DOING POLITICS DIFFERENTLY
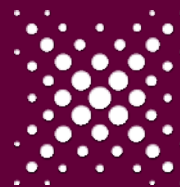
Scotland's Climate
Assembly
Seanadh Gnàth-shìde
na h-Alba

Scotland's Climate Assembly

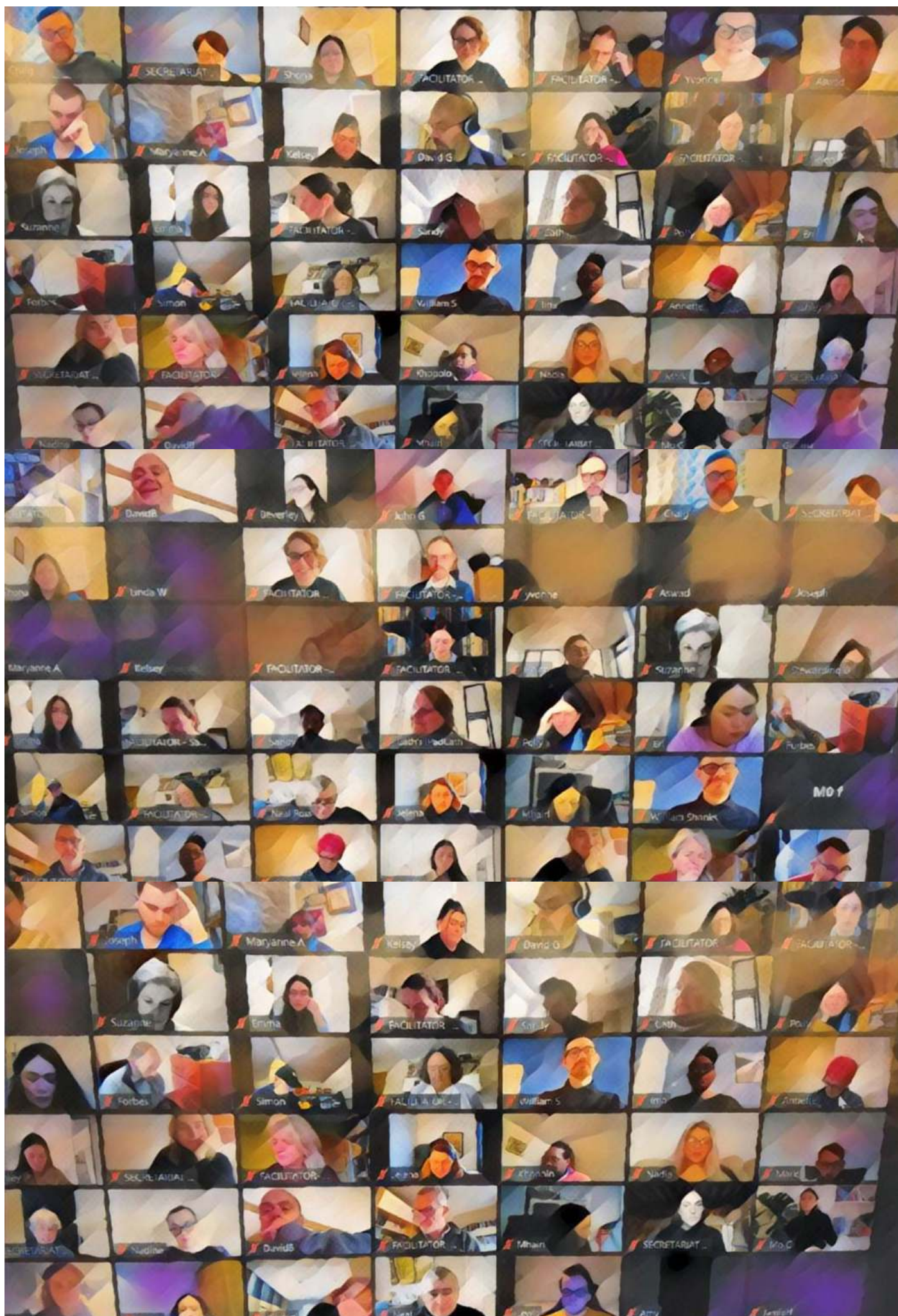## Recommendations for Action

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Scotland's Climate Assembly

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Seanadh Gnàth-shìde na h-Alba

Contents

Introduction

Scotland's Climate Assembly is Scotland's first citizens' assembly focused on climate change. Grounded in Scotland's Climate Change Act (2019), the Assembly brought together over 100 ordinary citizens from across Scotland to deliberate about the climate emergency. They were tasked with answering the question:

How should Scotland change to tackle the climate emergency in an effective and fair way?

What is a Citizens' Assembly?

A citizens' assembly brings together a group of people who are broadly representative of a population to learn and deliberate about a topic before they make recommendations. Assembly members first learn from experts and each other's lived experience. This ensures every participant has the same foundational knowledge and their discussions and deliberations are evidence-based. The recommendations that an assembly makes can feed into policy, allowing ordinary citizens to inform decision making on important and contested social issues.

Assembly members were selected to reflect the wider population, ensuring their recommendations are grounded in diverse backgrounds and experiences. Scotland's Climate Assembly sent out 20,000 invitations to randomly selected households across Scotland. Of those who responded, 105 people were invited to take part in the Assembly. Assembly members were selected to be broadly representative of Scotland's population in terms of age, gender, disability, household income, geography, ethnicity, rurality and attitudes towards climate change.

Due to Covid-19, the Assembly was conducted online, and it was important to ensure that this was not a barrier to participation. Those who had little or no experience of being online were encouraged to apply, and support was available for all members before and during the Assembly.

Learning Journey and Deliberations

From November 2020 to March 2021, Assembly members met online for seven weekends. The Evidence Group created a learning journey ensuring that members heard balanced, accurate and comprehensive evidence about the climate emergency, and different ways of tackling it. The Assembly learned about climate change, mitigation, adaptation, fairness, and how change happens before splitting into three streams to consider Diet, Land Use and Lifestyle; Homes and Communities; and Travel and Work. Evidence was presented to the Assembly through video presentations, followed by discussions in small groups with experts on hand to respond to questions.

Children's Parliament

Assembly members also heard from children in the Children's Parliament. As Scotland's Climate Assembly members were aged 16+, the Assembly worked closely with Children's Parliament to integrate their activity into the Assembly and ensure children's voices are heard in decision-making. The children's work was regularly fed back to Assembly members, which helped to shape the Assembly's final recommendations. Assembly members and the children also met in an online workshop to share their views and experiences. The children's calls to action are integrated with the Assembly's recommendations in this final report.

Outcomes

This report lays out Scotland's Climate Assembly's recommendations for Scottish society to tackle the climate emergency. It begins with a Statement of Ambition, calling for radical and decisive action, then details 16 goals and 81 recommendations. The recommendations were supported by an overwhelming consensus of Assembly members. The Assembly is embedded within Scottish Parliamentary process and Scottish Ministers are required by law to respond to the recommendations within six months of this report being laid in Parliament.

> **"** This journey has been invaluable because it allowed us, the citizens, to expand our knowledge on this paramount issue and provide the Parliament with guidance on what we believe needs to be done to tackle it. Moreover, I learned a lot from the other Assembly members, as we all come from different backgrounds and have different life experiences. **"**
>
> Alessia, Assembly Member

Statement of Ambition

As part of the Assembly process in Weekend Six, Assembly members wrote an overarching statement of ambition. In this statement, members expressed their views across all of the different goals and recommendations that the Assembly developed:

We, the members of Scotland's Climate Assembly in our report to Parliament present a call to action to Scotland for change to tackle the climate emergency in an effective and fair way.

The climate emergency is a real and urgent issue that cannot be ignored.

It requires immediate action at all levels of society. If we fail to act now, we will fail our current and future generations, in Scotland and across the world.

We believe that urgent cultural change is needed across society - from governments, businesses, communities and individuals.

As a nation we have the opportunity to be pioneers, by taking immediate action to empower our next generations to lead sustainable lives by setting up the framework now.

We will need to be ambitious, united and driven to succeed in fulfilling Scotland's potential to reduce carbon emissions.

As a society we will need to change and adapt to meet the challenges, and recognise that there will be costs. But failure to act now will mean greater expense, and more difficult changes in the future, to avoid catastrophic costs to the planet.

We believe there is a fundamental need to focus the country's collective mindset on the climate emergency and the requirement for immediate action.

Climate change affects every one of us, and no one should evade responsibility. The entire population of Scotland has the right to accurate, up-to-date and accessible information to develop a clear understanding of the reality of the climate emergency.

Good quality information and knowledge about the urgency required, and things that need to be done, will empower people to take action themselves and drive collective and systemic action across Scottish society.

Decisive leadership and strong, impartial cross-party collaboration and accountability, is required urgently.

Politicians and policy makers must have the courage to act now to bring emissions down to net zero, drawing on the science and evidence to drive rapid and fundamental behaviour change across society - and the pandemic has shown this is possible.

The climate emergency is a global problem. We have to consider Scotland's contribution to carbon emissions and take responsibility for our global share - starting now.

Scotland needs to invest in the development of sustainable, future-proofed infrastructure across the country - including integrated private and public transport systems, high speed broadband and the electricity network - if we are to achieve our decarbonisation goals.

We believe Scotland has the opportunity to be a world leader in a second, green industrial revolution, and we should lead by example - investing substantially in research, development and the early adoption of existing and innovative green technologies for example, energy storage and carbon sequestration methods.

Hosting COP26, gives us an opportunity to lead by example and demonstrate we are taking urgent action to implement changes that will effectively reduce carbon emissions.

We all need to take personal and collective responsibility to change how our society operates to reduce our carbon emissions.

Eradicating the use of fossil fuels is a priority. We believe that everyone has a part to play in achieving this by minimising the amount of energy we use and maximising the use of renewables.

We all need to take responsibility for reducing the carbon footprint caused by consumption (e.g. eating less meat and dairy, buying fewer new goods, reuse and repair) and become a critical mass of people transforming these changed behaviours into the new normal.

We know that there is not a uniform solution to tackling the climate emergency across Scotland.

We want to empower local communities to be able to collaborate and drive changes - around infrastructure, service provision, land use and the economy - in ways that will work in their Place and facilitate localised living.

Scotland should also develop a holistic approach to evaluating success and change.

This should include people's wellbeing, the quality of natural habitats and the environment, and considerations of fairness, as well as carbon emission reductions.

We want to measure Scotland's success by the health and wellbeing of its people and environment as well as Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This will require a radical shift by business and government to measure sustainability and happiness, not just profit, when considering Scotland's wealth.

Scotland's Climate Assembly has agreed ambitious and clear goals to tackle the Climate Emergency in effective and fair ways.

We recognise that our proposals establish short, medium and long-term targets for change, each with their own challenges. All of these goals and recommendations together will be positive and important steps on the route to a sustainable future.

We all - governments, businesses, communities and individuals - have the responsibility to implement change and achieve the goals we have outlined, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

We call on the Scottish Parliament to start NOW, by acting urgently and decisively to establish an agreed plan and measurable timescales for delivery.

"Reading the Statement of Ambition for the first time and then hearing it read aloud by members of the Assembly was truly memorable. To have all our work come together in this statement was a momentous achievement. It had such a powerful message and I felt fortunate to have been involved in the process."

Jocelyn, Assembly Member

"When it came in I just thought it was an opportunity to learn something new, and have a say in what gets done. I know we're only making recommendations but it feels like it's coming from the people rather than an agenda."

Mark, Assembly Member

"How the ambition statements, goals and recommendations were finally coined was remarkable. The huge support from the dedicated secretariat and commitment of the Assembly members was fascinating and of course members with opposing views were all respected. I'm proud to be part of this historical event as an Assembly member. It was an extraordinary learning journey, I never wanted it to end."

Imaobong, Assembly Member

Goals and Recommendations

After a process of learning, discussing and deliberating about the climate emergency, Assembly members created goals and recommendations to complete the statement:

To tackle the climate emergency in an effective and fair way, Scotland needs to change to…

Goals and recommendations were drafted in small group discussions. Goals represent a wider vision of how Scotland should change, while recommendations identify specific actions.

The following pages set out the goals and recommendations voted on by Assembly members. Each goal and recommendation is shown with the percentage of support it received. Percentages were calculated on the basis of Assembly members that expressed an opinion (either 'agree' or 'disagree'). Abstentions did not contribute to the percentage, but were recorded for quorum.

Children's Parliament's 'Calls to Action' are also integrated throughout the recommendations reflecting the relationship between the Children's Parliament's process and the Assembly.

For each recommendation, Assembly members drafted a supporting statement which sets out the reasoning behind the recommendation and why they think it will help to tackle the climate emergency in an effective and fair way. These supporting statements are included in the report in the section following the recommendations.

On the digital version of this report you can navigate to a recommendation's supporting statement by clicking on a recommendation's colour heading. To navigate back to the recommendation click on the supporting statement's colour heading.

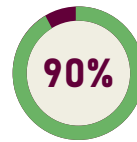This document uses different box formats as summarised on the next page:

Goal

Call to Action

Recommendation

90% Percentage of Assembly Members who voted for the recommendation

> " **Assembly Member Quote**

Name, Assembly Member "

Recommendation Supporting Statement

Full Text of Recommendation

Recommendation Supporting Statement Text

Resources

Reduce consumption and waste by embracing society wide resource management and reuse practices.

97%

Support Sustainable Manufacturing

Strategically support the development of new manufacturing businesses in Scotland that are innovating in low carbon, high quality, built to last, product design.

99%

Ban Single Use Packaging

Reduce plastic and electronic waste by banning the use of single use plastics (unless there is no viable alternative) and increasing regulation to prevent the supply of products in non-recyclable packaging and to stop retailers providing plastic bags to customers.

97%

Food Packaging

Reduce food waste by increasing public pressure and regulation on supermarkets (and other outlets) to change how fruit, vegetables and other perishable products are packaged, so that people can buy only the amount they need.

96%

National Reuse Charter

Introduce a National Reuse Charter to establish best practice standards and targets; timetables for implementation; and reporting mechanisms, in order for Local Authorities to transform recycling centres into reuse centres where items can be repurposed by skilled workers, and allocate funding equal to the National Recycling Charter (£70 million) to provide for implementation.

95%

Extended Producer Responsibility Legislation

Introduce extended producer responsibility legislation to regulate product design e.g. materials, production processes, so that the full costs of lifetime product emissions and disposal/repurposing are included in the price - including imported products.

92%

Resource Libraries

Provide government support to Local Authorities to establish a network of 'Resource Libraries' across the country, where people can 'borrow' high quality tools and equipment that are maintained and repaired by the library, rather than buying seldom used items themselves.

92%

Children's Parliament

Create sharing libraries in communities for toys, clothes, food, tools, books...and more!

Children's Parliament

Ban plastic packaging and single-use plastic (especially cutlery, bottles and plastic bags).

> "This goal brings together many things that will not only help so many people and reduce the amount of needless waste but will also reduce carbon emissions and has the potential to create jobs. It all comes together as a logical thing to do and as a starting point wouldn't have great financial start-up costs."
>
> Christine, Assembly Member

> "[I am most proud of] the lending libraries because not only will it help climate change, it will make things accessible to low income families."
>
> Amanda, Assembly Member

Building Quality

Adopt and implement clear and future-proofed quality standards for assessing the carbon impacts of all buildings public and private using EnerPhit/Passivhaus standards (as a minimum) and integrating whole life carbon costs, environmental impact and operational carbon emissions.

97%

Passivhaus Standard for New Build

Update building standards to ensure that, within the next 5 years, all new housing is built to Passivhaus standards (or an agreed Scottish equivalent), to create healthy homes for people while also taking into account whole life carbon costs and environmental impact.

97%

Planning Decisions Consider Climate

Local Authorities and planning departments need to ensure carbon sequestration, wellbeing, adaptation to manage extreme weather risk, and biodiversity are all considered in planning decisions for urban areas and buildings.

97%

Building Standards Non Residential

Within the next five years, update Building Standards Regulations to make it mandatory to apply EnerPHit/Passivhaus standards (or agreed Scottish equivalent), with an assessment of whole life/embodied carbon costs and the environmental impact of the materials used in construction, to all work on new and existing non-residential buildings.

96%

Building Design for Recycling and Reuse

Introduce appropriate legislation that requires all new buildings to be designed from the outset using techniques that enable demountability, disassembly, material recycling and reuse at end of life.

95%

New Environmental Impact Assessments

Within the next five years, introduce a new environmental impact assessment for existing and new homes which adapts SAP/EPCs to measure all aspects of sustainability - combining energy efficiency measures; whole life/embodied carbon costs; and the environmental impact of the materials used in construction. This should also be used in the assessment of Council Tax bands.

90%

Children's Parliament

Make sure new houses are built to be environmentally-friendly. This would involve making them energy efficient.

Children's Parliament

Make using only smokeless fuel a law in Scotland.

> " I was most proud that 97% of the members of the Climate Assembly voted to support our recommendation that, in order to substantially reduce their carbon footprint, all buildings in Scotland must meet international standards; new buildings to Passivhaus standard and all existing buildings must be upgraded to EnerPHit standard. This will result in buildings that are more comfortable, have a longer life, with lower running costs and are warmer in winter and cooler in summer. "

David G, Assembly Member

Retrofit Homes

Retrofit the majority of existing homes in Scotland to be net zero by 2030, while establishing Scotland as a leader in retrofit technology, innovation and installation practice.

94%

Workforce Development and Retraining

Invest in workforce development and retraining to deliver retrofitting and construction work to high standards and ensure we have the ability to implement an ambitious retrofit plan across Scotland.

98%

Implement Fuel Poverty Strategy by 2030

Ensure the Fuel Poverty Strategy, as required by the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act (2019) but currently still in its 2018 draft form, is implemented immediately and is effective by 2030 not 2040.

98%

Retrofit All Existing Homes by 2030

Develop an ambitious plan across Scotland to enable the retrofitting of all existing homes by 2030 to be net zero.

97%

Robust Retrofit Quality Standards

Ensure immediate development of robust quality standards for assessing what needs to be done to retrofit existing homes to become net zero.

96%

Children's Parliament

Give money and help to people who struggle to heat their homes.

Decarbonise Heating by 2030

Lead the way in reducing to net zero the carbon emissions caused by domestic and non-domestic heating systems by investing in the exploration and early adoption of alternative fuel sources for buildings, aiming to decarbonise the gas grid and heating systems by 2030.

96%

Grants to Retrofit Homes

Make a grant available to ALL homeowners in Scotland by 2025 to bring their houses to zero emissions standards by 2030, starting by prioritising houses in fuel poverty.

93%

> I am pleased that we recognised the value of our existing buildings and the embodied carbon that they have locked up. They are an important component in the battle against climate change. Reusing and repurposing our existing buildings is better than demolishing them and building new on greenfield sites.

Calum, Assembly Member

> [I am most proud of the recommendation] which gives everyone the chance to retrofit their homes affordably. The affordability was really important to me. I was on a soapbox a few times, but it was because I knew from my own circumstances I couldn't afford to do anything like that, so I had to be across the board no matter what.

Marion, Assembly Member

Standards and Regulation

Lead by example through government and the public sector implementing mandatory standards, regulations and business practices that meet the urgency and scale of the climate emergency.

94%

Building and Trading Standards

Strengthen building and trading standards to quality assure energy efficiency work carried out by private companies, to make sure it actually delivers emission reductions to homes.

96%

Greenfield and Brownfield Development

Strengthen planning restrictions immediately so that development on greenfield sites should not be permitted until all other development options, such as brownfield and existing building repurposing, have been considered and legitimately rejected.

95%

Net Zero Public Sector by 2030

Require all public sector buildings, vehicles and supply chains to be net zero by 2030 with an interim target of 75% by 2027 and a target for absolute zero by 2035.

93%

Sustainable Public Sector Procurement

Introduce a public sector procurement requirement for companies to provide details of their sustainability performance (measured against agreed standards) in any tenders for work, and for this to be used alongside costs in making the final decision on whom to select.

93%

Public Service Vehicles

Make it mandatory for all public service vehicles (ambulances, police cars etc.) to have zero tailpipe emissions, extending to delivery vans and public transport where possible.

91%

Benchmarked Standards

Establish strengthened benchmarked standards and set a requirement for public organisations and private companies to measure their annual progress on the path to net zero and publish this in a clear and transparent way.

91%

Electricity Generation

Produce a green paper contrasting different methods of electricity generation focusing on capacity to meet baseload, £ per kWh, embodied carbon, safety and environmental impact and use this paper to plan Scotland's electricity generation in the future.

90%

Climate Change Business Bill

Introduce a Climate Change Business Bill, to be enacted within the next five years, which sets climate impact standards and requires all businesses to assess the carbon emissions of their business practices on climate change (against variable criteria depending on the size of the business). Establish an independent climate change regulatory authority to inspect, audit and ensure compliance.

86%

Plant-based and Low Carbon Food

Immediately require government and public services to procure plant-based and low carbon food for all public sector catering and canteens.

85%

Children's Parliament

Make more plant-based, animal-free options available in schools, nurseries and places where people work.

Public Transport

Implement an integrated, accessible and affordable public transport system and improved local infrastructure throughout Scotland that reduces the need for private cars and supports active travel.

93%

Public Transport Cheaper or Free

Make public transport cheaper, or free, by reviewing tender processes to focus government subsidies into nationalised public/private partnerships or not for profit public transport providers.

98%

Children's Parliament

Make public transport more environmentally friendly. This would involve making it easier and cheaper for children and adults and making buses and trains electric or hydrogen-powered.

Children's Parliament

Encourage cycling by making more, safer cycle paths and lanes, and making public bikes available in villages, towns and cities.

Oyster Card for Scotland

Introduce standardised smart ticketing for public transport across the whole country – an 'Oyster card for Scotland'.

96%

Integrated Rail Network

Place rail travel at the core of an integrated transport system, by subsidising rail infrastructure to make it more affordable and resilient than air travel, particularly for mainland journeys in the UK.

95%

Children's Parliament

Create better railways to link up people in rural areas.

> I think for travel within the UK people would already happily travel by rail instead of air if it was more affordable. This could be an easy transition for people and would greatly reduce emissions.

Nadine, Assembly Member

> Even although I am a keen motorist, I can see the need to reduce private car ownership and move towards greater use of public transport. I know that for most types of transport, there are much greener alternatives which we need to exploit much more rapidly than we are doing now.

Alistair, Assembly Member

Travel Emissions

Lead the way in minimising the carbon emissions caused by necessary travel and transport by investing in the exploration and early adoption of alternative fuel sources across all travel modes.

93%

Ferry and Vessel Emissions

Improve regulation about emissions from ferries (and other vessels used to transport goods around Scotland) so that high carbon emitting vessels are replaced with low carbon, modern alternatives, and ensure that the Scottish public sector fleet achieves a 50% cut in total carbon emissions by 2030.

97%

Invest in Alternative Fuels and Green Incentives

Reduce the number of petrol and diesel vehicles in Scotland by investing in the development of alternative green fuels and increasing awareness of, and the level of, incentives available to support the transition to zero tailpipe emission vehicles.

96%

Research & Development for Zero Carbon Air Travel

Help Scottish industry to become a leader in sustainable short-distance plane technology by increasing research and development into zero-carbon fuel for air travel.

93%

Children's Parliament

Lower price of electric cars and have a renting scheme until people have saved up enough money to buy them.

Electric Vehicle Charging

Create convenient electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure by 2025, focussed around community demand and lifestyle, in balance with other needs for use of space.

91%

Children's Parliament

Make lots of electric car, scooter and bike charging points available for people to use.

Children's Parliament

Ban diesel and petrol cars from being made and sold in Scotland. Instead, we can help make electric cars in Scotland.

Decarbonise Internal Flights

Commit to working to decarbonise all internal flights within Scotland by 2025.

87%

> " As an electrician, the tidal power and the wind power and all these electrical things, the whole gambit, I like all these things highlighted. They're cleaner energies, these new technologies, they're going to help mankind so they were obviously a big part of my thoughts. "

Alex, Assembly Member
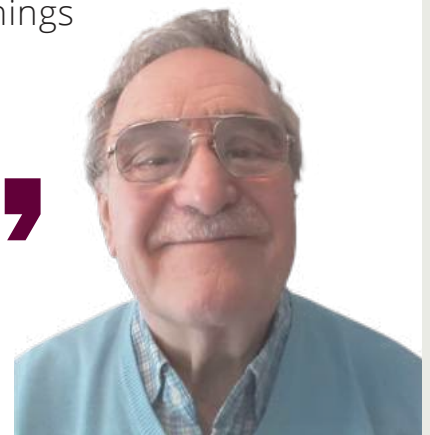
Carbon Labelling

Provide clear and consistent, real and total carbon content labelling on produce, products and services (showing production; processing; transport; and usage emissions) to enable people to make informed choices.

92%

Food Carbon Labelling

Within 5 years, to have fully implemented food carbon labelling, similar to nutritional labelling, that shows real and total carbon content - not the offset carbon footprint.

95%

Declare Travel Carbon Impact

Immediately make it easier for people to make informed choices about how they travel, taking carbon emissions into consideration, by requiring transport providers to declare the carbon impact of flights and train journeys in a clear and meaningful way at the time of booking.

94%

> I'm probably most proud of the recommendations around product and food labelling. I hope this will empower the public to make more informed choices and put more consumer pressure on industry to rethink their processes and the materials that they use in order to become more sustainable and less wasteful.

Kirsten, Assembly Member

Product Carbon Labelling

Require businesses to label products to show the carbon footprint of the production process.

91%

Children's Parliament

Label all food and everyday items with where they are made and their impact on the environment.

> The one that I liked best from the stream that I was in was the suggestion that we have carbon labelling on our foods, to add to the traffic light system, so people know what impact their dietary choices are having in terms of carbon footprint. It's a very basic idea, it gives people information on which to base their choice.

Carol, Assembly Member

> I am probably most proud of the recommendation on carbon food labelling. I believe empowering individuals with knowledge will have the greatest and longest lasting impact. Ultimately societies, governmental bodies and private firms are all made up of individuals.

Ruth, Assembly Member

Education

Provide everyone with accurate information, comprehensive education, and lifelong learning across Scotland to support behavioural, vocational and societal change to tackle the climate emergency, and ensure everyone can understand the environmental impact of different actions and choices.

92%

Change Energy Efficiency Culture

Drive culture change to enable the public to understand that improving energy efficiency in homes is the responsible thing to do.

95%

Sustainable Diet Public Information Campaigns

Initiate public information campaigns, including education for children and families, that deliver accessible advice and information on transitioning to a sustainable diet.

94%

Children's Parliament

Launch a national plant-based diet week to raise awareness.

Children's Parliament

Help people understand what they can do to tackle climate change. This would involve having adverts on TV and social media about creating less waste, buying less things, buying local products, travelling less to different countries, and saving energy.

Education Programmes

Include carbon emissions and reduction topics in all relevant education programmes.

92%

Children's Parliament

Teach children and adults about environmentally-friendly diets and reducing food waste.
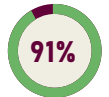
Employment Training Campaigns

Run a public information campaign about training opportunities, in order to attract people into greener industries, including targeted information for people currently working in 'brown' sectors such as oil and gas and in sectors that are dependent on oil and gas.

92%

Education on Sustainable Transport

Provide education for all to support the transition from car use to public and active transport so people recognise the climate impacts and change behaviours willingly.

91%

Local Living and Four Day Week

Raise public awareness on the value that can be achieved for climate change by embracing localised living and a 4-day, or reduced, working week.

80%

Children's Parliament

Make sure children and young people have information about the climate emergency in Scotland.

Children's Parliament

Make sure all children and adults learn about climate change.

> As the saying goes, "Knowledge is power". Education is a vital key to information, choices and actions. When everyone has access to clear, accurate information and constant reminder in enrolling in a life long learning, they would become more aware and understand clearly the impact of their actions on the environment.

Imaobong, Assembly Member
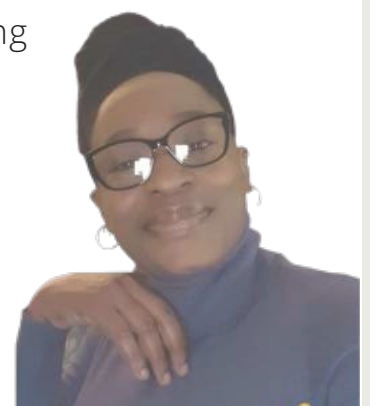
Land Use

Balance the needs of the environment, landowners and communities across Scotland for sustainable land use that achieves emission reductions.

91%

Marine Carbon Sequestration

Fulfil the carbon sink potential of the marine environment to establish an holistic enterprise that maximises carbon sequestration and supports sustainable marine food production.

98%

Children's Parliament

Allow only sustainable ways of farming, fishing and crofting. This would include using natural fertilisers and reducing the numbers of animals being farmed or fished.

Children's Parliament

Create more woodlands and peatlands. This would involve helping people who own land to use their land to do this.

Peatland Restoration and Native Woodlands

Commit to higher levels than in current Scottish Government plans of restoring peatlands and native woodlands for carbon sequestration and improving biodiversity.

97%

See supporting statement for more detail.

Children's Parliament

Create a national tree planting day in Scotland. Everyone would plant a tree, every year.

Children's Parliament

Protect wildlife and native species. This would involve a ban on hunting animals and making sure no new homes are built in places where there are habitats.

Children's Parliament

Create more nature parks and stop green spaces from being built on. In towns and cities, create green, traffic-free areas for children and adults to play.

Incentivise Land Use to Support Net Zero

Fulfil Scotland's carbon sink potential by incentivising landowners to maximise the land available in order to meet net zero targets.

91%

Children's Parliament

Make community gardens and allotments for everyone. This would involve teaching children and adults about growing their own food, and using schools for giving out saplings, seeds and tools. Have a special day in Scotland where everyone works in their gardens to grow food.

Children's Parliament

Protect wild spaces, coastlines and ancient woods. This would involve creating special sea defences to protect the coastline, cleaning up beaches and rivers, and stopping cutting down trees.

Farming Subsidies to Support Transition

Given the exit from the EU (and the end of the Common Agricultural Policy funding model), the government should work with the farming community to develop a subsidy regime that encourages farmers to transition to more sustainable land management practices, to be fully implemented in the next 5 years.

91%
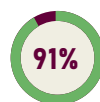
Communities

Empower communities to be able to develop localised solutions to tackle climate change.

91%

Community Low Carbon Heating

Provide government incentives for local authorities and social housing providers to work with communities to develop low carbon heating systems in neighbourhoods.

96%

Community Engagement

Provide government support for community engagement, to empower local people to make decisions around their needs and conduct transparent consultations.

94%

Community Land Ownership Reform

Empower local communities to manage underused, unproductive, and/or unoccupied land around them in ways that address the climate emergency through rapid and decisive movement on land ownership reform.

90%

Funding for Community Climate Action Projects

Introduce a pot of money for community projects (this could be ring-fenced money collected from land carbon taxes) to be used to invest in community-based climate action projects e.g. rewilding, peatland restoration, growing projects.

88%

Enhance Community Right to Buy

Enhance Community Right to Buy legislation to make it easier for communities to take ownership of unproductive land for climate action, alongside providing clear policy guidance on how community owned land should be managed.

86%
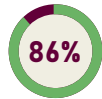
> [I am most proud of] recommendations involving community participation as I feel that a lot can be achieved when people work together. When the lockdown started, the first thing that happened was a WhatsApp from the younger neighbours, 'if you need anything, just ask.'
> I think the community could do a lot more, to help themselves but also to bring everybody together.

Allan, Assembly Member

> Empower communities to be able to develop localised solutions to tackle climate change - I feel this goal is personally something I can then be involved in and encourage others to do as well.
> Knowing that within my local community we can take measures to make a real difference and feel proud of being part of the change!

Fiona, Assembly Member

Circular Economy

Strive to be as self-sufficient as possible, with a competitive Scots circular economy that meets everyone's needs in a fair way.

91%

Sustainable Business Loans

Introduce government backed sustainable business loans for companies and start-ups to invest in innovation in reuse and reprocessing in Scotland and creating commercial demand for repurposed/ remanufactured materials.

98%

Reduce High Carbon Construction Materials

Incentivise the use of Scottish grown and produced materials in house construction by setting targets to reduce the use of high carbon construction materials and increase the use of carbon neutral materials.

