



**96%** of the Solihull students are somewhat or **very concerned** about **Climate Change**

### What are Climate Conferences?

40 students from 5 secondary schools & colleges took part in a Climate Conference in the Council Chambers, Solihull Civic Suite 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 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 Solihull teachers:

*"After attending last year and having a fantastic experience my expectations were high and again it has surpassed these."*

## Pre Conference Survey: Solihull students' feedback



**81%** of Solihull students keep up with  
Climate news via social media  
\* 41% through school

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

- **56%** of students told us they **recycle at school**
  - **44%** said they **have not yet had the opportunity to support climate action in school**
  - **37%** students\* **feel that they can make a difference in their school and community**
  - **4%** said they are **part of an Eco-group**
- \* 48% responded 'maybe'

### ... and outside school

**81%** are 'helping my family to recycle'

**48%** are 'trying to reduce energy use at home'

**22%** said they're 'thinking about own choices eg clothes, products, food'

**22%** are 'talking about what we eat at home'



**"We need to work together to make a change, so on my own I could make a little difference, but together we could make a big difference."**

Solihull student



**68%** students, up from 33%, believe **Local Decision-Makers take notice of what young people think**

### What support do Solihull students want?

- **58%** want help to run a school-based event or workshop to get more people involved
- **56%** want advice and guidance on their Climate Action
- **47%** want to link with local schools and local organisations that can help

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

**79%** said they will 'Influence family and friends'

**41%** will 'Join an Eco-group'

**6%** said they will 'Write to your Councillor or MP'



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

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



## Solihull teachers' post-conference feedback



**33%** of teachers said that their students' **Climate Action** ideas are feasible

### Where does 'Climate Action fit in school

- 50% teachers said that it fits with their school **Eco-group**
- 50% said it's a **teacher-led initiative only**
- 25% said a **lead teacher has responsibility**
- 25% said their senior leadership team **prioritise it across all curricular areas**

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

- 2 schools of 3 who responded to these questions said
- yes to **follow up visit / workshop**
  - interested in a **joint school workshop** and a **local teacher group**
  - being **connected with relevant local organisations**
  - Local / national show-casing for their schools' work

### 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:

*"The high level engagement and the very professional setting, organisation and approach by students far exceeded my expectations."*

*"It has been wonderful to see students flourish in this way."*