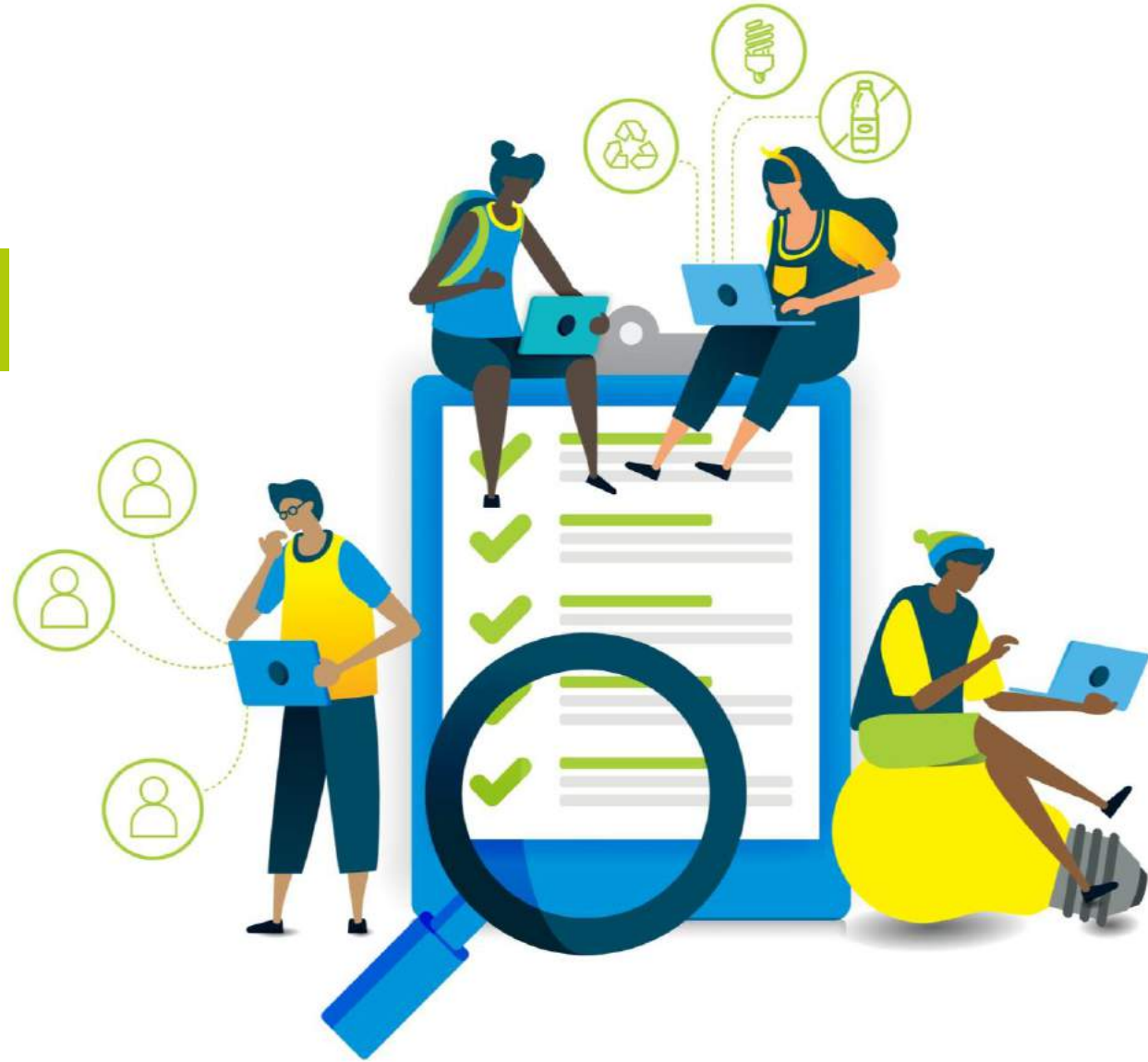


INSIGHT REPORT 2022

# CLIMATE ACTION SURVEY

Gloucestershire



Interclimate.org.uk

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# What's it all about?



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This section sets out the analysis for our top survey insights.

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Here we dive deeper into the data, further uncovering what young people think and do around the climate crisis.

Across Gloucestershire, between July and October 2022, **InterClimate Network (ICN)** ran their online Climate Action Survey, which has been designed to capture the views, behaviours and motivations of 11–25-year-olds around the climate crisis.

The survey was run in partnership with **Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group**, **Creative Sustainability**, **Planet Cheltenham** and **Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust**. To maximise awareness and ensure that everyone had the opportunity to take part the survey was publicised via partner websites, schools, press releases, social media and through a [youth-led promotional video](#).

This report, written by ICN, presents the findings and implications from this research, which saw a high return rate of almost 3,000 young people aged 11 to 25.

ICN and partners want to share the findings to be of use to the many others who are trying to reduce emissions and mobilise greater climate action among young people. Importantly, we are working with **Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)** so that youth voices are heard and positively influence their [Climate Change Strategy](#).

*“...The council is committed to listening to the thoughts and opinions of Gloucestershire’s young people on this important issue [climate change], not least because it is their generation that will have to live with the consequences of our changing climate and benefit from our actions to address the emergency. The InterClimate Network’s Survey is an exciting opportunity for our younger residents to share their opinions and help us shape our work on creating a Greener Gloucestershire.”*

David Gray, Cabinet member responsible for the environment at Gloucestershire County Council

# Key findings from Gloucestershire's Youth Climate Action Survey, 2022

InterClimate Network, working with Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group, Creative Sustainability, Planet Cheltenham and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, conducted research to learn more about how 11 to 25 year olds think, feel and act in relation to the climate crisis. Here is a summary of the views of nearly 3,000 young people who responded from schools and communities across Gloucestershire. The full report will inform and positively influence Gloucestershire County Council's [Climate Change Strategy](#).

More than **8/10** young people are concerned about climate change.

- 78% said climate change will affect their life in the future.
- Causing less damage to the environment is one of the top four priorities for young people.

**86%** young people support council action on climate change, 11% were unsure and only 3% were against.

**3 in 4** young people are already choosing to act on climate change. Most action is taking place at home. Yet action at home is not always translating to action in school or the wider community.

## Top 5 actions likely to gain further support

-  Reduce energy use
-  Improve travel and transport
-  Think about the impact of what we buy and use
-  Reduce use, reuse and recycle
-  Help protect and improve nature

## Who inspires action?



**Schools** provide the most trusted and inspiring source of information on climate change.



**Working together** is a strong motivator for youth climate action.



**Families** having a significant influence on involvement.



## Young people want more joined-up action

- 1 Young people recognise that **systemic change** is needed alongside individual action to make a meaningful difference.
- 2 Young people saw the Government as having the most power to make a difference, but are the least representative. Many are looking for **more national level leadership on climate action**.
- 3 There are strong feelings that **responsibility** and action need to be **shared fairly** across society.

## Young people can be enabled to take more climate action by ensuring they have:



Enough **opportunity** to carry out action



A **supportive community** of action



**Knowledge about actions** and their impact



The **motivation to feel positive** that individual action can make a difference.

## 3 key motivators for action



Install more equipment that make it easier to undertake action.



Track results and showcase the positive impact of actions.



Rewards and competitions to encourage action.

A project by:



In partnership with:



Supported by:



# Introduction to the Climate Action Survey

## Background to the project

Combatting climate change is the most important challenge confronting the world today. The adverse impacts of climate change will disproportionately fall on the socially disadvantaged. The burden of changing lifestyles to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and its social consequences, will especially impact the adult lives of today's school students. Giving them a voice, understanding their concerns, and helping to empower them to act is essential in this 'decisive decade' for carbon emissions reduction.

## Climate Action Survey: design and delivery

To help understand how best to support youth climate action InterClimate Network developed an online survey informed by behavioural science.

The survey was developed with school students' input, research from sociology students at the **University of Gloucestershire**, and expertise and contextual input from the research firms **GlobeScan** and **Humankind Research**.

The survey allows schools and lead students to understand peers' views on climate change and the enablers and barriers to climate action. With the help of our experienced team these bespoke insights help students to create a tailored plan to motivate their school community to engage in targeted and impactful climate action.

The survey was piloted in 2021 with the support of the **Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust**. Funding in 2022 is enabling an updated survey to be run across 20 UK schools. As part of this, we have trialled a county-wide partnership approach in Gloucestershire. We are thankful to all the partners (see overleaf) and the students and teachers at the following schools who enabled so many responses: **Balcarras School, Chosen Hill School, Churchdown School Academy, Cleeve School, Katharine Lady Berkeley's School and Stroud High School**.

Over 13,500 young people across the UK have responded so far to the Climate Action Survey between 2021 and 2022. A national report will be written in early 2023, building on from our [Youth Climate Action Research Report 2021](#). The report will provide insights from across the schools as a valuable resource for teachers, students and other stakeholders working with young people.



# Gloucestershire partnership



## InterClimate Network (ICN)

ICN is a registered charity with a mission to inspire young people in the UK to become leaders and advocates for action on climate change. We do this by working collaboratively to deliver programmes that engage young people (primarily aged 11 to 18) with the complexities of climate change, inspire and encourage their climate action, and promote their voices in their own sustainable future.

[www.interclimate.org](http://www.interclimate.org)

Contact us at [info@interclimate.org](mailto:info@interclimate.org) or [@InterClimate](https://www.instagram.com/InterClimate)



## Creative Sustainability

Creative Sustainability is based on the values of inclusion, empowerment and sustainability. Our focus is on ensuring the youth voice is at the heart of conversation around climate change in Gloucestershire. Creative Sustainability manage the Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group, funded by Gloucestershire County Council.

[www.cscic.org](http://www.cscic.org)



InterClimate  
Network



## Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group

The Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group (GYCG) are 15-25 year olds who come together to take action on climate change issues. They undertake projects to make a positive impact for a low carbon and resilient Gloucestershire that reduces inequities and centres the needs of people and the environment.



## Gloucestershire County Council

Gloucestershire County Council is working with residents across the county to reduce carbon emissions. The council funds the Gloucestershire Climate Youth Group to ensure that young people in the county have a chance to be involved with the work of the local authority in reaching net zero.

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk)



## Planet Cheltenham

Planet Cheltenham is a community climate solutions hub. Our aim is to connect residents to community initiatives that help tackle climate change, fight social inequality and build a sustainable, resilient future for our town. We run several projects that connect citizens on climate, including the Youth Climate Group, Little Planet Cheltenham baby and toddler group, sustainability professional meet-ups and energy workshops. [www.planetcheltenham.org](http://www.planetcheltenham.org)

Twitter [@PlanetChelt](https://twitter.com/PlanetChelt) Instagram [@planetcheltenhaminsta](https://www.instagram.com/planetcheltenhaminsta)



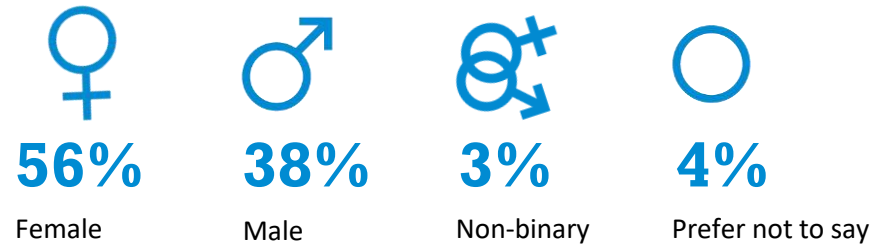
## Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) works closely with local communities, landowners and partners to deliver conservation work across more than 1000 hectares of nature reserves, and within the wider landscape of Gloucestershire. GWT's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) are 16-25 year olds who advise GWT's staff and Board on how to further engage young people with their varied work. [www.gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk](http://www.gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk)

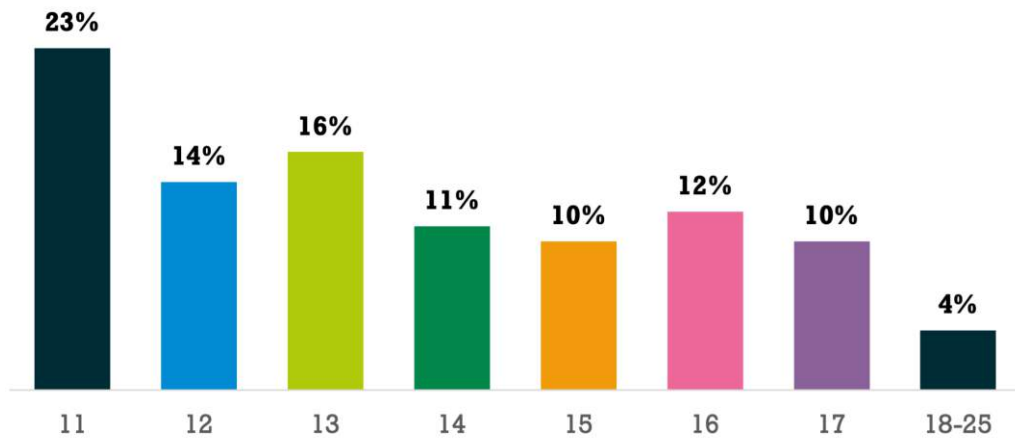
# Who participated?

