



**InterClimate
Network**

19 June 2023

National survey of young people shows schools provide critical pathway to climate action

Almost 10,000 British schoolchildren participated in one of the largest ever surveys of its kind, which revealed the critical importance of schools in their understanding of climate change

Released in the wake of the Great Big Green Week, the surprising outcome was the emphasis students in many different settings placed on their schools in shaping their understanding of climate change. School is where respondents heard climate change talked about the most (67%) compared to other information sources such as TV (52%), social media (50%) and family (25%). School was their most trusted information source, as well as the top source of inspiration to get involved in individual and community action.

The nationwide survey of almost 10,000 respondents aged 11 to 18, conducted between April 2022 to January 2023, set out to understand the views and motivations of young people towards climate change and local and national climate action.

Another finding of the survey was that while respondents are concerned and willing to act – 8 in 10 respondents were concerned about climate change and 7 in 10 are already taking some form of climate action at an individual level – greater leadership is essential to deliver change with 7 in 10 respondents pointing to government as having the most influence on tackling climate change.

Ruben Brooke, Chair of Trustees at InterClimate Network, said: “Young people are ready to lead the change to a lower carbon economy, and this survey reinforced that schools are a critical channel for harnessing this energy and enthusiasm. However, young people can’t act alone, reflected in the clear call for greater leadership from government and business.”

The survey also identified the crucial role influencers have in the lives of this age group. But rather than entertainment celebrities, it was the power of normal people like a geography teacher or parent which was referenced as having a tangible impact alongside public figures like Greta Thunberg and David Attenborough.

Finally, the research showed that students across the country are concerned, involved and willing to do more, but ask for encouragement and structural change to enable sustainable actions. Their strong message is for leaders to get serious here and now about making climate solutions part of their daily lives.

Chris Pitt, Group Impact Director at Benefact Group, which supported the survey, said: ““At Benefact Group we believe business should be a force for good and we’re committed to making a positive social and environmental impact in our communities. Through our Movement for Good Awards we are delighted to support InterClimate Network to work with children to enable and empower them to take climate action. This

Inspiring action on climate change

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comprehensive report ensures the voices of young people are heard in conversations around climate and it's encouraging to see that 7 in 10 children are already acting to fight climate change."

Michila Critchley, Programme Director at InterClimate Network, said: "The importance of schools was always something we believed in as a charity, but to hear it back so strongly from nearly 10,000 children has been very surprising and very positive.

This finding reassures us as a charity that we must continue to build stronger and wider relationships with schools and local authorities which have been proven to be essential in helping the next generation understand how to take action on climate change."

Call to Action

Teachers To find out more about the Climate Action Survey in a webinar or start planning a programme for your school, email schools@interclimate.org

Local authorities, researchers, and other interested parties: email us your feedback and find out how we can work together by emailing us at info@interclimate.org.

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Editor's Notes

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2. About InterClimate Network

InterClimate Network is a registered charity (No. 1100981) which provides climate sustainability programmes to engage young people (primarily age 11-18) across the UK with the complexities of climate change, inspire their climate action, and promote their voices in their own sustainable future.

3. About Great Big Green Week

Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature taking place from 10 - 18 June, with events being held across the country.

Great Big Green Week is spearheaded by The Climate Coalition, the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action against climate change. Its members include the National Trust, WWF, Women's Institute, Oxfam and RSPB.

**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK** 