97%

Targets to Sell Local Produce

Set targets for supermarkets and other shops to buy and sell local produce at a fair price to farmers and consumers, and consider systems of grants for supporting more localised markets.

95%

Children's Parliament

Make and sell more food locally in Scotland. Support environmentally-friendly small businesses, organic farmers and butchers. Choose to stock foods from Scotland over foods from abroad.

Children's Parliament

Improve recycling in Scotland. This would include having more recycling points, even for things like clothes and toys, and having better, fun instructions for everyone to follow.

De-incentivise Imports

Grow and adapt our local economies by de-incentivising imports and establishing more innovative businesses and low carbon manufacturing industries in Scotland.

94%

" As a lecturer in design, where we conceive and make 'stuff,' it feels important to think much more about how we manage and use our resources as we move forward. I plan to use the new knowledge I have learnt from Scotland's Climate Assembly to influence the lifestyle choices I make as well as integrating some of the thinking into the way I teach design. "
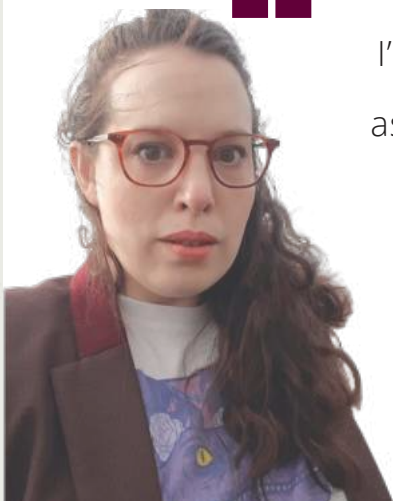
Polly, Assembly Member

" In future I'll also try and be more conscious of the things I'm using, the things I'm buying. Likewise in my work life as a freelance designer, the things I'm manufacturing to sell on: trying to reuse materials, recycle materials, think about where everything's made. The whole life cycle of products. "

Beverley, Assembly Member

Work and Volunteering

Develop work, training and volunteering opportunities to support net zero targets, connect people with nature, rebuild depleted natural resources and increase biodiversity.

91%

National Nature Service

Government and industry should work together to develop a career ladder, or an incentive, for people not in education, training, or work to contribute to rewilding, land restoration and adaptation projects. This could be driven by a National Nature Service, supplemented by a Conservation Volunteers Scheme.

96%

Children's Parliament

Help children and adults learn green skills that will help tackle the climate emergency like:
- How to grow food and compost
- How to recycle properly
- How to repair and mend things
- How to have a climate friendly diet
- How to plant trees and protect wildlife

Children's Parliament

Teach children and young people about what green jobs and qualifications they could get when they're older. In schools, introduce children to different green jobs, and degrees at university which are designed to tackle climate change.

Green Training and Apprenticeship Scheme

Scottish Government should support businesses and employers to transition and prioritise green skills by introducing a national training/ retraining and apprenticeship scheme for new green jobs, accessible to all.

96%

Children's Parliament

Create more jobs for looking after all our nature. This would involve helping people without jobs learn skills to have green jobs.

Children's Parliament

Help children to play, learn and have hobbies outside. This is so when children grow up, they go outside more often and want to look after our nature.

Flexible Working Conditions

Government should publish clear guidelines about their expectations for flexible working conditions and ensure that businesses are meeting these for staff when making procurement decisions and issuing contracts.

91%

Children's Parliament

Help schools to be environmentally-friendly. Schools can be places for planting trees.

" Creating a national nature service really appealed to me, I thought it could be a great way to give people ownership and a better understanding of the countryside and nature. "

Helen, Assembly Member

Business

Support long term, sustainable business models where people and the environment are considered before profit, and the carbon footprint of working practices are reduced.

91%

Eliminate Frequent Flyer and Air Mile Bonuses

Eliminate frequent flyer and air mile bonuses to reduce the number of flights taken for business, encouraging the use of alternatives like video conferencing for meetings.

92%

Incentivise Cooperative Models of Land Use

Incentivise cooperative models of land use/land management, and partnerships between farming and other uses, that drive sustainable agriculture and move away from intensive farming and reliance on pesticides.

90%

Incentivise Green Business Models

Provide government incentives for green business models, such as bronze/silver/gold awards or funding to reward sustainable practices and innovation for adaptation to climate change impacts.

88%

Wellbeing Before Profit

Prioritise funding and support for businesses that:
- look after wellbeing before profit;
- provide community benefits; and/or
- are staff owned or cooperatives.

82%

Universal Basic Income

Explore introduction of a Universal Basic Income to help improve the fairness of reducing hours at work, combined with a practical pilot/ feasibility study which includes measuring environmental impact.

77%

Four Day Working Week

Introduce a 4-day (or 32 hour) working week as standard, based on research to explore where and in what sectors it would work best, and backed by incentives to compensate for the cost of employing more people.

71%
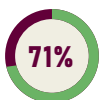
Children's Parliament

Shorten work and school hours. This is so people can have more time to do things like grow their own food, plant trees and repair things at home or in their area.

" I think the most challenging part of addressing climate change is shifting people's mindsets and culture. The issue of time and money seemed to come up as barriers to change. I think a 4 day week can create a better work/life balance that could really make an impact to help make that shift. "

Kelly, Assembly Member
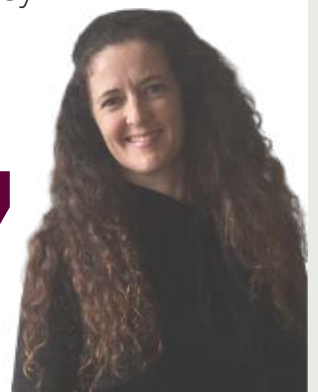
20 Minute Communities

Realise the principles of a '20-minute community' in flexible ways across Scotland by reducing the need to travel for work, shopping, services and recreation in ways that support localised living.

88%

Broadband Connectivity

Improve broadband connectivity across Scotland by investing in a fit for purpose infrastructure to provide reliable, high-speed broadband access in all areas.

100%

Public Spaces for Walking and Cycling

Invest in improving public spaces in neighbourhoods and cities to make them safer and more appealing to walk and cycle in.

98%

Convert Existing Buildings

Create thriving town centres by focusing on the conversion of existing properties into high quality housing and community spaces rather than building more edge of town developments.

97%

Reform Planning Laws

Reform planning laws to enable governments to require developers to include community infrastructure and local facilities that can be reached by active travel in new developments, preventing collections of houses being built with no amenities, and instead building thriving communities.

94%

Rural Localised Living

Ensure that all communities are able to benefit from the principles of localised living, inspired by the 20-minute community, by guaranteeing access to services through remote, digital and mobile provision.

91%

Create New, and Support Existing, Work Hubs

Create new, and support existing, work hubs/ shared work facilities where someone can go to work, whether they are self employed or an employee.

90%

Free Wifi and Support Access to Smart Devices

Work towards ensuring the availability of free Wi-Fi for all, and support access to smart devices for all, to close the digital divide.

83%

Children's Parliament

Make travelling to school in environmentally friendly ways easier and cheaper. This would involve S'Cool buses, cycle/walking buses, and more, safer cycle routes across Scotland.

> [I am most proud of the recommendations] pushing for communities to be able to have localised living. I recognise this within my own town which is pretty isolated and has limited shops/ job opportunities and I am sure it's certainly not the only town to feel such effects. Having 20 minute communities with established town centres and quality housing will benefit people in terms of how they live, work and play.

Aidan, Assembly Member

Taxation

Develop and implement a fair, equitable and transparent tax system that drives carbon emission reductions, while recognising different abilities to pay, and generates revenue to enable energy transition.

85%

Incentives for Green Jobs Training

Introduce tax incentives for training/ retraining for green jobs, aimed at those industries which are set to grow rapidly, to support the replacement of existing high-carbon jobs in the transition to net zero.

92%

Tax High Carbon Resources

Introduce a tax on producers that use high carbon resources in their manufacturing processes.

87%

Carbon Land Tax

Introduce a carbon land tax which taxes emissions created through land use and penalise land currently emitting more carbon than it captures.

81%

Children's Parliament

Make items that are not good for the environment a higher price.

Frequent Flyer Tax or Levy

Discourage air travel by introducing a frequent flyer tax or levy.

78%

Children's Parliament

Make prices for flying higher.

Children's Parliament

Make fresh, organic food cheaper. Make junk, processed and imported food more expensive.

Food Carbon Tax and Subsidy

Introduce a carbon tax on food, based on the carbon intensity of food production, and use the revenue to subsidise sustainable foods.

77%

Carbon Tax and Dividend

Introduce a carbon tax and dividend scheme - based on the polluter pays principle - so that for every tonne of CO_2 emitted you pay a tax.

77%

Children's Parliament

Make businesses pay for their waste and impact on the environment.

Tax High Carbon Aviation Fuels

Reduce the incentives to fly by introducing tax on high carbon aviation fuels and making it mandatory that this cost is passed on to the customer in their ticket price.

72%

Increase Road Tax to Subsidise Public Transport

Phase in increased road taxes for private car use and use the revenue to subsidise public transport.

63%

Measuring Success

Reframe the national focus and vision for Scotland's future away from economic growth and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in order to reflect climate change goals towards the prioritisation of a more person and community centred vision of thriving people, thriving communities and thriving climate.

83%

Measurement Framework

Business and government to adopt a measurement framework for success that incorporates sustainability, well-being and happiness alongside profit.

95%

> " This is the one I am most proud of because it was one that I was passionate about in group discussions and is a recommendation that is not only easy and cheap to institute but could potentially have huge benefits to the country. "

Joseph, Assembly Member

> **"** The recommendation I am most proud of is the one that urges business and government to adopt a measurement framework for success that incorporates sustainability, wellbeing and happiness alongside profit, because I believe that both as a nation and as individuals we must stop thinking of income as the sole measurement for wealth and success, as there are many other aspects to consider. This is a structural change that is desperately needed to achieve our climate targets and to ensure that the wellbeing of the planet and the people is at the core of all our values and policies. **"**

Alessia, Assembly Member

> **"** Without this recommendation, all the other ones would be harder to achieve, in a profit-driven economy. **"**
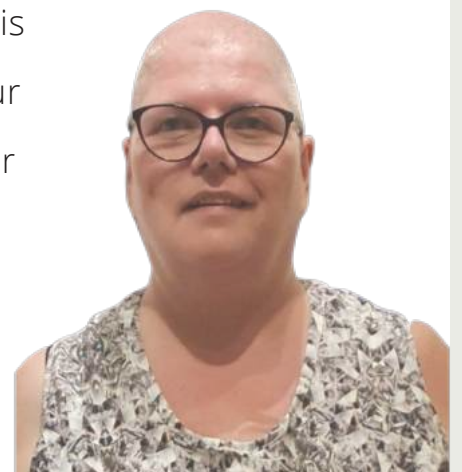
Iain, Assembly Member

> **"** I am so proud that we had the courage to make this recommendation as it will be a huge change for our country but one that I believe will make it easier for both Government and business to make decisions to tackle the climate emergency. **"**

Yvonne, Assembly Member

Recommendation Supporting Statements

In Weekend Seven, Assembly members worked together in facilitated small groups to draft supporting statements for each of the recommendations. Supporting statements explain why members believe the recommendation is important and in some cases indicates a timescale for action.

In the final vote, members voted for the the supporting statements alongside the relevant recommendation.

Resources

Support Sustainable Manufacturing

Strategically support the development of new manufacturing businesses in Scotland that are innovating in low carbon, high quality, built to last, product design.	We believe there is a need for investment in manufacturing that will focus on the use of new low carbon materials and innovative design techniques that will reduce the need for virgin resources, improve longevity and reduce waste - for example by reusing industrial materials, designing for upgrade/ repair, or working with bioplastics. Although this could mean that some products will be more expensive, they will last longer and be repairable making the initial cost better value for money. It would be fairest to make this type of support for innovation available to all manufacturers, including small and micro-businesses and individuals. This would also help to support a circular economy. Investing in innovation in local manufacturing could also lead to fewer imports, meaning lower transport emissions, and creating demand for new skills and job opportunities, thus improving Scotland's skill levels in sectors which will be important for the future.

Ban Single Use Plastic

Reduce plastic and electronic waste by banning the use of single use plastics (unless there is no viable alternative) and increasing regulation to prevent the supply of products in non-recyclable packaging and to stop retailers providing plastic bags to customers.

This recommendation will reduce the potential for waste by stopping it at the source, and engender a change of mindset. We believe the use of single-use plastics in manufacturing and packaging must be stopped as soon as possible.

Scotland should take the lead on bringing in regulations that minimise the harm caused by the use of non-recyclable materials for packaging and eliminating the use of plastic bags. Setting strict goals for plastic pollution reduction will also help to protect our ocean waters and mean that by 2030 we are able to end plastic leakage into the seas from Scotland.

Food Packaging

Reduce food waste by increasing public pressure and regulation on supermarkets (and other outlets) to change how fruit, vegetables and other perishable products are packaged, so that people can buy only the amount they need.

We think that there is a problem with how much of the fresh food in supermarkets is packaged in bags and boxes that force people to buy quantities that they may not need or be able to use before it is past its best.

This not only means things are more expensive (because you are forced to buy more, for example a bunch of bananas in a bag rather than 2 or 3) but increases food waste and unnecessary packaging waste.

This recommendation aims to address this by making sellers change their packaging policies. This may also have impacts on the supply chain in ways that could favour local producers and encourage supermarkets to source produce differently.

National Reuse Charter

Introduce a National Reuse Charter to establish best practice standards and targets; timetables for implementation; and reporting mechanisms, in order for Local Authorities to transform recycling centres into reuse centres where items can be repurposed by skilled workers, and allocate funding equal to the National Recycling Charter (£70 million) to provide for implementation.

This will be effective in reducing overall waste and the amount of resources used across Scotland. Reusing and repurposing reduces our carbon footprint much more than recycling and needs to be our next step for resource management.

Clear standards, timetables, and guidelines will allow consistent implementation across the country and could help create local employment.

The onus is on everyone needing to change their behaviours, therefore reducing overall consumption demand. We also think that this will have the most impact if it is combined with the greater use of carbon taxes on products.

Extended Producer Responsibility Legislation

Introduce extended producer responsibility legislation to regulate product design e.g. materials, production processes, so that the full costs of lifetime product emissions and disposal/repurposing are included in the price - including imported products.

Introducing this legislation would ensure that the manufacturer takes responsibility for the TOTAL carbon footprint & emissions of a product. This should lead to manufacturers designing and making products that last longer, are repairable and upgradeable. This should mean that people will need to replace expensive items less frequently.

Consumer electronics, in particular mobile phones, should be prioritised by the legislation. It will also reduce the carbon footprint of products by discouraging the use of non-reusable components. This might also help support Scottish industry and jobs because imports of these items could become more expensive.

Resource Libraries

Provide government support to Local Authorities to establish a network of 'Resource Libraries' across the country, where people can 'borrow' high quality tools and equipment that are maintained and repaired by the library, rather than buying seldom used items themselves.

This is important because it will reduce carbon emissions by reducing consumption demand for tools and equipment. It will provide a valuable local service and also employment opportunities.

It will mean that because people will have easy access to high quality tools and equipment (especially things they don't use regularly like chainsaws, pressure washers or camping equipment) that households don't all have to buy their own, which might be a cheaper product with a limited lifespan that is then thrown away.

It's also fair because it enables low income people to access expensive equipment when needed meaning their finances can go to more important things - such as food, hopefully helping to reduce reliance on food banks.

"My favourite recommendations were to do with establishing repair stations and tool libraries. They gave me a positive, hopeful view of the future where communities interact in ways that benefit each other and the environment. That's a future I'd like to be a part of."

Lewis, Assembly Member

" I am most proud of the recommendation about banning single use plastic as it is so close to the main recommendation of the Children's Parliament. It was lovely to hear the clarity of their thoughts and how much they linked to ours."

Mhairi, Assembly Member

Building Quality

Passivhaus Standard for New Build

Update building standards to ensure that, within the next 5 years, all new housing is built to Passivhaus standards (or an agreed Scottish equivalent), to create healthy homes for people while also taking into account whole life carbon costs and environmental impact.

This will ensure that the overall whole life cycle impact of new build houses on Scotland's carbon emissions is minimised. We recognise that the specific Passivhaus standards may not be entirely suited to Scotland's environment but believe strongly that any Scottish equivalent must take these as a minimum level for impact. This will future-proof future housing stock - making sure we are building to last and having less of an effect on the environment than our current housing stock does. It will make sure all materials used for new housing are environmentally friendly and up to meeting strengthened environmental standards. We do acknowledge that, in the short term at least, the standards may need to incorporate some flexibility to make sure carbon-friendly materials can be used even if the pace of technological advances means they don't quite meet the standard, e.g. environmentally friendly insulation materials. Changing the standards however will deliver a level playing field for compliance from the construction sector, combatting pushback from developers.

Planning Decisions Consider Climate

Local authorities and planning departments need to ensure carbon sequestration, wellbeing, adaptation to manage extreme weather risk, and biodiversity are all considered in planning decisions for urban areas and buildings.

Our urban areas are important resources for managing our carbon emissions and creating environments where people can live sustainable lives.This recommendation also aims to re-connect communities with natural spaces and reviving biodiversity. It is also about ensuring that with any new build neighbourhoods there is green space, for example for people to meet outside; green roofs on buildings; and spaces that can counter adverse effects on the environment such as water run-off and sustainable drainage systems.

If planning regulations are strengthened and assessed by the relevant authorities then these measures can be incorporated into the design and could be enforced through planning gain requirements.

Building Standards - Non Residential

Within the next five years, update Building Standards Regulations to make it mandatory to apply EnerPhit/Passivhaus standards (or agreed Scottish equivalent), with an assessment of whole life/embodied carbon costs and the environmental impact of the materials used in construction, to all work on new and existing non-residential buildings.

This will mean existing buildings are valued for their embodied carbon, with retrofitting encouraged over new buildings. Any 'agreed Scottish equivalent' must be at EnerPhit/Passivhaus standard or better, not watered down. The public sector should lead the way with this work.

Building Design for Recycling and Reuse

Introduce appropriate legislation that requires all new buildings to be designed from the outset using techniques that enable demountability, disassembly, material recycling and reuse at end of life.

This is important because by recycling and reusing, less carbon is emitted. Construction techniques, components or materials that are mechanically fixed should be encouraged. Those that are chemically bonded and not able to be separated or disassembled for recycling or reuse should be regarded as having a high environmental impact and be discouraged. These standards may need to be accompanied by training in appropriate techniques.

> " Overall, I liked the proposals that were put forward about building standards for good standards of insulation and building regulations. I think that's been a neglected issue in Scotland for quite a long time.

Carol, Assembly Member

Environmental Impact Assessments

Within the next five years, introduce a new environmental impact assessment for existing and new homes which adapts SAP/EPCs to measure all aspects of sustainability - combining energy efficiency measures; whole life/embodied carbon costs; and the environmental impact of the materials used in construction. This should also be used in the assessment of Council Tax bands.

This will help homebuyers to make informed choices by providing clear information about the environmental impact of their homes (including how it meets EnerPhit/Passivhaus standards), encompassing the extraction of raw materials; pollution; processing of materials; and disposal at end of life, in order to protect the natural environment. It will show people what changes they need to make to reduce the carbon impact of their homes. It will help to recognise the value of existing buildings and encourage their restoration/redevelopment rather than building new ones.

"
I was excited to be part of something so life-changing for my country.

Fiona, Assembly Member

Retrofit Homes

Workforce Development and Retraining

Invest in workforce development and retraining to deliver retrofitting and construction work to high standards and ensure we have the ability to implement an ambitious retrofit plan across Scotland.

By investing in developing the capacity of the workforce in retrofit technology, innovation and installation practices, new employment opportunities will be provided. Achieving this effectively should also involve putting more emphasis on environmental issues/green skills in vocational training for the construction industry and to provide building services too , so that the workforce understand the need for these changes. We believe that this recommendation will enable retrofitting and construction work to be delivered to high standards, and potentially provide training and employment opportunities for workers moving from diminishing carbon heavy industries. It will also empower communities to effectively undertake improvements to the carbon efficiency of their housing stock.

Implement Fuel Poverty Strategy by 2030

Ensure the Fuel Poverty Strategy, as required by the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act (2019) but currently still in its 2018 draft form, is implemented immediately and is effective by 2030 not 2040.

This recommendation brings benefits to the health and well-being of the population and has a corresponding benefit of reducing costs to the NHS while also helping towards meeting Scotland's interim 2030 target for carbon reduction. It will also have a generally positive impact on the economy as people will have more disposable income. We believe this recommendation will have a large and immediate impact for those most in need.

Retrofit All Existing Homes by 2030

Develop an ambitious plan across Scotland to enable the retrofitting of all existing homes by 2030 to be net zero.

We know that 80% of homes that people will be living in by 2050 already exist and do not meet modern and future energy efficiency requirements. This recommendation is important therefore, because an ambitious plan is needed to ensure that all existing housing stock can be retrofitted by 2030.

We believe the plan must be developed and the implementation overseen by an independent non-profit body that is able to work with all stakeholders to ensure sufficient funding and quality assurance. The implementation of the plan will make a significant impact on reducing Scotland's carbon emissions (e.g. heating Scotland's homes accounts for 15% of total emissions).

This plan must also incorporate adaptations to hazards such as floods and extreme weather which may occur in the future. Doing this will also make a positive contribution to the health & well-being of the population (including cost savings for the NHS), and will provide much needed employment opportunities. It will also be an important contribution to lifting people out of fuel poverty by reducing fuel bills and making homes more economical.

Robust Retrofit Quality Standards

Ensure immediate development of robust quality standards for assessing what needs to be done to retrofit existing homes to become net zero.

This recommendation is important to enable existing housing to become net zero, as current methods for assessing energy efficiency of houses and heating systems are outdated, not fit for purpose and need to be updated and future proofed.

New Scottish standards, using Passivhaus standards as a minimum, must ensure inclusion of whole life carbon assessments and the environmental impact of all materials. They must also be able to mitigate against. and adapt to, the hazards of climate change and extreme weather in the future.

Decarbonise Heating by 2030

Scotland should lead the way in reducing to net zero the carbon emissions caused by domestic and non-domestic heating systems, by investing in the exploration and early adoption of alternative fuel sources for buildings, and where possible decarbonise the gas grid and heating systems by 2030.

Heating homes constitutes a large proportion of Scotland's carbon emissions, therefore a change to the way we heat homes and buildings is paramount to meeting reduction targets. There are a variety of potential fuel sources that we think should be explored, as different solutions will work better in different parts of Scotland and for different types of buildings.

Grants to Retrofit Homes

Make a grant available to ALL homeowners in Scotland by 2025 to bring their houses to zero emissions standards by 2030, starting by prioritising houses in fuel poverty.

To be fair this grant system should prioritise those living in fuel poverty. It should be provided with the twin focus of benefiting those in most need and the overall reduction of carbon emissions from across the Scottish housing stock. Future proofing homes against hazards such as extreme weather and floods should also be a focus. We suggest that the grant should cover up to 95% of the retrofitting costs for each home. We believe that while this may be costly in the short term, the longer term benefits will outweigh that (e.g. up to 15% of Scotland's total carbon emissions could be addressed by implementing this recommendation).

> "Hard to select one, however one that I particularly engaged with was to retrofit existing homes to the Passivhaus or equivalent standard and bringing up to date building standards suitable for energy efficient homes.

Eri, Assembly Member

Standards and Regulation

Building and Trading Standards

Strengthen building and trading standards to quality assure energy efficiency work carried out by private companies, to make sure it actually delivers emission reductions to homes.

It's important the public have confidence in the quality of work and the materials used in their homes especially as the Scottish Government sets targets for retrofitting and energy efficiency. This will lead to wider acceptance of the changes required and greater uptake and make building improvements fairer by strengthening quality across the board.

Greenfield and Brownfield Development

Strengthen planning restrictions immediately so that development on greenfield sites should not be permitted until all other development options, such as brownfield and existing building repurposing, have been considered and legitimately rejected.

We believe it could be very effective because it can be implemented now and relies on an assessment and re-evaluation of the assets we have in terms of our land and building resources. It would direct builders towards existing infrastructure, amenities and opportunities within populated areas and away from out of town greenfield sites.

This recommendation is about valuing and preserving green spaces, agricultural land, wildlife and woodland and providing a new value to existing buildings rather than building new ones. It is also about honouring and empowering communities and their wishes and may also lead to the regeneration of neglected areas of towns and communities by transforming them for housing and other uses.

Net Zero Public Sector by 2030

Require all public sector buildings, vehicles and supply chains to be net zero by 2030 with an interim target of 75% by 2027 and a target for absolute zero by 2035.

The public sector should lead by example. The size of the public sector in Scotland means that the government can have a large impact on emissions in a relatively short period of time as shown by other public sector organisations that have adapted quickly. By doing this, the private sector would be encouraged to upskill and improve their practices to meet the standards of public sector contracts.

Sustainable Public Sector Procurement

Introduce a public sector procurement requirement for companies to provide details of their sustainability performance (measured against agreed standards) in any tenders for work, and for this to be used alongside costs in making the final decision on whom to select.

The public sector in Scotland is by far the largest consumer entity, and so action here will bring about considerable effect. The impact will be felt across the sector and all the way down the supply chain, encouraging lower carbon and more sustainable practices. A holistic approach will encourage corporate responsibility and provide greater assurance in the quality of procurement.

> I am pleased that we embraced a holistic view that examined the impact of products and service throughout the whole of their lifecycle, taking into account climate impacts during manufacture, use, and then recycling or disposal at the end of their life. Requiring businesses to report on the carbon footprint of their products, so that consumers can make informed choices, is a great step forward.

Calum, Assembly Member

Public Sector Vehicles

Make it mandatory for all public service vehicles (ambulances, police cars etc.) to have zero tailpipe emissions, extending to delivery vans and public transport where possible.

Transport is one of the major sources of fossil fuel emissions. Therefore by changing the public fleet of vehicles to zero emission vehicles it will not only reduce emissions from those vehicles, but encourage the development of innovative technologies.

We know that it will not be possible to purchase new internal combustion engine cars privately from 2030 and the Scottish Government has have already committed to: "Create the conditions to phase out the need for all new petrol and diesel vehicles in Scotland's public sector fleet by 2030." We think this is not enough and other vehicles should be included. It will ease people's concerns and help change people's mindset to adopting zero emission vehicles themselves. With this change more charging points will become available in public locations.

Benchmarked Standards

Establish strengthened benchmarked standards and set a requirement for public organisations and private companies to measure their annual progress on the path to net zero and publish this in a clear and transparent way.

This is important because as Scotland sets net zero targets, businesses need to be included and held accountable for their total emissions including matters such as: waste management and recycling; heating systems; lighting; ventilation; use of transport; insulation; and consumables. In order for this to happen they need to have measurable standards to adhere to, and the means of assessing them.

The Scottish Government should consider how this would relate to UK law, especially with regards to enforcement methods, e.g. taxation and binding targets. We think this is fair because everyone has a responsibility to contribute to reducing emissions and this requirement would apply equally to everyone. The public could then use this information to inform choices about what companies they use and this would drive competition.

Electricity Generation

Produce a green paper contrasting different methods of electricity generation focusing on capacity to meet baseload, £ per kWh, embodied carbon, safety and environmental impact and use this paper to plan Scotland's electricity generation in the future.

This action will help produce an effective masterplan with the best interest of the environment in mind. The plan will provide a timeline to ensure electricity capacity is available at the point when we need it. A lot of investment will be required, so we need to know where to best allocate our resources. It will show savings - at a government, business, community and individual level - in the long-term. Planning ahead will ensure the consumer gets some of the savings and help address fuel poverty.

Climate Change Business Bill

Introduce a Climate Change Business Bill, to be enacted within the next five years, which sets climate impact standards and requires all businesses to assess the carbon emissions of their business practices on climate change (against variable criteria depending on the size of the business). Establish an independent climate change regulatory authority to inspect, audit and ensure compliance.

This is important because businesses need to know what is required of them. It will also ensure accurate reporting and proper training. It enables businesses to realise what actions need to be taken to meet the emission reduction standards required, whilst taking into account the size of the business to ensure fairness and viability.

Established standards, and the reporting on them, will give the public more information about what businesses are doing, whilst giving executives a format for action to achieve those standards. This should not exempt businesses involved in carbon trading schemes.

Plant Based and Low Carbon Food

Immediately require government and public services to procure plant based and low carbon food for all public sector catering and canteens.

We believe that implementing this recommendation demonstrates leadership by example and a commitment to accountability. It contributes to educating and steering the public towards low carbon and plant based diet options. This recommendation should be driven by a commitment to very best quality food in terms of both nutritional value and taste.

We think that there are also opportunities here for publicity campaigns which involve celebrity and/or high achieving chefs, and also creativity in terms of recipes and food options, all of which will engage people more in healthy and low carbon diets, contributing positively to lowering carbon emissions.

" I was on the 'diet and lifestyle' work stream and was astonished to learn about the high levels of carbon associated with the meat and dairy industry.

After hearing a lot of evidence, it felt really important to myself and other members I worked with to ensure the government set a precedent for a shift away from the high carbon diet habits that we have in Scotland towards a low carbon, plant-based diet.

There is a recommendation which was voted for and is published in the document which requests immediate change for all public-procured canteen and catering food to be plant-based. For Scottish government to undertake this recommendation it will demonstrate a clear direction in how we need to change our diets to respond to the climate emergency and will significantly contribute to reducing Scotland's carbon emissions.

"

Ellie, Assembly Member

Public Transport

Public Transport Cheaper or Free

Make public transport cheaper, or free, by reviewing tender processes to focus government subsidies into nationalised public/private partnerships or not for profit public transport providers.

The availability and affordability of public transport is key to realising a fairer, more mobile society and a greener Scotland. Public transport should be something that exists to provide a service to communities, rather than generate private profits.

In this model, any surplus made could be used for investment back into services and to help reduce the disparity in provision across different areas of Scotland. Reducing the costs of public transport would encourage people to move away from cars, reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality.

Oyster Card for Scotland

Introduce standardised smart ticketing for public transport across the whole country – an 'Oyster card for Scotland'.

Standardised smart ticketing for all would allow for easier joined-up journeys increasing accessibility and promoting the use of public transport by saving time and resources. We think this would work best through a central travel app and an e-loaded ticket that could be bought on a weekly, monthly or yearly basis.

Integrated Rail Network

Place rail travel at the core of an integrated transport system, by subsidising rail infrastructure to make it more affordable and resilient than air travel, particularly for mainland journeys in the UK.

We believe that a more accessible integrated rail network, with affordability, frequency and reliability at the forefront, will be better able to compete for customers with more carbon-intensive forms of transport like flights. If there is also wider investment in facilities for connecting to other forms of transport, protecting the resilience of the network from the impacts of extreme weather events, and enhancing the customer experience, then the option of traveling by rail is likely to become people's natural choice.

Travel Emissions

Ferry and Vessel Emissions

Improve regulation about emissions from ferries (and other vessels used to transport goods around Scotland) so that high carbon emitting vessels are replaced with low carbon, modern alternatives, and ensure that the Scottish public sector fleet achieves a 50% cut in total carbon emissions by 2030.

Our ambition here is for all vessels in Scottish waters to be zero carbon emitters, but we think Scottish Government needs to initially lead by example by strengthening their commitment to move to low emission vessels.

We would further like to see the rate of emission reductions continually increased so that there is a total cut in carbon emissions from the publicly owned fleet of 75% by 2035, and 100% by 2040.

Further, to drive this change among the private sector we think there should be a financial penalty introduced by 2040 for any non-zero emission vessels using Scottish waters.

Invest in Alternative Fuels and Green Incentives

Reduce the number of petrol and diesel vehicles in Scotland by investing in the development of alternative green fuels and increasing awareness of, and the level of, incentives available to support the transition to zero tailpipe emission vehicles.

Our aim here is to assist people with the transition from petrol and diesel vehicles to vehicles powered by green alternatives, for private cars, public transport and commercial vehicles.

We believe there is not enough awareness of the existing incentives to make these transitions, and access to this information must be increased immediately. The level of subsidy available should also be increased so that more people and companies are supported to change their vehicles in the short term.