In total, 2778 young people responded to the Climate Action Survey. Of the respondents 95% were in school or college, 2% were in Higher Education and 3% were not in education or training. All age and gender groups were represented, though there were notably more younger and female respondents. There was a reflective representation of ethnicity according to census breakdown.\*

## Gender Breakdown

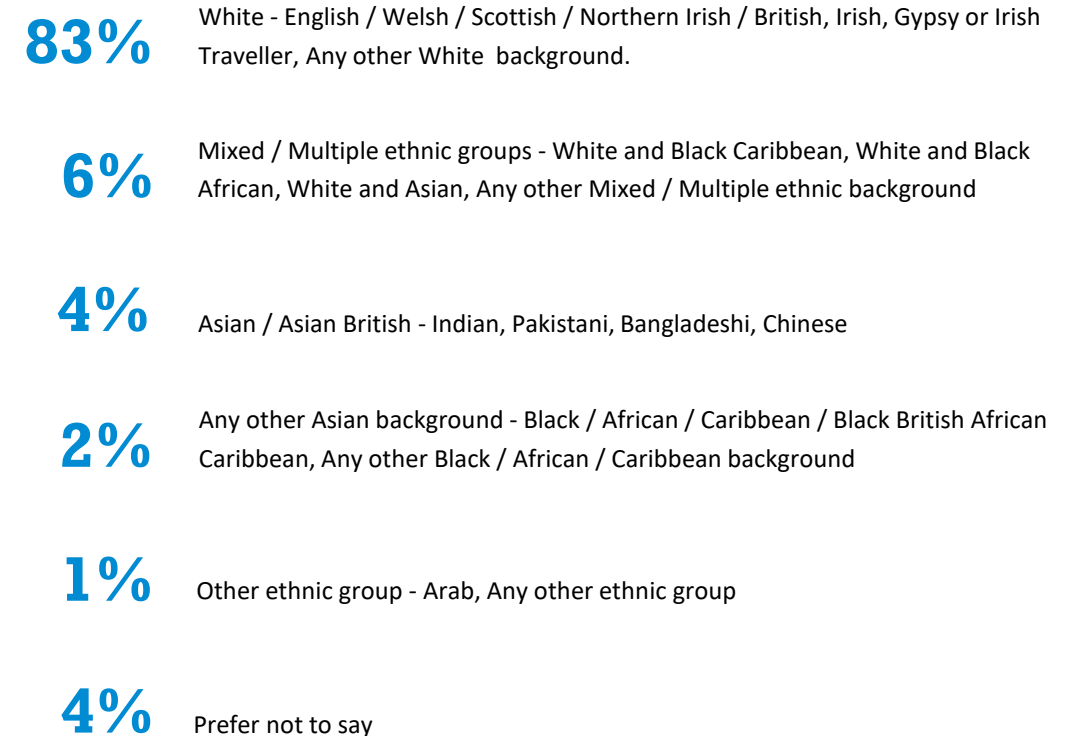


## Age breakdown



\*Other genders reported included: agender, genderflux, and transgender. A number of students identified as gender fluid.

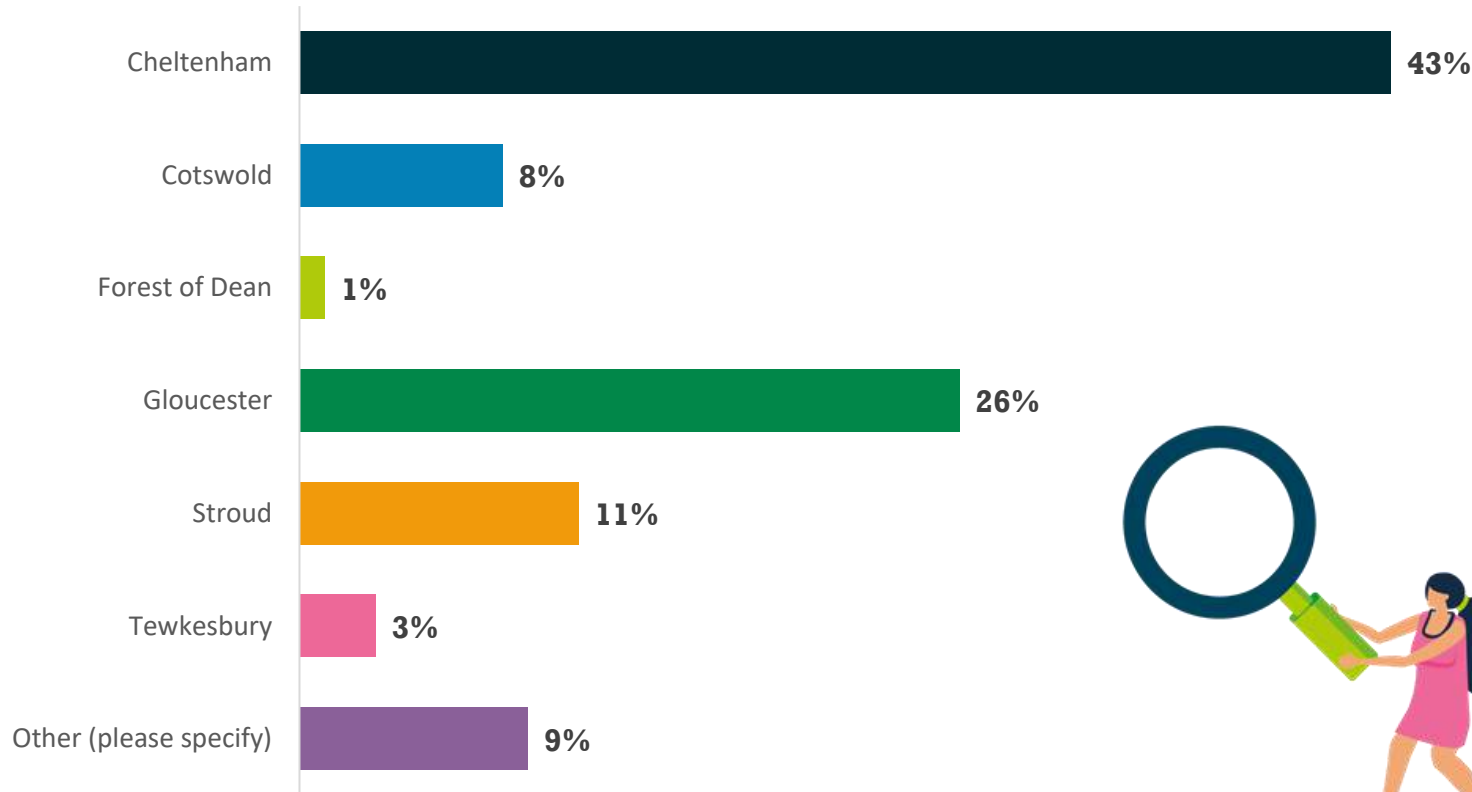
## Ethnicity breakdown



\*Census population by ethnic group for 0 – 19 year olds across Gloucestershire: 92% White, 3.6% Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups, 2.8% Asian/Asian British, 1% Black/African/Caribbean/Black British, 0.2% Other ethnic group

# Continued.... Who participated?

## Area breakdown



*\*Other areas included: Bishop's Cleeve (multiple), Brockworth (multiple), Cam/Dursley, Cirencester (multiple), Chalford Hill, Charfield, Chedworth, Churchdown (multiple), Cleeve Hill, Coopers Edge (multiple), Dursley, Hucclecote (multiple), Innsworth (multiple), Kemble (multiple), Longford, Longlevens (multiple), Minchinhampton (multiple), Nailsworth (multiple), Newent, Painswick, Prestbury, Stonehouse (multiple), Stoke Orchard, Twigworth, Tytherington, Quedgeley, Winchcombe (multiple), Woodmancote, border between Gloucester and Stroud, in the middle of nowhere, Barkley with my dad and Matson with my mum, Prefer not to say*

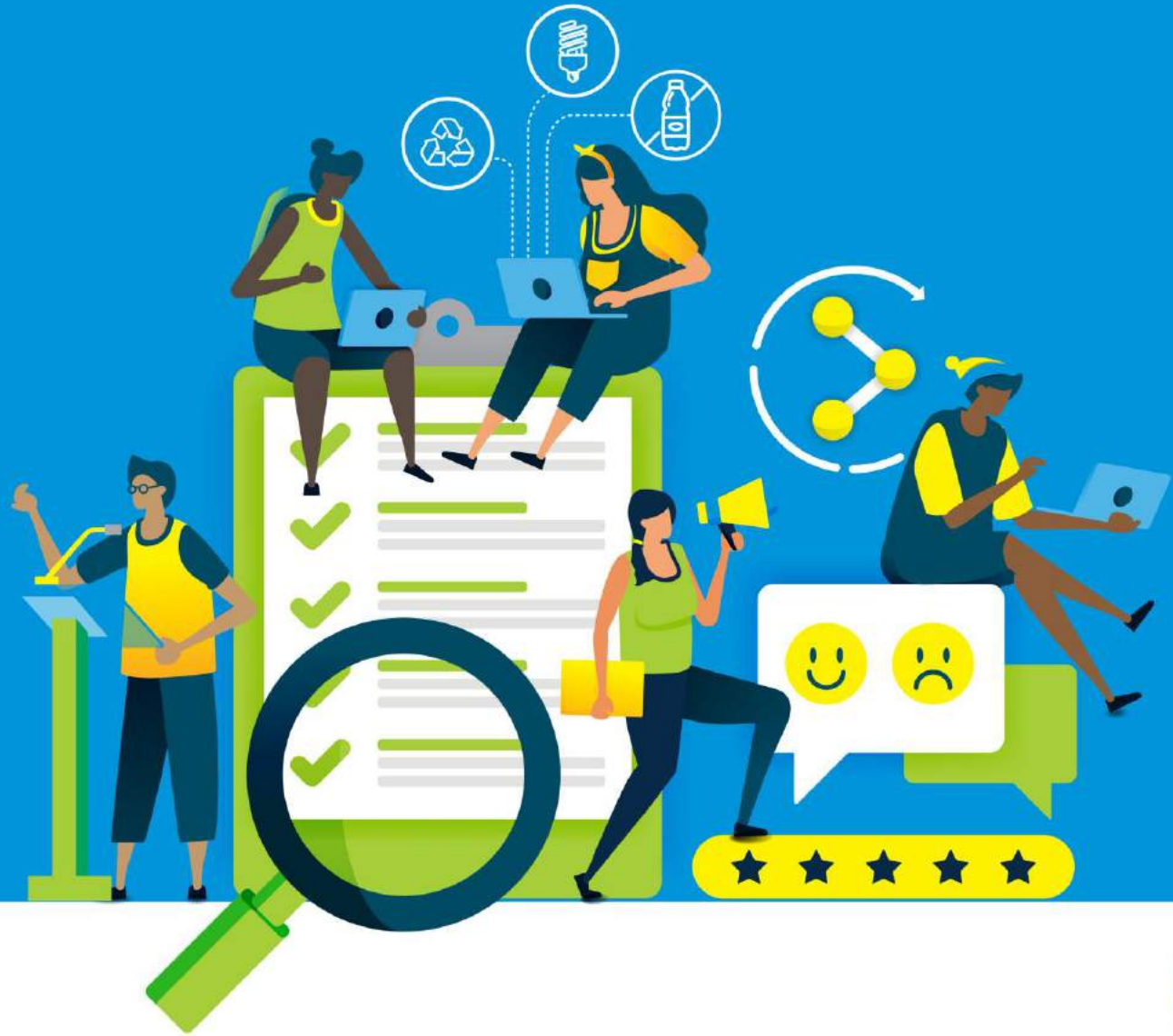
## Part 1

# Key insights

In this section we set out the analysis for our top insights from the Climate Action Survey.

Young people across Gloucestershire....

- support council action
- see climate change as a threat
- want more joined-up action
- are willing to act on climate change
- welcome inspiration and support
- believe schools can make action happen.

