

Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group County Climate Action Plan Feedback 2025

Summary of **approx. 385 young people's** ideas and feedback on Gloucestershire County Council's Climate Action Plan

TRANSPORT

1. Improve Active Travel + Bus Services: Better cycle storage/paths and more reliable buses.

2. Enabling Behaviour Change: Requires accessible, practical alternatives e.g; cheaper fares, clearer info + integrated ticketing.

3. EV infrastructure isn't the preferred solution: Prioritise stronger public transport for greater emissions impact + wider accessibility.

Actions:



Free bus passes for young people

DECISION MAKING

1. Improve understanding of decision-making: Visual communication + diversify opportunities to enable youth empowerment.

2. Meaningful Youth Voice Spaces: Mixed trust levels shared. Reciprocal, action-led engagement + more youth-led spaces.

3. Key decision-making factors: Leaders should consider diverse communities, public services + impacts on nature.



More youth decision making opportunities (e.g funding allocation recommendations)

LAND USE

1. Support for Million Trees Pledge + call to protect existing trees: including native species for biodiversity

2. Prioritise biodiversity and support for Local Nature Recovery Strategy: Protect nature in planning, rewild/connect habitats + recreational green spaces

3. Flood Risk mapping + Engagement: practical education/campaigns, sustainable management, + interactive data.



Flooding Engagement Awareness/Outreach: Practical Workshops for young people

Introduction



[Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group](#) is a youth led programme for 16-25 year olds who live, work or study in the county that are passionate about sustainability and the climate. Young people come together through opportunities to; lead climate action in their community, take part in fun activities/trips, have their voice heard through consultation on county council policy, participate in/act as youth voice representatives in decision-making spaces in the county and more. The group is run/facilitated by [Creative Sustainability](#) and is a partnership project with [Gloucestershire County Council](#).

The group has submitted an annual youth feedback on [Gloucestershire County Council's Climate Action Plan](#) between 2022-24 (links in appendix 2). The group has **consulted with 3,632 young people in the county about Climate Change between 2022-25** (2,778 young people through ICN Youth Climate Action Survey Gloucestershire 2022 and 861 young people about the GCC Gloucestershire Climate Action Plan 2022-25).

This year the group has spoken to approximately 385 young people from Gloucestershire, giving ideas/feedback through varied facilitated activities in sessions/outreach (more information on this in appendices). Our Youth Panel has also done focused work on specific topic/project areas in response to previous year's findings, to dig even further into feedback. They have then **identified 'Actions'** in response to the findings throughout this year's consultation. We have also done sessions with other young people in the wider group to explore and identify actions that they'd like to take for climate.



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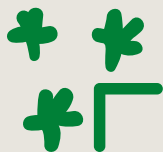


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Themes



This year's consultation had three focus themes from the GCC Climate Action Plan chosen by our Youth Panel.

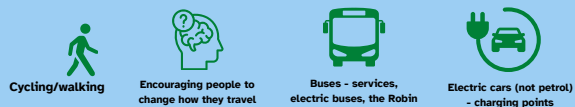
Transport- We feel it's a simple way to reduce your individual impact. Young people often can't drive and learning takes time and can be inaccessible. But there are barriers to accessing public transport also and work such as transport hubs and linking services would address and support this.

Decision Making- Learning about decision making should be made more accessible; it can be overwhelming, complicated and feel out of reach for us to take part. Young people are an equal part of the community with adults, but don't have a say through voting until 18. In processes, there should be a range of perspectives and ages- It'll be our world so we should have a say in decision making which will impact the future.

Land Use- In our local communities, we want nature spaces to be nice to spend time in, we care about nature and have an interest in how food is produced. The majority of young people are not landowners so feel we have very little say in how land is used. Anything that happens now will impact us throughout our entire lifetime.

What kind of things do the themes cover?:

Transport



Decision Making



Land Use





Transport Theme

2025 Consultation Key Points Summary

1. Bus Services and Active Travel: Young people most often asked for more reliable, frequent, and better-connected buses, especially in rural areas. They also want cheaper fares, clearer travel information, better bus shelters and accessibility, improved infrastructure like shelters, trackers, and accessibility and improved services like The Robin, which they say is hard to book and poorly advertised. The most repeated feedback on active travel infrastructure was more cycle paths. They also want safer cycling conditions, repaired pavements and potholes, better walking routes, accessible pavements, and secure storage for bikes/scooters.

