family to recycle'**

**73%** are **'trying to reduce energy use at home'**

**71%** said they're **'thinking about own choices eg clothes, products, food'**

**56%** are **'having a say in what we buy and use'**



**"I want to make a difference by getting climate change recognised."**

Gloucestershire student

## Post-conference survey: Gloucestershire students' feedback



**85%** students felt more confident that they can **influence others in their school**

### What support do Gloucestershire students want?

- **85%** want **advice and guidance on their Climate Action**
- **66%** want to **link with local schools** and **run a workshop** that can help
- **58%** said **'Help us communicate our views including to politicians'**

**...and what will they do as a result of the conference?**

**73%** said they will **'Influence family and friends'**

**46%** will **'Join an Eco-group'**

**27%** said they will **'Write to my local councillor or MP'**



**"Give young people a bigger voice in local decisions"**

was top priority for young people from when asked 'What can make the biggest difference in tackling climate change in our area?'



## Gloucestershire teachers' post-conference feedback



**100%** teachers said that their students' **Climate Action** ideas are feasible

### Where does 'Climate Action' fit in school

- **100%** teachers said that it fits with their school **Eco-group**
- **37%** said their senior leaders **prioritise it across all curriculum areas**
- **25%** said it's a **teacher-led initiative only**

### ...and would follow-up support be of interest?

- **76%** said yes to **connecting with relevant local orgs**
- **63%** **interested in a joint school workshop**
- **63%** being **follow up visit / workshop**
- **63%** **interested in a national show-casing event**
- **50%** said yes to **local teach-meet groups**

### What have been the learning benefits?

**Greater comprehension of global climate issues**

**Research, analysis, debating, teamwork**

**Public speaking, articulacy, critical thinking**

**Real world & cultural capital. Confidence**

**Awareness of need to involve others in school**



### Endorsement of teachers:

*"An amazing day. Our students really benefited from it."*

*"Thank you for a fantastic opportunity."*