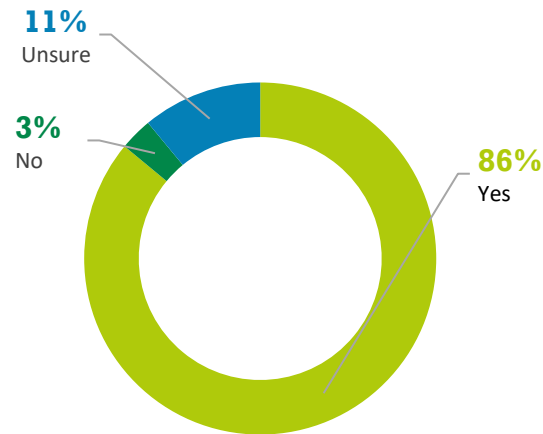


# 1. Young people support council action

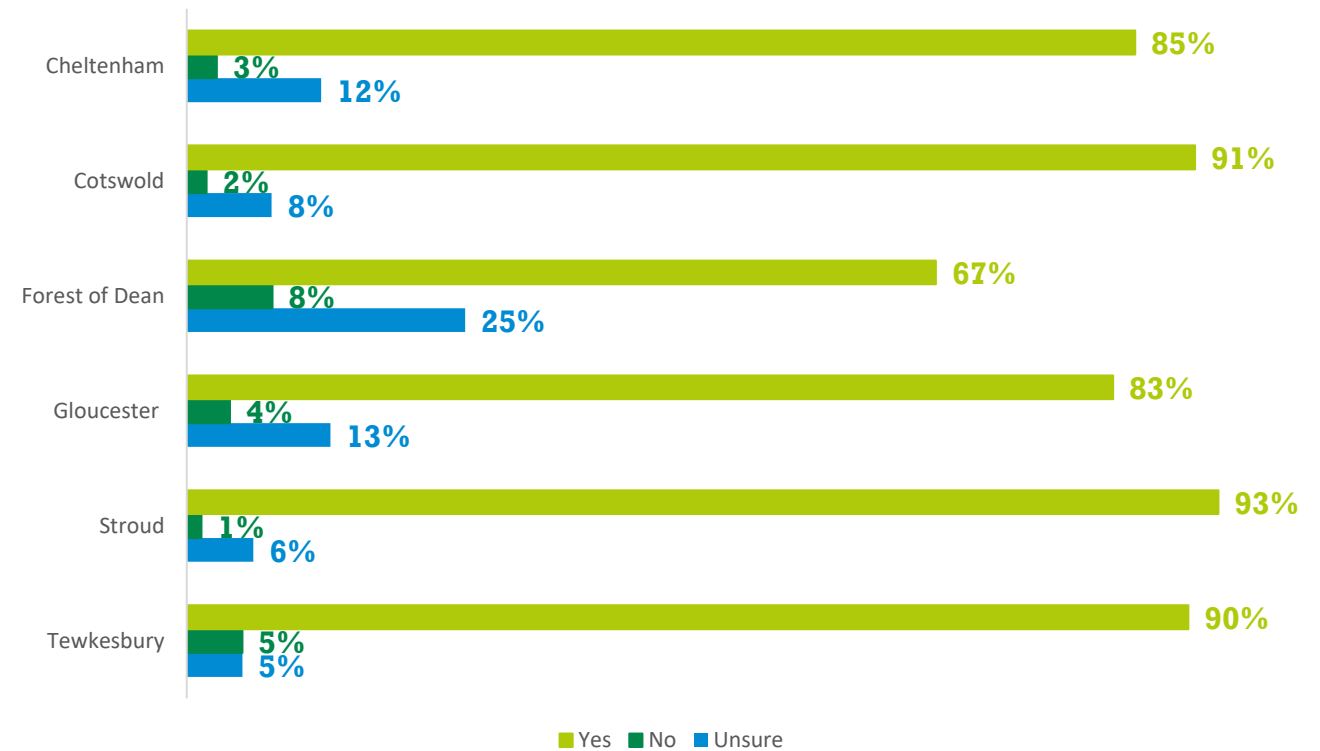
Over 8 in 10 young people (86%) think Gloucestershire County Council, and the local councils, should take action on climate change, 11% were unsure and only 3% were against. There was little difference between respondents according to their gender\* or age\*\*.



## Do young people think Gloucestershire County Council, and the local councils, should take action on climate change?



## Responses by council area

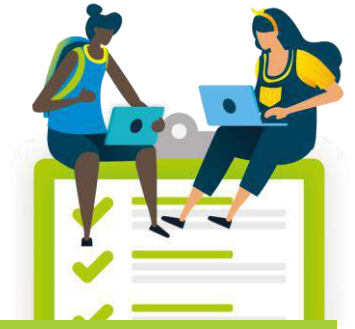


\*Female (Yes: 87%, No: 2%, Unsure: 11%), Male (Yes: 83%, No: 5%, Unsure: 12%) and Non-binary (Yes: 86%, No: 4%, Unsure: 10%)

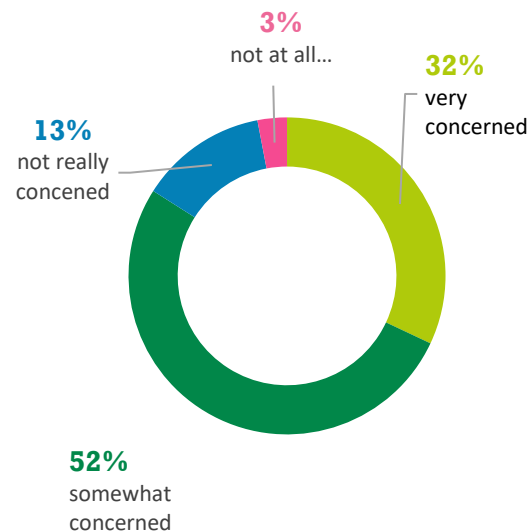
\*\* 11 years old: 87% 'yes', 12: 83%. 13: 80%, 14: 84%, 15: 86%, 16: 88%, 17: 91%, 18 – 25: 87%

## 2. Young people see climate change as a threat

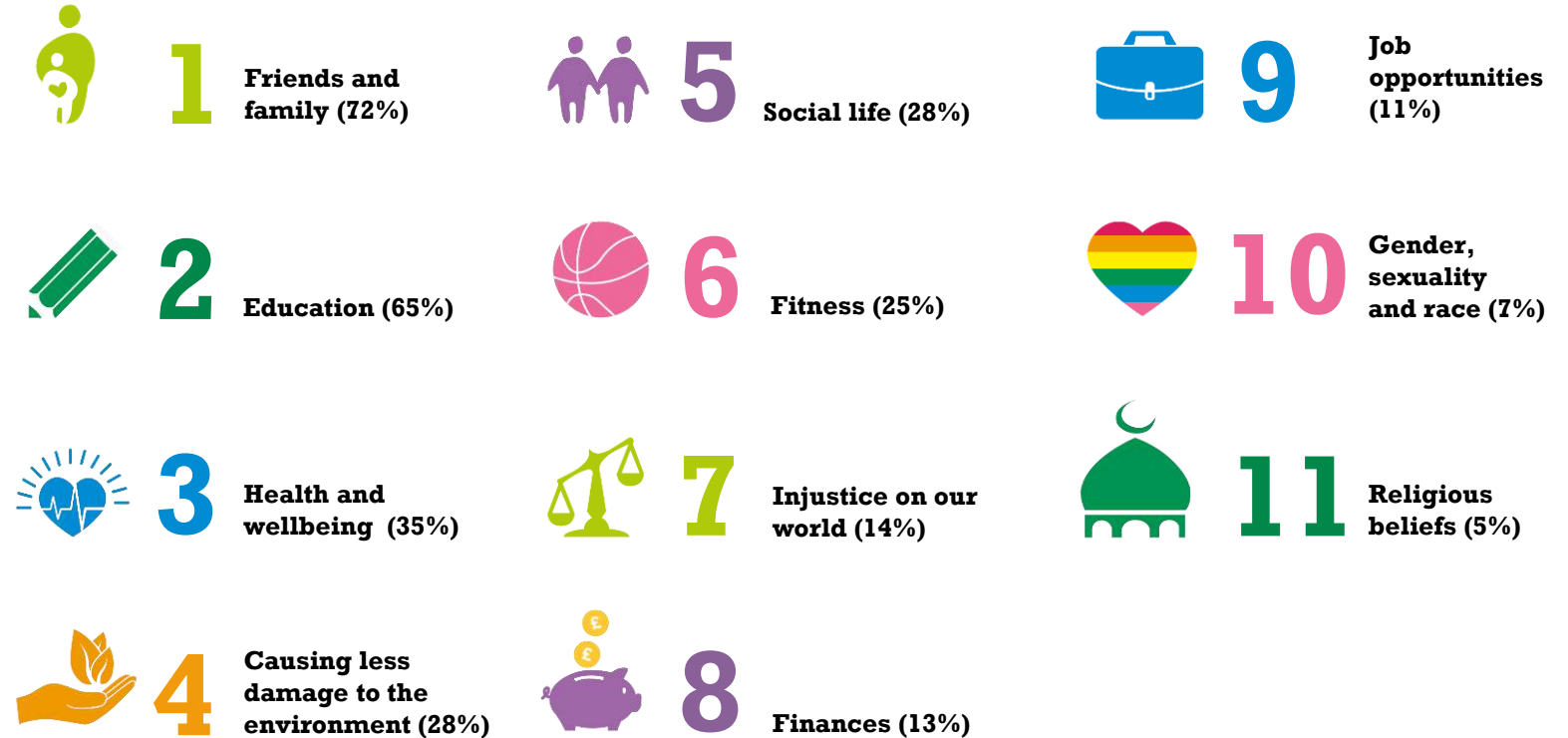
Over 8 in 10 young people (84%) expressed concern regarding climate change. The vast majority (over 7 in 10) believe climate change is happening now, that it is a global crisis, and that there is a human component to climate change. Nearly 8 in 10 (78%) also said climate change will affect their life in the future (36% reported that it is already affecting their life now). 6 in 10 (60%) also recognised that their everyday choices have an impact on climate change, in either a positive or negative way. Overall causing less damage to the environment was the 4th of 11 priorities (which is higher than in other regions ICN have run the survey). Many say they have more pressing priorities in their day-to-day life, notably education and friends and family.



### Are young people concerned about climate change?



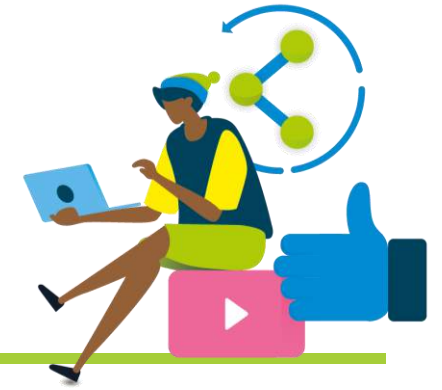
### Youth priorities: where does climate change fit?



Other priorities for students included: having time for their hobbies, supporting themselves and others with their mental health; prioritising personal development and having fun; achieving world peace and an end to the invasion of Ukraine; carrying out animal activism and creating a sense of community.

### 3. Young people want more joined-up action

Whilst **7 in 10 young people identified the Government as having most power to make a difference**, a large majority are positive that there is a need for collective action on climate change. Many advocated that we all, from large businesses to every individual, have a part to play (reference pg. 21). There were, however, **strong feelings that responsibility and action need to be shared fairly across society**, and comments often expressed that they feel dissatisfied and frustrated about action and leadership from governments and businesses. This can act as a barrier, deterring engagement with climate action.



**Who do young people believe has the most power to change the course of climate change for the better?**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1</b> <b>The Government</b><br>(70%)              | <b>6</b> <b>Schools and places of work</b><br>(25%) |
| <b>2</b> <b>Every individual</b><br>(52%)            | <b>7</b> <b>My community</b><br>(17%)               |
| <b>3</b> <b>Businesses and Corporations</b><br>(48%) | <b>8</b> <b>Families</b><br>(13%)                   |
| <b>4</b> <b>Fuel suppliers</b><br>(32%)              | <b>9</b> <b>Other</b><br>(4%)                       |
| <b>5</b> <b>Young people</b><br>(25%)                | <b>10</b> <b>No-one</b><br>(3%)                     |

**Respondents were given the opportunity to openly respond in more detail and a sample is showcased here (reference pg. 21 for further comments)....**



"We all have a voice and the power to make a difference on climate change, its just whether we use it or not. One person will make no difference but millions acting together will make a change."

"We need change at all levels. Policy, personal and commercial responsibility."

"The government has the power and the money to regulate companies effectively however it's using it irresponsibly. The agency of one person is miniscule in comparison to governmental approval of harmful laws such as allowing fracking. The government needs to provide consistent funding to allow people to make the changes needed and hold businesses to account."

"Governments must take action so that individuals have options to act in a climate conscious way. Regulation must come from the top down."

"Young people are the future leaders of the world and can influence our future. It is our future that will be affected."

"Businesses have a lot of power as they are responsible for all the goods and services we consume. A single person's carbon footprint is absolutely dwarfed by that of industry, yet there are rarely people talking and campaigning about ways for industries to reduce their emissions. I feel that even if every person in my school didn't eat meat for a month, a rich businessperson could launch a rocket and cancel out all of that hard work."

"My community encourages us to do a litter sweep whenever we can."

"My school is proactive with saving the planet, because many of its pupils care."