2. Enabling Behaviour Change Behaviour change is only possible if alternatives are accessible: cheaper public transport, integrated ticketing, better travel hubs, and support for greener options. Suggestions include cheaper bus fares, clearer information, incentives to change travel behaviour, integrated ticketing, and better support for alternatives to car use (public transport, cycling, e-bikes), acknowledging that people need practical, affordable options to switch.

3. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure: With infrastructure for residents, from the majority of young people is a continued noting EVs aren't a preferred solution and that strong public transport options would be more impactful in reducing emissions. They identify that encouraging this behaviour change is more difficult to make happen in rural areas of the county due to less options and needing more charging points there, but in more connected urban areas with services, focus should be on that behaviour change. Least votes in sticky dot exercise.

Decision Making Theme

2025 Consultation Key Points Summary

1. Better Understanding of Decision-Making and Youth Opportunities:

Many young people do not understand local authority processes but are interested in learning more. They want clear, visual explanations of structures, functions, and decisions, alongside more accessible meeting papers. Youth reps who have attended meetings say improved support and clearer communication would help them engage more confidently. Young people see this understanding as essential for feeling motivated and empowered, noting that “a lot of young people don’t realise how much influence they can have.”

2. Youth Engagement, Youth Voice and Youth-Friendly Spaces:

Young people report mixed levels of trust: some feel unheard, while others see progress and leaders beginning to listen. They value meaningful involvement where their contributions lead to real actions and where communication is honest, respectful, and two-way. They want accessible and reciprocal opportunities such as work experience, school engagement, and youth-led spaces. They say groups like GYCG provide positive models and want to see more opportunities through establishing further youth councils or panels across the county.

3. Key Factors for Decision-Making (Community, Inclusion, Services and Nature):

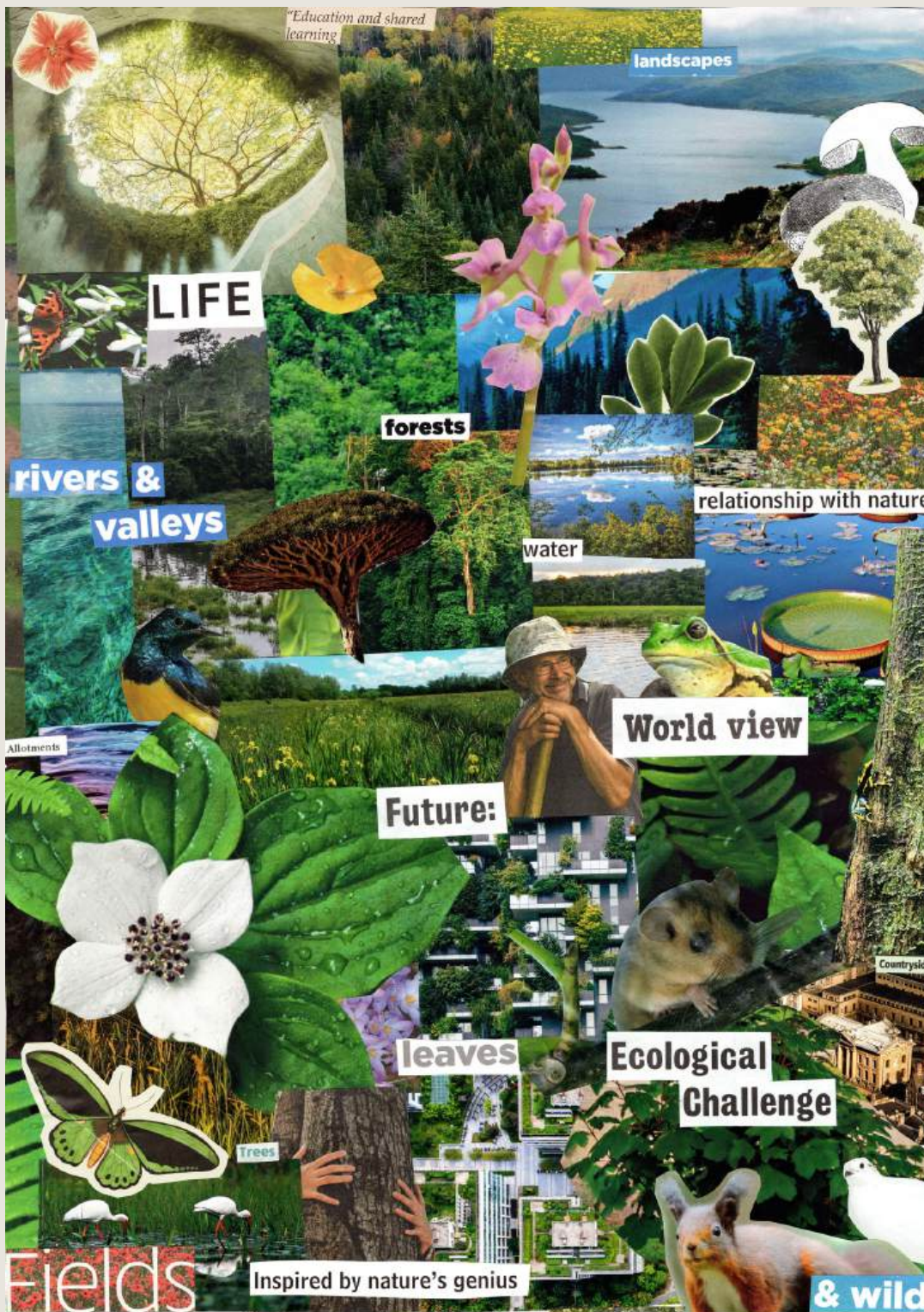
Young people want decisions to consider diverse communities, increase transparency, and prioritise environmental and nature impacts. They emphasise the importance of sustainability, conservation, and long-term environmental outcomes, while also ensuring decisions support vulnerable groups, local economies, public services, and climate-friendly initiatives.



