

THE GREAT BIG CLIMATE CIRCUS THEORY OF CHANGE

Empowered young people

Leadership Development

Young people are empowered climate and nature action leaders in their community.

Activities

- What Can I Do? Events
- Youth Team development days
- Youth Leadership, recruitment, induction and training
- Youth Team Residentials
- Project Planning and Development Workshops

Short Term Benefits

Young people have the skills, knowledge and confidences to coproduce climate and nature action in their communities.

Medium Term Impact

Young people are inspired and motivated to take climate and nature action in their place

Long Term Project Legacy

Empowered future climate and nature action leaders with skills, knowledge, understanding and confidences

Learning and Action

Young people are more aware of the issues and the contribution they can make in their communities.

Activities

- Taster Events
- Creative workshops and Projects with Young People

Short Term Benefits

Young people grow skills, knowledge and confidences about climate and nature action in their important places.

Medium Term Impact

Young people are more able to share their understanding of the issues with their families and in their communities

Long Term Project Legacy

More opportunities for young people to influence local and county-wide policies to create lasting impact

Empowered Communities

Creative Community Place Based Events

Communities are engaged with a wide range of benefits from participation in climate and nature action

Activities

- The Great Big Climate Circus Events
- Creative Heritage and Archiving
- Tours and Trips to Special Places and People

Short Term Benefits

Communities are inspired to come together and explore action on climate change.

Medium Term Impact

Communities work together to create new climate and nature action activities and projects in their place.

Long Term Project Legacy

Community climate and nature action continues to inspire and educate future generations, through a heritage archive

Action Development and Celebration

Communities are empowered with resources and inspiration they need to take climate and nature action in their places.

Activities

- Youth-led Community Projects Development and Delivery
- The Great Big Climate Circus Celebrations and Awards
- Youth-led Community Projects Investment

Short Term Benefits

Communities know how to take action in their places, have the resources and support to make plans together.

Medium Term Impact

Specific plans for climate action are supported for future sustainability in local places

Long Term Project Legacy

Communities are more resilient and empowered to manage future impacts of climate change and to take care of the natural environment.

Sustainable Partnership

Learning and Development

Gloucestershire organisations are working together as equal stakeholders to influence action for climate and nature

Activities

- Partnership development and Support
- Partnership Shared Learning Activities
- Events and presentations to wider local, and county stakeholders
- Inclusive Creative Team Meetings

Short Term Benefits

Coproduction, equitable co-decision making processes and goals agreed for partnership and collaborators

Organisational connections are made through creativity

Medium Term Impact

National and regional organisations review climate and nature action priorities

Organisations, public and young people are empowered to work together equitably

Long Term Project Legacy

Young people are front and centre of policy, strategy and investment in climate and nature action.

The partnership draws in more resource and continues to work together and promote youth power in climate and nature action.

Sharing Learning

The benefits of putting young people, creativity and enjoyment at the heart of climate and nature action work are documented and shared

Activities

- Why Wouldn't We?
- Climate Circus on Tour
- Youth-led content for press, social media and website
- Youth-Led Branding and Design
- Co-Produced Inclusive Evaluation

Short Term Benefits

Everyone has an equal voice, and all voices are heard and included in decision making processes.

Youth voice is front and foremost throughout the whole term of the project and through the whole data cycle

Medium Term Impact

Best practice toolkit for youth-led practice in climate and nature action developed and shared

Long Term Project Legacy

The partnership and its network shares learning and changes policy at local, regional and national levels.

Demonstrable, reproducible model for sustainable youth-led grassroots action.

THE GREAT BIG CLIMATE CIRCUS

Engaging mainstream communities in climate and nature action, through youth leadership, partnership working and creative practice, leading to community-led climate action and empowered and resilient communities.

The Great Big Climate Circus has creativity, joy, risk-taking and experimentation at the heart, where we know these underpin mainstream engagement in new ideas and innovations. It is a rich programme of fun and enjoyable activities that could take a community in any direction of development, where people will explore multiple opportunities, come together over shared interests, have fun and learn from successes and failures together. For these reasons we are not prescribing the specific actions but rather we inspire, set the scene, facilitate the joy, and enable communities with support, resources and expertise to go on the climate and nature action journey they choose.

Based on the well known Diffusion of Innovation Model we expect this approach to create a cultural shift in communities with multiple benefits in addition to climate and nature action, creating more connections, belonging, community leadership and resilience for an uncertain future together.

INNOVATIVE

New ways for communities to engage in climate and nature action – fun, joy, creativity, climate action by default!

COMMUNICATIVE

Element of surprise – the circus is coming to town! Come join in

TIME-RICH

Youth leadership embedded – decision makers, long term leaders

CONNECTING

Cross-sector – equal stakeholders, sharing practice, common understanding

Our Assumptions and Evidence for Approaches, based on our direct experience

In the partnership we have multiple and broad experience that tells us this approach can have a big impact on community engagement and climate and nature action.

Assumption: Indirect approaches are more likely to support and sustain engagement in climate and nature action

Access Bike – 2000+ young people and 1000+ adults since 2015 engaged in active travel through community bike workshop and cycling fun

Short Breaks – 500 marginalised and disabled young people since 2010 engaged in sustainability projects through wild camping and time in nature

Outdoor Learning CoP – since 2022 1000s children and young people having fun with small projects in nature, for life-long love for the natural world

What Can I Do – 300 young people since 2023 sharing community action through music, art, spoken word and installations.

Assumption: Young people are powerful voices in their communities and that youth leadership can persuade their community of the importance of climate and nature action

Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group – 200 young people working with Gloucestershire County Council on their Climate Action Plan since 2022, and producing climate and nature action activities in their communities

Youth-led On the Brink Arts RYSE event – young performers of spoken word, poetry, rap, song, DJ, inspiring climate and nature action for 250 young people in the county.

Cotswold Youth Voice & Participation project – 3 years engagement with 800+ yp on their important issues, fed into local plans

World Jungle Festival 20+ young volunteers organising and running eco activities and events – fashion trashion, cardboard cities, art for action, creativity and play

Assumption: Using creativity to develop climate and nature action will result in a community's identity as one that participates and sustains action

Greening Days – 6 secondary schools and 6 primary, with 1000+ students in full day creative activities for climate and nature impact on curriculum, community and campus

Big Nature Festival in the Park, annual event for 5 years for 4000 people each year to explore nature with experts, through hands-on activities in the Arboretum.

Art for Action – Graffiti projects in locations from Gloucester to Ghana developed by young people, changing their sense of community and belonging and inspiring social action in their places

Meet the Experts – 5 year programme with 20 primary and secondary schools, 2000 students engaging with nature and climate experts, creatively interpreting and recording relationships with nature, pledging action at school and home

Assumption: Creativity and enjoyment will support participation for people who otherwise do not engage in climate and nature action

Spaces to Connect – 3-dimensional creative 'ecosystem' of community connections, 150 people of all ages and backgrounds making decisions together

3rd Space youth project – place-based community coproduction of nature activities and climate action. 800 young people since 2021, focusing on inclusion of disabled young people and young people with mental-ill health.

Go Wild Events – 2000 + children and young people and families from low income areas engaged since 2023 with activities that inspire connection with arts, nature, social action