"Fuel suppliers are literally the root of the problem. They could put costs up or switch to renewable energy to ensure real change. Fuel suppliers are making record breaking profits at the same time as record numbers are facing fuel poverty. They should make the right choice to invest in renewables and cut profits to ease prices for consumers."

## 4. Young people are willing to act on climate change

When asked whether young people are already taking some action on climate change, a majority of over 7 in 10 (74%) said yes. There were some differences in levels of engagement in climate action, however, and here we have segmented the responses into broad groups. Under each heading, there is an overview of the motivations and views given by respondents for taking climate action. Further detail can be found in Table 4 (pg. 19) where open comments clearly highlighted a lack of time as a big barrier to action.



### 74% Acting

**These students, who are already carrying out climate action:**

- Are the most concerned about climate change and have it as a greater day-to-day priority than the other groups.
- Have a greater understanding of their own personal impact on climate change.
- Are **more aware of what they can do** to address the climate crisis than the other groups.
- Are much **more likely to have family that are taking action, and feel they have support from others:**
  - 86% of those acting also had family taking action. This is compared to those not yet acting, of whom 27% said their family took action.



### 8% Ready for action

**These students, who are not yet carrying out any climate action:**

- Are concerned with climate change, but do not feel as strongly as the acting group.
- Do not define their own personal impact as clearly as the 'acting' segment.
- **Say they would like to undertake climate action** but are either:
  - **unsure of what to do (60%);**
  - **have not gotten round to it yet (40%).**



### 17% Not yet ready for action

**These students who are not yet carrying out any climate action:**

- Are concerned with climate change but have a more **limited understanding of how climate change is affecting people** right now, and how our everyday choices are contributing to climate change.
- Say they are not acting because either:
  - **responsibility to take action lies with governments and big corporations, not individuals (11%);**
  - **they feel powerless to make a difference (44%);**
  - **they do not think individual actions will make a difference (45%).**



### 1% The sceptics

**These students who are not yet carrying out any climate action:**

- Are not concerned about climate change.
- **Say they are not acting because they do not believe in climate change.**

# Continued.....young people are willing to act on climate change

Here we look further into the types of changes young people are already making, or willing to make, to help tackle the climate crisis. Analysis reveals that **family plays a key role**: the majority of action by young people is taking place in the home, with families having a big influence (reference Table 1 and 2, pg. 17 for details). Action in the home doesn't always translate to action in school or the community, for instance of the 87% of young people who are reducing their energy use a massive 94% are doing so at home, while only 24% do at school, and 11% do in the community. Importantly, there is a **clear willingness by those not yet undertaking specific actions to start doing so** (reference Table 3, pg.18 for details).

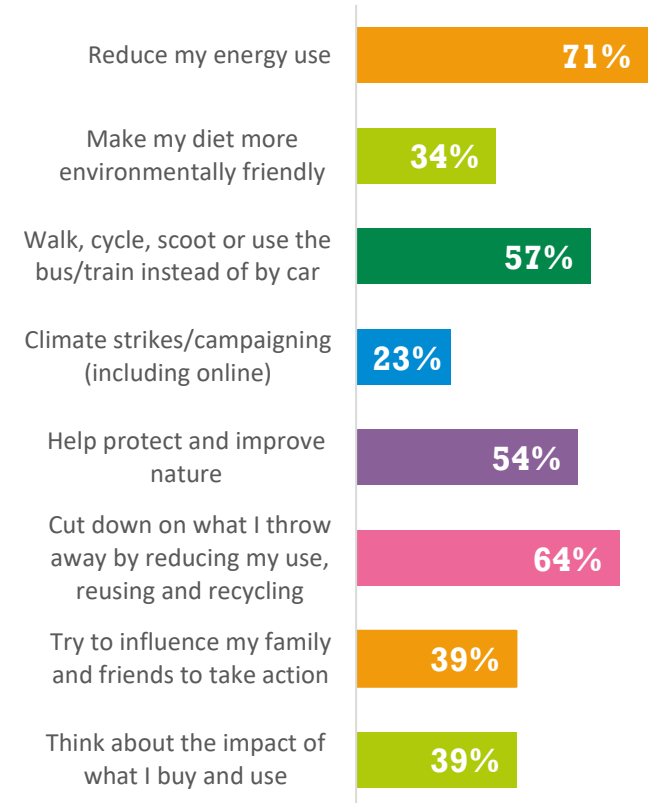


## Of the 74% who are already taking action, what are they doing?



## How willing are young people to start actions?

Here are the total percentages and preferences for respondents who don't yet do the action but say they are willing to start.

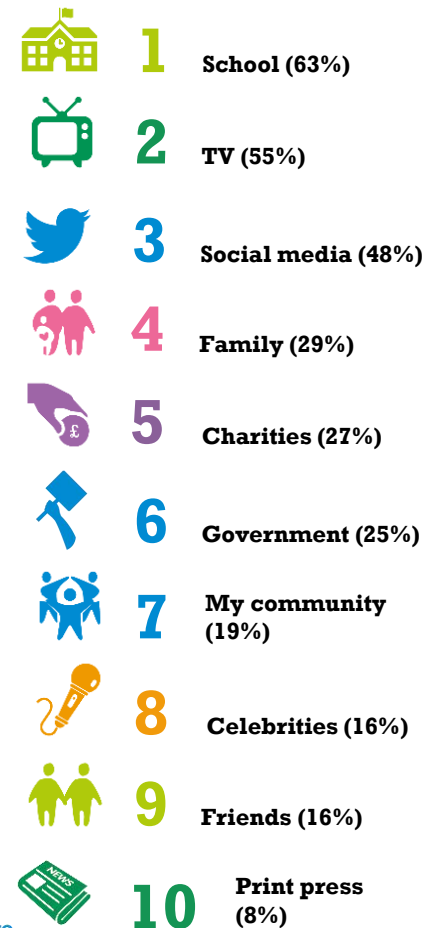


\*Other actions mentioned included: only buying clothes second hand/from charity shops, and making their own clothes; being part of their school Eco-Council or the Gloucestershire Change Makers Programme, some have led assemblies about recycling; buying local seasonal produce to cut down on food miles, are vegetarian or buy food from farmers' markets; participate in village protests, write to their MP, attend climate groups and the Gloucestershire Youth Climate Panel, as well as objecting planning applications which will have a detrimental environmental impact; Donate to environmental charities; subscribing to a climate newspaper; use the ECOSIA search engine; collect rain water, enjoy recycling waste by turning it into art, avoid products containing palm oil, only use environmentally friendly cosmetic and menstrual products.

## 5. Young people welcome inspiration and support

What is clear is that **school has a real impact** – it is where young people hear about climate change the most and is the most trusted and inspiring source of information. In the open comments, 17% of respondents specifically said that their school or a teacher had made a big difference to what they think about climate change. Over 1 in 10 also named well-known individuals, such as David Attenborough (13%) or Greta Thunberg (12%). Family and social media are also shown as important sources of information. Interestingly, the Government is seen as the least representative.

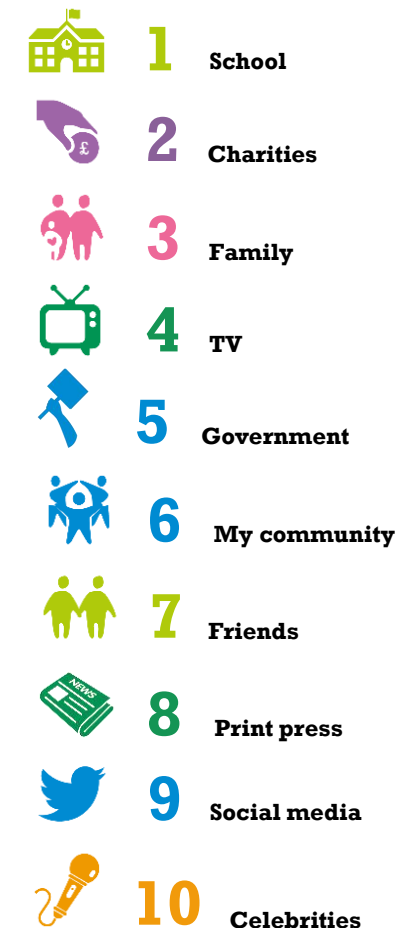
### Where do students hear climate change talked about the most?



### Who inspires students to get involved in climate action?



### Which information sources do students trust?

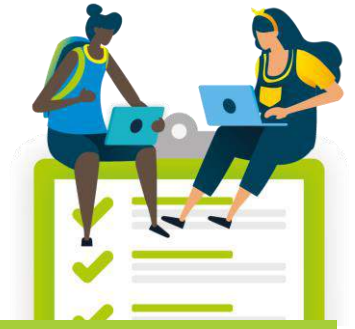


### Which information sources do students see as the most representative (age, gender, race)?



# Continued.....young people welcome inspiration and support

The survey showed a whole range of things that influence whether young people are involved in climate action or not, from knowledge about what to do, to having support from family, to feeling positive and motivated to act (reference Table 4 pg. 19). Here we have grouped these influences under four main headings.\* Looking to address each of these is crucial to encouraging students to carry out further climate-friendly action.



## Young people were given the opportunity to openly respond to who inspires them, a sample is showcased here.....



"David Attenborough. He highlighted how our impacts on the environment have already started and it is not too late to reverse/stop these changes from still going forward. Watching his documentaries like Frozen Planet make me feel really guilty and upset."

"Greta Thunberg - with real emotion and passion about what she is talking about - fills me with a guilt that inspires me to find new ways to help. She is so young and hearing such important words inspired me."

"Social media - Influencers fighting climate change like Mikaela Loach and Tolmeia. Their messaging about community and everyone having a part to play in creating change is really inclusive and inspiring. WWF on TikTok talks about animals vulnerable to extinction, and documentaries like Cowspiracy."

"Family – my sister is a marine conservationist. My mum is very passionate about the environment and always opens the door to conversations surrounding climate change that others may feel awkward having. My dad is a member of Greenpeace..... My family get involved in surfers against sewage."

"I am part of a Young Greens group, which makes me feel empowered to make a difference. Extinction Rebellion's introduction talk is a wake up call everyone needs. I wrote to my MP objecting to a planning application which will destroy vital habitats in our village. Community based organisations like Planet Cheltenham that make climate action seem more accessible and tangible."

## What do young people need to enable action?



### Opportunity

Young people need more structures in place (especially more time, ref. pg. 15 and 19) so that they have the opportunity to do things differently, and importantly that it becomes easier.



### Knowledge

Young people need to be clearer about the everyday actions that will make the most difference, and then have the skills to do them:

- **54% of all respondents were unsure of the individual actions they could take to help combat climate change.**



### Community

Young people need more support to undertake climate friendly activities. They need to see what others are doing, to learn from, and encourage each other.



### Being positive

Young people need to establish action as a priority that they 'want' to do, and feel positive and stay motivated because of the difference they are making.

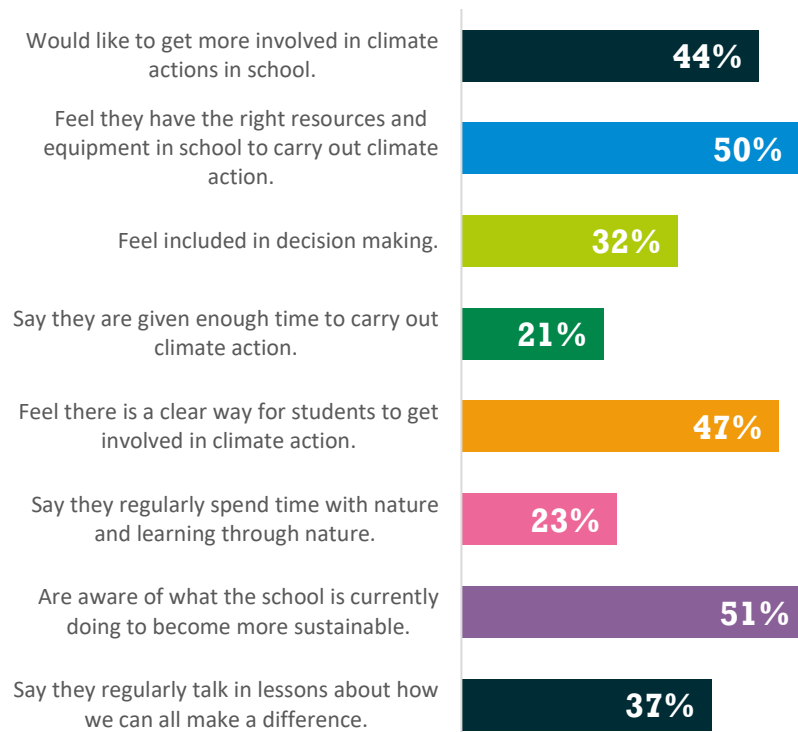


## 6. Young people believe schools can make action happen

This insight shows what Gloucestershire secondary schools are doing well at: making students aware of what they are currently doing to become more sustainable and providing the right resources and equipment. There is, however, still more to be done. Crucially, **8 in 10 students (79%) indicate there's not enough time for them to carry out action.** Only 2 in 10 students say they regularly spend time with nature or learning through nature, and 7 in 10 say they do not feel included in decision-making. There is a lot of support for many of the approaches for making schools more sustainable and taken together, these survey results may well help to shape future plans both in schools, but also in the wider community.