Research & Development for Zero Carbon Air Travel

Help Scottish industry to become a leader in sustainable short-distance plane technology by increasing research and development into zero-carbon fuel for air travel.

Air travel is a major contributor to worldwide carbon emissions, and while overall we need to reduce the amount of air travel to reduce carbon emissions there will still be the need for flights.

We understand that innovation is already ongoing in Scotland in relation to developing electric planes and looking at other fuel alternatives, and believe this should be continued and supported to help us lead the way in alternative fuels for air travel.

While recognising that most flights are made by a proportionately small part of the population, we think that retaining the alternative to fly is important, particularly for island communities and rural areas, so this technology is necessary.

> I am proud of this because it is important to have the option to fly. By leading the development of sustainable technology Scotland would be recognised and respected globally and it would benefit short distance air travel across the world.

Nadine, Assembly Member

Electric Vehicle Charging

Create convenient electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure by 2025, focussed around community demand and lifestyle, in balance with other needs for use of space.

We want to make it easier for owners of petrol and diesel cars to transition to electric cars by making the charging facilities accessible and affordable.

We believe the cost for charging EVs should be affordable and uniform across the country, and this may need the help of regulation. This will be particularly important in rural areas where private car use may remain more necessary than in urban areas.

Decarbonise Internal Flights by 2025

Commit to working to decarbonise all internal flights within Scotland by 2025.

We recognise that the Scottish Government Climate Change Plan Update commits to working to decarbonise scheduled flights within Scotland by 2040.

We do not believe that this is soon enough and argue that Scotland should become an early adopter of electric planes for short haul flights, especially for island journeys.

We believe this would help focus efforts on where we can achieve significant emissions reductions quickly and easily.

> " Air travel is the real culprit that's for sure, because it's already up in the atmosphere, it doesn't have very far to go to pollute the atmosphere, so if we can tackle that one reasonably quickly then we'll do not too badly. "

John, Assembly Member

Carbon Labelling

Food Carbon Labelling

Within 5 years, to have fully implemented food carbon labelling, similar to nutritional labelling, that shows real and total carbon content - not the offset carbon footprint.

The first stage would be to develop tools to consistently measure the carbon impacts of food production, processing and transport (to the point of distribution).

The labelling should declare complete carbon footprint and be colour coded with a simple traffic light system. This will make people more aware, and more likely to compare products, plus we know a similar approach to nutritional information has worked in the past.

We think that this is a fair approach because it increases knowledge and helps people to make informed choices about the carbon footprint of the food they choose to eat. It would also make people more interested in the carbon content of food. A carbon calculator app could be developed, alongside the labelling scheme, that gives people an overall picture of their carbon footprint and a challenge to aim for.

It is also fair to producers who are making items with a lower carbon footprint and, because it only measures transport emissions to the point of distribution, it is fair for all parts of Scotland.

> I think everything about helping people make good choices, whether that was labelling or company information. Because I find partly the problem is the overwhelming amount of information that people get. And actually I think a lot of people want to make good choices but if it's like, OK I have to calculate where this food comes from or I've bought something from this company and have to investigate how they supply their delivery vans or something... You need a bit of a simplification, because most people I know want to do good things, we just need to make it a bit easier.

Colin, Assembly Member

Declare Travel Carbon Impact

Immediately make it easier for people to make informed choices about how they travel, taking carbon emissions into consideration, by requiring transport providers to declare the carbon impact of flights and train journeys in a clear and meaningful way at the time of booking.

Our aim is to encourage people to choose a travel method with a lower carbon footprint by increasing their knowledge about the carbon emissions of the method of travel they are considering so they can make informed choices.

The information provided should declare the absolute carbon footprint and must be available upfront as part of the ticket price.

We think it will encourage more sustainable travel and is also fair to travel providers who are offering services with a lower carbon footprint. It could also make people more interested in their overall travel emissions and could work alongside a carbon calculator app which allows people to track their emissions and gives people a challenge to aim for.

Product Carbon Labelling

Require businesses to label products to show the carbon footprint of the production process.

Our aim here is to give people more information about the true costs of the items they buy to enable them to compare products and make informed consumer choices, possibly also considering the need for a product and whether to reduce overall consumption patterns.

The labelling would be similar to how calories are presented on food items but on items such as radios, televisions and home furnishings (and eventually everything).

The labelling should declare the absolute carbon footprint, and we think it would be most effective if it can include carbon tracking across the whole life cycle of a product (including at disposal).

Education

Change Energy Efficiency Culture

Drive culture change to enable the public to understand that improving energy efficiency in homes is the responsible thing to do.

Enhancing the energy efficiency of our homes across Scotland will be vital to tackling the climate emergency.

We believe that if the government ensures through policy (including implementing other recommendations we have made) that energy efficiency measures can add value to our homes, then a culture change that normalises this will take place

Education will help to ensure the population understands the benefits of what might be possible and play their part to help achieve our climate goals.

Sustainable Diet Public Information Campaigns

Initiate public information campaigns, including education for children and families, that deliver accessible advice and information on transitioning to a sustainable diet.

This is important because not everyone is aware that specific foods have an impact on our climate.

Our society has a cultural bias towards choosing meat and most of us don't truly appreciate the impact of dairy and meat consumption around the world.

Growing awareness will be key. Effective information will help the majority of the population to make the transition from high carbon foods to more sustainable diets that are plant based and grown in ways minimise carbon emissions.

> Scotland must have a decent, affordable public transport system. Everything else depends on it.

Janette, Assembly Member

Education Programmes

Include carbon emissions and reduction topics in all relevant education programmes.

The aim of this recommendation is to give everyone an understanding of the impact of their actions on the environment. We believe that this will help empower people to make informed choices and to be part of the movement for change, giving them the tools they need to help tackle climate change.

Employment Training Campaigns

Run a public information campaign about training opportunities, in order to attract people into greener industries, including targeted information for people currently working in 'brown' sectors such as oil and gas and in sectors that are dependent on oil and gas.

This will be important because it provides the necessary information that enables people to move into industries that support more sustainable living.

Workers in oil and gas and other carbon intensive industries have transferable skills which will be useful as we transition.

Education on Sustainable Transport

Provide education for all to support the transition from car use to public and active transport so people recognise the climate impacts and change behaviours willingly.

We believe that this is an important recommendation, as getting people out of their private cars remains a big challenge for society, but is vital to help us reduce emissions. This can be supported by improvements in our public transport system and economic incentives to ensure it is fair for all, but understanding is vital.

Local Living and Four Day Week

Raise public awareness on the value that can be achieved for climate change by embracing localised living and a 4-day, or reduced, working week.

This recommendation builds on the principle of the 20-minute community.

We believe it is important as it will support people to understand that traveling less, shopping locally and creating more time for leisure can help us in living more sustainably.

People will be better informed that change is possible as we embrace localised living, promote wellbeing over Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and share examples as they are trialled and implemented, such as the 4-day week trial in Spain.

> I guess it really made me question what I actually need as opposed to what I want. From a consumer point of view, I'm lucky to be able to afford most things I want. But starting to think, well, do I need to buy that? I just started thinking about what I can do to make my impact a bit less, or a lot less. It's changed my diet, the way I consume stuff in online shopping, what I'm doing with things as opposed to chucking them away.

Forbes, Assembly Member

> The recommendation to instigate a programme of information and education to make everyone aware of the seriousness of the situation and the need to take swift and decisive action. I feel that a change in mindset towards a carbon neutral world and altering our way of life to enable that aspiration is the way forward for future generations.

Jim, Assembly Member

Land Use

Marine Carbon Sequestration

Fulfil the carbon sink potential of the marine environment to establish an holistic enterprise that maximises carbon sequestration and supports sustainable marine food production.

Our seas are six times the land mass of Scotland - 460,000 sqKM - and have huge potential for improving carbon sequestration.

We also think there is potential to make better use of regenerative ocean farming techniques in our seas in ways that contribute to food production in sustainable ways. This could also have a secondary benefit of improving our oceans and bringing back more native species.

We need to treat our marine assets in the same way that we are treating our land assets.

Peatland Restoration and Native Woodlands

Commit to higher levels than in current Scottish Government plans of restoring peatlands and native woodlands for carbon sequestration and improving biodiversity.

This recommendation is about maximising how we use Scotland's natural assets and using land to its full potential to tackle the climate emergency.

We know that since 2012 only 25,000 hectares (ha) of degraded peatlands have been put on the road to recovery, despite much higher government targets. We also know that the recent Scottish Government Climate Change Plan Update maintains an annual peatland restoration target of 20,000 ha, but we don't think this is fast enough, or covers enough land.

We've been told that the current Scottish Government commitments to tree planting are to achieve 15,000 ha per year from 2024/25, although we are disappointed that this does not commit to native woodlands as this would have additional environmental benefits alongside carbon sequestration.

Making these changes would help enable the land to work towards our climate goals, rather than against them. This will be most effective if it begins immediately and is supported for the long term.

Incentivise Land Use to Support Net Zero

Fulfil Scotland's carbon sink potential by incentivising landowners to maximise the land available in order to meet net zero targets.

This recommendation is intended to end destructive land management practices and focus on investment in dedicating underused land to increasing carbon sequestration. This will enable the land to work towards our climate goals, rather than against them.

So much of Scotland's land is not suitable for crop growing, so potential for absorbing carbon is high here, including through restoration of degraded peatlands, woodland planting and improved soil management. We think it is a fair demand as it gives landowners and tenants a choice and incentives.

This will be more effective if it begins immediately and is supported for the long term.

Farming Subsidies to Support Transition

Given the exit from the EU (and the end of the Common Agricultural Policy funding model), the government should work with the farming community to develop a subsidy regime that encourages farmers to transition to more sustainable land management practices, to be fully implemented in the next 5 years.

The need to replace the current funding regime provides a valuable opportunity to refocus subsidies and policy on sustainable land management to help meet carbon emission targets, and also to go further and look into the future.

This could be really effective in making a big change, addressing around ¼ of greenhouse gases in Scotland. It recognises the need to work with farmers to maximise what they can do and provide them with the support to make changes - including training, support and funding.

We think this is important because we need to reconsider how we relate to the land, and rethink our connection with nature.

We also think this is a fair way to support the transition to sustainable practices in agriculture as it would enable a move away from meat and dairy farming, in ways that give farmers time to adapt and diversify their businesses.

Communities

Community Low Carbon Heating

Provide government incentives for local authorities and social housing providers to work with communities to develop low carbon heating systems in neighbourhoods.

The action should lead to collaborative working opportunities with local authorities, individuals, community and local businesses to develop innovative responses to neighbourhood heating needs.

Working together with communities in this way will address the community's needs, and ensure the right solutions are put in place for each neighbourhood.

In a separate recommendation the Assembly is asking for funding to be made available to homeowners for energy efficiency improvements and this action is intended to provide similar funding for local authorities and social housing providers to support neighbourhood wide solutions.

A wider benefit of this action is that it may create local job opportunities and apprenticeships meaning that the investment stays in the local community.

Community Engagement

Provide government support for community engagement, to empower local people to make decisions around their needs and conduct transparent consultations.

Good consultations give communities ownership of solutions and promote teamwork. Community members can help to educate each other on what is achievable in a way where individuals aren't left behind.

Using Place Plans and Place Standards tools makes consultations more transparent and means that solutions get tailored to the needs of the community. The process and the outcome will also educate future generations, giving them the ability to decide what happens within their community in the future.

Community Land Ownership Reform

Empower local communities to manage underused, unproductive, and/or unoccupied land around them in ways that address the climate emergency through rapid and decisive movement on land ownership reform.

This recommendation aims to benefit the wider community, and the environment, by addressing imbalances in land use and ownership.

There is a lot of brownfield land and not much 'spare land' in certain areas, and there are very few landowners. The action will maximise the land available for carbon sequestration, energy generation, and food production.

Local communities, supported by the government, will work together with the landowners to manage their underused land. It would also create work and enable people to develop new skills.

Funding for Community Climate Action Projects

Introduce a pot of money for community projects (this could be ring-fenced money collected from Land Carbon taxes) to be used to invest in community-based climate action projects e.g. rewilding, peatland restoration, growing projects.

Communities need a booster (capital investment) to get these types of green projects off the ground and get them to a point where they are self-sustaining. We believe this could happen now, i.e. within the next year, by building on the Climate Challenge Fund and increasing investment in it by government, sponsorship from business and/or the National Lottery even before the Land Carbon tax gets on stream.

Communities want to manage the land for the benefit of everyone, so funding for greener community projects is fair as it means local people are not wholly responsible for raising the money.

Enhance Community Right to Buy

Enhance Community Right to Buy legislation to make it easier for communities to take ownership of unproductive land for climate action, alongside providing clear policy guidance on how community owned land should be managed.

We believe this is important because there are many communities who want to do this, but don't know how.

There are also a lot of landowners at present who do not do anything with their land and they are getting subsidies just for having it. This action will reverse the trend that the majority of the land is owned by a minority of the people.

At the moment it is up to the community to prove that the land is not used. In the enhanced legislation, this would be turned round, and it would be up to the landowner to prove that they are maximising the potential use of the land towards climate action.

This, along with ensuring continued availability of funding for community purchase, will make it easier for communities to buy the land. As part of buying land as a community, there is an obligation to manage the land in a climate sensitive way.

> I suppose having come from the islands, the fact that there was a discussion on land ownership and peat restoration really impressed me as I thought that was a potential blind spot. So the recommendations calling on the government to enhance land buy-out legislation was something I felt was particularly important as it will have other positive socio-economic impacts as well as environmental.

Andrew, Assembly Member

Circular Economy

Sustainable Business Loans

Introduce government backed sustainable business loans for companies and start-ups to invest in innovation in reuse and reprocessing in Scotland and creating commercial demand for repurposed/ remanufactured materials.

Through incentives companies in this sector can make changes more quickly, or new companies can be helped to start up, which will help create more jobs, encourage innovation, and support fairer access to funding.

This is still a relatively small sector in Scotland but will be vital to the future, ensuring that we are able to make productive use of our waste resources, reduce the export of waste and the amount of waste going to landfill.

Reduce High Carbon Construction Materials

Incentivise the use of Scottish grown and produced materials in house construction by setting targets to reduce the use of high carbon construction materials and increase the use of carbon neutral materials.

We believe there is a need to reduce the carbon footprint of materials used in construction and also grow green local manufacturing capacity.

This is not just about reducing transport miles but also about helping with longer-term carbon storage, for example if Scottish sourced timber was substituted for brick, cement, and steel in some construction activities, the carbon would be locked up in the timber and it would also reduce the need for very high emission brick, cement, and steel products.

We believe, however, that it will be important to do this in a way that also protects and enhances biodiversity.

Targets to Sell Local Produce

Set targets for supermarkets and other shops to buy and sell local produce at a fair price to farmers and consumers, and consider systems of grants for supporting more localised markets.

To reduce the carbon footprint of our shopping habits and support the local economy we want to see a move away from imported produce towards local production.

While we recognise that just because something is locally produced is not a guarantee of the produce having a low carbon footprint because it could still be grown or farmed in unsustainable ways, we feel that reducing food miles overall will still make a valuable contribution to achieving our emission reduction targets.

De-incentivise Imports

Grow and adapt our local economies by de-incentivising imports and establishing more innovative businesses and low carbon manufacturing industries in Scotland.

We believe that businesses should be encouraged to use locally sourced goods and materials wherever possible to reduce transport that creates increased carbon emissions. This is equally important for the materials used for packaging as for materials used in production.

Once supply chains are established there might even be a possibility of regulating at a later date to require a percentage of their materials to be sourced in this way. If businesses are able to do this it will be a massive contributing factor towards net zero, as well as helping local economies.

> [The most memorable part of the Assembly was] meeting all the other members and seeing what a massive, diverse group we are. There are members that will stay in my memory for a long time to come.

Sharon, Assembly Member

Work and Volunteering

National Nature Service

Government and industry should work together to develop a career ladder, or an incentive, for people not in education, training, or work to contribute to rewilding, land restoration and adaptation projects. This could be driven by a National Nature Service, supplemented by a Conservation Volunteers Scheme.

We believe that this will be an effective action that will have a direct consequence on reaching our goal of restoring and maintaining our natural carbon sinks.

The same model could also be used to adapt our environment to climate change through 'soft' rather than 'hard' engineering' e.g. allowing flood plains for rivers; using plants to slow down water flow; and creating green spaces in cities to help with urban cooling.

The voluntary aspect to complement the main programme would provide education and raise awareness across communities and create opportunities for people to take part in something - instilling pride, respect and wellbeing and a collective sustainable consciousness.

This could be part of a bigger shift into a new, more holistic way of living, 'people before profit', looking after our environment, creating opportunities for all, including reshaping the education system.

National Green Training and Apprenticeship Schemes

Scottish Government should support businesses and employers to transition and prioritise green skills by introducing a national training/ retraining and apprenticeship scheme for new green jobs, accessible to all.

Looking forward as a society we are going to need a greener consciousness and this will have an impact on the economy, the types of jobs available in Scotland, and the skills the workforce need. 'Green jobs' need long-term training, education & investment to be able to support sustainable industries for years to come.

It is important to us that these opportunities are available and accessible to people of all ages and at all stages of their life.

This scheme could include support and advice, work placements, training credits, and bursaries - and those involved would need to be paid a fair wage.

Flexible Working Conditions

Government should publish clear guidelines about their expectations for flexible working conditions and ensure that businesses are meeting these for staff when making procurement decisions and issuing contracts.

This recommendation aims to give people time to embrace a green mindset shift and a better work-life balance, contributing to a low carbon society.

It supports sustainable business models including the 4-day working week, flexible working hours and remote working or working from home that reduces the need for travel.

> " [I am most proud of the goal to] develop work, training and volunteering opportunities to support net zero targets, connect people with nature, rebuild depleted natural resources and increase biodiversity as it shows we are thinking about absolutely anyone and everyone throughout this whole process. "

Fiona, Assembly Member

> " It was exhilarating to be part of a process where ordinary people were given the opportunity to bring to the discussion their experience, knowledge and wisdom. I also found it inspiring to listen to the reports from the Children's Assembly. They invited us to be hopeful about change because they had such clear, simple and often brilliant ideas. They could imagine a future that they wanted, and they were creative in thinking about specific changes that would bring about that future. "

Susie, Assembly Member

Business

Eliminate Frequent Flyer and Air Mile Bonuses

Eliminate frequent flyer and air mile bonuses to reduce the number of flights taken for business, encouraging the use of alternatives like video conferencing for meetings.

We believe the Scottish Government needs to consider legislation to eliminate rewards for frequent flying and stop subsidising the airline industry until net zero flights are available.

This recommendation will lower emissions into the atmosphere by encouraging greener business practices and discouraging climate and environmentally harmful business practices. It will also change mindsets.

Most flights are taken by frequent flyers and we must reduce air travel, not reward it! We think we should move towards 'climate perks' for those who choose alternative methods of travel such as public transport (e.g. rail) and/or adopt more climate friendly options for connectivity and collaboration (e.g. Zoom meetings).

This will be effective because it is relatively straightforward to implement, and is a necessary change because we can't wait for technology to solve the emissions problem in this area.

Incentivise Cooperative Models of Land Use

Incentivise cooperative models of land use/land management, and partnerships between farming and other uses, that drive sustainable agriculture and move away from intensive farming and reliance on pesticides.

Incentives for sustainable land use will help to promote cooperative working to ensure best practices are followed.

The cooperative model and working cooperatively helps farmers to make decisions about how they manage the land in a more environmentally friendly way. Recognising land stewardship rather than ownership will encourage long term thinking and building resilience to climate impacts.

We believe this recommendation may also support local distribution thereby cutting down on food miles and travel carbon impacts as people can buy local. It may also support more opportunities for local allotments and local growing. Additionally, using fewer pesticides will support biodiversity.

Incentivise Green Business Models

Provide government incentives for green business models, such as bronze/ silver/gold awards or funding to reward sustainable practices and innovation for adaptation to climate change impacts.

Giving government incentives and awards will encourage and incentivise sustainable business practices. If businesses are making the effort to be sustainable, then their efforts should be recognised.

Wellbeing Before Profit

Government should publish clear guidelines about their expectations for flexible working conditions and ensure that businesses are meeting these for staff when making procurement decisions and issuing contracts.

This recommendation aims to give people time to embrace a green mindset shift and a better work-life balance, contributing to a low carbon society.

It supports sustainable business models including the 4-day working week, flexible working hours and remote working or working from home that reduces the need for travel.

> " I think the high point for me was the suggestion that society needs to move away from GDP as the sole indicator of progress. "
>
> Richard, Assembly Member
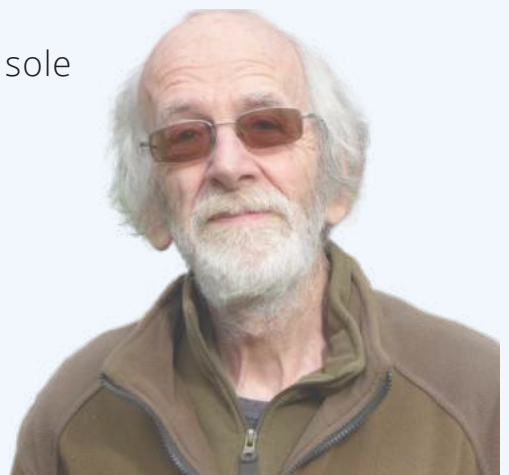
Universal Basic Income

Explore introduction of a Universal Basic Income to help improve the fairness of reducing hours at work, combined with a practical pilot/feasibility study which includes measuring environmental impact.

Providing a Universal Basic Income (an unconditional monthly minimum income for everyone) will give people the financial backing and security to change their behaviour and adapt to the climate emergency as they won't have such a precarious life. It would also enable people to potentially engage in volunteering, jobs and entrepreneurship which should lead to happier and more fulfilled individuals, which will in turn lead to an improvement in the wealth, health and wellbeing of Scotland's population.

As part of the feasibility study/exploration phase, what has happened overseas and how it has worked, and how it might work in Scotland should be examined and publicly discussed.

Four Day Working Week

Introduce a 4-day (or 32 hour) working week as standard, based on research to explore where and in what sectors it would work best, and backed by incentives to compensate for the cost of employing more people.

Research has shown that countries that have the highest working hours have the highest carbon footprint. Reducing the hours of the working week will give people the opportunity to spend time on activities which will benefit themselves, society and the environment.

We believe doing this will help to increase employment, support the economy and help address the aftermath of the pandemic. It will mean that they can make less carbon intensive choices, for example how they travel and what they eat.

There will be health and wellbeing benefits which will result in less time off work and reduced pressure on the healthcare system. People will have a better work/life balance.

20 Minute Communities

Broadband Connectivity

Improve broadband connectivity across Scotland by investing in a fit for purpose infrastructure to provide reliable, high-speed broadband access in all areas.

We believe it is important to level-up infrastructure provision across Scotland and enable everyone to be able to have access to high speed broadband.

This would improve access for everyone and will help support behaviours that lead to carbon emission reductions, for example reducing travel, flexible or remote working, business innovation and improving work/life balance.

While this will require government investment, another way of supporting this would be to give developers a responsibility for ensuring access in new buildings, just as they have a responsibility for other essential services.

Public Spaces for Walking and Cycling

Invest in improving public spaces in neighbourhoods and cities to make them safer and more appealing to walk and cycle in.

Improving the infrastructure to make active travel safer will enable positive cultural and behavioural changes.

Initiatives that we would like to see implemented, depending on local needs, are establishing more segregated cycle lanes, pedestrianised areas, restricting cars in town and city centres and creating greener environments.

This would provide for better choices for people who can use cars if they need, but improves opportunities to use active travel.

> I think the most important one, was the broadband. Because that is a major gripe for a lot of people that are in remote parts of the country. And they are at a disadvantage. Especially when there's a pandemic and everything goes remote and you're basically left behind because you've not got efficient broadband.

Linda, Assembly Member

Convert Existing Buildings

Create thriving town centres by focusing on the conversion of existing properties into high quality housing and community spaces rather than building more edge of town developments.

Everyone should have access to quality housing and this recommendation will help make more homes available. It will help address the climate emergency by using buildings that are already there and converting their use, creating more city living sites in the centre, reducing travel and improving access to 20 minute communities. It also ties in with the 'Reuse Charter'. This could also improve economic activities in town centres, and would reduce waste on buildings that are not used. Developments and conversions should meet 'Passivhaus' standards agreed Scottish equivalent as called for in the Assembly's goal on building quality.

Reform Planning Laws

Reform planning laws to enable governments to require developers to include community infrastructure and local facilities that can be reached by 'active travel' in new developments, preventing collections of houses being built with no amenities, and instead building thriving communities.

This recommendation is about active travel such as walking, cycling and wheeling etc.

It seeks to reduce isolated developments, which create communities that suffer from social problems with limited access to facilities such as parks, recreation, and local services. Instead it would mean that developments are required to provide space to socialise, and schools, local shops, local health centres that are able to be accessed by active transport.

We believe that this will not only lead to thriving communities, but ensure greener sustainable paths and reduce the pace of climate change.

Rural Localised Living

Ensure that all communities are able to benefit from the principles of localised living, inspired by the 20-minute community, by guaranteeing access to services through remote, digital and mobile provision.

Given that the benefits of the '20 minute community' are already established, being creative in how we make them more available to rural as well as urban communities is important.

This will enable all communities to improve their quality of life, promote well-being, reduce unnecessary consumption through tool libraries etc, and reduce the need for travel. We believe this is about improving and enabling better choices to travel less and live locally rather than limiting choice.

Create New, and Support Existing, Work Hubs

Create new, and supporting existing, work hubs/shared work facilities where someone can go to work, whether they are self employed or an employee.

We would like to see shared working facilities set up in libraries or community venues across Scotland, with internet access, computers and meeting rooms that can be reserved/hired.

These will become places where people will be able to work and learn together, and small villages will benefit as well as urban centres.

This recommendation is important because, by establishing publicly-funded local hubs, travel will be reduced, as well as the need for lots of personal equipment. We believe this will also lead to a stronger sense of community, will enable collaboration and help drive the cultural change needed to reduce high carbon impacts.

> " The most memorable part of the Assembly for me was everyone coming together and contributing, giving insight from their own experiences to help with proposals. "

Gemma, Assembly Member

Free Wi-Fi and Support Access to Smart Devices

Work towards ensuring the availability of free Wi-Fi for all, and support access to smart devices for all, to close the digital divide.

We believe that everyone should have access to a basic level of internet service for Wi-Fi/Broadband, regardless of their ability to pay.

This would ensure more equitable impacts for wellbeing, employability, quality of life, flexibly working, options to reduce travel and no-one gets left behind.

This recommendation therefore is more about making sure the benefits of being on line are accessible to the end user, and that there is more equitable access to the internet as a service, rather than necessarily making it free for everyone.

> **"** I stay in a village that's been decimated by new out of town developments. I liked the idea of the local 20 minute society, I liked the idea of local shops being brought back in. **"**

Mark, Assembly Member

> **"** [From the Assembly process] I have gained confidence in talking about climate change, enthusiasm to start making changes and hope that it's not too late. **"**

Laura, Assembly Member

Taxation

Incentives for Green Jobs Training

Introduce tax incentives for training/retraining for green jobs, aimed at those industries which are set to grow rapidly, to support the replacement of existing high-carbon jobs in the transition to net zero.

This will support workers to transfer from high-carbon jobs by helping people to retrain and move into meaningful jobs in low-carbon industries.

This is fair for employees and for companies who are being required to make fundamental changes. It will also ensure that there funding is available to train the increased number of entrants into low-carbon progressive industries.

Tax High Carbon Resources

Introduce a tax on producers that use high carbon resources in their manufacturing processes.

Tax will make it less attractive for manufacturers using high carbon resources such as cements, heavy metals, and steel which will in turn encourage a circular economy.

It will also target the use of virgin resources, encouraging the use of recycled and reprocessed materials where possible to avoid increased costs. We believe it is important because these resources contribute a very high proportion of emissions.

Carbon Land Tax

Introduce a carbon land tax which taxes emissions created through land use and penalise land currently emitting more carbon than it captures.

This recommendation hopes to target land not being used productively. Land owners would be incentivised to change land use, to reduce carbon consumption and increase carbon capture to avoid paying this tax.

We believe this would encourage use of the land for the common good and also target unfair or unproductive landownership in Scotland.

Frequent Flyer Tax or Levy

Discourage air travel by introducing a frequent flyer tax or levy.

This recommendation aims to address the unfairness of frequent flyers causing disproportionate emissions.

One way we think it could work would be, for example, allowing people one return journey untaxed per year anywhere in the world, and then any additional flights would incur a frequent flyers tax.

We recognise that there may be legitimate reasons for making exceptions to the tax, like necessary flights for medical treatment or in urgent personal circumstances, and that that would be fair.

Overall however we believe it would be quite simple to introduce and likely to be effective in reducing the number of flights.

> I was shocked to learn about the amount of people that are flying, that so many flights are taken by a small percentage of the population. I think the frequent flyer levy, if it's implemented in the right way, is very important. It's irresponsible of that small minority of people to damage the planet so much. We also learnt at the same time that aeroplanes, because they're burning their fuel at altitude, are probably much more damaging to the atmosphere. So I thought it was really important to reduce the amount of flights in the air.
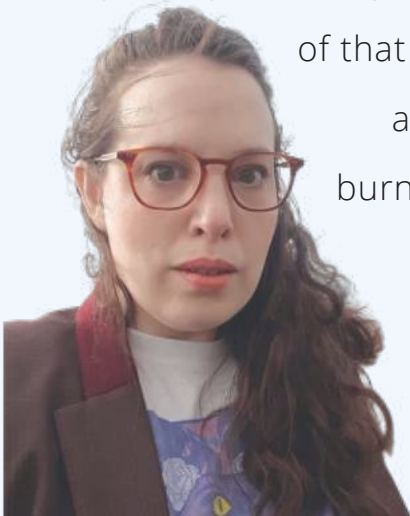
Beverley, Assembly Member

> I most strongly support those recommendations that will have a direct and immediate effect on reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. These include taxes on high carbon food sources, forms of transport that rely on fossil fuels, and inefficient land use.

Jocelyn, Assembly Member

Food Carbon Tax and Subsidy

Introduce a carbon tax on food, based on the carbon intensity of food production, and use the revenue to subsidise sustainable foods.

The tax will encourage consumers to change their diet by making carbon intensive products more expensive, while the subsidies will make carbon neutral foods more affordable.

This balance will be important for ensuring that it does not have a negative consequence of people on lower incomes being able to afford quality, healthy foods.

We believe this recommendation will also encourage producers to be more carbon neutral and make consumers to be more aware of their carbon consumption.

In the long term it should help make food production more sustainable and encourage consumption of local produce, where this has been sustainably produced.

Carbon Tax and Dividend

Introduce a carbon tax and dividend scheme - based on the polluter pays principle - so that for every tonne of CO2 emitted you pay a tax.

This is, we believe, of necessity a long term ambition however we ask government to consider how such a scheme could be implemented.

We learnt that there are different models for implementation being discussed across the world and that in practical terms the tax is normally applied to the supplier with the costs passed on to the consumers through higher prices.

This makes it much easier to collect and the government then returns the tax revenue to people on an equal per capita basis. This means people have the choice whether to spend their carbon dividend, to cover activities that have high carbon costs, or save the money for other, more sustainable uses.

We think this is both fair and effective as it treats everyone equally and would make carbon taxes more acceptable to the public by giving them a reward for lowering their personal carbon footprint.

Tax High Carbon Aviation Fuels

Reduce the incentives to fly by introducing tax on high carbon aviation fuels and making it mandatory that this cost is passed on to the customer in their ticket price.

We believe that this would deliver significant behaviour changes across society and have a positive impact on reducing overall carbon emissions caused by flying.

It will address issues of tax fairness, as currently those who don't fly are subsidising those who do fly.

Increase Road Tax to Subsidise Public Transport

Phase in increased road taxes for private car use and use the revenue to subsidise public transport.

Transportation is one of the major sources of carbon emissions in both production and in use.Our aim in this recommendation is to progressively decrease the number of cars on the road, thereby reducing emissions generated in the production and use of cars.

This tax also could have the impact of making people choose to limit their car ownership to one per household, promote fuel switching and the use of different travel modes. We do recognise however that this would need to be phased in so as not to disadvantage those who are currently car dependent, and in the interest of fairness, some exclusions might have to apply.

