

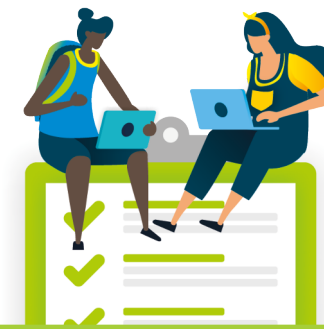
# Climate Conference 2022

## Reading students' feedback



# Introduction

## Reading Schools' Climate Conference 2022



InterClimate Network (ICN) and Just-Ideas ran a climate conference for secondary schools across the area on Friday 11 November. The conference was supported by Reading Climate Action Network, and hosted by Reading Borough Council in the council chambers. It was one of ICN's contributions to our Erasmus+ International Climate Action Network (I-CAN) project.

- Over 65 students participated from six schools\*
- This report is feedback from 39 respondents at the end of the conference
- Respondents were aged from 14 to 18 years.

Please see [ICN website link](#) for a full conference report including students' questions and the panel's answers in a '*Climate Question Time*' session.

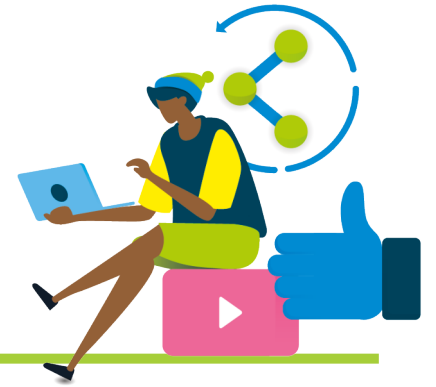
*"I really enjoyed sharing my views with other people who genuinely cared about the topics discussed and everything was very professionally done."*

### Key outcomes:

- **100% students will take climate action** as a result of the conference
- **88% students feel more confident presenting information about climate change** to others.
- **76% students say they will influence family and friends** on climate change as a result of participating in the conference.
- **7 in 10 students believe local-decision makers taken notice** of what young people think.
- **7 in 10 students want clean transport to be made widely available** (esp for school travel).

\* Bulmershe School; Denefield School; Highdown School; Kendrick School; Ranelagh School; Reading Girls School.

# About taking part



## Students said they agreed or strongly agreed ....

**91%** Said they had opportunities to speak in public today.

**88%** Feel more confident presenting information about climate change to others

**85%** Have a better understanding of how they can take action on climate change

**85%** Felt people had listened to their views.

**85%** Feel more confident they can influence others on climate change.



## At the conference I most enjoyed.....



"The speeches from all delegations."

"Learning about what different countries are going through and what reasons they have for not being able to complete their goal."

"The discussions between different "countries" and their wants and needs."

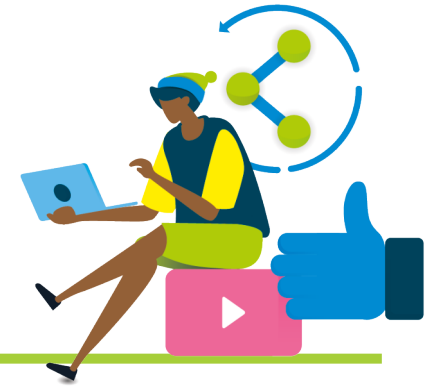
"The negotiations with other delegations - it was great to interact with local schools."

"Hearing everybody's thoughts on climate change and being able to communicate with such a respectful group of young people."

"Deals and trades, in the oceans, energy, forest and food and finance section."

"The Question & Answer"

# Action as a result



## What climate action are students going to take as a result of the conference?

- 1** Influence family & friends **(76%)**
- 2** Share my views in school - blog, film, article **(56%)**
- 3** Other (25%)
- 4** Join school eco-group (18%)
- 5** Volunteer with local charity (12%)
- 6** Write to my councillor or MP (6%)
- 7** I don't intend to do any action as a result of the conference (0%)



"I will try and tell my family to start recycling more and make less waste in school."

"I will make sure my family recycles as much as possible, as well as taking the climate crisis into account in my day to day decisions."

"I had the opportunity to speak to ITV and the BBC today so I hope that my calls for action will reach my peers across the country. I will also discuss policies that we could implement in school with my headteacher."

"I will try to educate my friends and family on the dangers of climate change and how we can get involved as a community."

"I will tell my teachers, family and friends about the importance of helping the climate."

"Air fryer."

"I am thinking about joining the youth council."

"Look into the youth parliament."



# What will help in our area

When asked for their top three actions that can help make a difference in our area, 7 in 10 said to make clean transport widely available, especially for school travel. Involving more people in climate action also came out strongly (67%). Joint third across respondents was practical help to save energy at home and school, and a call to give young people a bigger voices in local decisions.



## What do students believe can make the biggest difference in tackling climate change in their area?



1

Make clean transport widely available, especially school travel (70%)



4

Give young people a bigger voice in local decisions (57%)



2

Involve more people in climate action (67%)



5

Give more information about what is best to buy and use (30%)



3

Help with energy saving at home and in school (57%)

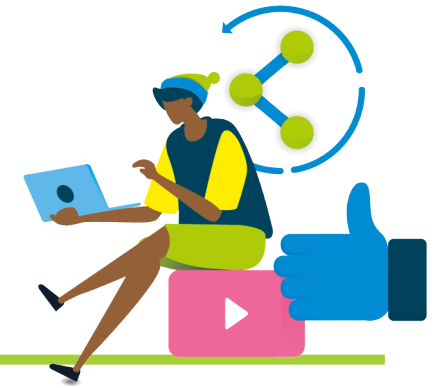


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Create more 'green' jobs (23%)



# Support for action (1)



**Students responses when asked the extent to which they agreed with each of these statements\*:**

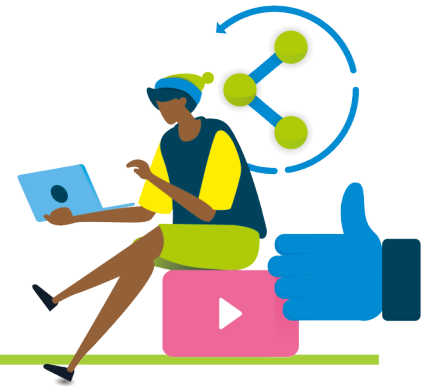
**70%** Local decision-makers take notice of what young people think (17% strongly agreed)

**57%** School supports our action on climate change (3% strongly agreed)

**27%** National politicians & decision-makers want to hear our views (13% strongly agreed)



# Support for action (2)



**Students responses when asked the extent to which they agreed with each of these statements:**

- 53%** Give advice and guidance on our own climate action
- 47%** Help you communicate your views including to local politicians
- 40%** Share good ideas on-line through websites and blogs; Link your schools to outside organisations
- 37%** Help you to run a school-based workshop or event to get more people involved
- 23%** Help you to link with local schools.





# Welcoming the opportunity

Whether in person or written here in the end of event evaluation, we heard a similar phrase used at the end of the conference, 'Thank you for the opportunity'.



“Thank you so much for this opportunity! I’ll never forget it!”

“This was a great opportunity for me, I had lots of fun and I hope it is offered to other people in the future.”

“Today slayed”

“It was a very fun and educational event and I would love to see more events like this.”

“Thank you for including us in this great opportunity.”