### How do young people see climate action in school?



### What do young people say would motivate them to act in school?

We identified five approaches\* that could be applied to make schools more sustainable. For each approach we asked respondents the extent to which they felt that this idea would motivate them to take climate action. Below are the top 5 choices selected, see Table 5 for the full list of results.



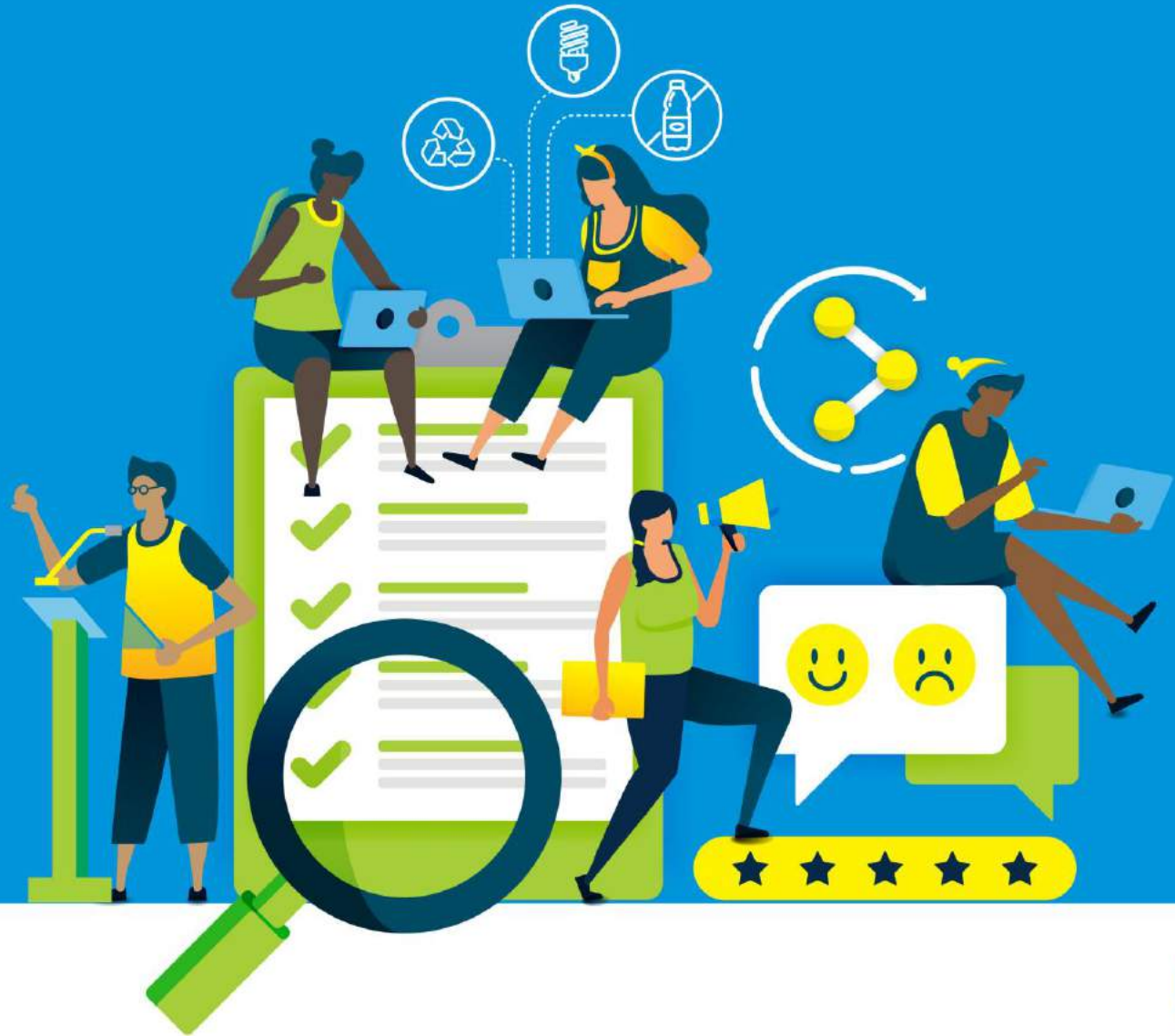
\*You can find details of the approaches identified here: [Climate-Action-Survey-approaches-to-motivating-students.pdf](https://interclimate.org/Climate-Action-Survey-approaches-to-motivating-students.pdf) ([interclimate.org](https://interclimate.org))

## Part 2

# Dive into the data

Here we dive deeper into the survey information we analysed to outline the top 5 insights.

You can use this knowledge to strategically guide your plans for positive change – encouraging more young people to act on the climate crisis.

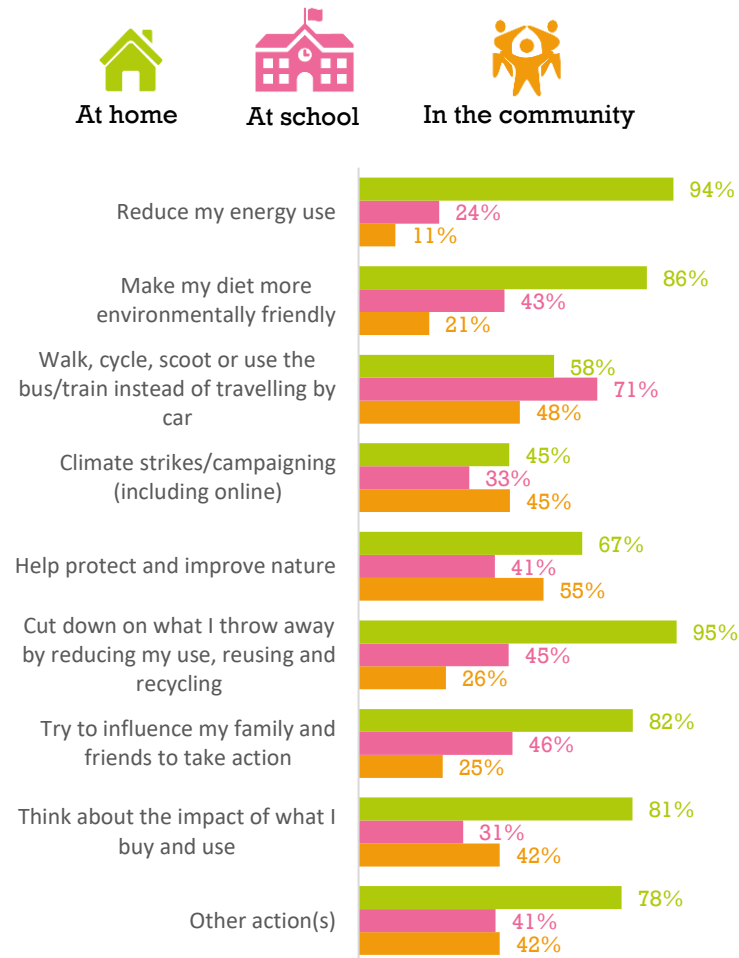


# Young people are willing to act on climate change

We asked the 74% of young people who are already taking action ‘for each action that you ARE doing please let us know WHERE you are doing these actions’ and also ‘WHO you are doing these actions with.’ The importance of family is noticeable, with most action taking place inside the home with family. Also, young people reporting that they commonly walk, cycle, scoot or use the bus/train with their friends shows the potential for creating communities of support for active travel.



**TABLE 1: WHERE are young people acting**



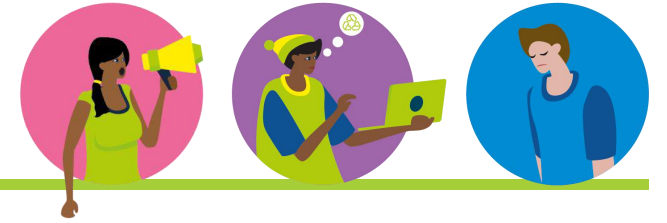
**TABLE 2: WHO are young people acting with**

Action	Alone	Organisation in school	Organisation outside of school	With family	With friends	Other*
Reduce energy use	35%	9%	4%	80%	16%	4%
Make their diet more environmentally friendly	40%	7%	4%	65%	13%	6%
Walk, cycle, scoot or use the bus/train instead of travelling by car	48%	12%	7%	44%	52%	4%
Climate strikes/campaigning	31%	16%	13%	25%	22%	29%
Help protect and improve nature	41%	21%	12%	58%	34%	7%
Cut down on what they throw away by reducing use, reusing and recycling	40%	13%	6%	80%	20%	4%
Try to influence family and friends to take action	43%	10%	6%	54%	39%	8%
Think about the impact of what they buy and use	54%	8%	5%	60%	21%	6%
Other actions	43%	13%	13%	45%	27%	23%

\*Other options included litter picking, gardening, replanting trees, growing vegetables at their family allotment and taking the school bus. Students commented they acted with people they had met online, as well as their community, Planet Cheltenham and members of their religious community (“other Muslims” or members of their church.)

# Young people are willing to act on climate change

Column (h) shows the combined total of responses from those already taking the action (a), along with actions young people said they would be willing to start doing (c, d and e). By looking at these combined totals it is possible to see the climate change actions that will have the support of the majority of young people.



**TABLE 3: What climate actions are students already doing, and what would they be willing to start doing?**









	Responses from the 74% of students who are already acting.			Of the 26% of students who are not yet acting, how willing would they be to start doing specific actions?				Combined total % of young people who are doing an action combined with those willing to do an action (h)
	I do this (a)	I don't do this (b)	I don't do this yet but would like to (c)	Very willing to do this (d)	Slightly willing to do this (e)	Unsure (f)	I do not want to do this (g)	
Reduce energy use	87%	4%	9%	38%	34%	17%	11%	90%
Make their diet more environmentally friendly	37%	43%	20%	12%	25%	22%	41%	52%
Walk, cycle, scoot or use the bus/train instead of travelling by car	72%	16%	12%	39%	28%	17%	16%	80%
Climate strikes/campaigning	9%	68%	23%	4%	15%	34%	47%	29%
Help protect and improve nature	35%	31%	34%	21%	36%	27%	16%	66%
Cut down on what they throw away by reducing use, reusing and recycling	75%	10%	15%	29%	38%	23%	10%	84%
Try to influence family and friends to take action	43%	36%	21%	12%	29%	33%	25%	58%
Think about the impact of what they buy and use	47%	34%	19%	12%	32%	33%	23%	60%
Other actions	26%	57%	17%					

# Young people welcome support and inspiration

This table provides further clues about barriers to action to inform planning.\* A lot of useful detail about why young people are not undertaking certain climate actions was provided both by the group that is acting and those that are not yet acting on climate change. Lack of time is a major factor for both groups in some activities. Not knowing how to do certain activities is preventing many from taking action (lack of knowledge), i.e. not knowing how to reduce energy use. Climate strikes and more environmentally friendly diets brought up mixed feelings for many \*\* and young people were also honest about which actions are not as important for them.

**TABLE 4: What is preventing climate action?**

The question asked of those already undertaking some action was: "For each action that you ARE NOT doing please let us know what you feel is preventing you." For those not taking any action the questions was: 'For the action's that you may be willing to do please let us know what you feel is preventing you from getting started.' The top reason is highlighted across the responses for each action.

		Don't have the right equipment	Don't know how to do this activity	Family and/or school are not supportive	Can't afford to do it	Don't have the time	It's not important to me	Other reason**	
	<b>Reduce energy use</b>	Acting	15%	20%	8%	9%	<b>25%</b>	11%	31%
		Not acting	9%	<b>28%</b>	6%	8%	22%	N/A	31%
	<b>Make their diet more environmentally friendly</b>	Acting	5%	15%	10%	12%	19%	<b>30%</b>	26%
		Not acting	4%	17%	8%	9%	14%	N/A	<b>28%</b>
	<b>Walk, cycle, scoot or use the bus/train instead of by car</b>	Acting	18%	4%	8%	10%	<b>35%</b>	6%	<b>35%</b>
		Not acting	13%	8%	6%	8%	<b>27%</b>	N/A	<b>39%</b>
	<b>Climate strikes/campaigning</b>	Acting	6%	31%	5%	2%	<b>45%</b>	22%	15%
		Not acting	5%	19%	8%	4%	<b>30%</b>	N/A	21%
	<b>Help protect and improve nature</b>	Acting	16%	25%	3%	3%	<b>44%</b>	7%	20%
		Not acting	11%	27%	3%	6%	<b>30%</b>	N/A	24%
	<b>Cut down on what they throw away</b>	Acting	9%	16%	8%	7%	20%	8%	<b>39%</b>
		Not acting	7%	<b>20%</b>	4%	6%	18%	N/A	<b>35%</b>
	<b>Try to influence family and friends to take action</b>	Acting	3%	20%	7%	2%	<b>27%</b>	<b>27%</b>	26%
		Not acting	3%	18%	8%	4%	21%	N/A	<b>28%</b>
	<b>Think about the impact of what they buy and use</b>	Acting	5%	19%	5%	10%	<b>27%</b>	19%	26%
		Not acting	4%	19%	3%	10%	20%	N/A	<b>29%</b>

\*It's important to recognise that self-reported information has limitations. People are often biased when they report on their own experiences. For example, many are more likely to report experiences that are socially acceptable or preferred. Yet this data when used alongside other information e.g. Table 3 (reference pg.14) can create a more accurate picture of why students are not undertaking certain actions and provide clues about what may help to overcome these barriers.