Measuring Success

Measurement Framework

Business and government to adopt a measurement framework for success that incorporates sustainability, well-being and happiness alongside profit.

Incorporating wellbeing measures (e.g. the National Performance Framework) alongside Gross Domestic Product (GDP) supports fairer and more balanced policies.

We should learn from other countries, for example the Happiness Index in New Zealand, that there are other ways to measure our success as a nation.

Fairness

Fairness was a key component in Scotland's Climate Assembly's process, deliberations and framing .

Process

Engaging in a citizens' assembly process could in itself, create inequalities, so steps were taken to mitigate this.

Members of the public who live in the lowest socio-economic areas of Scotland are often under-represented in engagement activities. More invitation letters were sent to households in these areas in order to get a balanced representation of the population. The gift of thanks Assembly members received was also chosen with fairness in mind, to ensure those on insecure incomes were not excluded.

Inclusion

Scotland's Climate Assembly was fully online, so measures were put in place to ensure that a lack of technological literacy or access to a digital device would not be a barrier to participation.

Accessibility was also a key consideration for the Assembly, especially taking into account different learning styles and needs. All evidence presentations were recorded in advance and shown with captions. These were made available on the online members' hub along with transcripts, presentation summaries and infographics. Assembly members were also given the option to receive resources, such as transcripts, in the post before each weekend to make following along with evidence easier.

Propositions of Fairness

The issue of fairness was embedded throughout the Assembly process including the question, **'How should Scotland tackle the climate emergency in an effective and fair way?'**

Evidence presented to the Assembly highlighted that climate change, and some policies to tackle it, disproportionately affect some people more than others.

Based on this evidence, Assembly members developed 22 'propositions of fairness'. These propositions completed the statement: **'To be fair, the recommendations that we as an Assembly present to Parliament should...'.**

Each Assembly member identified the top 10 statements which were most important to them. These were consolidated and ordered based on the statements which were prioritised most by members.

Prioritised by over 70% of Assembly members

1) Take into account the needs of different communities across Scotland, recognising that there is not a 'one size fits all' solution

2) Target the highest emitters so that organisations and individuals with the highest carbon footprint have to make the biggest changes

Prioritised by 60% - 70% of Assembly members

3) Act immediately so that future generations are not unfairly burdened with the responsibility of making change

4) Emphasise that it is everyone's responsibility to make changes - individuals, communities, business and government

5) Support people to grow knowledge and understanding to make informed decisions, and help those with the least capacity to make change to play their part

6) Support workers in industries where change will lead to job losses

Prioritised by 50% - 60% of Assembly members

7) Spread resources and the costs of change equitably (rather than equally) - so that those can afford the most, pay the most

8) Be affordable to all and not disadvantage people on lower incomes

9) Not increase social and economic inequalities

10) Protect vulnerable and disadvantaged groups from impacts of climate change and measures to combat it, ensuring no one gets left behind

Prioritised by 20% to 50% of Assembly members

11) Not disadvantage rural communities

12) Prioritise measures and investments that benefit everyone for the common good

13) Be cost effective and consider implications for the public purse

14) Be free from self-interest and non-partisan

15) Not have a negative impact on developing countries

16) Support high carbon industries through the transition

17) Involve ongoing engagement with the people most affected by change

18) Not disadvantage people with disabilities

19) Consider Scotland's impact and global share of carbon emissions (historically and for embodied carbon)

Prioritised by less than 20% of members

20) Ensure that businesses/ industries that have benefited most in the past, contribute the most

21) Not ask too much change from people too quickly

22) Put the people of Scotland first

> **"** This was an opportunity for me to learn more and hopefully contribute ideas towards making sustainable change in halting or reversing the effects of climate change. I was also acutely aware that climate change affects people in lower income countries like the one I come from more adversely so if there was anything I could learn to do to change that then it would be a worthwhile exercise. **"**
>
> Khopolo, Assembly Member

> I am a 71 year old retired Glaswegian. I worked in I.T. in various industries during my career. I travelled internationally, seeing many climate change and pollution problems.
>
> I travelled by train through the triangle Hong Kong - Shanghai - Xian - Shenzhen. Throughout my journey, I saw pollution that resembled Scottish mist.
>
> When working in Saudi Arabia, I witnessed non-stop gas flaring from oil wells. Night became day. Oil had value, methane was an impediment. In Northern Ontario, Canada, I travelled by train to Hudson Bay as there were no roads. I passed mile after mile of devastated trees, infected during the building of the railway line.
>
> Death Valley, California has many worked out mines. The waste from these lies abandoned to blow in the wind, reminiscent of the coal binges of Britain. Fortunately, there is no Aberfan primary school to bury.
>
> In 1989, I worked at Occidental Oil in Aberdeen. On 6 July, there was silence in the office. It was the 1st anniversary of 6 July 1988 when Piper Alpha exploded. The loss of 167 lives could be attributed to greed and inattention to health and safety.
>
> The last two centuries of industrial revolution have damaged the world immeasurably. The human species has responsibilities for all forms of life on the planet. It is imperative that we all attempt to remedy the damage caused to our world, to save ourselves and other species.
>
> I agreed to become a member because I thought that my experiences could give perspectives to issues that would not be otherwise known.

David P, Assembly Member

Organising the Assembly

Origin in Climate Change Act

Scotland's Climate Change Act was first passed into law in 2009. In September 2019, the Act was amended with new targets (including reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2045). At the same time, an amendment to establish a citizens' assembly on climate change received unanimous cross-party support.

Some arrangements were set out in the Act - the Assembly should be representative of the people of Scotland; it should have two conveners who are independent of the Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Parliament; and before the first meeting of the Citizens' Assembly, Scottish Ministers should lay before the Scottish Parliament a report on the arrangements for the administration and operation of the Assembly.

In September 2020 Ministers published a report outlining the governance arrangements for Scotland's Climate Assembly, including the role of the secretariat, Stewarding Group and sponsorship of the Assembly by officials within Scottish Government's Climate Change Division. A Memorandum of Understanding between the secretariat and Scottish Government officials sets out the arrangements to ensure that the Assembly delivers on its remit independent of Government, has the resources it requires and is run to high standards of public administration, using public resources efficiently.

"I think seeing how keen everyone was to get involved, discuss and debate on the first day and to see that same level of engagement and commitment at the last weekend was inspiring."

Khopolo, Assembly Member
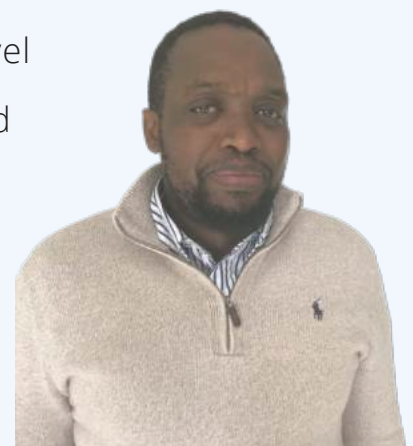
Assembly's Task

The Climate Change Act sets out the Assembly's task. It should consider how to prevent or minimise, or remedy or mitigate the effects of, climate change and it should make recommendations on measures proposed to achieve the emissions reduction targets.

Timing

Scotland's Climate Assembly was originally required to report to the Scottish Parliament and Ministers by 28 February 2021. However, the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act of 2020 further amended the Climate Change Act to allow that if the Assembly was delayed for a reason relating to Coronavirus, it should lay its report as soon as reasonably practicable after that date.

Principles

When inititating the Assembly in November 2019, the following principles for the operation of Scotland's Climate Assembly were agreed with the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform:

- Independent of Ministers, Government and Parliament.

- Members are representative of the population.

- Transparency in the operation of the Assembly and materials provided to inform discussion, although deliberations are private

- A Stewarding Group is used to ensure balance and legitimacy in the establishment, conduct and reporting of the Citizens' Assembly

- People are financially compensated for taking part

- Discussions are professionally facilitated

- Experts provide evidence and answer questions from the Assembly members

When making decisions about the design and delivery of Scotland's Climate Assembly, the conveners and those that advise and support the Assembly are required to take account of these principles.

Budget

The Scottish Government provided Scotland's Climate Assembly with an indicative budget of £1.4 million to deliver the Assembly.

A full report on the budget will be made available once the Assembly's work has concluded.

Covid-19

Since 2004, citizens' assemblies have been taking place around the world at the national and local level including in Canada, Ireland, France, Belgium, UK, and Poland. Until 2020, these were always in person gatherings.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was intended for Assembly meetings to be residential. The invitation letter included the dates for six weekend sessions, and offered the opportunity for members to request an additional meeting if they considered it useful.

As Covid-19 advanced, clear implications became apparent for the organisation and running of the Assembly. Options to delay the Assembly were considered, but the scale of uncertainty concerning Covid-19, balanced with the clear expectation in the legislation that the Assembly would report promptly, pointed to moving the Assembly online.

There were concerns about whether the alchemy of an in-person assembly could be recreated online and implications for how the Assembly would be designed without compromising the principles of inclusion, of being representative and transparency. However, Assembly members rose to the challenge, engaging determinedly with the issues and requesting an additional weekend to ensure they had sufficient time to refine their recommendations.

The result is a route map for a post-Covid Scotland.

Doing Politics Differently

Scotland's Climate Assembly is the second citizens' assembly to be run in Scotland. It is the first national citizens' assembly to be held entirely online and the first to integrate the views of children into the Assembly process.

> " It is always positive to meet other people and discover that they have a similar outlook and share your concerns, and want to work together to make things better for everyone. It is a refreshing change from the negativity and blame culture of party politics. "

Calum, Assembly Member

> " I was interested in becoming a member as I knew that it was only the second kind of citizens' assembly that has happened in Scotland so far and a great opportunity to be part of history and a voice that will shape the future of climate change. "

Aswad, Assembly Member

> " I am a portrait painter and live in rural Perthshire with my husband. I am very concerned that the covid crisis has taken focus away from the climate emergency. It has been inspiring to meet so many intelligent and interesting people who really want to make a difference. "

Suzanne, Assembly Member

Roles and Responsibilities

Organising Scotland's Climate Assembly involved close collaboration between multiple groups. Each group had their own roles and responsibilities.

Secretariat

The secretariat was established to ensure the efficient organisation and running of the Assembly. It is staffed by a mixed team of seconded civil servants and experts in the running of citizens' assemblies and is independent of the Scottish Government.

Design and Facilitation Team

Involve and the Democratic Society won the contract to design and facilitate the Assembly process and were jointly responsible for ensuring that Scotland's Climate Assembly was a high quality citizens' assembly. Both organisations worked on the Assembly's design, focussing on areas such as the Assembly's structure, timings and accessibility. They were also responsible for recruiting and leading the facilitation team for the Assembly.

Stewarding Group

The Stewarding Group was established early in the development of Scotland's Climate Assembly. Members of the Stewarding Group represent a broad range of interests in Scotland and their role was to provide advice and guidance in all aspects of the Assembly. They ensured balance and legitimacy in the establishment, conduct and reporting of the Assembly.

Extinction Rebellion Scotland were invited to join the Stewarding Group and provided valuable input in the early stages of development but chose to withdraw from the Stewarding Group in October 2020, before the Assembly meetings commenced.

There are 22 members of Scotland's Climate Assembly's Stewarding Group:

- **Claudia Beamish**, Scottish Labour Party;
- **Malcolm Cannon**, Institute of Directors
- **Finlay Carson,** Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- **Bryce Cunningham**, Mossgiel Farm
- **Paul de Leeuw**, Robert Gordon University
- **John Dickie**, Child Poverty Action Group
- **Iain Docherty**, University of Stirling
- **Oliver Escobar**, University of Edinburgh
- **Liam Fowley**, Scottish Youth Parliament
- **Doreen Grove**, Open Government Partnership, Scottish Government
- **Kirsten Leggatt**, 2050 Climate Group
- **Angus MacDonald**, Scottish National Party

- **Audrey MacDougall**, Chief Social Researcher, Scottish Government
- **Jenny Marr**, Scottish Liberal Democrats
- **Andrew McCornick**, National Farmers Union Scotland
- **Scott McGrane**, University of Strathclyde
- **Andrew McRae**, Federation of Small Businesses
- **Laura Moodie**, Scottish Green Party
- **Jess Pepper**, Climate Reality Leader
- **Mike Robinson**, Royal Scottish Geographical Society
- **Jane Suiter**, Dublin City University
- **Sally Thomas**, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations

Evidence Group

The Evidence Group led the development of the Assembly members' learning journey. Further information on the Evidence Group can be found on page 118.

Conveners

Role of Conveners

The Climate Change Act requires the appointment of two Conveners who are independent of Ministers and Parliament, and are gender balanced. Whilst the Act did not specify the role of the Conveners, the Stewarding Group agreed that they should:

- Represent the Assembly in the media and in public
- Amplify and support the voices of the Assembly members, acting as their champion. In practical terms this meant ensuring the evidence base was accessible and properly paced for members and assisting members to raise concerns about any aspect of the Assembly's operation.
- Conveners do not have formal leadership or decision-making responsibilities.

Appointment Process

Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, made the final decision on the Convener appointments. The Secretariat prepared a long-list of potential candidates with input from the Stewarding Group and Scottish Government sponsor team.

A short-list was drawn up on the basis of: independence; accessibility and diversity. Individuals known for their views on climate change were excluded.

The Cabinet Secretary interviewed all short-listed candidates and wrote to the Stewarding Group on 28 October 2020 to inform them of the appointment of Ruth Harvey and Josh Littlejohn.

Josh Littlejohn

Josh Littlejohn is one of the world's leading social entrepreneurs and campaigners having led a global movement to tackle homelessness.

Josh began working on the homelessness issue when he founded the social enterprise Social Bite. Social Bite started as a small chain of sandwich shops that began offering jobs and free food to homeless people through its pay it forward model. It has since expanded into a movement including the Social Bite Village which provides shelter and support for up to 20 homeless people on vacant land in Edinburgh.

Ruth Harvey

Ruth Harvey is Leader of the Iona Community, a globally dispersed Christian ecumenical community working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship. She is a Church of Scotland minister and a Quaker, with ten years of experience working as a mediator and facilitator with Place for Hope.

Ruth brings particular experience in supporting groups to articulate their deepest concerns, and is committed to the principal that 'nothing about us without us is for us.'

> ❝ The Assembly has shown that ordinary members of the public can take a leading role in shaping decision-making, by engaging with detailed evidence, and drawing on the experience of their own lives in setting the terms for how Scotland can respond to the climate crisis. This cannot be the end of the story of citizens actively leading our response to the climate emergency through informed deliberation together. For the good of Scotland and the wider world, it must be the beginning. ❞

Ruth and Josh, Conveners

Conveners' Reflections

When we began our journey as Conveners of Scotland's Climate Assembly we felt some apprehension about the scale of the task and what it would involve to take on such a mammoth enterprise, and to do so entirely online as organisations across the country scrambled to adapt to Covid-19. Looking back, we can say with certainty that the Assembly has far exceeded our expectations. The quality of facilitation, the depth of engagement, the level of intimacy and the robust dialogue generated was exceptional and a privilege to be a part of.

The Assembly brought together a representative group of people, a "mini-Scotland", and by working together they have answered their remit with clarity, rigour, imagination and urgency.

Like the members, we as Conveners keenly await the response from decision-makers, to see if the careful and considered deliberations of the Assembly will be translated into public policy that shapes Scotland's response to the climate emergency. The impact of the Assembly's recommendations can be limited only by the courage of our Parliament in putting heft behind them.

The Assembly was serious politics: citizens doing their civic duty. But it was far from business as usual. Our Assembly has been about robust and compassionate conversations informed by scrutinising the best evidence available.

It has been about making room for disagreements and differences of opinion, about drilling down into detail and fostering trust, intimacy and humour as we built our common ground.

Our hope is that the transformative recommendations agreed by the Assembly and set out in this report will lead to change at the national level, mirroring the personal experience of many of those involved.

The Assembly was enriched by input from the Children's Parliament. Their generation was born into the climate emergency as a present reality - for them it will never appear a distant threat - and for them there is nothing to be gained by dithering before making the changes needed.

We heard from one member, following a particularly intense day of input, learning and conversation the previous day. She told the Assembly that literally overnight her entire household had decided to change their eating and shopping habits as a result of what she had learned. It's hard to make big changes at the political level overnight, but when it comes to the climate emergency anything else will likely prove simply inadequate.

Our members have carried with them a drive for fairness and effectiveness as they worked to meet their remit. In so doing, they have opened up a remarkable opportunity for rapid and transformative change.

We urge readers of this report to have confidence in the collective voice of the people of Scotland. They have shown that there is commitment and wisdom within the people of this nation to drive change, setting a path to climate justice that can make our country better and fairer, for the good of all.

How were Members Selected?

The Climate Change Act requires Assembly members to be representative; "the citizens assembly is a panel made up of such persons as the Scottish Ministers consider to be representative of the general populace of Scotland".

Decisions about how to select Assembly members were made by the independent secretariat, based on international best practice and consultation with the Stewarding Group, which included experts in deliberative processes. Member recruitment was undertaken by an independent contractor, the Sortition Foundation, following a competitive tendering process. The Sortition Foundation report is available on the Assembly website.

Size

A citizens' assembly needs to be large enough to ensure it is representative and small enough to allow all members to contribute effectively. Around 100 is often considered optimal. The contract to recruit members of Scotland's Climate Assembly specified 105 members, with replacements found for any members that dropped out up until the start of the second meeting. 102 members completed the final weekend.

Methodology

Different member recruitment methodologies exist. The chosen methodology was a postal civic lottery which used Royal Mail's Postcode Address File, which allows widest access, limits bias and reduces human error, whilst also being most cost effective. 20,000 letters were sent across Scotland, with 20% randomly selected from postcodes in the most deprived areas (Multiple Deprivation Deciles 1-3) and the remainder randomly selected across Scotland.

Eligibility

Any person aged 16 or over living in a household when they received the invitation was able to apply, regardless of nationality. The invitation letter stated that anyone staying at the address during the registration period who normally had no fixed abode was also eligible. A maximum of one person from any single address was selected to participate.

Elected representatives, paid employees of political parties, senior civil servants whose job restricts them from participating and people who had sat on similar panels or assemblies in the previous two years were ineligible to apply.

Recipients were able to reply by telephone or online. Applicants answered a number of questions to ensure members were broadly representative of the wider Scottish population.
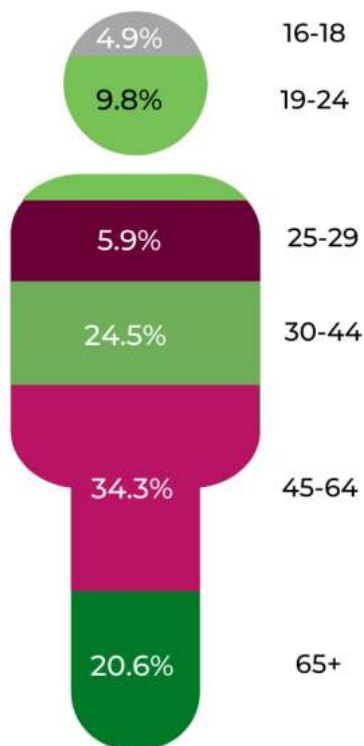
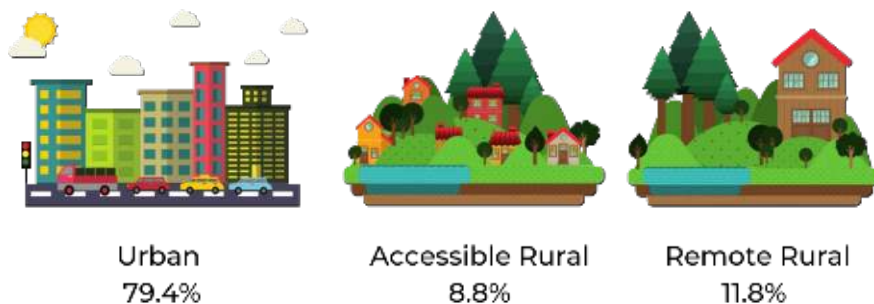Illustrative map of the geographical diversity of Assembly members

Selection Criteria

In order to create an assembly that was broadly representative, members were selected from the responding applicant pool based on eight different criteria: age, gender, geography, household income, ethnicity, rurality, disability and attitude towards climate change. Groups with the smallest numbers would be rounded up and those with larger representation would be rounded down.
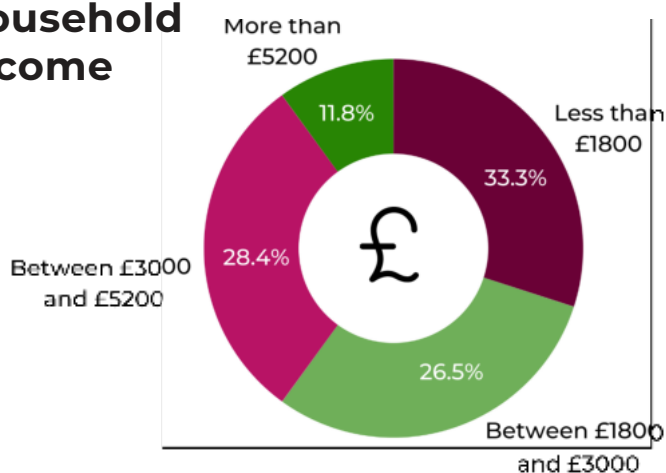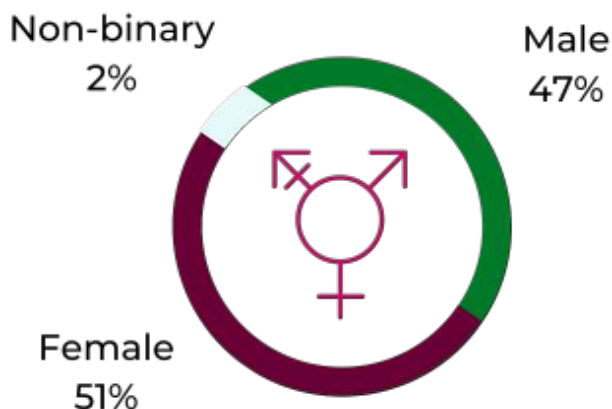
Age

- 4.9% — 16-18
- 9.8% — 19-24
- 5.9% — 25-29
- 24.5% — 30-44
- 34.3% — 45-64
- 20.6% — 65+

Rurality

- Urban 79.4%
- Accessible Rural 8.8%
- Remote Rural 11.8%

Attitude to Climate Change

- 69.4% an immediate and urgent problem
- 14.3% more of a problem for the future
- 3.1% not really a problem
- 6.1% I'm still not convinced it is really happening
- 7.1% Don't know

Household Income

- More than £5200 — 11.8%
- Less than £1800 — 33.3%
- Between £3000 and £5200 — 28.4%
- Between £1800 and £3000 — 26.5%

Gender

- Non-binary 2%
- Male 47%
- Female 51%

Ethnicity

- White 92.2%
- BAME 7.8%
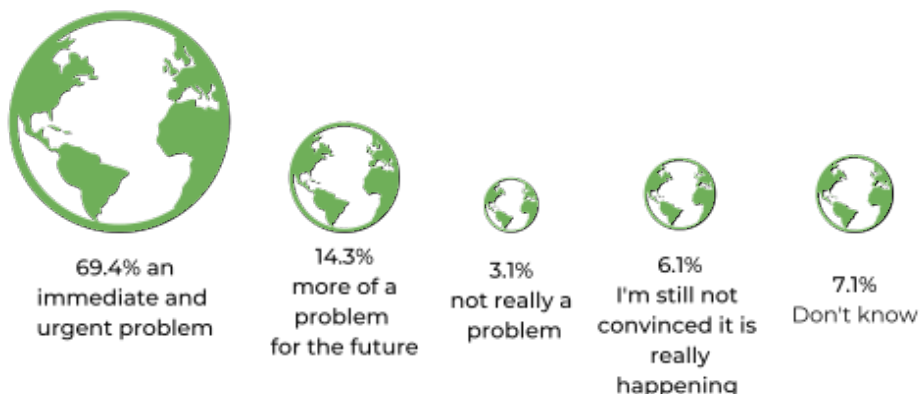
Disability/ Life Limiting Condition

- No - 76.5%
- Yes - 23.5%
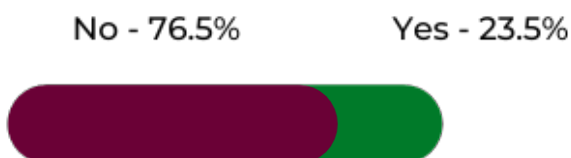
Age

The minimum age for participation was set at 16, but additional arrangements were made to include the voices of younger people (see section on children's participation). In addition, it was agreed that the lowest age group should be split into smaller sections – 18-18; 19-24 and 25-29. This recognises the significant changes in a person's life at this age and ensured representation at all stages.

Age	Percentage of Scotland's Population	Percentage of Assembly Members
16 - 18	3.8	4.9
19 - 24	9.4	9.8
25 - 29	4.4	5.9
30 - 44	23.9	24.5
45 - 64	34.5	34.3
65+	24	20.6

Gender

Although the database used lists two genders, the option was given to respondents to identify as non-binary and 2.1% of registrants identified in this way.

Gender	Percentage of Scotland's Population	Percentage of Assembly Members
Male	48.7	47.1
Female	51.3	51.0
Non-Binary	N/A	1.9

> " I wanted to be a member because there was a lot I could bring to the table, not just with my knowledge of climate change from my academic life but as a younger person who's growing up as this crisis evolves and as someone who grew up on the islands. "

Andrew, Assembly Member
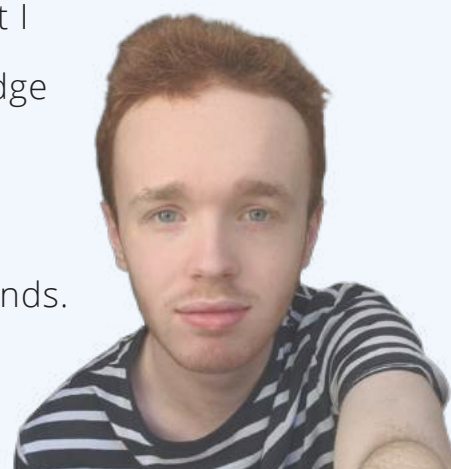
Geography

Geographical diversity is an important part of Scottish cultural identity. Different areas of Scotland will experience and respond to climate change in different ways - the challenges faced by island communities, for example, will not be the same as those experienced on the mainland. Scottish Parliamentary regions were used to stratify the sampling of Assembly members.

Scottish Parliamentary Region	Percentage of Scotland's Population	Percentage of Assembly Members
Central Scotland	12.3	8.8
West Scotland	12.9	14.7
South Scotland	8.2	7.8
Glasgow	14.5	15.7
North East Scotland	12.3	10.8
Mid Scotland and Fife	14.1	14.7
Highlands and Islands	12.5	13.7
Lothian	13.1	13.7

> " Apart from the evidence, we heard from an amazing group of experts, the most memorable aspect of the Assembly was interacting with a wide range of people of different ages and experiences from all over Scotland. "

Keith, Assembly Member

Income

Education or employment is often used in member selection as a proxy for income. Income can be a difficult variable to measure, if people are unsure or are unwilling to reveal it. However, it was considered particularly important when selecting Assembly members as there is a known correlation between income and climate impact and vulnerability.

People were asked about their net household income for the month of January 2020 (before the Covid-19 pandemic). Care was taken to ensure a representative sample, including those with the highest incomes.

Each member received a gift of £200 per weekend. Giving a gift is increasingly considered best practice, enabling participation by the less affluent who are often under-represented

in engagement. Information about the gift was displayed prominently on the recruitment material, including the envelope. Interest from those with a net household income of less than £1800 per month (the lowest 30%) was good, at 35.5% of respondents.

Household Income	Percentage of Scotland's Population	Percentage of Assembly Members
Less than £1800 (deciles 1-3)	30	33.3
Between £1800 and £3000 (deciles 4-6)	30	26.5
Between £3000 and £5200 (deciles 7-9)	30	28.4
More than £5200 (decile 10)	10	11.8

" I liked being in the discussion and seeing how other people thought. Everybody wasn't in the same class, some people were better off than me, poorer than me, less educated than me, better educated than me, I thought it was very, very good. I enjoy arguing with people - you've got a point of view, I've got a point of view, why can't we come to a joint point of view? "

Hugh, Assembly Member

Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Percentage of Scotland's Population	Percentage of Assembly Members
White (registration form included a range of options including white Scottish, white other)	95.4	92.2
BAME (options on registration form were Asian, Asian Scottish, Asian British, Caribbean, Black, Black British, mixed or multiple ethnic groups, other ethnic group)	4.5	7.8

> I have gained a lot of experience in being part of this great group in climate change and have learned things from people with all different types of background and expertise. It has also been a great opportunity to be able to pass this knowledge over to my family and friends and to also the wider BME community which I'm a part of, to be able to spread this message about why we need to take action now and that there really is a climate emergency that simply can't be ignored anymore and needs immediate action just as how the government is currently dealing with the pandemic crisis.

Aswad, Assembly Member

Disability

Living with a limiting long-term condition was included in selection, mirroring the approach taken by the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland. Applicants were asked, "Do you consider yourself to have a limiting long-term physical or mental condition?" People with disabilities will be impacted differently by both climate change and measures to respond to it. It was important for their perspective to be heard

Do you consider yourself to have a limiting long-term physical or mental condition?"	Percentage of Scotland's Population	Percentage of Assembly Members
Yes (have a limiting condition)	24.6	23.5
No (do not have a limiting condition)	75.4	76.5

Rurality

How individuals experience climate change, and the impact of changes that may be proposed to help mitigate and adapt to climate change, differs depending on rurality. For example, for 79% of people in accessible rural areas a car is their main mode of transport to work, compared to 49% in large urban areas and 46% in small remote towns. In addition, homes using high carbon fuels like oil, LPG and coal are much more common in remote and rural areas.

The Scottish Government's 3-fold Urban Rural Classification system was used in selection. It distinguishes between urban, accessible rural and remote rural regions and is based on two main criteria: population, and accessibility. Rural is defined as a population of less than 3,000 people and accessible is within 30 minutes of a settlement of 10,000 people or more, while remote rural is more than a 30 minute drive from a settlement of 10,0000 or more.

Urban Rural Classification	Percentage of Scotland's Population	Percentage of Assembly Members
Urban	83	79.4
Accessible Rural	11	8.8
Remote Rural	6	11.8

> It was quite nice that it was a lot of people just getting to grips with the details and giving their perspective. Listening to other people and going, oh right, I might have got that wrong. People that lived in rural areas identifying something that is a big problem, compared to people living in cities who don't see it... People could disagree, and I think someone summed it up in the first week, that we should disagree without being disagreeable. It really captured that it's good to disagree and understand things by having that conversation with people, but to do it in a constructive way. Everyone seemed to follow the spirit of that.

Colin, Assembly Member

Attitude to Climate Change

Where a Citizens' Assembly addresses an issue on which people are likely to have developed views, best practice is to stratify by attitude to the issue. This is in addition to using demographic criteria. The Scottish Household Survey asks, "Which of these statements, if any, comes closest to your own view about climate change?" While the question has limitations, it currently provides the most robust and representative data available on climate attitudes in Scotland.

Data from 2019 (the most up to date available) was used for recruitment.

Attitude to Climate Change	Percentage of Scotland's Population	Percentage of Assembly Members
Climate change is an immediate and urgent problem	69.4	66.7
Climate change is more of a problem for the future	14.3	14.7
Climate change is not really a problem	3.1	3.9
I'm still not convinced that climate change is happening	6.1	5.9
Don't know	7.1	8.8

Maintaining Diversity

These selection criteria were specifically identified to ensure that the Assembly was composed of a diverse mix of individuals so that members could learn about, understand, and connect with people who had different backgrounds and experiences.

It is to be expected that the circumstances of members might change over the course of the Assembly causing some to drop out of the process. After the first weekend, a further seven members were recruited to replace members who had dropped out, while maintaining the Assembly's profile. New members were caught up to the same point in the learning journey ahead of weekend two. No additional replacements were made after this point.

The exceptional circumstances of Covid-19 would have been expected to increase the external pressure on members. While some members did have days of illness or bereavement when they were unable to attend, the majority of the members participated in all sessions and 101 members voted on the recommendations.