Land Use Theme

2025 Consultation Key Points Summary

- 1. Plant More Trees and Protect Existing Ones:** This is by far the strongest and most repeated theme, showing that young people continue their support GCC's Million Trees Ambition work. Young people consistently emphasised planting more trees, protecting current trees, avoiding unnecessary tree removal, and ensuring biodiversity through native species.
- 2. Boost Biodiversity Through Planting, Habitat Creation and Wildlife Protection:** Young people consistently prioritise increasing biodiversity through more flowers, wildflower areas, rewilding and better-connected habitats. They repeatedly emphasise protecting wildlife—especially vulnerable species like hedgehogs—and ensuring housing and planning decisions safeguard nature. They want more green spaces, colourful planting and stronger support for pollinators and local wildlife. Feedback like this shows alignment/support for the aims of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, including its new focus on urban green spaces for both nature and leisure.
- 3. Improve Flood Risk Mapping, Awareness & Preparedness:** Young people want better flood data, clear maps of high-risk areas, and opportunities for local input. They call for practical education on flood risks and responses through workshops, schools, and campaigns, alongside effective defences, sustainable water management, and well-maintained waterways. Alongside this, they highlight the importance of effective flood defences, sustainable water management (e.g., grey water systems, beaver-led natural flood management), and maintaining clean, well-managed waterways.



Actions

Our Youth Panel have **identified three actions** that they would like to work with GCC to take to respond to feedback from this year's youth feedback. GCC and GYCG will explore and discuss supporting each other in delivering these actions.

Transport: Having free passes for young people (e.g. in Scotland there is a 'young scots card' all people under 22 get buses for free)

Decision Making: More GYCG youth decision making opportunities (e.g. Greener Gloucestershire Community Fund – assessing funding bids + giving recommendations on who gets the funding)

Land Use: Flooding Engagement/Awareness- Outreach: Practical workshop for other young people. (including Practical tips/actions they can take for flood risk management, what can young people do in their own spaces and education)



Further Conversations We have also done some work on identifying actions with a wider group of young people through discussions/workshops exploring identifying and setting climate actions activities. Ideas that fit under the Land Use and Decision Making themes came through strongly:

Land Use ideas included: Tree and Wildflower planting, Litter picking, Awareness Raising to peers through engagement (e.g. workshops) and identifying new recreational nature spaces