\*\*Other reasons given included **emotional responses**, especially around climate strikes and campaigning with them not 'feeling comfortable doing' or they were 'Too dangerous and risk of facing consequence online.' Others said 'I don't want to lecture my family, turn conversations into a chore.' Some had '**lost motivation**' and 'I don't want to miss my education for something that doesn't make much difference.' A factor for many students was that **choices were out of their control**, whether that was through a parent not wanting to change or a business not offering an alternative choice: 'Commercially available food products are sold in unsustainable packaging.' **Not having the opportunity** was notable around transport 'there is no safe cycling route,' 'the school bus is too expensive.' Many stated that they 'really enjoy meat so it **would be hard** for me to stop' or eating less meat would be unhealthy 'as a growing teenager, eating less meat would be devastating.' Others simply 'never remember to actually do' actions and '**often forget** to turn off electronic devices, but I would turn them off if I remembered.'

# Young people believe schools can make things happen

We identified five approaches that could be applied to make secondary schools more sustainable. For each approach we asked respondents the extent to which they felt these approaches would motivate them to take climate action. In Part One we outlined the top 5 choices selected, and below we have provided the full list of results. We have highlighted in yellow the top three motivators under the first two column headings. Also highlighted are the approaches most likely to be ignored, shown in column 3.

**TABLE 5: What do young people say would motivate them to act in school?**

	This would motivate me	This might motivate me	I would ignore this approach	Don't know
<b>Policy and rules that ensure climate friendly behaviour</b>				
Stronger school rules to ensure climate friendly behaviour by everyone, for instance about cutting energy use or food waste.	35%	<b>42%</b>	9%	14%
More opportunities for students to feed in and influence rules and targets, e.g. forums, elected eco-reps, anonymous suggestion boxes.	30%	<b>40%</b>	13%	17%
Greater engagement with students so they understand the rules and how they will help.	34%	<b>41%</b>	9%	16%
<b>More positive communication around climate change</b>				
Track results and showcase the positive impact of our actions, for instance how much energy or waste we have saved.	<b>41%</b>	37%	8%	14%
Linking climate action to other campaigns that make life better, such as improving your health.	38%	39%	10%	14%
<b>Social influence</b>				
Rewards and competitions to encourage action.	<b>41%</b>	36%	12%	11%
Access to more groups and activities to discuss and carry out action e.g. climate forums.	25%	39%	<b>19%</b>	16%
Hear from inspiring (local) people about the positive difference they are making.	28%	38%	18%	16%
<b>More and better education about climate change and what action to take</b>				
Sustainability taught across all subjects.	32%	<b>40%</b>	12%	16%
Careers guidance on 'green' skills and jobs that are going to be needed.	33%	38%	12%	18%
<b>Structural changes that make it easier to do the right thing</b>				
Install more equipment that make it easier to undertake action, e.g. more recycling bins around school.	<b>50%</b>	32%	6%	12%
Have student monitors, e.g. energy and recycling monitors.	26%	36%	<b>21%</b>	17%
Introduce changes that we are not really aware of e.g. mix more vegetarian options into the rest of the canteen menu.	36%	28%	<b>20%</b>	16%

# A selection of open comments

## Who do young people believe has the most power to change the course of climate change for the better?

**Individual action is limited by the options made available to us by businesses/corporations/national and local government. Placing responsibility on individual choice is unfair and unhelpful when we are much more effective collectively. It makes us feel shame for choices that are necessary and leads to inaction and doomism. Fuel suppliers are making record breaking profits at the same time as record numbers are facing fuel poverty. They should make the right choice to invest in renewables and cut profits to ease prices for consumers. Businesses and corporations and responsible for goods and services which drive most of our emissions. They should focus on circular economy principles, reducing waste, providing recyclable products that have minimal harm at end of life, providing sustainable transport options for their employees, and providing sustainable services. The government needs to provide consistent funding to allow people to make the changes needed, they need to set high standards and ambitions, and hold fossil fuel companies and other businesses and corporations to account.**

**One person's actions are miniscule in comparison to government who could create harmful laws such as allowing fracking (Liz Truss) or drilling for oil, or producing fast fashion.**

Because **young people are not listened to.**

Because **individually, it is very unlikely that people can create the huge change that we require so we need the people with power to make huge changes** to acknowledge the climate crisis and do something to slow this damage. However I do not think these people would like to acknowledge it but I believe that **young people have the potential to make them listen** because **we are angry** and want to make it as difficult as possible to keep ignoring it because at the end of the day, **it's our future being destroyed.**

**Everyone has a voice.**

The **government (Uk etc) have the power they just won't bother. Young people are making a change.** Businesses can choose better resources.

**I have watched everyone I know be climate conscious since we were taught it in school, and every one of them has been a DROP in the ocean** of damage being done to our climate. An individual can control what they eat, and what power they use, **but if all their necessities come wrapped in plastic and powered by oil, there is nothing they can do** as an individual to change that if they then cannot afford the prices being put on the products that advocate themselves as climate friendly but are produced by the exact same companies. Sure, we can gather and protest, but **its these big voices that need to hear us and do something.** We need to put an end to the large scale harm being done. **Limit the abilities of corporations and the wealthy being able to get away with it and us feeling the consequences.**

**Everyone can and should do something but in reality it's down to the government** to help give us things that help. **Most families don't have enough money to buy electric cars and the more expensive food just because it's better for climate change.** The government should help by giving us access to help and letting us know what we can do to help, as well as helping themselves. Just because they're rich doesn't mean they shouldn't help with climate change. Right now they just ignore it and expect us young people to deal with it in a few years. **They put too much pressure on us and should take on the responsibility of what they have caused.**

**Individuals cannot make a big enough difference if all we have are climate-negative options.** Why are non-green houses still being sold, why are single plastics still available, why are our fuel options coal and gas still? **We cannot as individuals make positive choices if the only choices are bad.** This is why regulation has to come from the top down so everyone is forced to do it. This is why I didn't choose every individual because not everyone wants to or can make a difference unless it is accessible to them.

Everyday actions by **individuals and communities** are a huge help. But 50% of the world's emissions are caused by the top 1% of companies, and it's **really not fair to the millions of individual people doing their best to help.**

The **fuel and companies** (some of them) are leaving a massive effect especially in the UK while they're making profit by polluting or damaging the world and the **government isn't doing anything** that changes enough and **everyone is facing the consequences for the companies** actions to where we could lose our planet because of them.

**If you educate people from a early age they will just do it out of habit.**

The **government** have lots of power and **young people are bright and think about modern solutions.**

Because **anyone** can make a difference if they put in the time, effort and energy.

Every individual because together **everyone can make a difference, young people because they seem to be the most aware and it affects their future,** and **Government** because they hold a lot of power.

Despite the fact that the **Government and Fuel Suppliers** could reduce the effect the most, **they don't.** Therefore **it is up to us, the people to have the greatest effect on the climates current situation.**

**If individuals live in societies structured to support emission producers they are not to blame for acting accordingly.**

**Celebrities (social influence).**

The **Government** can help put laws in place in order to encourage certain things like less energy use and recycling etc. **Fuel suppliers** could put their costs up or switch to renewable energy to encourage renewable energy. **Businesses and Corporations** could switch to renewable energy, use resources from closer by etc to reduce the effect making a product will have on the environment.

Because, although if **everyone** does their bit, together its a massive difference BUT, it always seems to be the people with money, who control everything. **Big energy companies just want to make more money** instead of doing things to save our planet. The **government, just want taxes and to be in power so they wont upset the big companies.**

The **government** talks a big game but in the end they are simply sending messages, they **aren't really doing much** at all to reinforce what they suggest. They need to put their foot down when it comes to businesses and fuel and such.

The **Government** can invest more in renewable energy.

# A selection of open comments

## Who do young people believe has the most power to change the course of climate change for the better?

**We need change at all levels. Policy, personal and commercial responsibility.**

Because although every individual can make a difference through their actions it is **large corporations that produce the most emissions and then individuals are made to feel guilty about not doing enough to help climate change** when the **real power is in the hands of these companies and with the government which doesn't provide appropriate legislation to tackle climate change.**

My top answer was **the government, but clearly at this moment in time, they seem unable to grasp the enormity of the situation in our hands, therefore leading to complacency and little positive action being taken.** However, if the government would stop making things good in the short term, and focus on long term issues, become less money driven and corrupt and fully understand climate change, then with the right actions, we'd be able to drag ourselves out of the pit that we are constantly digging deeper. I also say **every individual** because with enough people wanting change, the people who make change will be pressured into making change. However, **if there is no pressure, then, once again, there will be complacency and little positive action** being taken.

**Young people because we are the future, schools** etc. because that is where the **most education of both young people and adults and the most implementing of positive changes** can happen on a large scale, **the government** because it is **their duty to protect the planet and our future in ways that individuals cannot as they have the power to.**

**Young people** because they have the power to tell older people not to do it.

If the **government and corporations** fail to provide adequate means to prevent climate change, **individuals and smaller groups have next to no power** to alter the situation.

**Young people have the desire to change things but have no power to** so its ultimately up to the **government but they are heavily influenced by big businesses, so with pressure from young people the government might do something more to help.**

I don't think that **anyone other than the government and leaders of big businesses can really make a big difference** because they are the ones holding the money and power.

The **government has the power to restrict how businesses** and corporations that do not produce their goods in an environmentally friendly manner operate to an extent, and I believe that **unsustainable fuel types should be taxed** much more so fuel suppliers move over to green energy.

**Young people especially because it's our future** and if we want to have a couple more generations, we all need to start a little bit by little, and then it will get better. One person will make no difference. Millions can.

The **government is lazy** but could really help if they tried to. Individuals can do loads. **Fuel suppliers** can do A VERY LARGE LOT.

I selected **every individual** as we all have a voice and we all have rights to help the world. I selected **young people** as when we are older it will be **our future that will get affected** if we don't do anything to help. I selected the **government** as they can speak about it in parliament and raise awareness they can also speak to interviewers and tell them how they feel about climate change.

**Every person** should get involved it seem boring at first but **it's really fun when you get involved.**

**A lot of blame is pinned on the average person, but I'm reality it is mainly big corporations** who hold a lot of responsibility but they manage to get by unscathed.

**Younger people** are more engaged about the world and what we are doing to it.

**Education** is a great way to inform **young people** who will then tell their families. **Every individual must make a choice to change but the government has the power,** finance and legal rights to **create meaningful change** which can make a profit alongside created a more sustainable economy and country.

**Young people** because they can make a change, **schools** can encourage bike riding and recycling and families encourage

The **government** have a lot of power over everyday people, if they worked with **mass organisations and businesses** (who create so much pollution) it would have such a positive impact on climate change. I also think **school and work places contribute a lot so if the government also worked with them we would also receive a huge positive impact.** I don't think it is fuel suppliers as they only see the demand and supply it, if the government (and people) created no demand they would not supply.

**Celebrities** who have a big carbon footprint.

I think that **the Government don't care enough** about climate change and if they did NONE of this would be happening. It really is very STUPID!!!

**Individuals** can make small changes that add together to improve the environment. Larger organisations like business and the government can take larger actions into plan to make big changes.

**I think there needs to be change from the top-down.** Individual changes won't do much when we are still dependent as a society on things like cars, fossil fuels, etc. There needs to be top-down change and incentives. Also the government I think could definitely be doing more.

A large proportion of global emissions come from corporations and fuel suppliers, it is the **responsibility of the government** to end subsidies for fuel companies and put emissions caps on companies or sectors. Individual people and communities cannot tackle climate change alone.

**Industry** are one of the worlds worst polluters, **governments** have the legal power to control this.

# A selection of open comments

## Who do young people believe has the most power to change the course of climate change for the better?

**Individual choices make very little impact** on climate change, to a point where individual action, **without legislative action is entirely useless**. Even if everyone in the world was vegan, **most pollution comes from the very few richest** in the world, who would continue to profit short term, destroying the planet long term. **Individual action other than campaigning is useless for anything other than peace of mind**.