> **"**
> The education side of it was phenomenal, going into the breakout groups and meeting people of all different ways and walks of life. That we could communicate at all different levels and it be a positive communication - having those different points of view was a really good thing.
>
> We've got people from the Highlands, their big thing is land ownership, people like myself from between Glasgow and Edinburgh staying in the main commuter belt and that doesn't relate to us at all, so it was good listening to all the different factors from the different areas. **"**

Mark, Assembly Member

> **"**
> I was aware of climate change but wasn't overly informed about it so I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to learn more while taking an active role in influencing the decisions that are made for the country. This was something that I also thought would be a benefit to me in my work but also allow me to make more informed choices about the way I live.
>
> I feel I have gained a lot of knowledge about climate change and feel informed enough now to make better choices about the way I travel, eat and live. It has also done wonders for my confidence, meeting so many new people and doing things way out my comfort zone has been amazing. **"**

Kelsey, Assembly Member

Assembly Member Support

Ensuring over 100 people are able to attend and participate in a deliberative event requires more than just creating a space.

The design and facilitation team at Involve led on member support. In normal circumstances this would mean contacting members to confirm any additional support they might need to participate. For events held in person, this could include helping with childcare or other caring responsibiliies, ensuring access for people with mobility challenges, and providing support for those with hearing or sight impairments.

Moving Online

Moving online allowed some issues to be solved more easily, but introduced a new challenge of supporting people to participate in online meetings. Devices were loaned to those who did not have adequate provision, together with peripheral equipment like headsets and webcams, with an option to purchase the equipment at the end of the Assembly. Mobile internet connections were provided to those who had low or limited bandwidth.

Providing the hardware was only the first step, the support team also worked to ensure that lack of computer expertise did not present a barrier. This included one to one support for tech novices, right from the basics of learning about email, to joining a Zoom call and voting online.

> "The computer - that was completely alien to me! I've got fingers like sausages, and those tiny keys. Juliet, who provided Assembly member support, was absolutely brilliant, I promised to take her for a drink.
>
> Hugh, Assembly Member

For much of the Assembly, restrictions to combat the spread of Covid-19 in Scotland were extensive. People were not able to visit others' homes. This meant that members could not access in person support - from a family member with better IT skills, or through an IT lesson or printer at a local library, and child care options were limited.

Regular domestic issues, whether the mundane such as a local power cut, or the more serious such as ill health or supporting an unwell family member and coping with bereavement were harder to resolve, and more emotionally taxing, when experienced in lockdown and in physical isolation from other Assembly members.

Supporting a Range of Perspectives

The support team, persuaded members that their views were worth sharing; that they could speak up online; that the Assembly needed a range of perspectives and experiences. Additional support was also available for any members suffering from climate anxiety.

The commitment shown by the members, despite all the challenges, was inspiring. And sometimes, truly heartwarming.

> **"** I am a 56 year old early years worker from Glasgow. I wanted to learn what can be done to provide our next generation with a better future. I got the letter and it planted the seed.
>
> I was a wee bit wary at first, then Juliet gave me all the support: she was amazing and encouraging. And when I actually got picked I thought wow, I was really surprised. **"**

Marion, Assembly Member
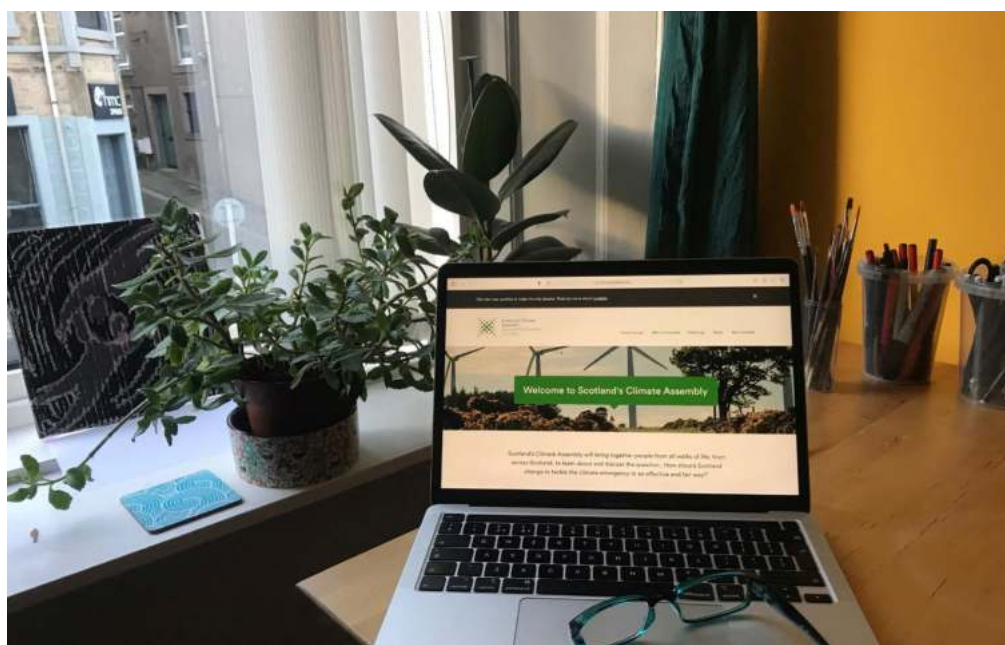
Pre-Assembly Engagement

While participation in the Assembly as a member, expert lead, or speaker was by invitation only, a public engagement exercise was conducted in October 2020 in order to include the views of wider society. The public was invited to make suggestions about what they thought the Assembly should discuss; who should speak at the Assembly; and their ideas about how Scotland should tackle climate change using an online conversation platform, called Dialogue.

The Dialogue ran 9th-26th October. Fourteen ideas, referencing common climate change topics, were embedded from the start to elicit conversation. Users could join discussions under an existing idea or submit a new idea to start different topic of conversation. When submitting a new idea, users were asked to explain why their contribution was important.

Over 450 users registered to take part, with the Dialogue receiving 230 new ideas and over 1000 comments. Ideas and comments were coded to identify emerging themes. The themes were mapped onto the Assembly streams - Diet, Land & Lifestyle; Homes & Communities; and Travel & Work. Additional categories included energy, mechanisms of change and fairness, all of which were included in the Assembly.

It is important to note that respondents were self selecting, not representative of the Scottish population and were not required to engage with evidence before submitting ideas.

Link to Evidence

The emergent themes, published in the Pre-engagement Overview in November 2020, were used to guide the organisation of evidence and selection of experts throughout the Assembly process. The overriding principle that evidence presented to the Assembly should be balanced, and accurate meant some suggestions were not included. The Pre-engagement Evidence Summary, published in March 2021, provides an overview of which ideas were incorporated.

The Pre-engagement Overview, the Pre-engagement Evidence Summary and the Dialogue platform can all be found on Scotland's Climate Assembly website.

MARCH 2021

SCOTLAND'S CLIMATE ASSEMBLY

PRE-ENGAGEMENT EVIDENCE SUMMARY

Scotland's Climate Assembly Seanadh Gnàth-shìde na h-Alba
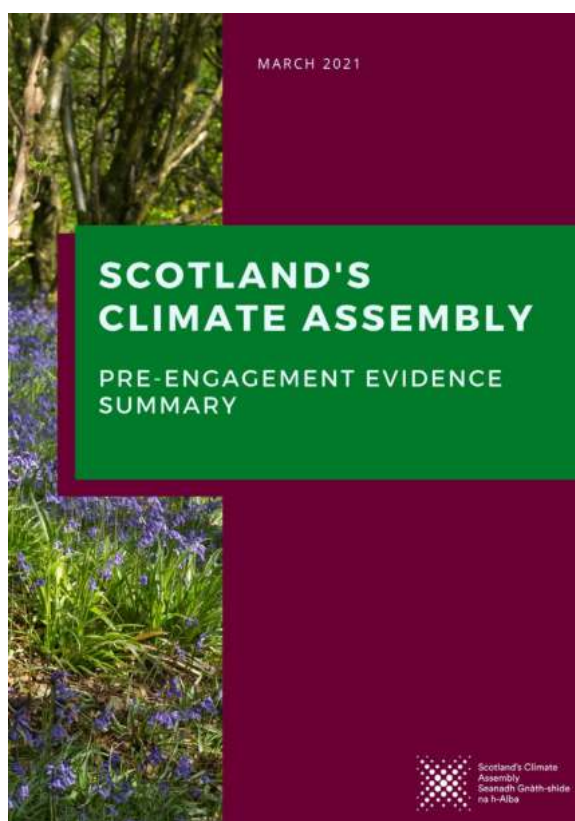
The Design of the Assembly

The design of Scotland's Climate Assembly was led by a small team from Involve and the Democratic Society, two civil society organisations with significant experience of developing, designing and delivering citizens' assemblies in the UK and beyond.

The design team worked in a constructive co-design manner with the secretariat and members of the Evidence Group, with oversight by the Stewarding Group, to develop the overall structure of the Assembly process, alongside detailed design plans for each meeting.

A number of key design principles informed this process which were intended to create space for effective learning and deliberation between members in order to deliver fair, effective and considered recommendations on behalf of the Assembly as a whole.

Shared Learning

A strong foundation of respected, balanced and accessible information is essential to a citizens' assembly, but it was also important to ensure that there was time and space for members to situate this information in the context of their own knowledge and lived experience and in consideration of the views of others. Therefore, for each evidence presentation shared with members, the design aim was to allow at least equal time for reflection, questioning and evaluation in order to embed the information in a grounded way.

> " It's been a great opportunity to meet a lot of different people from all over Scotland who I normally would not have got the chance to meet and learn from. I've found all the people I met and worked with to be insightful and friendly. "
>
> Kirsten, Assembly Member

Learning about the subject itself is not the only learning that members need to undertake within a citizens' assembly. Therefore time was also given to members' learning about the Assembly process, what was expected of them as members, critical thinking and ways of evaluating evidence and establishing ways that they, as an Assembly, could work together most effectively (leading to the development of Conversation Guidelines).

Professional Facilitation

Throughout the Assembly meetings, members spent much of their time in small group discussions, and professional facilitation was important to ensure that all members' views were able to be heard and considered and that discussions remained focused and constructive. Central to the facilitators' role was creating and maintaining space for meaningful dialogue between members; a space that encouraged and enabled members to consider, and reconsider, their own views in light of new information and a greater understanding of the reasons why people might hold differing viewpoints.

> **"** I thought the facilitators were very good at making sure everybody got their view listened to and was taken seriously, and I don't think any member was aggressive with their point of view. There was no animosity. It was really fun! **"**
>
> Marion, Assembly Member
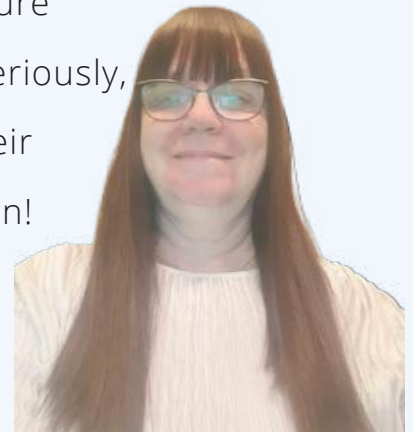
Balance of Breadth and Depth

The scope of the challenge in tackling the climate emergency is immense, and it was clear that in a space of six or seven weekends the members would not be able to consider all aspects and topics in sufficient depth to reach informed conclusions.

For a proportion of the time the Assembly was therefore split into three workstreams. This enabled members in each stream to take a 'deep dive' into a topic and bring their conclusions back to their fellow members for consideration.

> **"** Being part of the mix of people involved in the discussions was a great positive for me, listening to the ideas and perceptions of others in the workstreams and adding them to my own, then coming out the other end with added understanding and awareness of the issues and the way forward. **"**
>
> Iain, Assembly Member

This required members to build a trust in each other that, just as they had given their conscientious consideration to the evidence they had heard, that their fellow members had done likewise.

> **"** I found the dedication and abilities of many of the people involved very impressive. In every group I was in, people co-operated and were very much committed to producing a worthwhile report. **"**
>
> John C, Assembly Member

This was strengthened by a session where members from each stream reported back to the whole Assembly on the recommendations they had developed. All the evidence heard in each stream was made available to all members to consider and decisions were made by the Assembly as a whole. Voting was not conducted in individual streams.

Collective Ownership

The Assembly was brought together as a diverse range of voices from across Scotland and therefore it was important that the recommendations made on behalf of the Assembly came from the entire membership. To achieve this, the whole Assembly was involved in developing principles to guide them in the forming of their recommendations and determining how they would make decisions together.

Further, as described later in this report, the recommendations were developed through an iterative process which involved multiple members contributing to the formulation, drafting, advocacy and re-drafting of their content, before they were agreed. This has ensured that the goals and recommendations of the Assembly can be seen as the collective product of the membership.

> **"** The most memorable aspect must be experiencing the process of taking ~100 randomly selected individuals and co-ordinating them in a way that generated the Assembly's final goals and recommendations. **"**
>
> John G, Assembly Member

" I live in Aberdeen and am currently studying for my degree in Criminology and Sociology. I struggle with chronic back and hip pain which restricts my mobility. I became a member because I didn't know much about climate change and wanted to learn more. "

Amanda, Assembly Member

" I live in East Ayrshire, I'm 49. I have 2 kids, I was brought up in a household with 3 siblings. I became a member of the Climate Assembly because I wanted to be part of something that could help us tackle the climate emergency, as I want to live in a world of clean air. The most memorable parts for me were discussing the possible targets to each net zero emissions. Also meeting everyone and furthering my experience with technology and its workings. I'm proud of all the recommendations as they all matter in the change we will wish to bring to Scotland. "

Debz, Assembly Member

" I thought the groups were positive with lots of ideas, willing to listen most of the time and would give anyone lots of things to discuss. "

Douglas, Assembly Member

Evidence

An essential part of the Assembly was the opportunity for members to learn about the climate emergency and hear evidence on different approaches to tackling it.

The development of the evidence for the Assembly was overseen by the Evidence Group. Members of the Evidence Group were selected as experts in their respective fields and to bring a range of different perspectives on how to tackle the climate emergency.

They worked with the secretariat and design team to establish the learning journey and select the appropriate range of speakers to provide evidence to the Assembly. Their role was to ensure the evidence presented was balanced, accurate and comprehensive. In addition, the Evidence Group was available, throughout the course of the Assembly, to be directly called upon by members to support their learning journey.

> " Watching the presentations from the experts and being able to talk to them about the issues they raised was extremely informative and useful. Realising that the time we have to sort this out is a lot shorter than the politicians would have us believe! "
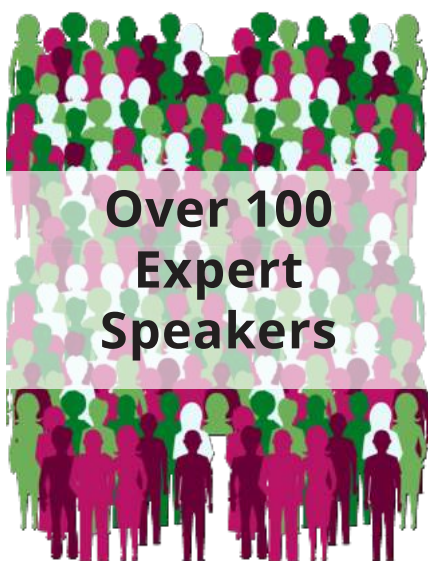>
> Annette, Assembly Member

Assembly members heard from informant speakers who set out the background factual information as well as key stakeholders who set out a wide range of perspectives on how to reduce emissions and adapt to the changing climate.

Over 100 people provided evidence to the Assembly. This included video presentations, question and answer sessions and joining members in breakout room discussions. Speakers were given guidelines in the production of their videos to ensure accessibility.

A list of all those who presented evidence to the Assembly can also be found in Annex Two, and their videos are available on Scotland's Climate Assemby's YouTube channel.

Speakers

Over 100 Expert Speakers

Learning and Deliberations

More than 60 Hours

Q&A

1000s of Questions Answered

Evidence Group

Nine Evidence Leads

Professor Iain Stewart

Iain Stewart is Professor of Geoscience Communication at the University of Plymouth, Director of its Sustainable Earth Institute and President of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. Iain acted as the communications lead within the Evidence Group supporting Assembly members throughout the process to understand and interrogate the evidence provided.

Professor Kevin Anderson

Kevin Anderson is Professor of Energy and Climate Change, Universities of Manchester (UK), Uppsala (Sweden) and Bergen (Norway). In addition to his role as Evidence Lead, Kevin presented evidence to the Assembly on carbon budgets and the ambition of action needed to tackle the climate emergency.

Dr Anna Birney

Dr Anna Birney is Director at the School of System Change at Forum for the Future. Anna brought her experience of working to build an international learning community of changemakers using systemic practices to address the complex challenges of our times to the Assembly. Anna helped Assembly members to consider how to make change happen.

Dr Kate Crowley

Dr Kate Crowley is a Lecturer in Climate Risk and Resilience at the University of Edinburgh and Co-Director of the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute. In addition to her role as Evidence Lead, Kate also presented evidence on the impacts of climate change and adaptation to climate change.

Professor Tahseen Jafry

Professor Tahseen Jafry is the Director of the pioneering Centre for Climate Justice at Glasgow Caledonian University. Tahseen brought her knowledge of the justice and equity aspects of climate change to the Evidence Group and helped Assembly members to consider how to tackle climate change in a fair way.

Daisy Narayanan

Daisy Narayanan is the Senior Manager - Placemaking and Mobility at the City of Edinburgh Council where she leads on delivering a city-wide integrated approach to transport and placemaking. She was previously the Director of Urbanism for Sustrans. In addition to her role as Evidence Lead, Daisy supported Assembly members to consider how emissions could be reduced in Scotland's homes and communities.

Professor Dave Reay

Professor Dave Reay is Chair in Carbon Management & Education at the University of Edinburgh. Dave is also Executive Director of ECCI and Policy Director of ClimateXChange. In addition to his role as Evidence Lead, Dave also presented evidence to introduce the Assembly to climate change mitigation.

Professor Pete Smith

Pete Smith is Professor of Soils and Global Change at the Institute of Biological and Environmental Sciences at the University of Aberdeen. He has been an author on many reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and led its work on climate change mitigation in agriculture, forestry and land for its 4th and 5th Assessment Reports, and the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land. In addition to his role has Evidence Lead, Pete also presented evidence on diet and land use.

John Ward

John is a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change, based at the London School of Economics. He is an experienced economist who spent the last 10 years working on the economics of climate change and sustainability. Until 2018, John was Managing Director at the economics consultancy, Vivid Economics, before founding his own consultancy, Pengwern Associates. In addition to John's role as Evidence Lead, he also presented evidence on levers for change.

Learning Journey

Introduction to climate change adaptation and mitigation

Why we set targets, where Scotland's emissions come from, and how can we make fair and effective change happen?

Diet, Land Use & Lifestyle

How should Scotland rebalance its diet?

How should Scotland change how it uses its land?

How should Scotland change how it buys things?

How should Scotland change how it uses materials and resources?

Homes & Communities

How should Scotland change its existing homes?

How should Scotland change its new homes?

How should Scotland change how it plans its communities?

How should Scotland change how it delivers community services?

Travel & Work

How should Scotland change how it travels by land?

How should Scotland change how it travels by air?

How should Scotland change its working practices?

How should Scotland support people to change work?

Cross stream learning - financing climate action, current Scottish Government policy - and deliberations

Assembly Recommendations

The learning journey developed by the Evidence Group and the secretariat first introduced the climate emergency at the global scale before focusing on how to adapt to climate change and reduce emissions in Scotland.

In Weekend One, Professor Iain Stewart provided an introduction to climate science and a presentation on how and why we set climate change targets. Members heard from Dr Kate Crowley about what impacts climate change is having globally and how we can live with this change. Professor Dave Reay provided an introduction to climate change mitigation and members started to explore how fair and effective change can happen with presentations from Dr Anna Birney and Professor Tahseen Jafry.

In Weekend Two, the Assembly focused on the climate emergency in Scotland. They heard from Dr Andy Kerr who explained where Scotland's emissions come from, and Dr Dan Barlow who discussed where action can be taken to tackle climate change. Members then heard introductory talks to the three streams they would consider in Weekends Three and Four - Diet, Land use and Lifestyle; Homes and Communities; and Travel and Work. On Sunday, Anna Beswick and David Harkin explored how Scotland can adapt to climate change; John Ward helped members to explore what levers can be used for climate policy and how action can be financed; and Professor Kevin Anderson asked members to think about what the Paris Agreement means for Scotland. The day finished with members considering fairness and justice in climate action.

> " The presentation by Kevin Anderson - 'What does the Paris agreement mean for Scotland?' and Chris Stark's presentation - 'Costs and Ambitions on the path to net zero' were memorable for me, mostly as they highlighted that individuals have an important role to play in reducing carbon emissions. "
>
> Shona, Assembly Member

During Weekends Three and Four, the members were split into three streams, with each stream considering two climate action themes as shown in the diagram. Members heard from informant speakers who set out factual background information and advocates who argued for specific policy actions.

In Weekend Five, Chris Stark from the Climate Change Committee provided evidence on the affordability of climate action and Scotland's ambitions to reach net zero by 2045. They also heard evidence on the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan update from Fabrice Leveque from the Climate Emergency Response Group.

Weekends Six and Seven were devoted to deliberation and voting.

System Change

Right at the start of the process, the Democratic Society facilitated an online deliberative workshop for the Stewarding Group to consider how best to frame the Assembly's question and learning journey. The Stewarding Group agreed that systemic factors, including the wider political and economic environment, should be considered alongside individual and collective responsibility.

Systems Thinking

Systems thinking is a tool increasingly used by senior policy makers and business leaders as well as academics interested in addressing society's challenges. It offers the opportunity to assess many elements and analyse how the way they interrelate can give rise to an outcome or set of outcomes. By first understanding the systems at play, Assembly members could then start to reflect on what changes, if any, they would like to see.

The Assembly used storytelling as a tool to consider how change has happened. Historic examples, such as the rock 'n' roll movement, were used to illustrate that multiple interconnected factors can come together to affect change over time.

Assembly members applied this mind set throughout the process by thinking about the levers for, and barriers to, achieving change in the context of the climate crisis. Members mapped out their ideas on the 'rainbow chart', illustrated below, as a means to identify different levels of action.
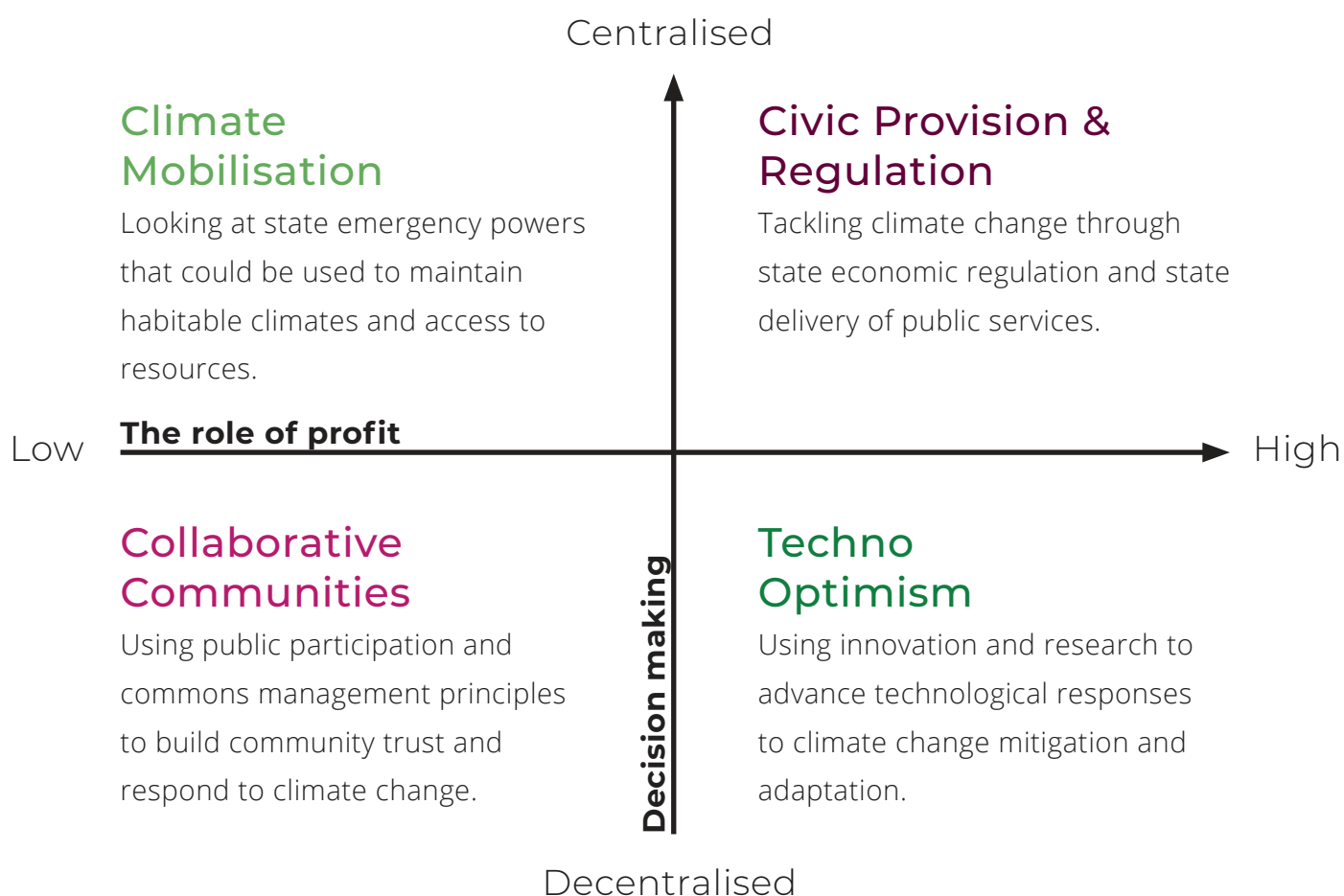
Members heard a series of presentations detailing the roles of key actors - such as Scottish Government, Local Authorities, businesses and civil society - as well as the tools available to them to facilitate change, including policy and finance.

Storytelling and Futures

The Assembly also used stories to imagine what a sustainable future could look like. This discipline of foresight is frequently used by academics and policy makers to encourage long-term thinking and explore how different policy areas interact, to inform decision making in the present.

Scenarios were developed by the Evidence Group based loosely on previous work with EU Innovate, each governed by a distinct set of assumptions. Individually they place a different emphasis along two axes of uncertainty about decision-making and how change happens: the importance of profit and how centralised is decision making, as illustrated by the diagram.

Centralised

Climate Mobilisation

Looking at state emergency powers that could be used to maintain habitable climates and access to resources.

Civic Provision & Regulation

Tackling climate change through state economic regulation and state delivery of public services.

Low   **The role of profit**   High

Collaborative Communities

Using public participation and commons management principles to build community trust and respond to climate change.

Decision making

Techno Optimism

Using innovation and research to advance technological responses to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Decentralised

The evidence group then developed a fictional story for each of these scenarios, exploring what a day in the life of an ordinary Scottish citizen might look like at some point in the future between now and 2040, making the impact of abstract policy decisions visceral to Assembly members' everyday lives. Each story drew on policies and ideas that already exist in different parts of the world and in history, and imagined how these ideas might play out several decades into the future.

The scenarios were not presented as options, and Assembly members were not asked which scenario they prefered. Instead, the scenarios enabled Assembly members to explore the trade-offs made if society were to emphasise different sets of values, and the implications this could have for fair and effective change. Members were given time to reflect on which aspects of each story resonated with them and which aspects they opposed, how the different worlds in each story compared.

Speaker Selection

The four scenarios also served as a mechanism to guide speaker selection. For each sub-question (see Learning Journey, page 126), an informant explained the current context and four advocates, each roughly representing one of the four scenarios, proposed possible actions. It is important to note that speakers and their subsequent suggestions do not fall neatly into each paradigm. This exercise did not constrain speakers but instead aimed to ensure that the Assembly heard a range of balanced views. In some instances, three speakers provided sufficient breadth.

Incorporating a systems change perspective was intended to help members formulate their own narrative of what effective change looks like. During the final weekend, the recommendations and goals that were included on the ballot were presented back to members in a final story to visualise the interconnectivity of their ideas and the possible future they could create.

> " I really enjoyed listening to the various speakers over the weekends who helped us to make informed decisions. "
>
> Mhairi, Assembly Member

> **"** I thought when I signed up it was going to be very climate-related and focused on climate change itself, and what I liked was that instead of being about the details of what's happening to the climate itself, it became something about the future of Scotland and climate change being a big part of that. So instead of just addressing that problem, it was how does that problem fit into our lives. **"**

Colin, Assembly Member

> **"** I remember the professor from Aberdeen University, Pete Smith: I remember being quite shocked by the numbers he gave on how much our diet contributes to climate change, although I knew it played a part. The experts were all very helpful, and all were able to answer our questions to our satisfaction. I also felt they were obviously keen that we gained understanding, they all had nice attitudes. It wasn't a case of 'I'm the expert and am here to make you think the right things,' they were very congenial and very helpful. **"**

Carol, Assembly Member

> **"** Life-long learning means you're never too old to learn. **"**

Maggie, Assembly Member

The Deliberative Process

Alongside the learning journey for members, an essential part of the Assembly process is the deliberative phase. One of the key differences between a citizens' assembly and other forms of public engagement is that participants are expected to come to a collective decision, or set of decisions, at the end. To enable this, at each stage of the Assembly process members deliberated together to consider and evaluate ideas and options for change, find points of common ground and where trade-offs would need to be made, and identify collective goals and priorities for recommendations.

Developing Recommendations

The process of developing the Assembly's recommendations took place in a number of stages throughout the Assembly weekends before they were subsequently voted on by the whole Assembly.

Following introductory sessions on climate science and the context in Scotland, at the end of the second weekend all Assembly members were given an overview of the three broad workstreams that the Assembly would focus on. In small groups they worked to identify the key challenges and opportunities for change in each workstream, as a way of tasking those members selected to focus on each topic with the members' priorities overall.