Decision Making ideas included: advocating for more youth climate spaces, organising events, sharing about opportunities with their peers and engaging with elected representatives

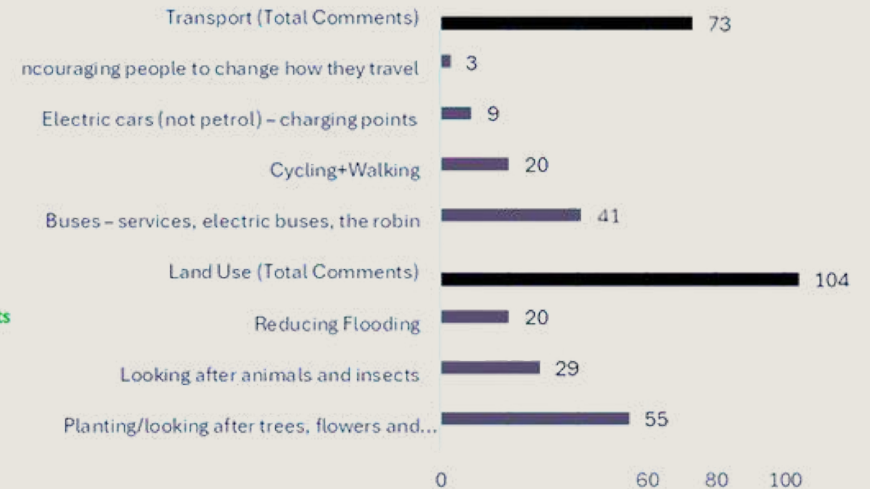
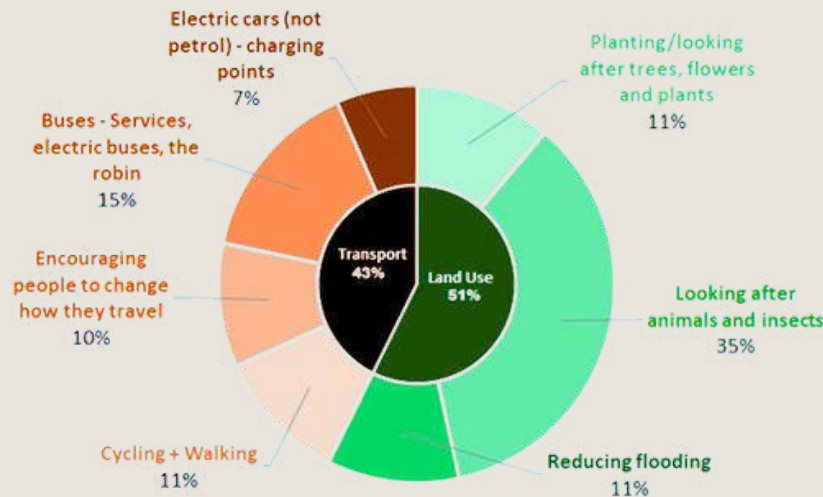
Appendix 1: Overall Data Summary

Transport + Land Use

Sticky dot exercise (left) –
Vote for your
top 3 most important
climate action points
(214 young people)

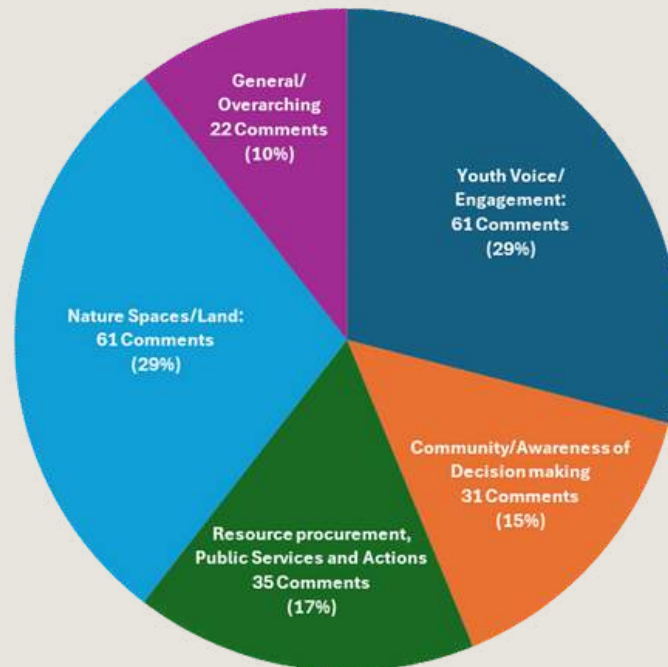
+

Comments inputted (right) –
(183 Comments)