**Young people** are the future leaders of the world and can influence our future. The **Government** holds a lot of power in terms of environmental laws and restrictions.

**Everyone** should be responsible for their own carbon footprint, **businesses are some of the worst when it comes to that though so they should step their game up**, government should just promote it.

Because **we need older people to let us think about it and so they can get us involved with it**.

If the **government made compulsory laws on energy suppliers big corporations etc** it would make a huge difference as they are the ones who have the largest carbon footprint. At the moment they only have advice and they require big corporations to only provide what they would do but that doesn't mean they are going to follow through with it a lot of the time they could only be doing it so then they look good as well as that the government could find land to plant trees and could invest more into helping the climate instead of **relying on their citizens to do all the work for them**.

Because **everyone** can make a change you just have to commit to it.

We can do things as individuals, but **it's the government that has the power to see real change**.

**My mum and family make me want to help more!!**

Because **my community** encourages us to do a litter sweep whenever we can.

The **government** are in charge and **should put in rules that help the environment** such as everybody having solar panels or making non plastic options in shops cheaper.

**Everyone** can do a tiny thing and it would make a big difference and for **young people it is our future**.

I think **every individual** can make a difference because if everybody thought one person can't make a difference then nothing would happen. I chose the **government** because they make the rules and by making rules that have a positive impact on the environment they can help and encourage people to change. I chose **businesses and corporations** because big companies have a large carbon footprint and if they all change it can make a huge difference.

Because the **government** has the extreme ability to make big decisions.

**God** (so I'll pray to him to ask him to help!).

Everyone can help even if its just recycling a bottle every little action helps, I think that **if everyone does there bit we can stop climate change!**

These nations - **European and North American** - should be **leading and paving the way for all nations of the world to be able to build a greener, better, society that benefits the planet and its inhabitants**. With positive investment in renewable technology, strong public policy, and involving community action to ensure the people are not left unattended for - I believe this is what is needed to make a positive difference.

**My school** is proactive with saving the planet in many ways because many of the pupils care. I think other schools are similar.

To be honest the **fuel suppliers** will keep going but if they stop they will make the biggest difference. The **government** are the only people who can stop the fuel suppliers. **Individuals however are the only ones that can make the government take action**.

Because there is a limit to how much individuals and small companies can do - now **it is up to the government to ultimately legislate policies to set laws around** what big businesses can do - and what they can't, to save the planet.

Because as **every individual** can make small changes to their daily life to be more sustainable, it does come down to **big businesses and fuel suppliers to make the bigger changes** like making the prices of unsustainable fuels more expensive, which therefore will tempt even more individuals to become more sustainable at home/in the community. Furthermore, the **government** also has the power to make vast changes to how sustainable our country is, like with trade and exportation with other countries. Just **the government has to actually use that power otherwise we will be getting absolutely nowhere**.

**Everyone has rights and a voice**.

**Governments, businesses, corporations, and fuel suppliers & producers need to be held accountable** for the mass amounts of fossil fuels that they have procured and subsequently burnt.

Of all of these, **the state has the highest burden of all**. As it was under their supervision and fossil fuel friendly policies that led to mass amounts of CO2 being produced which we are now starting to feel the consequences of - **we also cannot ignore the lobbying and disinformation by fossil fuel producers**.

**All governments** have a role to play in reducing the emissions of their country but **wealthier nations have a specific responsibility** to provide for poorer nations, who had suffered under a euro-centric colonialism for decades.

**Individuals don't have the ability to pass laws only pressure them to be passed**. **Fuel suppliers** are literally the root of the problem- at this point it might be better to just stop producing any fuel at all considering lives lost (source- does it matter? the point is this is how I, a representative of all people my age, feel like this and that should mean a lot to anybody who cares). Corporations have the power to unite and direct people better than individuals or under-motivated volunteers.

**People in POWER**.

# A selection of open comments

## Who do young people believe has the most power to change the course of climate change for the better?

I think that **every individual** has the power to draw attention to the climate crisis, **young people** especially, but ultimately, as a society heavily swayed by capitalism, **businesses and corporations have a responsibility** to change their practices or the movement will not work. This requires the **Government** to introduce stricter laws on climate change and people who commit ecocide and those who continue to damage the environment, consciously.

Its said that **young minds will be our saviour**, **school influences everyone to make an impact** and my other option is for **Greta Thunburg because she's made a very big impact**.

**Businesses and corporations** are one of the biggest participants in climate change, the **government** is the only thing that can really make them do anything **but so far neither have nor look like they will** in the near future, which is why it is currently more up to **individual people** to make as big of a difference as a single person can.

They contribute the most to climate change (**corporations**) and have the most influence over the rules that would change peoples behaviour by necessity rather than allowing them to choose based on convenience.

Because if the **government** controls what happens to our country politically, they should at least try and do something about the 'nature' side of our country.

Large bodies of people will inspire others, and if the **government** pass laws for climate change then more people will feel obliged to comply. Small things will make a difference, so if **everyone** does something little it will eventually grow into something worthwhile.

**Everyone** in the world of any age.

**Everyone** has the power to help change the world if they just want to try.

If **every individual** looked after the environment, it would be very good for climate change. The **government** has the power to motivate people into being environmentally friendly. **Fuel suppliers** need to be sustainable and good for the environment, not giving off so many emissions, which would be good for the environment.

**Everyone** can make a difference but mainly the **government** as they have a lot of respect and **people will listen to them**. Also **businesses** can become eco friendly as they are the ones who generate carbon dioxide and a lot of plastic waste and also energy WASTED.

I chose '**every individual**' and '**young people**' because anyone has the power to make a difference on climate change, it's **just whether they decide to or not**.

I think **everyone** can make a big difference however **businesses can encourage the government** to actually help as **they don't do anything** about climate change.

**Businesses/corporations** have the biggest environmental impact so big changes from them would make a lot of difference.

**Young people** are the new generation and we will have to deal with what is chosen to do.

**Everybody** can help in some way, the **government** can place rules that we could abide to, and **schools and workplaces** normally have alot of people, **imagine if every single school and workplace in the whole of UK took part!!**

**Large companies** can and it would make a big difference but **they wont as it gets them more money** and the **government just can't agree so its mostly just up to young people**.

Because for it to work we need **everyone** to be involved and the **government to lead us**.

**Young people** are realising for their future they need to make a difference.

While individuals can help a bit, the only real change can come when the **people with the most power** and money start to do stuff.

The **Government** makes the rules, so they can enforce climate laws. **Fuel suppliers and businesses** and corporations are wealthy and have a lot of control over people (supplying their needs and wants).

I think if **everyone does there bit** and if big **companies/ the government** help by reducing pollution then the world will be a better place.

Because **everyone** can make a difference.

**Everyone** should help the planet that is what I believe.

**A single person's carbon footprint is absolutely dwarfed by that of industry**, yet there are rarely people talking and campaigning about ways for industries to reduce their emissions, it is nearly always about the individual.

# A selection of open comments

## What or who has made a big difference to what young people think about climate change?

When I was about 9, I was inspired by **Greta Thunberg** in the news and became quite passionate about climate change; becoming vegetarian, trying to buy more eco friendly products etc.

**Greta Thunberg.** Her rage at the fact that the governments of our world have taken hardly any action towards this existential threat shows how incompetent they are at major issues. She has shown me that anyone, ANYONE can do their bit, even become a major voice in the tidal wave of action that is necessary to save humanity.

**Greta Thunberg.** She was very young and I felt like I could relate more to her and her passion, being a similar age to her.

**Greta Thunberg** made me think that anyone can make a change because she started climate activism as a child so that means anyone can help.

**Greta Thunberg** is a young girl like myself. She is inspiring and makes me want to be better.

**Greta Thunberg** inspired me to take action on climate change and when she started she was only a child so that means I can too.

**Greta Thunberg** because she stands up against the biggest leaders with no fright and she has the right because we need to take action quick or it might be too late

**Greta Thunberg** and **David Attenborough** - seeing real people with real emotion and passion about what they are talking about - fills me with a guilt that inspires me to find new ways to help.

**Greta Thunberg** and her climate activism was the first big thing I had heard about climate change . This made a difference because I thought of it in a more prominent way.

I think that **Greta Thunberg** made a big difference to me because she is so young and hearing such important vital words coming from a young person inspired me

**Greta Thunberg** has made a huge difference in our views of climate change because she felt it necessary to raise awareness on a global scale!

**Greta Thunberg** because she has inspired people to get involved.

**Greta Thunberg** has inspired me a lot to recycle and stop climate change. She has inspired me to share the message to everyone to recycle.

**Greta Thunberg** because if I hadn't have seen her on TV I would have known less about climate change

**Greta Thunberg** - Her messages are very powerful and clear.

**Social media** ppl like **Greta Thunberg** - people who keep it real and don't sugar-coat reality.

I think **Greta Thunberg** has inspired me the most because she is so strong in her beliefs

**Greta Thunberg** - saw her on TV talking about climate change and she is very inspiring

**David Attenborough**, his documentaries were so out of a comfort zone that they made me realise how big of a problem climate change was, he made a difference by being, in my opinion, one of the first people to without any reassurance, talk about climate change.

**David Attenborough** has inspired me to take action. 🌱 ♻️ 🌳 🗑️

**David Attenborough** as he has attempted to make everyone in our generation aware of what is going on and how we can avoid it. He also has highlighted how our impacts on the environment have already started and it is not too late to reverse/stop these changes from still going forward. I think it's also inspiring how he cares so much about our future as the human race even though he will not be affected by these changes his generation are putting into action. I think that others that have the influence to make a change should follow in his footsteps and be more selfless in order to help our generation when we are trying to make an impact.

Currently I have been watching the Frozen Planet by **David Attenborough** and he talks about climate change, and it shows how important it is to help make a difference.

**David Attenborough** as I have been watching his documentaries almost all my life and seeing how they have changed has made me feel really guilty and upset.

**David Attenborough** documentaries, they are meaningful and I trust the information in them. They encourage me to do my bit.

**David Attenborough**, because he is an expert on the climate and has been telling us about the changes in the environment.

**David Attenborough** ..he cares and is knowledgeable.

I think that people like **David Attenborough** and other wildlife presenters really help the Earth and climate change because their programmes inspire people to stop polluting and using cars because of the wonder you see in the programmes.

**David Attenborough** and the hard hitting things he produces

Sir **David Attenborough** - Made me realise the atrocious affects we are having on the world, but he gives me hope that if it can't be fully resolved it can be slowed down.

**David Attenborough** because he inspires in his documentary and tells you how to stop climate change.

**David Attenborough's** documentaries are really interesting and often talk about the effects/causes of climate change. Knowing this has helped me to be more eco friendly.

**David Attenborough!!!!**

**David Attenborough**, he puts a scary and very realistic face on the subject and doesn't leave anything out. You almost feel guilty.

# A selection of open comments

## What or who has made a big difference to what young people think about climate change?

My **mum** is very passionate about the environment and always opens the door to conversations surrounding climate change that others may feel awkward having. She is also always looking for things we can do as a family to help the environment for example recycling, buying certain foods and trying to eat less meat. As well as this **social media** sites such as **tiktok** show me that there are people of my generation who are passionate about the environment and inspire me to create change.

Started with **family** conversation from a very young age. Inspired me to take more action and once you get involved you get sucked in!

**Dad** - spends time with me talking about climate change and impact on future. We go on walks together in countryside.

My **grandmother** has made a big difference because she is very smart and is always aware of what is going on. She reuses plastic bags and buys things that that can be recycled.

My **family**, as they inspired me to help the community and when we go to **church** we talk about what time we go to a place and help by litter picking.

**My parents**, who have always strongly cared for the environment and raised me to care too.

**My mother**, she went vegan for a couple years and always goes on walks and picks up litter when she can,. She's also signed up to many charities and global warming campaigns. She knows a lot and I trust her.

**Sister** - very motivated about climate change and does as much as she can( recycle batteries/ anything recyclable: vegetarian and so on).

My **mum** because she's become vegetarian and tries not to buy plastic anymore. She buys glass or tin packaging. She buys second hand and recycles as she says too much goes into landfill.

My **grandpa** because he is apart of Gloucestershire city council.

My **sister** studying marine biology and is a marine conservationist has provided me with proof of how climate change is affecting the oceans and plants in current time.

My **family** has because they have been a huge help in explaining everything and making me understand how serious this crisis really is.

My **mum**. She is amazing and she loves the planet. She is always finding new ways of helping the environment. And my **dad** he loves saving energy and not wasting things.

My **sister** and **mother** made a big difference as my mum would help me do recycling and my sister would inspire me to fight for the environment by making eco bricks or planting!!

**Mum**, because she showed me how easy it is to change a life style.

My **family** and I have made a huge impact on Climate Change! We have done this by picking up litter and also my **mum** has been saving the bees!!!!

My **friends** being confident in taking climate action, my encouragement through education and the damage I have seen reported and shared created by human sources. The world has literally been burning these last couple years.