Just under a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland were from agriculture and related land use

Professor Pete Smith

Scotland's Climate Assembly
Seanadh Gnàth-shìde na h-Alba

In Weekends Three and Four, members met in three different workstreams to look in depth at each topic. In each workstream they heard further evidence that set out the scope of the topic, and the degree of change needed to tackle the climate emergency, along with a variety of presentations advocating different approaches to achieving change. Using this as a starting point the discussion groups (which rotated every day) used a common recording template to begin identifying the framework for potential recommendations, and what they hoped these would achieve.
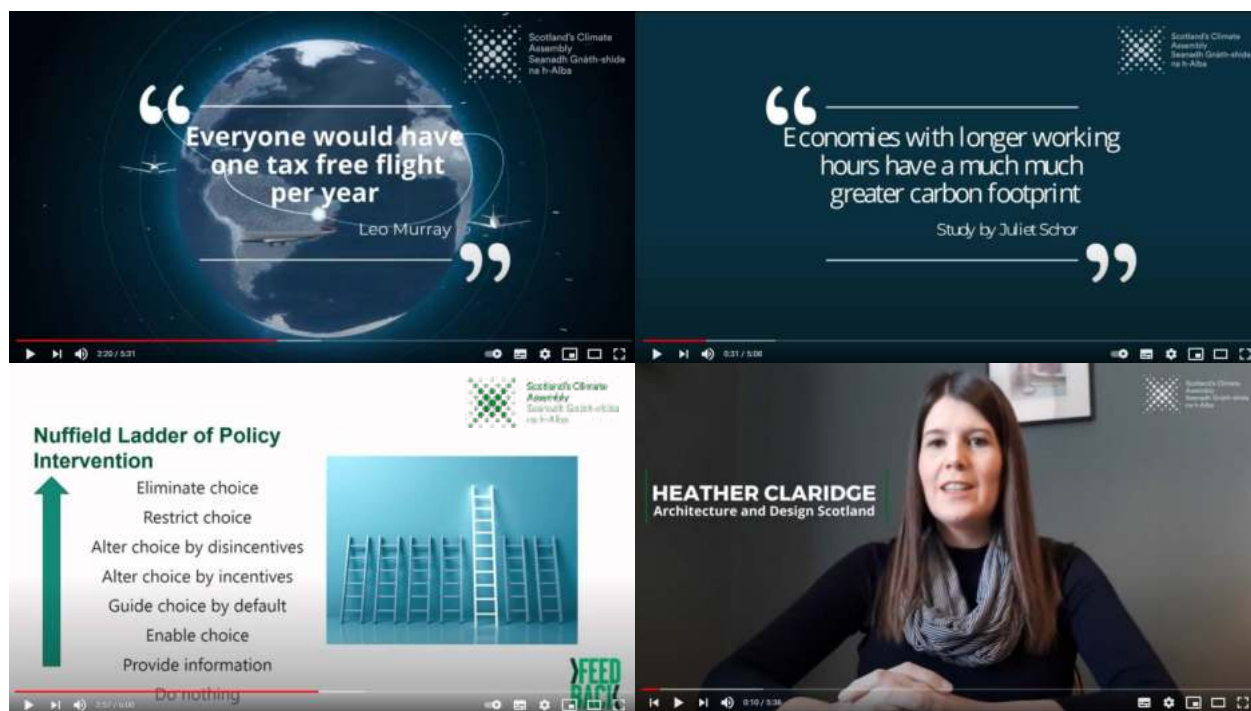
Between meetings the ideas included in these templates were consolidated across the discussion groups and common themes and ambitions were drawn out as proposed draft recommendations. The Evidence Group also undertook a technical review of the initial proposals to make suggestions to the members about ways they could tighten or strengthen the emerging recommendation to help ensure it could have the intended impact. This was presented back to members in a written form.
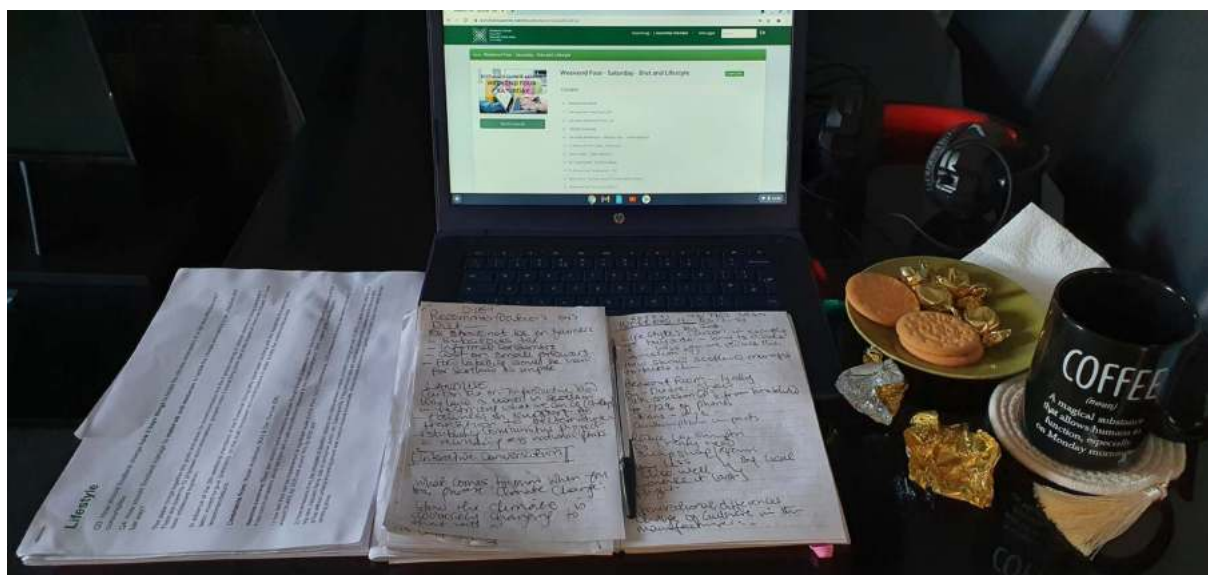
In Weekends Four and Five, groups had the opportunity to suggest re-wording and refinements to the proposed recommendations through an iterative process of discussion, consolidation and review. They also had the chance to identify any further information they felt they needed in order to make sure their recommendations would help Scotland change to tackle the climate emergency in an effective and fair way.

> **"** I was privileged to learn more about current climate change issues at the same time as other members. There were many excellent presentations given that emphasised the problems that we face. Considering Scotland's problems was our specific objective, yet any answers proposed are universal. **"**
>
> David P, Assembly Member
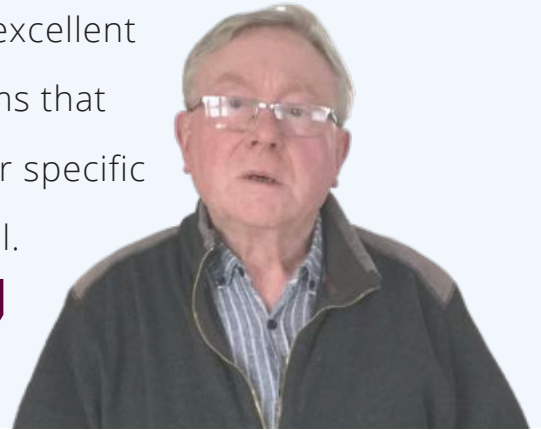
Between Weekend Five and Six, members reviewed the draft proposed goals and recommendations from their workstream to determine which they would present back to the whole Assembly.

In Weekend Six each discussion group was allocated four to five draft recommendations to refine and evaluate against the fairness propositions they had agreed and the principles established for developing effective recommendations. When the three workstreams came back together during this weekend the members presented their proposed recommendations, alongside why they believed they were important and how they thought these changes could help Scotland change to tackle the climate emergency.

> **"** It was interesting to listen and learn from the evidence group experts as we brainstormed through the breakout room discussions and deliberations. How the ambition statements, goals and recommendations were finally coined was remarkable. **"**
>
> Imaobong, Assembly Member
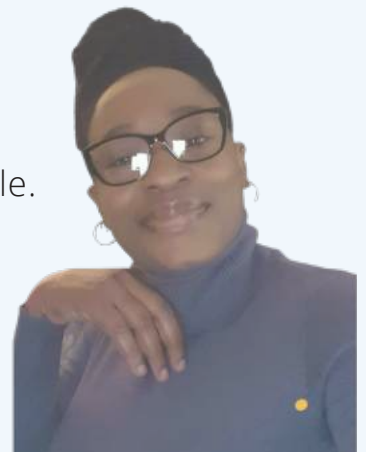
At this stage members spent time together discussing the recommendations from across all workstreams, identifying points of tension and commonality, and proposing mergers and redrafts to address these. During Weekend Six they also began drafting their collective Statement of Ambition by identifying overarching messages they wanted to address to the Parliament and the people of Scotland about the need for change to tackle the climate emergency.

Between Weekends Six and Seven, members voted to endorse a set of high-level goals that would frame their more detailed recommendations for action. During this time the Evidence Group also undertook a final technical review of the draft recommendations, acting as a critical friend to members by offering suggestions that could help make their drafts clearer.

At Weekend Seven, members undertook a process of discussion and consensus building to review and endorse their collective Statement of Ambition. They also worked in small groups to finalise the wording of their recommendations and draft supporting statements. This was an iterative process throughout the weekend, with members exchanging draft text between groups for comment, before agreeing their preferred wording.

> " I liked the percentages of what was going to go to the final papers. There was only one or two in the 60s, most of them were in the 80s and 90s. For any of the suggestions to get 100%, I thought that was fabulous. That shows you the work that people put in to get to that, that people could agree with the recommendations. Imagine picking 100 odd people and getting 90 to agree to a proposal. That's brilliant. That was through discussion. People didn't start with the same suggestions, they had to negotiate to get it on the board. "
>
> Hugh, Assembly Member

Following the close of the final Assembly meeting each member was invited to indicate their support for each recommendation through a vote. While finding common ground is an important function of an assembly, it is equally as important that the process does not manufacture a false consensus; therefore, once recommendations had been drafted and reviewed collectively voting was used to record the views of all members individually, ensuring that minority voices had the space to be heard, as well as the majority.

Voting Process

Scotland's Climate Assembly combined a mix of consensus building in small groups to develop proposals, informal voting, and formal voting aided by digital tools.

Full Assembly votes were completed via SurveyMonkey. Members were sent the details for participation via email, with the option for phone support from a member of the support team. Key votes took place asynchronously to ensure members had adequate time to consider different options. Mentimeter was used once in Weekend Two for an indicative vote on members' priority areas of focus after considering initial evidence.

Member Led

Members discussed the formal Assembly decision making process and voted on their preferred approach during Weekend Five. This included the framing and the voting procedure. They were presented with a series of viable options, which had been suggested by the design team and reviewed by the Stewarding Group prior to the meeting. They were also asked at this stage to vote on the option for a seventh weekend (86% of members voted in favour). The collective preference informed the design of remaining weekends.

Goals and Recommendations

Between Weekends Five and Six, members voted in their work streams on merger proposals and to indicate which Goals and Recommendations they considered a priority at this stage.

Between Weekends Six and Seven, members voted as a whole Assembly on 16 proposed Goals. They voted on whether they agreed or disagreed that each Goal should be supported by the Assembly. There was also the option to abstain. 99 members participated.

Review and Final Vote

During Weekend Seven, members had the option to review any gaps in the recommendations and to propose additions. Members discussed the proposed additions in small groups and indicated to their facilitator whether they agreed or disagreed that one should be considered by the full Assembly in the final vote. There was also the option to abstain. Facilitators logged the votes live.

After Weekend Seven, members voted as a whole Assembly on 81 proposed Recommendations. They voted on whether they agreed or disagreed that each Recommendation should be supported by the Assembly. There was also the option to abstain. 101 members participated. 79 recommendations were strongly supported (by over 75% of members) and two further recommendations achieved majority support (by over 50% of members).

All votes were quorate, meaning that the minimum number of members required to vote for it to be valid overall was achieved (two-thirds of the membership).

In the end, all Goals and Recommendations were supported by Scotland's Climate Assembly.

> " Most people were attempting to achieve the same thing. Of course, I was never going to completely agree with some people who felt any cost was worth paying, or who were focussed on fairness over reducing CO_2.
>
> However, you are going to naturally find some common ground because almost anything that I supported was usually supported by the majority of people.
>
> While with respect to the other proposals, sometimes it meant understanding what people were trying to achieve and changing their wording to restrict the severity of that policy's impact, at other times it meant arguing against a recommendation entirely or suggesting a similar alternative.
>
> Finally, there was a vote. Not all recommendations were supported by everyone and so sometimes you agree to disagree and put it to the vote. "

David H, Assembly Member

Children's Parliament

Integrating children's voices into the Assembly process has been a unique and significant realisation of children's right to participate in decision-making processes in Scotland. Although the minimum age of members of the Assembly was set at 16, an alternative way to enable younger voices to be heard was considered essential. Children's Parliament were therefore invited to support the participation and engagement of younger children across Scotland, to ensure their views, experiences and ideas informed the discussions and recommendations going forward.

While children, like adults, do not necessarily share the same views, opinions and ideas, children have played a central role in calling for urgency in tackling climate change recognising the impact of climate change on their own immediate and future lives, and the lives of the generations to come. Most of all, children want to be part of the solutions and changes needed, and want to work with adults to tackle the climate emergency together.

How were the Children Selected?

To capture the diversity of children's views and experiences, and to echo the process of the Climate Assembly, Children's Parliament worked with just over 100 children aged 7-14 across Scotland from 10 local authorities, representing urban and rural communities, a mix of income and ethnicity groups, and with a gender balance. Many children had not previously engaged with climate change, until their involvement in the Assembly. They have therefore been on a significant learning journey from October 2020 to March 2021, to understand climate change, its impact, and what Scotland needs to do to further mitigate and adapt in a fair, just way.

Process

In October 2020, January 2021 and February 2021, 113 members of Children's Parliament completed interactive, digital surveys which included a combination of quantitative and qualitative questions, and the option to submit artwork. Each survey was accompanied by creative, participatory workshops designed by Children's Parliament and delivered by supporting school staff or accessed remotely from home during lockdown. Children's Parliament worked with the Assembly secretariat to identify experts to ensure the children received age-appropriate information and evidence that aligned with the themes explored by the Assembly members.

Climate Investigators

Children's Parliament also worked with 12 children from four of the participating schools. The role of these 'Investigators' was to explore the themes being deliberated on by Assembly members, and analyse the views, ideas and opinions of the wider group of children involved in the project.

The Investigators were sent activity boxes on a monthly basis to prepare for regular workshop sessions held over Zoom. They also created a series of four short films that were shown to the Assembly during the meetings. The films explored the children's initial reflections on participating in the Assembly, their personal experiences and the impact of climate change in Scotland, their views on the different streams of information that the Assembly members were presented with, and the final 'calls to action' to be considered by the Assembly.

Integrated

The children's calls to action are integrated into this report, and can be found alongside the Assembly recommendations. In March 2021, between Weekends Six and Seven of the Assembly, members were given the opportunity to meet with some of the children involved in the investigation to share experiences and discuss their priorities.

The children's final report is included as Annex One to this report. All materials produced for and by the children are available on our website and YouTube channel.

> It was great to hear from Children's Parliament, the clarity of their suggestions informed the way we framed some of the recommendations which we included in our report. It was also heart-wrenching at times hearing them voice their concerns about the current situation and the urgency of the global situation.

Ellie, Assembly Member

> [Scotland's Climate Assembly was] a look into the future, especially from the Children's Parliament. If those are the decision makers of the future I feel full of confidence.

Claire, Assembly Member

Media and Social Media

Scotland's Climate Assembly is underpinned by transparency so it is important its work and recommendations are widely known and understood across Scotland. The Assembly has included a lively, accessible and engaging social media presence, sharing its progress through evidence and deliberation and the reflections and experiences of members. A large number of videos, covering our evidence and findings are publicly available on social media and our website.

Reporting on the Assembly's work has appeared across major traditional broadcast and print media at both the national and local level, as well as a range of emerging digital outlets. Assembly members, conveners and evidence group members have played an important role in telling the story of the Assembly through media interviews and opinion articles, including the Statement of Ambition, written collectively by our membership, which was published in The Scotsman ahead of the publication of our Interim Report.


Social Media

Social media was an important tool for spreading awareness and understanding of Scotland's Climate Assembly. Using multiple channels (including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Youtube and LinkedIn) helped communicate the Assembly's work with a wide range of people from different backgrounds. Shared content alternated between updates on the process and educational information, using videos, images, infographics and news articles.

Pre-Assembly, social media posts focused on raising awareness around climate change and explaining how citizens' assemblies work. Over the five month period the Assembly's social media content transitioned to documenting proceedings and communicating key milestones.

In line with the principle of transparency, experts' pre-recorded presentations were shared in real time on social media over the Assembly weekends and recordings from the plenary sessions were published the following week. Broadcasting the meetings in this way permitted public scrutiny of the evidence. Assembly members' deliberations were kept private, enabling unconstrained discussion, as is standard practice.
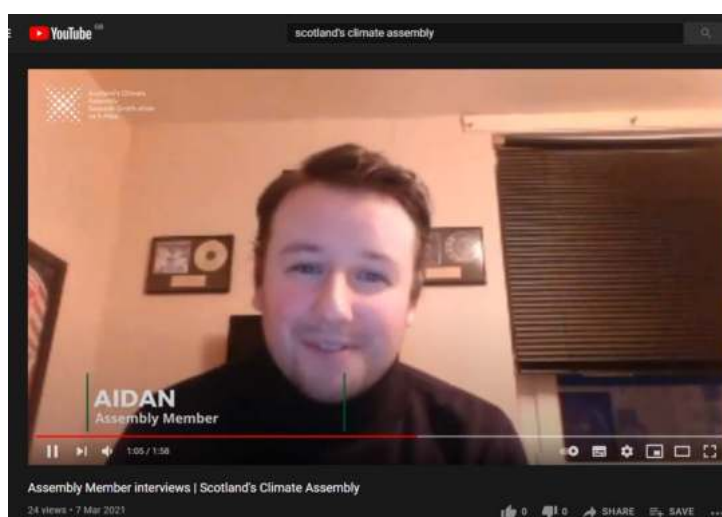
The power of citizens' assemblies is their ability to use human connection to create a shared vision. To bring that human element to the forefront, Scotland's Climate Assembly shared interview clips with Evidence Leads, Conveners and Assembly members on it's social media pages. Sharing Assembly members' stories was especially powerful as they conveyed the diversity of experiences members brought to their discussions. Participants also featured in a number of other promotional videos, putting them centre-stage in the Assembly's outreach materials.

Getting Involved

Social media was also integral in facilitating wider public involvement and galvanising stakeholder support. In the lead up to the Assembly, this involved encouraging the general public to submit their suggested Assembly topics onto the pre-engagement platform, Dialogue. Over the course of the meetings, stakeholders were directed via social media and newsletters to join the observers' sessions. Post-Assembly, digital channels have been key in publicising report releases and promoting upcoming launch events. These calls to action have brought more people closer to the process, creating a network of people who wish to help the Assembly succeed.

Observers

Aims

The observer programme was designed to give an insight into the operation of Scotland's Climate Assembly for non-members. It was guided by twin objectives: transparency and visibility. Transparency meant enabling scrutiny of the evidence and process; and visibility was designed to raise the Assembly profile by creating a network of interest.

Reach

For transparency, it was important to reach as broad a range of stakeholders as possible. Four key groups were targeted: government, including national and local government, elected representatives and civil servants; trade organisations and bodies representing different sectors of the economy; civil society and members of the public.

Over 380 people registered over the course of the 7 weekends. Once registered, observers received all the weekend's materials. They could also choose to join a live session with those involved with the Assembly as facilitators and speakers. There were 551 registrations (some for multiple sessions). 258 attended the live sessions (195 individuals, of which 33 attended multiple sessions).

Diagram of Stakeholder Mapping

Observers Experience

All evidence materials were provided to the observers on YouTube at the same time as they were presented to members. Video of the online plenary sessions was made available after a short delay to format and upload the recordings.

The observer programme for Weekends One to Five focused on the evidence presented at that meeting to Assembly members. The programme for Weekends Six and Seven diverged from this pattern as the members were engaged in deliberation rather than hearing further evidence. The Weekend Six observer session therefore focused on deliberative practice and taking the Assembly online. Weekend Seven summarised the whole process, and two Assembly members reflected on their experience.

> I very much hope that the experience of this citizens' climate assembly will validate the use of citizens' assemblies as a process for addressing issues, making recommendations for finding solutions that add to the wellbeing of people and planet.
>
> Francine, Observer

> I hope that the Assembly helps to positively inform policy making on climate action in Scotland - and that it helps to educate, inform and involve more people about the need to take climate action , and how they can do that.
>
> Kate, Observer

> I hope for the Scottish Climate Assembly to be perceived as a valuable instrument by citizens and decision makers alike and that it will be the starting point of many more citizens' assemblies in the future.
>
> Lukas, Observer

Research

Independent research is being conducted by Scottish Government social researchers with Newcastle University. This collaborative approach ensures impartiality and integrity. The research team is supported by a Research Advisory Group of academics and practitioners with expertise in climate change research and deliberative and participatory democracy.

The research has four objectives:

- to support learning and continuous improvement in the delivery of the Assembly whilst in process
- to evaluate the success of the Assembly as a deliberative process
- to assess the impact of the Assembly on the climate change debate and policy in Scotland
- to contribute to cumulative learning on use of deliberative approaches for engaging citizens in government policy development, particularly on climate change

At each Assembly weekend, researchers surveyed members and observed group discussions. The resulting data briefings were used by the Assembly organisers to inform the design and delivery of subsequent weekends. After weekend seven two thirds of members completed a survey giving the following results:

The Assembly was diverse enough to ensure a broad range of perspectives were considered
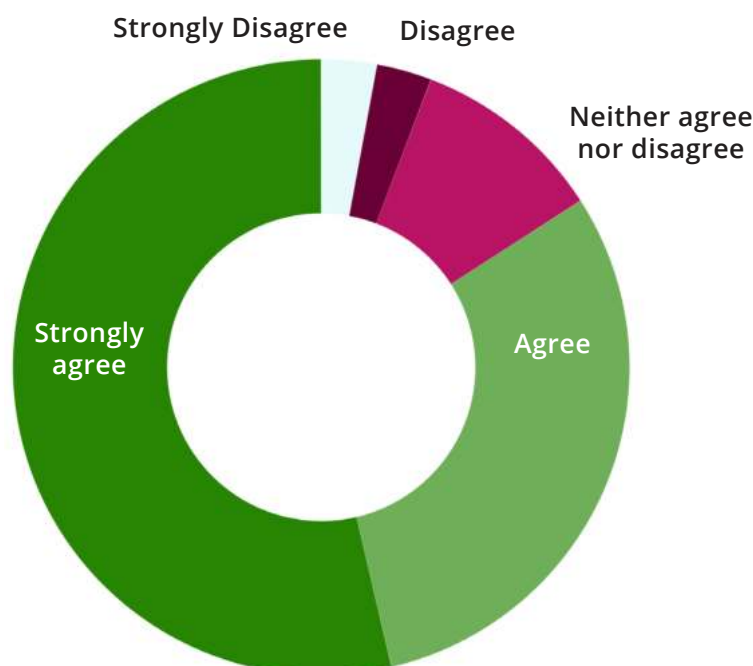
Taking a mixed methods approach, the research draws upon and integrates various sources of information. Researchers have conducted surveys and interviews with Assembly members and other stakeholders, and are analysing discussion groups, evidence presentations, the Assembly report and media coverage. A population survey will be conducted to gather public views of the Assembly and its recommendations.

I feel that my contributions have been listened to by the other Assembly members

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree or disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't Know
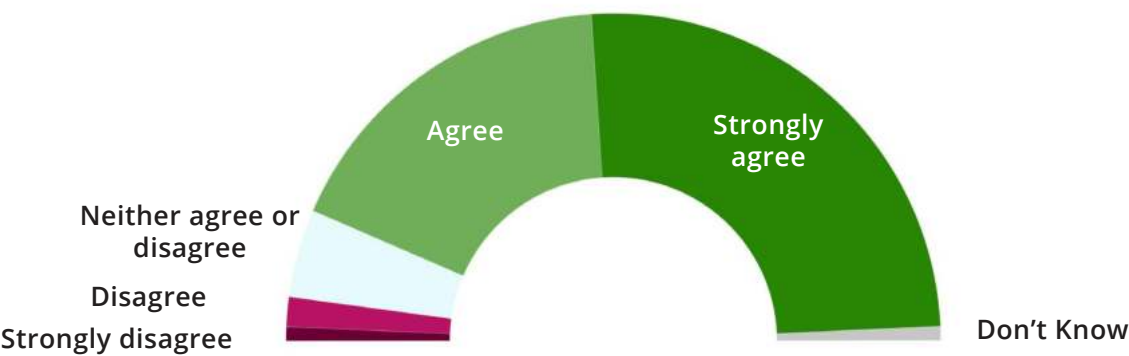
In addition to assessing the effectiveness of Scotland's Climate Assembly, the research will help us learn lessons about how best to involve people in Scotland in discussions about climate change and other important issues. In doing so, it will make a valuable contribution to the growing body of global evidence on democratic innovation.

An interim research report is due to be published by November 2021, with a full report early in 2022. An anonymised research dataset will be made accessible later in 2022 as a resource for further research.

Citizens' assemblies are a good way of involving people in making recommendations on important issues.
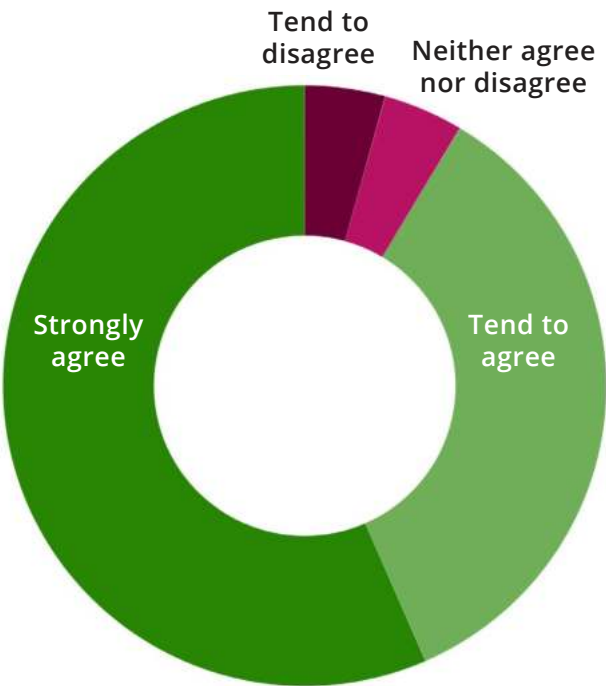
Tend to disagree

Neither agree nor disagree

Strongly agree

Tend to agree

Next Steps

Assembly members have set out their Statement of Ambition and Recommendations. The next step is for Scottish Ministers to publish a statement setting out how they intend to respond to the recommendations made in this report. The Climate Change Act requires Ministers to respond within six months of receiving this report. This firm grounding in legislation is a particular strength of Scotland's Climate Assembly, providing a direct route for Assembly members' recommendations to policymaking.

Over the summer there will be opportunities for Assembly members to meet with people and organisations working in those areas covered by the Assembly's recommendations and to discuss their proposals with stakeholders.

Scotland's Climate Assembly members have committed to meet again after Ministers publish their response.

> "Clearer awareness that climate change is the biggest challenge of our times, and governments must address the causes and reach out for solutions to achieve the profound revolution required in the way we live our lives, to avert a catastrophe that will affect not only us, now, but the future of our children's children's children."
>
> Iain, Assembly Member

> "It was a great thing for a member of the public like myself to have a say in the political side of it as well, it's ok us going and saying it to them but it's whether they listen…"
>
> Mark, Assembly Member

" Throughout the process of learning from evidence presented by the experts, there was a growing sense of awareness of the responsibility that we had as Assembly members as a collective voice for Scotland which gave us a will to make sure we did the best we could. "

Ellie, Assembly Member

" I hope what we've come up with will get implemented and that the politicians will listen to us as ordinary members of society who have spent so much time trying to craft something that is relatively straightforward and simple to understand. "

Khopolo, Assembly Member

" Following the Climate Assembly, I am more confident that we, citizens, can push the government, businesses, individuals to take the necessary decisions and make the fundamental changes to tackle the big climate issue. I switched from feeling guilty of damaging the planet to feeling empowered that things can be done and fast. "

Julie, Assembly Member

Annex One

Children's Parliament Report

"It's up to you, me and all of us"

"IT'S UP TO YOU, ME AND ALL OF US."

CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT AND
SCOTLAND'S CLIMATE ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 2020 – MARCH 2021

Children's
Parliament

INVESTIGATES

CLIMATE
CHANGE

FOR SCOTLAND'S
CLIMATE ASSEMBLY

Scotland's Climate
Assembly
Seanadh Gnàth-shìde
na h-Alba

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DRAWING BY MACI, AGE 8, ABERDEENSHIRE

THANKS

We'd like to say an extra special thank you to the wonderful Investigators for leading Children's Parliament's investigation for Scotland's Climate Assembly:

AYESHA, BEN, CIAN, DAN, KEIRA, LANA, MARGARET, MAYA, MOLLIE, NADIA, SEUMAS AND TYLER

You have each brought such kindness, energy, enthusiasm, creativity, curiosity and empathy to this project. It has been such a joy to learn with and from you during this challenging time. We can't wait for the day when we can meet (and dance with) you in person!

WE'D ALSO LIKE TO SAY A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE WIDER GROUP OF 115 MEMBERS OF CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT (MCP) FOR SHARING YOUR WONDERFUL VIEWS, IDEAS AND ARTWORK. YOU'RE AMAZING!

We'd also like to thank all the parents, carers and staff at the participating schools for your support and partnership.

Finally, we would like to thank Emily, Chris and Liga at 8 Million Stories, the Climate Assembly Secretariat, and the experts who helped us with our investigation:

Katie Reid, Project Lead, Sandra Rabbow, Project Worker and Mahaut Fournier, Project Worker

BIG THANK YOU ALSO TO OUR EXPERTS:

PROFESSOR IAIN STEWART
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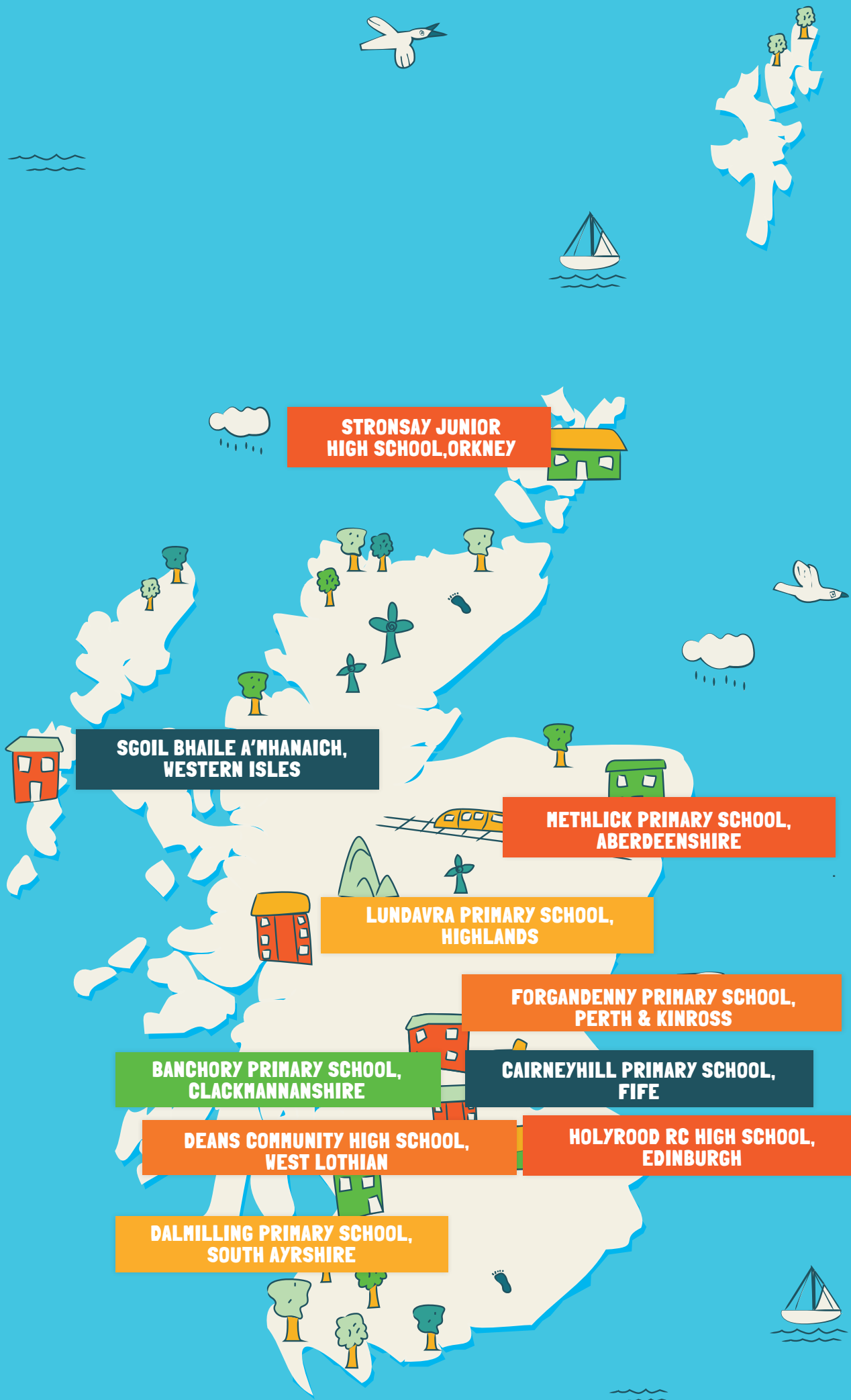
ELLIE MURTAGH
SNIFFER

LAURA YOUNG
LESS WASTE LAURA

MATT MCDONALD
TRANSFORM SCOTLAND

MIKE DANIELS AND ROSIE SIMPSON
JOHN MUIR TRUST

RUBY FLATLEY
YOUTH CLIMATE ACTIVIST

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METHLICK PRIMARY SCHOOL, ABERDEENSHIRE

LUNDAVRA PRIMARY SCHOOL, HIGHLANDS

FORGANDENNY PRIMARY SCHOOL, PERTH & KINROSS

BANCHORY PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLACKMANNANSHIRE

CAIRNEYHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, FIFE

DEANS COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, WEST LOTHIAN

HOLYROOD RC HIGH SCHOOL, EDINBURGH

DALMILLING PRIMARY SCHOOL, SOUTH AYRSHIRE

WELCOME FROM THE INVESTIGATORS

In October 2020, we became embers of Children's Parliament for the Climate Assembly happening in Scotland. This report tells you about how we have been involved in Scotland's Climate Assembly, and what children across Scotland think needs to happen in Scotland to tackle the climate emergency. Here's our message to you:

Children have good ideas, just like adults. Sometimes, children even have better ideas than adults. Climate change is happening now, so it is right that children have a say on what happens to stop it. We need to help to make the decisions as it's our world too.

