



**InterClimate
Network**

What you thought about the 2015 Model Climate Conferences...

Between November and December 2015 InterClimate Network ran a series of four Model Climate Conferences in London, Cheltenham, South Gloucestershire and Reading as part of its Climate Voices project. Over 200 young people participated in the events along with 22 teaching staff.

The energy and enthusiasm of all those involved is borne out in the evaluation feedback we received, and this brief summary brings together the headlines from that feedback.



100% of teachers said they would be interested in attending future events.

Expectations were far exceeded. I was sceptical of the level of debate possible but the reality was superb, with engaged and confident students.
(Teacher – Reading Conference)

"This is the fourth time our school has participated; it goes from strength to strength"
(Teacher - Cheltenham Conference)

99% of students told us that they had enjoyed their experience of the Model Conferences.

98% of students had found it a useful experience.

The model conference was very well organised and great fun.
(Student – Reading)

Thank you – a wonderful experience.
(Student – London)

97% of students said that the experience had improved their confidence in debating and team working a lot or a bit.

Teachers' feedback also highlighted the opportunity to develop debating, negotiation and team-working skills.

Students experienced writing and delivering a statement succinctly, public speaking, thinking on their feet and considering their place in the world.
(Teacher – South Gloucestershire)

The conference definitely utilised the students' skills in research, team-work, communication and understanding climate change.
(Teacher – London)

Inspiring action on climate change



The conference and preparation beforehand enabled students to improve their grasp of the complex world of national politics, climate science and global policy that is integral to climate change negotiations:

The material provided before the conference was very useful and detailed.

(Teacher – London)

It allowed students to learn a lot without having to invest a lot of time in research.

(Teacher – Reading)

Feedback from teachers suggests that the topic and approach had real relevance to what students are learning about in the classroom particularly the following areas:

Geography – at all stages up to GCSE and A level, learning about climate change and developing nations, energy issues – renewable energy production, learning about global political frameworks.

Science – the science behind climate change, environmental science/studies, design and technology in relation to renewable energy.

The conference approach and debates that students became involved in also had relevance to politics, citizenship, developing research skills as well as any green team or eco schools activities within schools. Teachers indicated that the experience could be useful for sixth form students in their UCAS applications.

What next?

95% of teachers expressed interest in the 'Sustainability Summits'.

InterClimate Network is now planning these for June/July 2016. We know from your feedback that many schools are already taking action with environmental and climate change related learning and activities. The Sustainability Summit will bring schools together in your area. It will be a chance to show each other your work, and to talk directly to invited politicians, businesses and climate change specialists about what more can be done. **See the Toolkit for more details.**

Our learning

Some feedback indicated that further structuring or additional questions to help the debate process would be useful as well as making the pre-conference material more accessible – this will be addressed for further conferences. We have also ensured that the agenda for the conference will be available at future events, so participants have a clear idea of what to expect on the day, and to be realistic about what we can fit into the time frame for the conference.

Thank you for all your feedback. We will continue to develop the Model Climate Conferences on the basis of what we heard, and look forward to your continued involvement in the Climate Voices project.

If you have any queries or need any help, get in touch with:

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Climate Voices is an initiative by InterClimate Network funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and local funders. We are a charity with a mission to mobilise the energy and creativity of young people, inspiring them to become active citizens and leaders in sustainable development.

See www.interclimate.org/projects/climate-voices

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