Decision Making

Comments inputted
(210 Comments total):

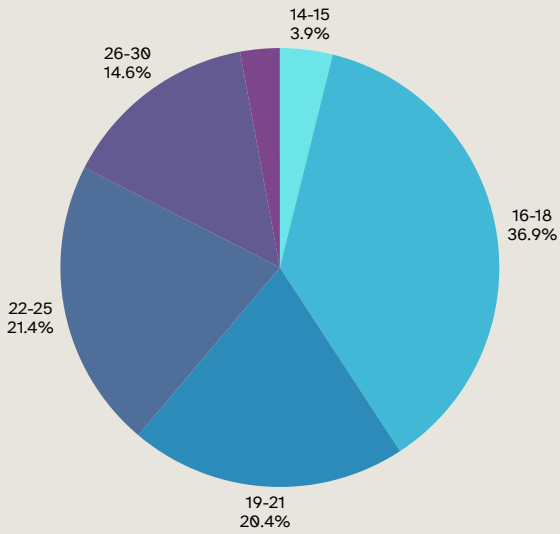


We worked with **approximately 385 young people** through varied sessions (from engagement stands, workshops and focused action setting and report youth co-production)

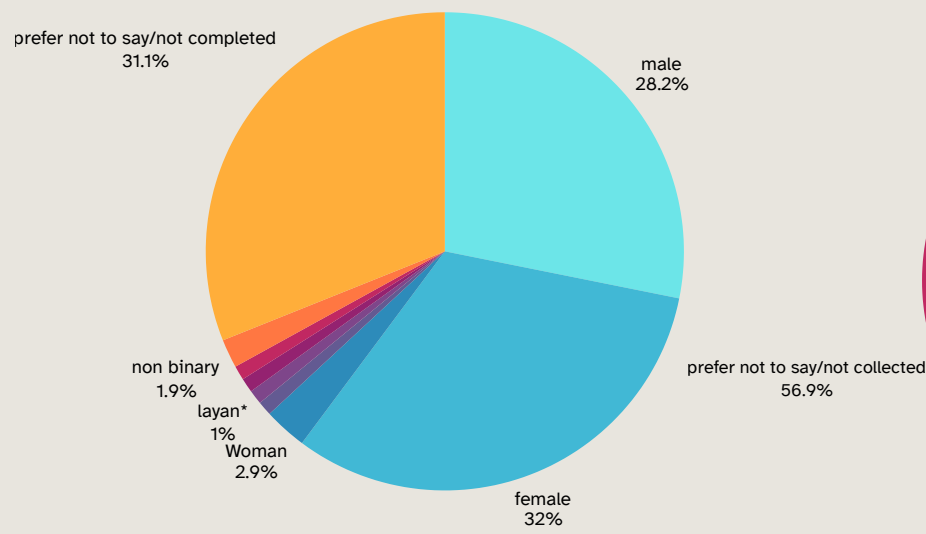
Sessions took place in Cheltenham, Cotswolds, Gloucester and Stroud districts in Gloucestershire, as well as online zoom calls.

Feedback Collected: **214 young people** took part in sticky dot vote exercise (on Transport and Land Use Themes) and **393 total comments** we submitted (across all three themes).