My **friends and my brother**. They are all very informed and make conscious decisions based on their environmental impact. I do not feel that the government is doing enough to deal with the climate crises.

My **friend** is very passionate about helping the earth so they inspire me to help and keep me interested and up to date

Also **friends** who are passionate about the environment and teach me so much. They are a huge influence and made me feel as though I could take steps towards becoming more environmentally friendly.

My **dad** is a bit of a fanatic, a member of greenpeace and an allotment owner, he cycles everywhere and he has solar panels put on the roof.

My **family** and I talk a lot about climate change/the environment (particularly my **mum** as she works for an environmental charity). Generally the **media, and TV documentaries** have made a big difference; as well as climate summits such as **COP26**.

My **mum** is a sustainability consultant which has inspired me to take action in many different ways. I go to planet Cheltenham youth group meetings and meet others who are getting involved in tackling the climate crisis, which helps me learn how others view the seriousness of this crisis.

I think my **family** because we talk about climate change a lot at home and if we didn't do this I don't think I would be as aware.

I think **my family** does because they throw out (recycle) all the time and tell me to so I really do think my family and other families do make a difference just because they recycle.

I think my **friends and family**. My friends and I have always all been interested in climate change and protecting the environment. Also, I read a lot and learn about it there.

My **family and personal research** into the topics of science and climate change.

My **dad** because he's a ecologist.

My **parents** have been changing how they buy some products eg milk bottles, non-plastic wrappings and much more.

My **mum** always says that we need to turn off lights and turn of electronics when we are not using them and to eat no meat and she says that if we don't more and more polar bears are going to die and I think that's really sad and we are doing those to them.

My **family** get involved in surfers against sewage (they live in Devon) and they inspire me to get involved and to help clean up the environment as much as possible, not only for recycling purposes (plastic bottles on the ground), but so there's not as much work for people when the problem progresses, e.g. when it's in the sea.

# A selection of open comments

## What or who has made a big difference to what young people think about climate change?

I am part of a **Young Greens group**. It makes me feel empowered to make a difference and I like talking to other people my age about things that matter to me.

My **school**-Cleeve school has made efforts to teach us and show us the effects of climate change. I can say that they've **opened my eyes to what's happening and inspired me to think about my actions and how it may affect others**.

My **geography lessons** in school made me realise the scale and impacts of climate change.

A **lecturer at university** in my climate change module was really engaging and taught me a lot. She inspired me to do more.

**My school** because it inspires me to get involved and help the world.

Any kind of **documentaries shown to us in school**, as it provides an alternative perspective to what we see everyday as the documentary shows the impact on other parts of the world or on animals etc. I think it makes people realise how severe the situation is, but i feel if it gets repeated too many times a lot of people will get fed up and not want to be supportive.

A **lecturer at college** taught me how easy it is to spread false information, used the example of climate change, and stopped me from believing that it was fake.

School has made it very easy to understand what is happening

My **geography teachers** talk about it a lot lol. Ummm. We've got a non school uniform day soon too to help contribute to the Just One Tree thingy. I really like nature especially bc I'm interested in foraging for mushrooms and plants etc so I always wanna help those things stay happy and healthy.

**Teachers** because they teach us about it for our generation to help.

**Mr Papper and Mr Hearing - Chosen Hill School.**

The **schools** explaining the real realities and using evidence of what it may look like in the future if we don't do anything

**Teachers** when I was at school, by providing information I could be sure wasn't just speculation or conspiracy theories. School, because that was where I first heard about climate change

**GCSE science** taught me all about climate change.

**Hearing about it at school** has made me more aware about climate change and **I have read books** about it which have really inspired me to do something.

**School** with them showing real examples of what our future may look like If we don't take action.

My **eco club** as we have done some things to get other people to be good to the environment.

**COP 26 and Geography Lessons** - Showed me how the world is being affected by climate change, not just our country.

**Teachers** - good education helps me understand what I must do and has inspired me to dedicate my career to it.

School **eco committee** we discuss things to help our school be more eco friendly.

My school made a difference by telling me the importance.

We had to make a sustainability PowerPoint in **geography** and I learnt a lot about what the world is going through.

My **school** have made a big difference as **they are doing a rebuild and completely wasting money and resources** and are **not listening to what's important to the pupils**, this **inspired me to strike** against those who pretend to care about climate change but do nothing about it.

Being educated from a young age through **schools** and being **surrounded by people in classes and friendship groups** that are passionate about climate change.

My **teachers** have taught me what is going on and how we can help.

The **teachers in charge of the environmental ambassadors** - I was part of the ambassador group.

My **primary school** ( Winchcombe abbey) did a whole unit on climate change! we learnt about what causes it, what it is, how to help and more!

My **primary school** made a huge difference when I joined the **eco council**. We went on litter picks and gave information to others.

My **primary school** taught me a lot about climate change and how to get involved.

My **teachers** at school have taught us about what's actually happening and how we can help.

I learned about **deforestation in school** once and started researching.

My **school** by explaining that if we don't make a change my future may be worse.

School **geography teachers** by showing me new ways I didn't know before of how to help.

**School**. Told me the reality of climate change

**School** - they have taught me everything I know.

**School** because we have been given lots of info about it and talked about it a lot in lessons.

# A selection of open comments

## What or who has made a big difference to what young people think about climate change?

I follow a lot of **influencers specifically devoted to fighting climate change**, one is **@mikaelaloach**, I think influencers often have a lot to say about fighting climate change, making us aware of the government's failings and what more we can do.

A social media star called **MrBeast** has set up multiple charities with thousands of pounds of donations, cleaning up the seas and planting trees.

My **parents** (explained already) and **social media** because it shows you how important this is and the people I see actually look like they're doing more than our own government, so I've gotten pretty scared into a point I'm changing bits of my routine in places where I'm able to.

Activists online like **Tolmeia and Mikaela Loach**. Community based organisations like **Planet Cheltenham** that make climate action seem more accessible and tangible.

**On social media** because that's where people talk about it, everyone else just ignores it's happening.

**Mikaela Loach on Instagram** is a young activist whose messaging about community and everyone having a part to play in creating change is really inclusive and inspiring. She is realistic but hopeful about our future. **Doughnut Economics** and **This Changes Everything** by Naomi Klein were two books that changed my whole perspective.

BTS, **Kim Namjoon** especially who is an amazing role model that speaks up for multiple issues and demonstrates how to make a change, inspiring millions of fans to make tree planting projects, cycle to work etc.

**Blogger** I follow talked a lot about it and when I got to know more information I became more concerned about the climate change.

Real people on **YouTube** covering natural disasters and the programs that cover what's happening to animals natural habitats because of climate change.

Well **social media** have made me think about climate change a lot and I really want to help with recycling.

**Mark Rober and Jimmy Donaldson** help clean up the ocean by removing 24 million kilograms of rubbish from the ocean.

**Leonardo DiCaprio** by spreading lots of info about climate change and what's happening in the surrounding environments.

Friends and **Greenpeace social media**.

My **TikTok idol** is Christian and half Nigerian, hearing her talk about it moved me. :)

**Kurzgesagt** changed my view on climate change because of their way of laying out information and the reassurance of scientific reasoning letting me know their info is reliable.

Certain **social media** accounts publish very sad but real facts and figures that are very shocking.

**Channel 4 News'** reporting on climate change seems most reliable to me because it **emphasises factual information and scientific evidence, rather than trying to give an opinion**, as a way to convince people of the importance of climate change.

I think **the news** has made me the most aware of climate change especially because of the headlines and pictures that come up.

Primarily **my family**. They always believed that climate change was a problem and didn't want to contribute to it. Also the **news (mainly BBC)** because I now take politics, economics and to an extent business where climate change is a prevalent subject. (as in I see a lot of information about climate change while doing politics, business and economics work).

I have seen on the **news footage** of very unfortunate young people even my age suffering.

I see on **the news** and at home that climate change is affecting many things on earth and I feel that it is important to get involved with fighting climate change.

**The T.V** when I watched the first time I thought "I need to get involved and help out"

**News coverage, discussion with family and friends and reading around the subject** have informed how I think about climate change, they provide a harsh reality compared to other watered down accounts or biased information from sources such as those in government, social media and celebrities.

**Blue Peter** because they made me aware of plastic pollution.

**Watching programs** that make you realise the shocking horror of what we are doing to our world. And things like that bring you to reality, that action is needed.

**Newsround** because they told me what was happening because of it **but also said how I can help**.

**People on TV** talk about what is happening around the world and say what they have done to help this inspires me to try and help protect our planet.

**Seaspiracy and Cowsspiracy, Netflix programs**.

The **news and people around me** showing what it is doing to our climate.

**Regular media exposure** to the effects it's having made me more aware and care more.

The **news** because it shows the reality of climate change.

**TV** and it's trusting information.

**Tony Heller** - a proper climate scientist.

**WWF** animal protection charity on **TikTok** talking about all the animals and how it affects them all.

# A selection of open comments

## What or who has made a big difference to what young people think about climate change?

**People my own age** talking about climate change.

People who speak up about climate change ( especially **younger people**) because it makes me worried for my future if we don't do something now

**Everyday conversations normalising** recycling, local and seasonal food and spending a day out on a hike rather than watching tv with friends.

The **social element** of how a changing climate effects **not only people here in the UK but on a global** scale is enough to take any steps I myself can - be that reducing my own emissions or trying to get involved in community action - do to reduce our impact on the climate.

**All of the people in power screwing everything up and not taking it seriously-** this inspires me because I realise the people who should be looking after the people they represent are doing such a poor job **I have to do it myself.**

All of the **people dying or suffering because of climate-change-related events-** this inspires me because it seems that only people affiliated with a certain side of the political spectrum give a damn about it and since there clearly is not being enough done (source-people dying) **I'm going to have to do it all myself.**

**Vulnerable individuals** who are more prone to the effects and suffer from it, I can empathise and it hurts me to know people in the world so affected by such small actions so **I'm angry and want to make a difference!!!**

The **climate change issue being spoken about more frequently** has made this issue rise in its importance.

The **weather changes are more visible** and apparent to me, and because of this, i can see real effects of climate change rather than just hearing about it from school or other sources.

I believe that the **increase in the energy price cap** has made people realise that the resources we use are not sustainable and will run out, and we have to act now if we are to make a difference and stop climate change from reaching the point of no return.

**Pakistan floods.**

People in **my church** have helped me have a clearer view about climate change from a biblical perspective. For example, I see that when God made us he told us to be "stewards" of the world so we need to look after it and care for it because God cares. Also the Bible tells us to love our neighbour and values self-sacrifice so I should be more willing to give up my comforts eg heating to help make the planet a safer place for more people.

**My church** also does alot to help climate change by also bringing up climate issues and how to change. we also pick up litter in the community and plant trees in the community.

No one because **I don't care about climate change.**

**I don't know or care, I got better things to worry about.**

I **don't care** much about climate.

I **wrote in to my MP** about objecting to a planning application that will destroy a large part of the habitat in our village, and **a councillor (Mr Workman) wrote back to me telling me that I had very valid points and I should carry on voicing my views** which gave me confidence that I can be heard if I speak loud enough.

Individuals in the **green party**, Caroline Lucas, Jonathan Porrit. Other figures like George Monbiot. Making sense.

Involvement in **the Labour Party.**

The **government** and how they have adverts in tv

I have seen a **lot of charities** on the TV. I feel that makes me feel like I want to help

I think **public speakers** have inspired me to think about our planet. They have done this by showing how this affects our future

**Extinction rebellion** and the **youth climate strikes.**

**Extinction rebellion.** Their introduction talk ""heading for extinction and what to do about it"" is a wake up call everyone needs. You don't realise just how catastrophically bad the situation is. However bad you think it is, it's 100 times worse.

I think lots of **climate activists** have made the government have a massive rethink about climate change.

**Activists** that I've met within my time organising and groups such as **Extinction Rebellion.**

**Campaigners/protesters** who sit on the road and refuse to budge, even for an ambulance have **negatively impacted my image** of a climate activist, rather than making climate change the issue and brining attention to it, they bring attention to **how annoying and sometimes cruel and stubborn** they can be.

People who fight for their beliefs about climate change

**Forest Green Rovers** (the football club) because they are always talking about ways on how we can be more environmentally friendly and they were the first organisation that made me think about veganism (I am now vegan)

**Brands that sell more sustainable**, plastic free alternatives being readily available and good advertising.

**Ecotricity**, using their customers money to manufacture and design more effective and efficient eco-friendly wind turbines, there are some disadvantages to this however I think it's a good idea, I learned about it in school today!

The then prince of Wales and current **King Charles III** being actively involved with raising awareness of climate change.

Also, a fictional book I read, **A Tree In Time, by Pam C. Golden**, showed me what life was like for the Mesolithic people, and how they lived in harmony with the world, animals around them and each other. It made me extremely aware of the difference between then and today, and made me determined to undo the damage the human race have done on our planet.