



## Climate Conferences 2019: global negotiations & local action



**98%** of students at the conferences are somewhat or **very concerned** about **Climate Change**

### What are Climate Conferences?

332 students from 39 secondary schools took part in five Climate Conferences in Bristol, Gloucestershire, Hounslow, Reading & Solihull 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 are 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."*



**90%** of students said their views were listened to

### Climate Voices is empowering students to ... have a say

- **220%** increase in students *strongly agreeing* with the statement **“Local decision-makers take notice of what we as young people think”**
- **50%** increase in students *agreeing and strongly agreeing* with **“National politicians and decision-makers want to hear our views”** post-conference survey
- **44%** of students think that **“Giving young people a bigger voice in local decisions”** will make a big difference

### ... take climate action

**83%** agreed, **“I know how I could take action and influence others”**

**83%** said taking part means they now want to **“Influence friends and family”**

**38%** said they want to **“Join an eco-group”** after the conference.



**“Involve more people in climate action”**

was the top priority when young people were asked ‘what can make the biggest difference’ in their area.

## Climate Conferences 2019: teachers' feedback



**73%** of teachers said that  
Climate Action fits within their schools'  
**Eco-Group**

### What are the learning benefits?

In response to an open question, "What skills and other learning benefits do you think your students developed through their preparation for an participation in the conference?" 24 separate benefits were cited, and echoed by other teachers:

- \* **Greater comprehension of global climate issues, new knowledge, awareness of COP & other countries**
- \* **Research, analysis and interpretation and debating skills, conflict resolution skills and teamwork**
- \* **Public speaking, articulacy and oracy, justification and critical thinking skills. Confidence**
- \* **Understanding alternative viewpoints in a complex environment, real world & 'cultural capital'**
- \* **Bigger picture, awareness of need to involve students more widely within, and ideas for, school**

### What follow-up do teachers want?

**91%** want to be **connected with relevant local organisations**

**83%** want a **follow-up visit or workshop**

**69%** said yes to a **local or national show-case** event for their students' climate action.



### 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."*

## Bristol Climate Conferences 2019: schools' feedback



**87%** students felt more confident that they knew how to **take action** on climate change and **influence others**

### How Bristol students want us to help

- **62%** want advice and guidance on their Climate Action
- **43%** want to link with local schools to share progress
- **35%** want us to help them run a school based workshop or event **TO GET MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED**

### ...in partnership

**65%** 'Link us to local organisations that can help'

**54%** 'Help us communicate our views including to politicians'.



**"Involve more people in climate action"**

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



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

### How Gloucestershire students want us to help

- **85%** want advice and guidance on their Climate Action
- **66%** want to link with local schools to share progress
- **65%** want us to help them run a school based workshop or event **TO GET MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED**

### ...in partnership

**58%** 'Link us to local organisations that can help'

**58%** 'Help us communicate our views including to politicians'.



**“Give young people a bigger voice in local decisions”**

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



**100%** students felt more confident that they can **influence others in their school**

### How Hounslow students want us to help

- **70%** want advice and guidance on their Climate Action
- **60%** want us to help them run a school based workshop or event **TO GET MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED**
- **53%** want to link with local schools to share progress

### ...in partnership

**57%** 'Link us to local organisations that can help'

**73%** 'Help us communicate our views including to politicians'.



### "Involve more people in climate action"

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



**73%** students felt they knew how to **take action on climate change and influence others**

### How Reading students want us to help

- **56%** want advice and guidance on their Climate Action
- **36%** want to link with local schools to share progress
- **20%** want us to help them run a school based workshop or event **TO GET MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED**

### ...in partnership

**49%** 'Link us to local organisations that can help'

**40%** 'Help us communicate our views including to politicians'.



**“Make clean transport widely available (especially for school travel)”**

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



## Solihull Climate Conferences 2019: schools' feedback



**83%** students felt more **confident** presenting information about **climate change** to others

### How Solihull students want us to help

- **59%** want us to help them run a school based workshop or event **TO GET MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED**
- **56%** want advice and guidance on their Climate Action
- **38%** want to link with local schools to share progress

### ...in partnership

**47%** 'Link us to local organisations that can help'

**26%** 'Help us communicate our views including to politicians'.



**"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?'

Online storyboard pre event: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-3FZY3Z57/>

Online storyboard, post event: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-D2B5ZZ57/>