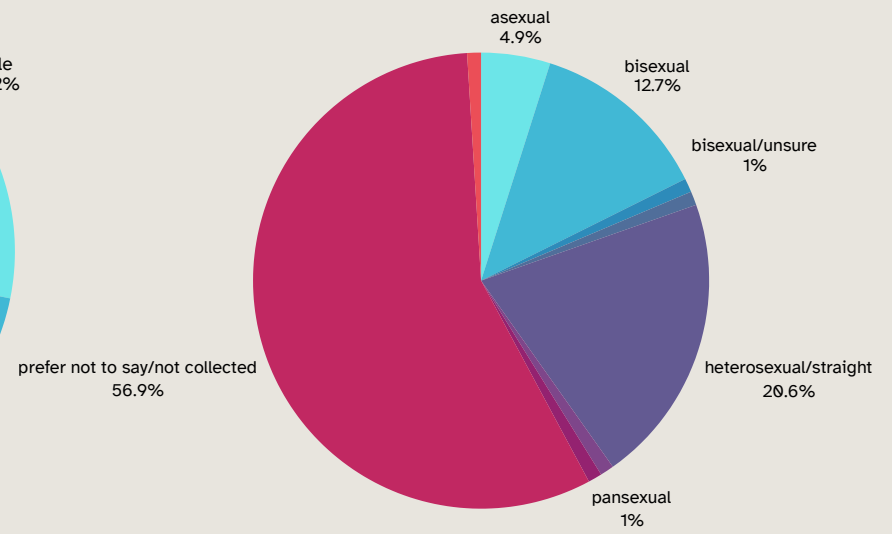
Age



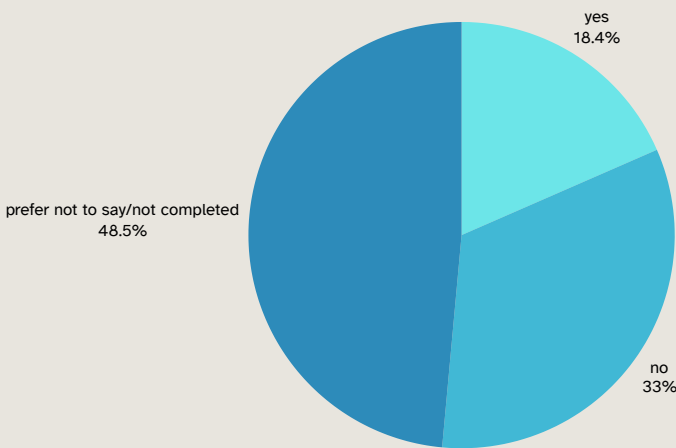
Gender



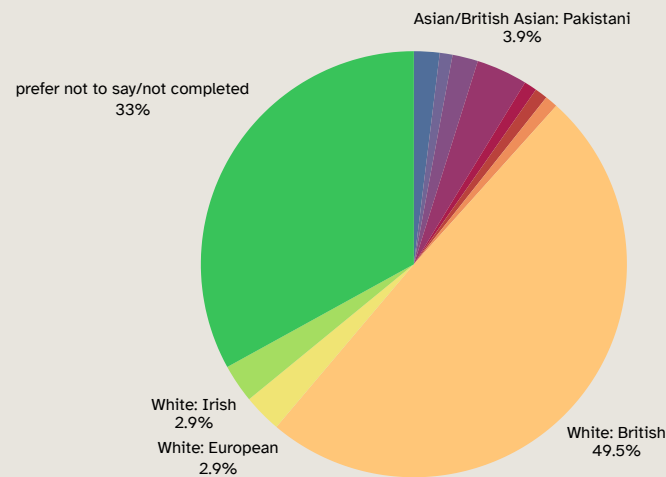
Sexuality



Disability, long-term illness or health condition



Race/Ethnicity



Participant Demographics

Information provided by 103 young people who took part in Climate Action Plan Consultation. (We were unable to collect demographic information from the majority of the participants due to; quick engagement time, restrictions around working with young people etc.)

Appendix 2: Links to reports

GYCG Youth Feedback Report (Full Report) - [link here](#) *ADD IN ONCE PUBLISHED!*

Previous Submissions for GCC Climate Action Plan Youth Feedback Reports

2022 -

1. Interclimate Network Gloucestershire Youth Climate Action Survey

[Key info/press release](#), [Key Findings Summary](#) and [Full ICN Youth Climate Action Survey Report](#)

2. [Within 2022 GCC CAP Doc \(p.11 + p.59-88\)](#)

2023 -

[Within 2023 GCC CAP Doc \(p.11-13\)](#)

2024 -

[GYCG Youth Feedback Report 2024](#) *(download link in grey box at top of webpage)*

**For any questions about the group or this report contact Polly Gannaway-Pitts
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