Please read this report and really do something about what we have said. We need you to think about our Calls to Action on the solutions to climate change and tell us if, when, where and how they can be done. We need you to help us reach the people who can make these changes happen in Scotland.

WE WANT YOU TO THINK:

WHAT WILL THE WORLD BE LIKE IN 2050 IF NOBODY DOES ANYTHING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

This is our future, and it's up to you, me – all of us – to take action, now.

THE INVESTIGATOR TEAM

AYESHA, BEN, CIAN, DAN, KEIRA, LANA, MARGARET, MAYA, MOLLIE, NADIA, SEUMAS AND TYLER

CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT AND SCOTLAND'S CLIMATE ASSEMBLY

> "I FEEL REALLY EXCITED AND PROUD TO BE INVOLVED IN THE CLIMATE ASSEMBLY BECAUSE I GET TO SHARE MY AND OTHERS' OPINIONS TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SCOTLAND."
> MCP, AGE 11, FIFE

> "HOW SHOULD SCOTLAND CHANGE TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN AN EFFECTIVE AND FAIR WAY?"

The climate emergency is a human rights issue. Any plan, solution or action to tackle climate emergency in Scotland must respond to the needs, and rights, of everyone living here, and this means listening to the diversity of views and lived experiences of Scotland's citizens. This includes children who have the right to have their views heard and taken seriously as outlined in **Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).**

In 1996, Children's Parliament was created in response to an idea from children in Edinburgh participating in an international 'Eco-City' project. They felt there needed to be a space where children could share their views and ideas, and be taken seriously by adults in decisions being made in Scotland. Across all our work since then, climate change has continued to be a key concern for children. 25 years on, a climate emergency has since been declared in Scotland.

Grounded in Scotland's Climate Change Act (2019), Scotland's Climate Assembly brought over 100 people together from all walks of life to learn about, deliberate and make recommendations to answer:

As Scotland's Climate Assembly Members were aged 16+, the secretariat invited Children's Parliament to support the participation and engagement of younger children across Scotland, to ensure their views, experiences and ideas informed the discussions and recommendations going forward. Children's participation in Scotland's Climate Assembly has been a unique and significant realisation of children's right to participate in decision-making processes, at a historic moment in time as children's human rights outlined in the **UNCRC** become part of Scots Law.

While children, like adults, do not necessarily share the same views, opinions and ideas, children unanimously recognise the urgency needed to develop and implement solutions for the planet, their own immediate and future lives, and the lives of the generations to come. Most of all, children want to be part of the solutions and changes needed, and want to work with adults to tackle the climate emergency together.

OUR INVESTIGATION

To capture the diversity of children's views and experiences, and to echo the process of the Climate Assembly, Children's Parliament worked with just over 100 children aged 7 -14 across Scotland from 10 local authorities, representing urban and rural communities, a mix of income and ethnicity groups, and with a gender balance.

Many children had not previously engaged in climate activism, until their involvement in the Climate Assembly. They have therefore been on a significant learning journey over the past six months to understand climate change, its impact, and what Scotland needs to do to further mitigate and adapt in a fair, just way.

Like Scotland's Climate Assembly itself, our investigation with the children was facilitated digitally and remotely due to COVID-19. We took a hope-based, solution-focused approach underpinned by a commitment to upholding and further realising children's human rights, with the support of climate anxiety experts, to ensure children felt valued, supported and empowered in this process.

Note: All children who participate in our projects and consultations become Members of Children's Parliament. Unlike other parliamentary bodies, Children's Parliament is not an elected body. Rather it is a participatory one, engaging with children up to 14 years of age across Scotland. We most often work to support children who: have had few or no meaningful experiences of participation or representation; are from marginalised communities; lack confidence or peer relationships; and/or experience challenging life circumstances. The quotes and artwork in this report are directly from the children involved.

"IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOUNGER CHILDREN CAN TAKE PART IN SOMETHING LIKE CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT BECAUSE THEY [DECISION MAKERS] SEE THINGS FROM A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE. IT SHOULDN'T JUST BE YOUNG PEOPLE OR ADULTS WHO HAVE A VOICE. CHILDREN SHOULD BE INCLUDED TOO!"

MCP, AGE 11, HIGHLANDS

INTERACTIVE, DIGITAL SURVEYS

113 MEMBERS OF CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT (MCPS) FROM 10 SCHOOLS ACROSS SCOTLAND COMPLETED INTERACTIVE, DIGITAL SURVEYS IN OCTOBER 2020, JANUARY 2021 AND FEBRUARY 2021.

Each survey was accompanied by a creative, participatory workshop designed by Children's Parliament and delivered by supporting school staff or accessed remotely from home. Children's Parliament worked in partnership with the Secretariat, climate evidence leads and experts from out with the Climate Assembly process to ensure the children received age-appropriate information and evidence aligning with the themes explored by the Assembly members.

The surveys included a combination of quantitative and qualitative questions, and the option to submit artwork too.

Survey **1** findings can be viewed **here**.
Survey **2** findings can be viewed **here**.
Survey **3** findings can be viewed **here**.

THE INVESTIGATORS

CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT WORKED WITH 12 CHILDREN FROM 4 OF THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS – THE INVESTIGATORS.

Their role was to further explore the concepts, themes and ideas being deliberated by Assembly members, and to analyse and reflect on the views, ideas and opinions of the wider group of Members of Children's Parliament, gathered in three digital surveys.

INVESTIGATOR MISSIONS:

Each month, the Investigators were sent fun, creative activities in the post to prepare in advance of the calls. You can see what was included in the investigators' monthly 'mission' packs here.

ONLINE CALLS:

The 12 Investigators initially met twice a month on an online video call facilitated by the Children's Parliament team. In January 2021, this became a weekly session, providing us all with lots of laughs and fun during the lockdown period. In October and November, the Investigators learned about climate change, its relationship with human rights and fairness, and explored the impact of climate change globally, and in their own communities in Scotland.

In December and January, the children met with climate experts to learn about the evidence being presented to the Assembly Members for the following themes: Diet, Lifestyle, Travel, Land and Sea Use, Work and Learning.

BROCHAN:

An additional, much-loved, member of the team – the Investigators' mascot Brochan the Hedgehog. Brochan is, to date, the only one to have met the children in person thanks to the postal service. Here are some photos from Brochan's adventures with the Investigators.

FILMS:

To communicate the children's journey, findings and key messages to the Assembly Members, the Children's Parliament team worked with the Investigators to create a series of short films shown at the Climate Assembly weekends. The children were supported remotely by the team at 8 Million Stories to record their own film clips at home or school.

FILM 1
The first film, capturing the children's initial reflections on participating in the Climate Assembly and understanding of climate change more broadly, was shown on the weekend of the 7th and 8th November 2020 and can be watched here.

FILM 2
The second film, capturing the children's views and experiences of the impact of climate change in Scotland, was shown on the weekend of the 12th and 13th December 2020 and can be watched here.

FILM 3
The third film, capturing the children's views on the Climate Assembly thematic areas, was shown during the weekend of the 20th and 21st February 2021 and can be watched here.

FILM 4
The children's final film, which outlined the children's final recommendations or 'calls to action' to be considered by the Climate Assembly members was shown during the weekend of the 6th and 7th March 2021 and can be watched here.

MEET THE INVESTIGATORS

We're the 12 Investigators. In this project, we learned a lot and came up with lots of great ideas. We also became really good friends and laughed (and danced), a lot.

"I THINK KIDS SHOULD HAVE SOME SAY ON THE FUTURE OF CLIMATE CHANGE BECAUSE WE HAVE GOOD IDEAS WHICH COULD BE THE KICKSTART THAT WE NEED TO DEFEAT CLIMATE CHANGE."
BEN, AGE 10, HIGHLANDS

"FOR ME, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT CHILDREN ARE INVOLVED IN THE CLIMATE ASSEMBLY AS WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD! I'VE REALLY ENJOYED OUR ZOOM MEETINGS AND I LIKE HOW EVERYONE GETS A TURN TO SAY THEIR IDEAS AND THOUGHTS."
MAYA, AGE 10, HIGHLANDS

"CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT IS A GOOD WAY FOR CHILDREN'S VOICES TO BE HEARD. I REALLY ENJOYED TALKING WITH OTHER CHILDREN AND ADULTS AND FINDING OUT ABOUT THE DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE."
MOLLIE, AGE 10, HIGHLANDS

"MY FAVOURITE PART ABOUT BEING AN INVESTIGATOR HAS BEEN MEETING NEW PEOPLE AND TALKING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE PASSIONATELY. KIDS HAVE A CREATIVE SIDE SO YOU MAY GET SOME NEW IDEAS!"
LANA, AGE 11, WESTERN ISLES

"I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT CHILDREN ALSO HAVE THEIR VOICES HEARD IN THE CLIMATE ASSEMBLY BECAUSE IT IMPACTS OUR LIVES A LOT MORE THAN ADULTS. MY FAVOURITE THING ABOUT BEING AN INVESTIGATOR WAS MEETING WITH THE DIFFERENT EXPERTS."
TYLER, AGE 12, WEST LOTHIAN
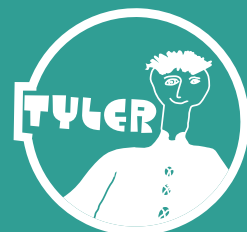
"IT'S BEEN EXCITING TO SHARE MY VIEWS! CLIMATE CHANGE WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON MY FUTURE SO IT'S IMPORTANT I HAVE A VOICE."
CIAN, AGE 10, CLACKMANNANSHIRE

"IT'S BEEN GREAT BEING AN INVESTIGATOR AND I ENJOYED MEETING NEW PEOPLE. I FEEL CLIMATE CHANGE WILL IMPACT OUR FUTURE MORE THAN EVER, SO WE HAVE TO ACT NOW."
AYESHA, AGE 11, WEST LOTHIAN

"I THINK IT'S GOOD THAT WE'RE PART OF THE CLIMATE ASSEMBLY AS CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS KIDS AS WELL. KIDS HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD TOO!"
KEIRA, AGE 10, CLACKMANNANSHIRE

"IT'S GOOD THAT WE CAN SHARE OUR VIEWS FOR THE CLIMATE ASSEMBLY AND MAKE SURE WE CAN BE PART OF FIXING THE CLIMATE CHANGE PROBLEM IN SCOTLAND. BEING AN INVESTIGATOR HAS BEEN VERY FUN BECAUSE WE LEARNED ABOUT HOW PEOPLE LIVE THEIR LIVES."
DAN, AGE 10, CLACKMANNANSHIRE

"BEING IN THE CLIMATE ASSEMBLY INVESTIGATION HAS HELPED CHILDREN HAVE A VOICE IN HOW WE SHOULD TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE. I LOVED BEING ON THE ZOOM MEETINGS WITH THE 11 OTHER INVESTIGATORS AND FINDING ABOUT NEW THINGS."
SEUMAS, AGE 10, WESTERN ISLES

"I THINK THAT IT'S IMPORTANT THAT CHILDREN ARE INVOLVED BECAUSE IT IS GOING TO AFFECT OUR FUTURE. WE WANT TO GROW UP IN A SCOTLAND THAT'S SAFE TO LIVE IN."
NADIA, AGE 12, WEST LOTHIAN'

"IT'S BEEN AWESOME BEING AN INVESTIGATOR. I CAME UP WITH SOME IDEAS THAT WILL HOPEFULLY NOW BE CONSIDERED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT."
MARGARET, AGE 11, WESTERN ISLES

PART 1

UNDERSTANDING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

DRAWING BY OWEN, AGE 11, PERTH & KINROSS

Our investigation began with an exploration of the children's existing understanding and perceptions of climate change, and feelings towards the global climate emergency. The children were invited to share examples of individual and collective actions happening in Scotland already.

Although many children described their involvement in Scotland's Climate Assembly as being their first meaningful opportunity to learn about and engage in discussion about climate change, the majority demonstrated having a basic understanding of what climate change is, and what impact it is having on the natural environment and biodiversity, species, and people's lives.

"TO ME, CLIMATE CHANGE MEANS THAT THE PLANET IS GETTING DANGEROUSLY WARM AND IT'S AFFECTING THE PEOPLE AND THE ANIMALS WHO LIVE ON EARTH."
MCP, AGE 12, EDINBURGH

"ICEBERGS ARE FALLING AND MELTING, AND PENGUINS ARE DYING AND POLAR BEARS ARE DYING".
MCP, AGE 7, SOUTH AYRSHIRE

"IT IS KILLING ANIMALS' HOMES. I BELIEVE THAT IT IS INEVITABLE."
MCP, AGE 11, PERTH & KINROSS

I UNDERSTAND WHAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS.

76%
AGREE/STRONGLY AGREE

14%
NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE

8%
DISAGREE/STRONGLY DISAGREE

DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE IN THREE WORDS

When asked to share how they feel about climate change, children shared the following:

TERRIBLE

BAD

FRIGHTENED

FAST

ANNOYING

NERVOUS

ANIMALS

THINKING

CHANGE

UNHAPPY

IMPORTANT

UNSURE

WORRIED

CONCERNED

HOPEFUL

SAD
DISAPPOINTED
ANGRY
STRANGE
DESPERATE
CONFUSED
BAD FOR **KIDS**
I FEEL UPSET
HELP THE PLANET

"CLIMATE CHANGE TO ME IS SOMETHING THAT'S BLOCKING ME FROM MY RIGHT TO HAVE A HEALTHY LIFE."
MCP, AGE 13, EDINBURGH

"I'M REALLY DISAPPOINTED IN HUMANITY FOR MISTREATING THE WORLD AND MAKING IT TO COME TO THIS POINT."
MCP, AGE 13, EDINBURGH

"IT'S A PROBLEM THAT CAN BE SOLVED THAT WILL CHANGE SCOTLAND AND THE WHOLE WORLD."
MCP, AGE 10, HIGHLANDS

Whilst many responses emphasise the concern, worry and frustration children feel about the climate emergency, it is important to highlight that children also described feeling hopeful and determined to be part of the solutions. Children recognise that there are existing efforts to tackle the climate emergency in Scotland, giving examples of positive actions happening at the individual, community and national level. However, many children feel Scotland is not doing enough to tackle climate change.

I UNDERSTAND WHAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS.

76%

AGREE/STRONGLY AGREE

14%

NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE

8%

DISAGREE/STRONGLY DISAGREE

WE CAN TRY AND STOP PLASTIC GETTING INTO THE SEA. WE CAN HELP REGROW TREES AND LOTS MORE PLANTS.
MCP, AGE 9, HIGHLANDS

I KNOW WHAT SCOTLAND CAN DO TO HELP TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE.
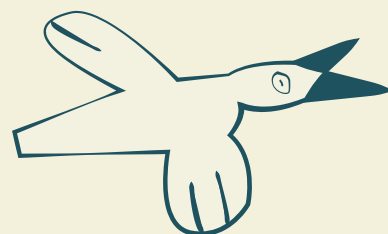
45%

AGREE/STRONGLY AGREE

36%

NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE

17%

DISAGREE/STRONGLY DISAGREE

BUY LOCALLY-SOURCED PRODUCE, RECYCLE AND SPEAK ABOUT HOW WE FEEL ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE.
MCP, AGE 11, PERTH & KINROSS

I KNOW WHAT I CAN DO TO HELP TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE.

62%

AGREE/STRONGLY AGREE

27%

NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE

11%

DISAGREE/STRONGLY DISAGREE

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The last 100 years has seen rapid climate change. Over the last few decades, both temperatures and the amount of rain we have in Scotland have increased. In the future, scientists expect hotter, drier summers, and warmer, wetter winters. Although Scotland is experiencing the effects of climate change, the worst impacts are, and will continue to be, felt in the world's poorest communities.

Children recognise that the impact of climate change is, and will continue to be, most felt by children and adults in other parts of the world. The children reflected on how climate change and extreme weather have started to impact aspects of our natural environment, biodiversity and society in Scotland – and what could occur in the future. Children described increasing occurrences of flooding and severe storms in their local areas. Some children described how this has led to damage to homes, schools, local infrastructure such as bridges and causeways, and farmland in their local areas. With regard to children living in island communities, the impact is most felt – particularly with regard to coastal erosion and flooding.
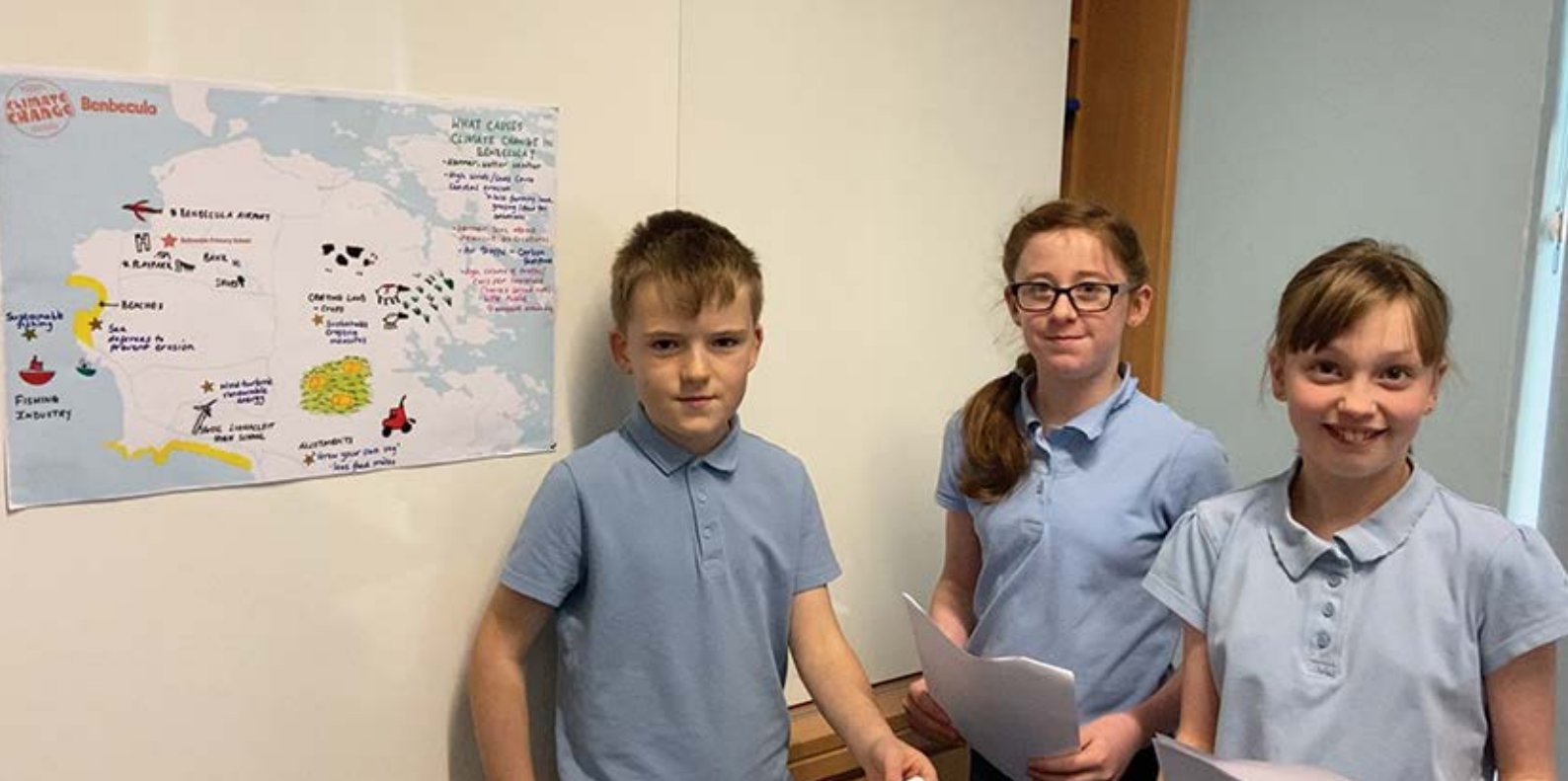
"IT'S NOT REALLY NOTICEABLE ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS."
MCP, AGE 12, EDINBURGH

"CAUSEWAYS CLOSED DUE TO STORMS."
MCP, AGE 10, WESTERN ISLES

"THERE IS MORE RAINFALL SO FARMERS SOMETIMES HAVE TROUBLE GROWING CROPS."
MCP, AGE 8, SOUTH AYRSHIRE

"PEOPLE AT OUR SCHOOL HAD TO GO EARLY AND COME LATER BECAUSE OF THE BRIDGE HAD COLLAPSED BECAUSE OF THE FLOODING."
MCP, AGE 10, PERTH & KINROSS

INVESTIGATOR MISSION: OUR COMMUNITY MAP

By Lana, Seumas and Margaret, Investigators

This is our community map. We live in a very special community on the Isle of Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides. Benbecula is a very unique island as it is made up of crofting lands, lots of beaches and a central, more built-up area where we have streets, a housing development, a hospital, a bank and shops. Most people need cars because the houses are so far apart but some have electric cars to reduce their carbon footprint.

We know that global warming causes climate change in our community in various ways. Lots of our beaches are affected by climate change – we have a lot of erosion. . The weather can be very wet and windy and rising sea levels cause coastal erosion. This means that sea eats away the land and that there are lots of flooding. Erosion and flooding are really bad for crofters as they have nowhere to put their animals and crops get ruined. Our waters are also attracting more sea life which like warmer waters.

In our investigation, Seumas interviewed a local crofter who said that erosion and flooding make crofting very difficult. He uses natural fertiliser – seaweed - and he tries to rotate his crops to protect the soil. We also learned that sea defences are in place to protect the coastline. Marram grass, a special strong grass is put in place to protect the sand dunes. Fisherman fish sustainably and don't overfish, crofters use natural products which are better for the environment and there are lots of wind turbines in our community for renewable energy.

We want Scotland in the future to be suitable for all generations ahead of us. We might want to live here when we're older and if islands are submerged, it won't really work out. So, we need to take action now – **it's up to you, me – all of us!**

PART 2

A FAIRER FUTURE

When thinking about the solutions and changes needed to address the climate emergency, we need to make sure they respect both the planet and everyone's human rights. This means solutions have to be fair.

WHAT IS FAIRNESS?

Many children described fairness as being about sharing and helping others. They recognised that being fair is about everyone having equal opportunities, and getting the support they need to live happy, healthy and safe lives. Children highlighted that this does not necessarily mean everyone getting the same support as children and adults all have different needs. Because of this, being fair sometimes means there must be compromises. But, when people work together and everyone gets the support they need, everyone benefits.

> "FAIRNESS MEANS EVERYONE GETTING WHAT THEY NEED TO BE SUPPORTED AND GROW."
> MCP, AGE 10, WESTERN ISLES

> "FAIRNESS MEANS EVERYONE BENEFITS."
> MCP, AGE 10, FIFE

> "FAIRNESS MEANS EVERYONE GETS THE SAME OPPORTUNITY."
> MCP, AGE 9, PERTH & KINROSS

> "FAIRNESS IS ABOUT BEING CONSIDERATE, KIND AND THOUGHTFUL."
> MCP, AGE 8, ABERDEENSHIRE

Globally, the poorest communities are the most impacted by climate change and yet, the lowest producers of carbon emission. Children considered this through the lens of 'fairness', recognising that individuals,

communities and decision makers in Scotland must take responsibility for, and change, their actions, even if the consequences of our emissions are not felt as adversely in Scotland itself.

> "GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD ARE TRYING TO MAKE MONEY, BUT THESE METHODS MAY INVOLVE CHANGING THE ENVIRONMENT AND DESTROYING THE LIVELIHOODS OF PEOPLE OF POORER NATIONS. THESE POORER PEOPLE MAY HAVE NO SAY IN THESE CHANGES."
> MCP, AGE 13, ORKNEY

> "YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE AS WELL AS YOURSELF, SO SHOULDN'T DO THINGS THAT MAKE CLIMATE CHANGE WORSE."
> MCP, AGE 8, ABERDEENSHIRE

A HUMAN RIGHTS EMERGENCY

> "CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS OUR HUMAN RIGHTS AS THE EFFECTS CAUSED TO OUR CLIMATE WILL EVENTUALLY AFFECT ALL OF US IN DIFFERENT WAYS. WE HAVE TO ALL WORK TOGETHER IN ORDER TO CHANGE THE OUTCOME."
> MCP, AGE 9, SOUTH AYRSHIRE

Human rights belong to everyone in the world – every adult and every child. Having a right is an entitlement - something that should not be taken away from you. Human rights exist to make sure everyone can live happy, healthy and safe lives, and be treated with kindness, empathy, trust and dignity.

Throughout the investigation, the children were supported to understand and discuss how and why the climate emergency is a human rights and social justice issue. The children focused on children's human rights as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), identifying specific articles of concern in Scotland and globally.

Note: Children's Parliament has developed a child-friendly version of the UNCRC, titled the Wee Book of Promises, available here.

RIGHT TO LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT (ARTICLE 6)

Children highlighted how climate change could significantly compromise children and adults' rights to life, survival and development, if tackling the climate emergency is not urgently addressed.

> "IT CAN HAVE AN IMPACT ON OUR WAY OF LIFE, ON FOOD, WATER, HEALTH AND HOUSING, AS WELL AS OUR RIGHTS TO DO WHAT WE WANT IN OUR WORLD."
> MCP, AGE 11, FIFE

> "IT THREATENS OUR WORLD AS IT AFFECTS OUR FOOD AND WATER, THE AIR WE BREATHE AND OUR HEALTH."
> MCP, AGE 7, ABERDEENSHIRE

RIGHT TO A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING (ARTICLE 27)

Children described how the effects of climate change impact the right to housing, water, sanitation and food. Children gave examples of rising sea levels affecting homes and livelihoods in coastal and island communities in Scotland as well as other parts of the world.

Children also emphasised how unpredictable, severe weather, flooding and droughts affect our ability to access clean water and/or use land for growing food – creating food shortages and simultaneously compromising livelihoods, jobs, and trading opportunities.

Children highlighted that although this is a particularly significant challenge in other parts of the world, many communities in Scotland are experiencing the impact of climate change too.

"IN SOME COUNTRIES, DIFFERENT WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE MAKING IT HARD TO GROW FOOD WHICH AFFECTS THEIR RIGHT TO EAT ENOUGH. IN OTHER COUNTRIES, THEY ARE CHOPPING DOWN TREES WHICH EFFECTS THE EARTH'S ABILITY TO CLEAN THE AIR THAT WE BREATHE."
MCP, AGE 11, FIFE

"CLIMATE CHANGE MAKES OUR WORLD HOTTER AND MAKES THE SEA LEVEL RISE WHICH DESTROYS HOMES."
MCP, AGE 13, EDINBURGH

RIGHT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY (ARTICLE 19, 24 AND 31)

Children described how climate change can create unsafe environments for people to live in – giving examples of extreme, changing weather damaging homes and communities, and high levels of air pollution creating unsafe conditions and compromising our health and wellbeing. Some children also described the impact this has on children's right to play.

> "IT IMPACTS OUR RIGHT ON STAYING SAFE AND HAVING A HOME. CLIMATE CHANGE TAKES AWAY THESE THINGS."
> MCP, AGE 12, WEST LOTHIAN

> "YOUNG CHILDREN WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE POLLUTION IN THE AIR AND THEN THEY COULD GET LUNG DAMAGE."
> INVESTIGATOR AGE 11, WEST LOTHIAN

RIGHT TO EDUCATION (ARTICLE 28 AND 29)

Reflecting on the interdependency of human rights, children highlighted climate change's relationship to the right to an education – both in terms of accessing education, and the quality of education children receive about the climate emergency – this included what climate change is, what impact it is having, how this is an issue of social justice, and what needs to be done here in Scotland, and globally.

Many children highlighted that they had received little or no education about climate change at school themselves, and that their participation in Children's Parliament's work with Scotland's Climate Assembly was their first opportunity they had to learn about and consider climate change evidence, impact and solutions for Scotland.

DRAWING BY KELDEN, AGE 11, PERTH & KINROSS

"I DON'T REMEMBER LEARNING ANYTHING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AT SCHOOL, SO I DON'T KNOW HOW IT AFFECTS HUMAN RIGHTS."
MCP, AGE 11, FIFE

"BEFORE I BECAME AN INVESTIGATOR, I ONLY KNEW A FEW THINGS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE. MOST OF IT WAS HOW IT AFFECTS US LOCALLY HERE ON THE ISLAND, BUT I DID NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE MAINLAND OR THE GLOBAL IMPACT."
INVESTIGATOR AGE 9, WESTERN ISLES

"WHEN I INTERVIEWED MY TEACHER FOR THIS PROJECT, HE TOLD ME THAT IN OUR SCHOOL EVERYTHING GOES IN ONE BIN. WE DON'T EVEN LEARN HOW TO RECYCLE AT SCHOOL."
INVESTIGATOR AGE 12, WEST LOTHIAN

RIGHTS TO PARTICIPATE AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (ARTICLES 12 AND 13)

Throughout this investigation, children highlighted how children lack opportunities to have a say and be taken seriously in decisions being made about the climate emergency.

Many children expressed frustration at the lack of action being taken by adult decision makers, despite children and young people speaking out and standing up for climate justice – such as in the Fridays for Future school strikes.

"I THINK CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS OUR RIGHT TO BE LISTENED TO AND TAKEN SERIOUSLY, AS SOME PEOPLE DO NOT BELIEVE CHILDREN'S PLEAS ABOUT THE CLIMATE."
MCP, AGE 10, WESTERN ISLES

Whilst having the right to have a say and be taken seriously, children do not hold the responsibility to effect change – this is the responsibility of adult duty bearers. Yet, it is clear that children feel a pressure to be the generation to tackle the climate emergency. This has dangerous potential for increased feelings of anxiety, frustration and hopelessness if they cannot leverage the change needed (and demanded) of them.

"TO ME, CLIMATE CHANGE IS A BIG DEAL BECAUSE WE ARE THE GENERATION TO CHANGE ALL THIS."
INVESTIGATOR AGE 10, HIGHLANDS

"THE CURRENT ADULTS MAY THINK IT'S UP TO US NOT THEM SO THEY MAY DO NOTHING."
MCP, AGE 11, WEST LOTHIAN

"CHILDREN HAVE GOT A BIG BARRIER. SOME PEOPLE JUST PAT US ON THE HEAD WHEN WE GET PROPER GOOD IDEAS AND CARRY ON WITH WHAT THEY'RE DOING AND THINGS WILL GET STEADILY WORSE, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT. THEY NEED TO LISTEN TO US A LOT MORE. THEY SAY, 'OH YES, WE'RE LISTENING'. PERHAPS, THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN JUST THINKING WE'RE BEING SILLY. THEY REALLY NEED TO TAKE ONBOARD WHAT WE'RE SAYING BECAUSE IF THEY DON'T, IT'S OUR FUTURE."
INVESTIGATOR AGE 11, WESTERN ISLES

PART 3

EXPLORING THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE

At the end of January 2021, all 115 MCPs were given the opportunity to participate in a second digital survey which invited the children to share their views on what changes Scotland should make to tackle the climate emergency.

As the majority of children were learning from home due to the national lockdown measures in place, the accompanying workshop was designed so children could take part independently at home with the support of parents and carers, and/or with their peer group with the support of school staff.

Like the Climate Assembly adults, all participating children were presented with a summary of the evidence around possible solutions for Scotland to take forward. This was complemented by creative activities, supporting the children to reflect on the key issues, the possible solutions, opportunities and potential challenges and barriers to their implementation. It also encouraged the children to share their own ideas and solutions. The results of the second survey can be viewed here.

In their conversations with experts and the Children's Parliament team, the Investigators explored and discussed why it can be more difficult for some people to make changes to how they eat, live, travel, work and learn. Children highlighted individual and systemic challenges and opportunities for Scotland to consider in developing its approach to tackling the climate emergency.

MONEY

Children recognised that people have different levels of money and resources. Money is a worry for many children and families. Often, environmentally friendly options or changes are expensive or come at a price that families cannot afford.

Children, for the most part, do not control their own or their family's finances and therefore, have limited influence on how their parent/carers spend money. Most children have limited choice on how they travel as they are largely reliant on adults for travelling to school, in the community, and on holiday too. Most children do not have a say in how their schools, clubs and play groups are run or funded, and therefore have limited opportunity to influence making these better for the environment.

"IN MOST FAMILIES, IT'S THE ADULTS WHO GO OUT SHOPPING AND BUY THE FOOD. MOST ADULTS WON'T CHECK THE BACK OF ITEMS TO MAKE SURE IT'S LOCAL. THAT'S THE MAIN BARRIER FOR KIDS."
INVESTIGATOR AGE 10, HIGHLANDS

"IT CAN BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR CHILDREN [TO MAKE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CHOICES] BECAUSE USUALLY THEIR PARENTS MAKE THEM. THEY DON'T REALLY GET THE CHOICE AND ALSO, WELL, YOU CAN'T REALLY JUST SAY 'RIGHT, I DON'T LIKE WHAT WE'RE DOING'."
INVESTIGATOR AGE 11, WESTERN ISLES

"SOME BARRIERS FOR CHILDREN ARE THAT THEIR PARENTS MIGHT NOT BE WEALTHY ENOUGH TO ALWAYS OFFSET THEIR FLIGHTS OR GET AN ELECTRIC CAR OR GET THE THING THAT COULD SAVE THE WORLD OR REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT."
INVESTIGATOR AGE 11, WEST LOTHIAN

ACCESSIBILITY

Children highlighted that children and adults living in rural areas or islands have very different life experiences to those living in urban parts of Scotland. For example, it is not always easy or convenient for children and adults to access public transport, or safe places to walk or cycle.

"WE HAVE A PATH NEAR US WHICH USED TO BE VERY MUDDY, BUT THEY PUT TARMAC AND LIGHTS IN AND NOW LOADS OF PEOPLE USE IT!"
**INVESTIGATOR AGE 10, CLACKMANNANSHIRE**

"WHERE WE LIVE, THERE ARE NO CYCLE PATHS AND SOMETIMES THE ROADS CAN BE QUITE BUSY. I LIVE 5 MILES AWAY FROM SCHOOL, AND I CAN'T REALLY GO THERE WITHOUT TAKING THE CAR. SOMETIMES WE GO HOME ON THE BUS, BUT IT TAKES A VERY LONG ROUTE.
INVESTIGATOR AGE 9, WESTERN ISLES

MISSION: TRAVEL

We each shared our journeys to school, to see how we all travel in different ways and why. Here you can see our creations, and ideas for what could make children's journeys to school more environmentally-friendly.
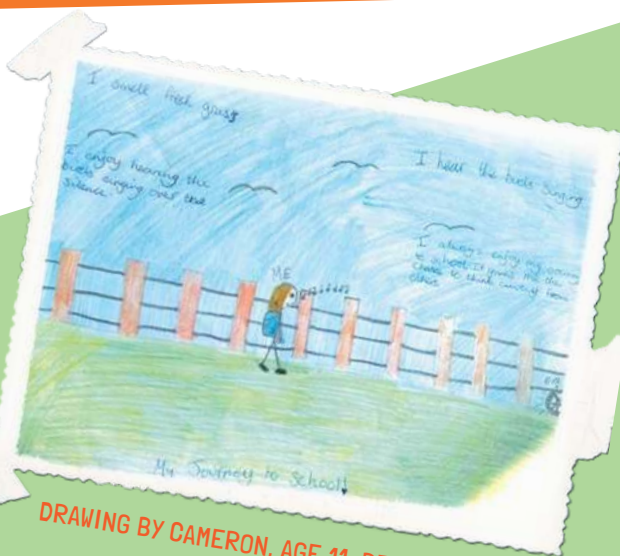
DRAWING BY CAMERON, AGE 11, PERTH & KINROSS

DRAWING BY KATE, AGE 7, ABERDEENSHIRE

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

Many children and adults do not know enough about the climate emergency, and why big changes need to happen in Scotland. Although there are lots of big, urgent issues needing our attention (like the Covid-19 pandemic), we need to help people in Scotland understand why climate change is an emergency too. There needs to be better education and information about the climate emergency for all children and adults, as well as opportunities to learn and develop 'green' skills.

Raising awareness is the first step to changing people's attitudes and behaviour so they can live and work in a more environmentally friendly way. Raising awareness can help people know where they can get support and help if they are struggling with money, for example, to heat their homes.

> "TEACHERS HAVE TO TEACH US ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE."
> INVESTIGATOR AGE 11, WEST LOTHIAN

> "MORE AWARENESS NEEDS TO BE GIVEN TO CLIMATE CHANGE BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN FOCUSED ON THE PANDEMIC, BUT CLIMATE CHANGE IS JUST GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER."
> INVESTIGATOR AGE 12, WEST LOTHIAN

> "I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO SOME OF THE PEOPLE THAT OWN THE SHOPS AROUND HERE AND ASK THEM TO CUT BACK ON THE PLASTIC. IT'S NOT GOOD. THEY NEED MORE EDUCATION ABOUT IT. SOME PEOPLE SAY 'YEAH, YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW' BUT THEY DON'T REALLY. WE NEED TO ACTUALLY TELL THEM WHAT IS HAPPENING AND HOW THEY CAN IMPROVE WHAT THEY ARE DOING."
> INVESTIGATOR AGE 11, WESTERN ISLES

MISSION: WORK AND LEARNING

Inside the outline of the person, we shared **what** 'green' skills and knowledge we think children and adults should learn to help tackle the climate emergency today an in the future. On the outside, you can see some of our ideas for **how** children and adults could learn.

Inside Amy's drawing:
- gardening club at School
- Visit local recycling centre
- friends
- internet
- use containers not plastic bags for packed lunch
- re-use plastic
- grow own food
- recycle
- Parents
- growth mindset
- litter pick
- Do projects with Childrens Parliament
- Make time

Inside Joe's drawing (partial):
- Ask older people how things lived + get tips
- underground heat source pumps
- Support farmers + shops who have local produce
- Recycling
- Have a multi sports kit library, swap at every sports Club.
- Learn about eating different food
- Holiday in the uk — Learn about aeroplane pollution - people it
- Green Idea
- get information from companies who install it. Ask neighbours who have it. Get a government grant.
- Read leaflets. People are looking at eating insects for the future!
- Electric cars, buses + trams + trains - technology will improve them.
- Cars and exhaust fumes
- Go to near school + work and use work walking locally + cycling paths
- Smokeless fuel Talk to companies about coke t. developing new smokless fuel for fires. Go online
- Need to know about trees and hedge rows
- plant more for oxygen Dont cut them down - use less wood watch programmes like Winterwatch
- Choose toys like robots that are solar powered get solar pannels fitted on your roof use solar lights in garden
- solar power
- plastic - use less
- knitting + sewing
- Dont buy food + drinks with plastic - Learn this - parent + School read about landfill
- Avoid always buying new clothes
- + Blue Planet - Have a wild area in...

Inside Kelden's drawing:
- Grow your own food
- Learn agriculture skill
- School
- book
- Eat less meat
- Garden Skill and idea
- online
- family
- Keep your own live stock
- Teachers
- farmers
- save energy

MARKETING AND MERCHANDISING

Children discussed how marketing, advertising and promotions play a big role when it comes to people making choices on what to buy and why. Shops and markets display items in such a way to attract attention and generate sales – this encourages people to buy more new things that they might not need. At the same time, they can be used as a force for good to help people make better choices for the planet such as labelling items with the impact they have on the environment and making environmentally friendly items cheaper for more people to afford.

"WE NEED TO MAKE IT MORE ACCESSIBLE TO BE ABLE TO BUY LOCALLY FROM LOCAL STORES. BECAUSE IF ALL THE FOOD COMES IN FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES– IT'S OK IF A BIT OF IT DOES – THEN IT'S A LOT HARDER TO MAKE A BETTER CHOICE. IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IF WE CAN BUY MORE FROM LOCAL FARMERS AND MAKE MORE LOCAL INGREDIENTS SO THAT WE DON'T HAVE A BIGGER CARBON FOOTPRINT."
INVESTIGATOR AGE 10, HIGHLANDS

"I THOUGHT ABOUT HAVING LEAFLETS IN SHOPS TO TELL YOU ABOUT WHERE THE FOOD IS PRODUCED AND ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT IT. THIS WOULD RAISE AWARENESS AND HELP PEOPLE TALK TO OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT IT."
INVESTIGATOR AGE 12, WEST LOTHIAN

"SHOPS HAVE ALL THESE SCHEMES TO MAKE PEOPLE BUY THINGS. IN SHOPS, EVERYTHING IS IN PLASTIC. IF YOU WANT TO BUY A PACK OF SIX TOMATOES, THEY'RE IN A PLASTIC BOX THEN COVERED IN MORE PLASTIC. AND TOMATOES ARE ALWAYS MORE EXPENSIVE WHEN THEY'RE LOOSE. WHY IS THAT?! WE REALLY SHOULD HAVE LESS PACKAGING FOR FOODS AND BE ABLE TO BUY JUST THE NUMBER OF THINGS WE NEED. ESPECIALLY IN SCHOOL PACKED LUNCHES TOO – THE AMOUNT OF PLASTIC WRAPPED AROUND ITEMS FOR PACKED LUNCHES IS CRAZY."
INVESTIGATOR AGE 10, HIGHLANDS

MISSION: DIET

"WHAT WE HAD TO DO WAS WE HAD TO PICK SOME FOODS WE LIKE, AND THEN WE HAD TO INVESTIGATE WHERE THEY'RE FROM AND HOW FAR THEY'D COME FROM. I FOUND OUT THAT SOME WATERMELON IS FROM SOUTH AFRICA, BURGER IS FROM ABERDEENSHIRE, AND THAT DARK CHOCOLATE IS FROM MADAGASCAR AND GERMANY. I DIDN'T KNOW THE FOOD WAS FROM SO FAR AWAY. TO HELP TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE, WE SHOULD TRY AND MAKE MORE FOODS HERE."
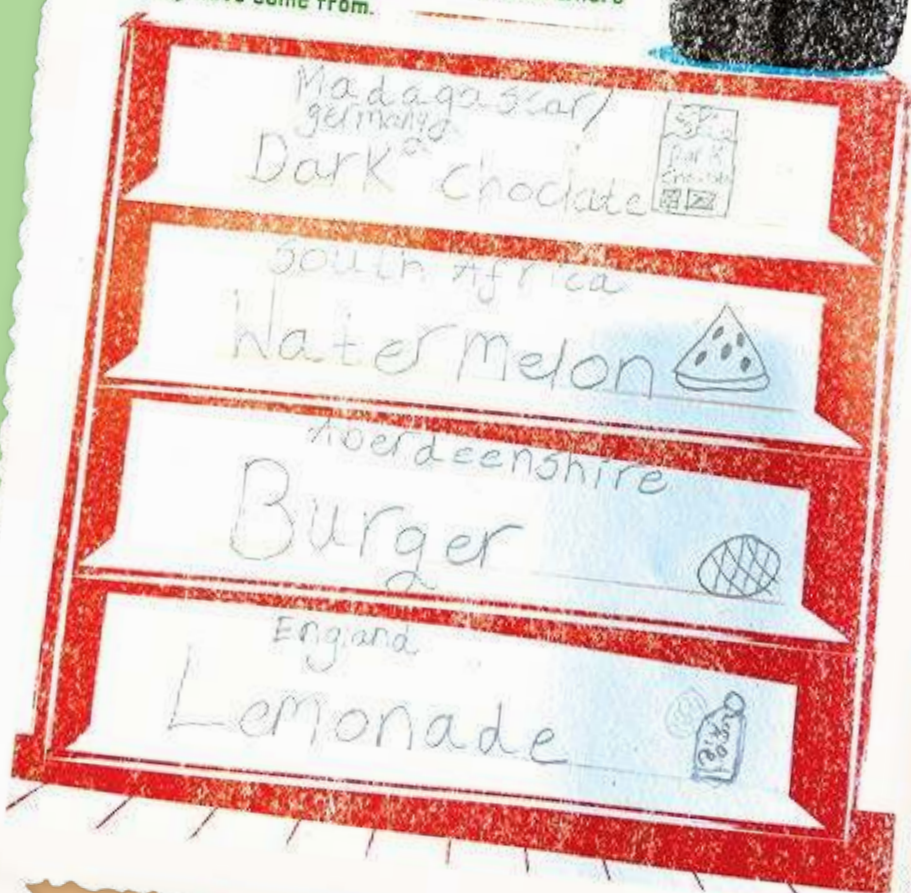
INVESTIGATOR AGE 10, HIGHLANDS

DRAWING BY MOLLIE, AGE 10, HIGHLANDS

WHERE DOES YOUR FOOD COME FROM?

We'd like you to investigate where the food you eat has come from. Have a look in your cupboards at home or in the school kitchen, and choose some of your favourite items. In the shelves here, draw a picture of the items you have chosen and label with where they have come from.

Madagascar/
germany
Dark choclate

south Africa
Watermelon

Aberdeenshire
Burger

England
Lemonade

ATTITUDES AND POPULAR TRENDS

Children highlighted that not everyone in Scotland cares about the climate emergency or wants to be part of the solutions. Not everyone wants to make changes to their lifestyles, and some people do not think it will make a big difference.

> "NOT EVERYBODY IS POLLUTING THE PLANET IN THE SAME WAY. SOME ARE DOING RECYCLING AND DOING ALL THE PROPER STUFF TO STOP POLLUTION AND CUTTING DOWN ON THEIR CARBON FOOTPRINT. BUT THEN SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST PUTTING LIKE WASTE IN THE WRONG BIN OR BURNING PLASTIC."
> INVESTIGATOR AGE 11, WEST LOTHIAN

Children described how wanting to feel accepted or included can be a barrier to children and adults wanting to change their lifestyles or behaviours. Popular trends – for example, having the latest brands of clothes and toys – can make people feel pressured to follow these trends to feel included. As well as raising awareness, incentives can be used to encourage people to shift to more environmentally friendly ways of living.

> "WELL, THE THING THAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN IS THERE SHOULD BE A RULE ONE CAR PER HOUSEHOLD AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT SHOULD BE CHEAPER TO USE. THERE SHOULD BE MORE CYCLE TO SCHOOL AND WORK SCHEMES, SO MORE PEOPLE ARE ENCOURAGED TO CYCLE AND WALK."
> INVESTIGATOR AGE 10, HIGHLANDS

I Love the World

DRAWING BY MACI, AGE 8, ABERDEENSHIRE
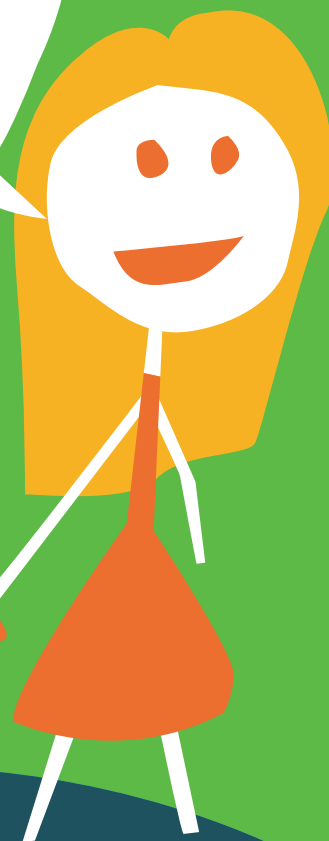
MISSION: LIFESTYLE

Sharing Libraries
We created imaginary posters and adverts to inspire people in local communities to use a brand new 'sharing' library opening in our communities. Here you can see some of our ideas!

DRAWING BY JOE, AGE 11, PERTH & KINROSS

DRAWING BY CAITLIN, AGE 9, PERTH & KINROSS

DRAWING BY IMOGEN, AGE 9, PERTH & KINROSS

WORKING TOGETHER

In Scotland, not everyone owns their own home, and some people share their home or gardens with other people. This means that it can be more difficult for some people to make changes to their diet, lifestyle or travel by themselves. At the same time, while some of the solutions to tackling the climate emergency can be done by individuals, many require people to work together. A lot of solutions involve communities coming together to grow and source food and other lifestyle items locally, recycle and manage waste, restore and protect the natural environment, and share items, such as clothes, toys, books – even cars and bikes.

Tackling the climate emergency must involve speaking to and working with people who own private businesses, companies and land to help them make better choices for the planet.

It's also important to work together with local councils to make sure people have access to information and things like recycling bins, and Scottish Government to make laws and policies that will make it easier for people to make environmentally friendly choices.

> "WHY DON'T WE JUST ALL GET ALL [LANDOWNERS] ...ON OUR NEXT CALL AND TELL THEM TO PLANT LOADS OF TREES ON THEIR LAND?"
> **INVESTIGATOR AGE 10, HIGHLANDS**

> "WE SHOULD SPEAK TO BIG TOY MARKETS. I GOT A TOY LOL FOR MY TENTH BIRTHDAY. IT HAD FIVE, SIX LAYERS OF PLASTIC, THEN A PLASTIC BOX AND IT HAD PLASTIC BAGS AND THEY SHOULD REALLY CUT BACK ON THIS."
> **INVESTIGATOR AGE 10, WESTERN ISLES**

MISSION: LAND AND SEA

Part of the investigation involved creating a 'dream home' for Brochan, our hedgehog team mascot! Here's some photos of the children's creations.

KEIRA AND LANA'S HEDGEHOG HOUSES

PART 4
CALLS TO ACTION

Gathering all the views and ideas shared by the wider group of children in the second survey, the 12 Investigators worked to create a series of calls to action for each theme. In the third and final survey, the Investigators' Calls to Action were put to a vote with the wider group of children to identify the top 3 children feel most strongly about, as highlighted in the following pages. The results of the third survey can be viewed here.

DIET

WHAT DIET CHANGES SHOULD SCOTLAND MAKE TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY? WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN TO HELP EVERYONE MAKE THESE CHANGES?

TOP 3

TEACH CHILDREN AND ADULTS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY DIETS AND REDUCING FOOD WASTE.

MAKE AND SELL MORE FOOD LOCALLY IN SCOTLAND. SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY SMALL BUSINESSES, ORGANIC FARMERS AND BUTCHERS. CHOOSE TO STOCK FOODS FROM SCOTLAND OVER FOODS FROM ABROAD.

LABEL ALL FOOD AND EVERYDAY ITEMS WITH WHERE THEY ARE MADE AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

Make fresh, organic food cheaper. Make junk, processed and imported food more expensive.

Make more plant-based, animal-free options available in schools, nurseries and places where people work.

Launch a national plant-based diet week to raise awareness.

"WELL, I GET MY FOOD FROM THE SHOPS BUT PERSONALLY I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE FOOD COMES FROM. I DON'T THINK PEOPLE ARE BOTHERED TO READ ALL THE INGREDIENTS AND WHERE IT'S COME FROM. I THINK IT SHOULD BE BOLDER ON THE PACKAGING TO KNOW WHERE IT ACTUALLY WAS FROM."
INVESTIGATOR AGE 12, WEST LOTHIAN

LAND + SEA USE

HOW SHOULD SCOTLAND CHANGE HOW IT USES ITS LAND AND SEA TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY? WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN TO MAKE THESE CHANGES?

TOP 3

ALLOW ONLY SUSTAINABLE WAYS OF FARMING, FISHING AND CROFTING. THIS WOULD INCLUDE USING NATURAL FERTILISERS AND REDUCING THE NUMBERS OF ANIMALS BEING FARMED OR FISHED.

CREATE A NATIONAL TREE PLANTING DAY IN SCOTLAND. EVERYONE WOULD PLANT A TREE, EVERY YEAR.

PROTECT WILDLIFE AND NATIVE SPECIES. THIS WOULD INVOLVE A BAN ON HUNTING ANIMALS AND MAKING SURE NO NEW HOMES ARE BUILT IN PLACES WHERE THERE ARE HABITATS.

Protect wild spaces, coastlines and ancient woods. This would involve creating special sea defences to protect the coastline, cleaning up beaches and rivers, and stopping cutting down trees.

Create more woodlands and peatlands. This would involve helping people who own land to use their land to do this.

Make community gardens and allotments for everyone. This would involve teaching children and adults about growing their own food, and using schools for giving out saplings, seeds and tools. Have a special day in Scotland where everyone works in their gardens to grow food.

Create more nature parks and stop green spaces from being built on. In towns and cities, create green, traffic-free areas for children and adults to play.

"WE NEED TO JUST STOP CUTTING DOWN TREES."
INVESTIGATOR AGE 10, CLACKMANNANSHIRE

Create more wind farms and solar panels so all energy in Scotland is renewable.

LIFESTYLE

WHAT LIFESTYLE CHANGES SHOULD SCOTLAND MAKE TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY? WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO HELP PEOPLE MAKE THESE CHANGES?

TOP 3

MAKE SURE NEW HOUSES ARE BUILT TO BE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY. THIS WOULD INVOLVE MAKING THEM ENERGY EFFICIENT.

CREATE SHARING LIBRARIES IN COMMUNITIES FOR TOYS, CLOTHES, FOOD, TOOLS, BOOKS...AND MORE!
BAN PLASTIC PACKAGING AND SINGLE-USE PLASTIC (ESPECIALLY CUTLERY, BOTTLES AND PLASTIC BAGS).

GIVE MONEY AND HELP TO PEOPLE WHO STRUGGLE TO HEAT THEIR HOMES.

"SOMETIMES IT'S REALLY HARD TO HAVE A LESS CARBON FOOTPRINT BECAUSE ALL THE SHOPS ARE IMPORTING STUFF TO MAKE MORE MONEY. THEY THINK IT'S JUST UP TO THEM TO MAKE MONEY BUT IT'S ACTUALLY NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE KILLING THE PLANET DOING THAT. SO, I THINK IT'S UP TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SHOPKEEPERS TO REDUCE PLASTIC AND REDUCE THE FOOD MILES AND ALL SHOULD TRY THEIR HARDEST TO DO THAT."
INVESTIGATOR AGE 10, HIGHLANDS

Make items that are not good for the environment a higher price. Use this money to help make environmentally friendly items cheaper.

Make using only smokeless fuel a law in Scotland.

Help people understand what they can do to tackle climate change. This would involve having adverts on TV and social media about creating less waste, buying less things, buying local products, travelling less to different countries, and saving energy.

Improve recycling in Scotland. This would include having more recycling points, even for things like clothes and toys, and having better, fun instructions for everyone to follow.

Make businesses pay for their waste and impact on the environment.

Make environmentally friendly things in shops cheaper and easier for people to choose. This would involve making sure shops promote and display environmentally friendly options instead of non-environmentally friendly options.

TRAVEL

HOW SHOULD SCOTLAND CHANGE HOW WE TRAVEL BY LAND AND AIR TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY? WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN TO HELP EVERYONE MAKE THESE CHANGES?

TOP 3

LOWER PRICE OF ELECTRIC CARS AND HAVE A RENTING SCHEME UNTIL PEOPLE HAVE SAVED UP ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY THEM.

MAKE TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL IN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY WAYS EASIER AND CHEAPER. THIS WOULD INVOLVE S'COOL BUSES, CYCLE/WALKING BUSES, AND MORE, SAFER CYCLE ROUTES ACROSS SCOTLAND.

ENCOURAGE CYCLING BY MAKING MORE, SAFER CYCLE PATHS AND LANES, AND MAKING PUBLIC BIKES AVAILABLE IN VILLAGES, TOWNS AND CITIES.

"A FEW HUNDRED YEARS AGO, HUMANS INVENTED ELECTRIC CARS, BUT IT WAS MUCH EASIER TO USE PETROL CARS BECAUSE IT WAS EASIER TO PRODUCE PETROL SO THEN WE DIDN'T USE ELECTRIC CARS WHEN THEY WERE INVENTED A FEW HUNDRED YEARS AGO. AND THE FIRST ELECTRIC CAR WAS BUILT IN EDINBURGH!"
INVESTIGATOR AGE 10, HIGHLANDS

Create better railways to link up people in rural areas.

Make public transport more environmentally friendly. This would involve making it easier and cheaper for children and adults and making buses and trains electric or hydrogen-powered.

Ban diesel and petrol cars from being made and sold in Scotland. Instead, we can help make electric cars in Scotland.

Make lots of electric car, scooter and bike charging points available for people to use.

Make prices for flying higher.

WORK AND LEARNING

HOW SHOULD SCOTLAND CHANGE HOW WE LEARN AND WORK TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY? WHAT SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE DO CHILDREN NEED TO LEARN TO BUILD A BETTER, GREENER SCOTLAND AND HAVE GREENER JOBS IN THE FUTURE?

TOP 3

CREATE MORE JOBS FOR LOOKING AFTER ALL OUR NATURE. THIS WOULD INVOLVE HELPING PEOPLE WITHOUT JOBS LEARN SKILLS TO HAVE GREEN JOBS.

HELP CHILDREN AND ADULTS LEARN GREEN SKILLS THAT WILL HELP TACKLE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY LIKE:

- How to grow food and compost
- How to recycle properly
- How to repair and mend things
- How to have a climate friendly diet
- How to plant trees and protect wildlife

MAKE SURE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN SCOTLAND. THIS IS SO THEY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, HOW TO GET INVOLVED, OR HOW TO GET HELP IF THEY ARE WORRIED.

Help schools to be environmentally friendly. Schools can be places for planting trees.

Shorten work and school hours. This is so people can have more time to do things like grow their own food, plant trees and repair things at home or in their area.

Involve children in decisions being made about tackling the climate emergency. This could be in school, in communities or at a national level – like the Climate Assembly!

Make sure all children and adults learn about climate change. This would involve hearing from experts in climate change. Make sure people are paid fairly to help with bills.

Teach children and young people about what 'green' jobs and qualifications they could get when they're older. In schools, introduce children to different green jobs, and degrees at university which are designed to tackle climate change.

Help children to play, learn and have hobbies outside. This is so when children grow up, they go outside more often and want to look after our nature.

Speak and listen to all the people who grow, make, produce and sell things in Scotland. This is to understand what help they need to make their businesses better for the environment.

PART 5
TAKING US SERIOUSLY

In the first survey, we asked the children to share to what extent they feel their views and ideas are listened to and taken seriously by adults at home, in school, in their community and in decisions made about Scotland. When analysing the results with the Investigator team, one of the Investigators (age 11, Western Isles) reflected:

"Only a few children said they feel their views and ideas are listened to and taken seriously by adults in the decisions made for Scotland. This shocked me because we are told [by adults] that we are the future, we are the future...but how do you expect us to do anything if you don't give us a voice?"

As we moved into the final part of the investigation, the children were invited to share their views and ideas on the next part of this process, including how they would like to receive information from the Assembly Members, and duty bearers in due course, in response to their participation. Most children emphasised the importance of hearing back from the Assembly Members, acknowledging their right to be informed about how their participation has been considered and to what extent it has been taken seriously, and on board. Here are some of the children's reflections on why it's important that children hear back from adults making decisions:
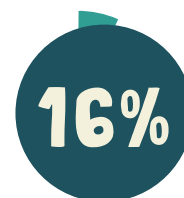
"CHILDREN NEED TO HEAR BACK FROM ADULTS MAKING DECISIONS SINCE THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING."
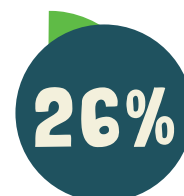MCP, AGE 13, EDINBURGH

"TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AND IF THE DECISIONS CAN ACTUALLY BE DONE."
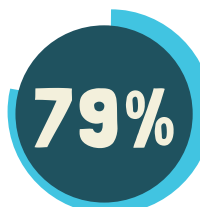MCP, AGE 11, WESTERN ISLES

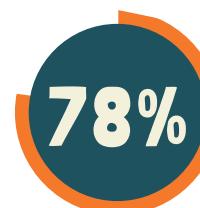# I FEEL MY VIEWS AND IDEAS ARE LISTENED TO AND TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY ADULTS.

16%
IN DECISIONS MADE ABOUT SCOTLAND

26%
IN MY COMMUNITY

79%
IN SCHOOL

78%
AT HOME

In one of the online calls, the 12 Investigators came up with some ideas for how adults can tell all Members of Children's Parliament about how they have listened to their views and acted on them. These were put to a vote, with 'an animation' and 'film clip from the adults' being the most popular.

1. **An animation**
2. **A film clip from the adults**
3. **A slideshow**
4. **A letter from the adults**
5. **A comic strip**
6. **A book**

The children also shared their top tips for adults giving feedback to children:

> "DON'T OVERWORD THINGS, JUST SAY WHAT NEEDS TO BE SAID BUT NOT IN A MEAN WAY."
> MCP, AGE 10, HIGHLANDS

> "MAKE IT SIMPLE TO READ AND IF THERE'S A HARD WORD, EXPLAIN IT AND SHORTEN THE SENTENCES."
> MCP, AGE 11, HIGHLANDS

> "ADULTS SHOULD KEEP POSITIVE."
> MCP, AGE 13, EDINBURGH

> "SPARK SOME FUN INTO IT."
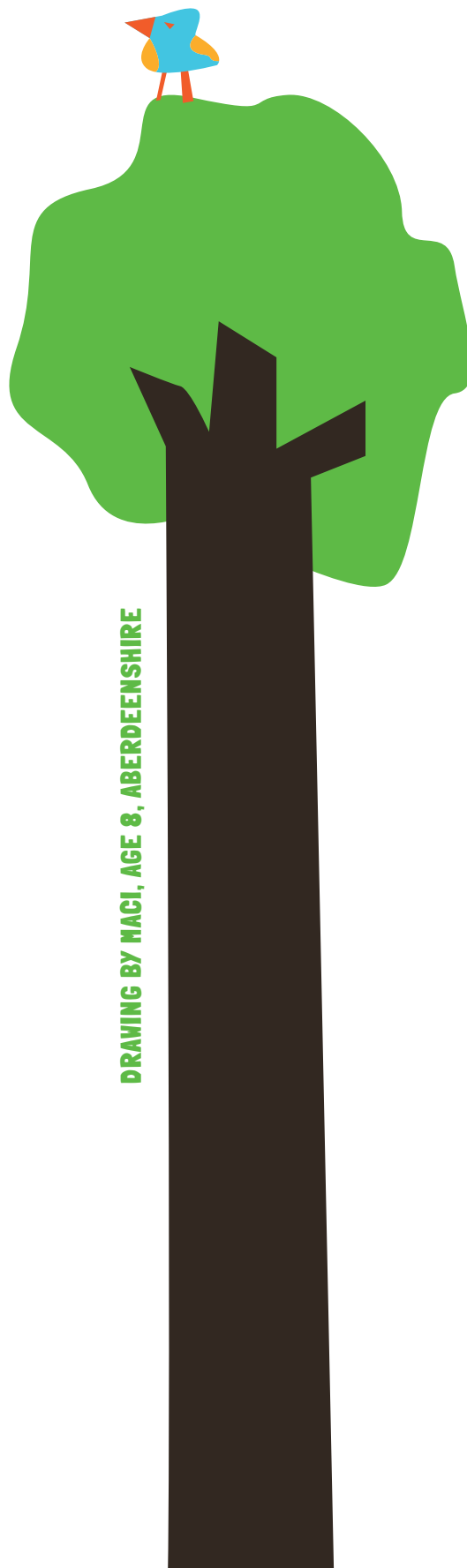> MCP, AGE 10, WESTERN ISLES

> "HONESTY."
> MCP, AGE 12, ORKNEY

> "COLOUR AND PICTURES AND NOT LONG SENTENCES."
> MCP, AGE 13, EDINBURGH

> "BE KIND IF THEIR IDEAS ARE NOT GOING TO BE USED."
> MCP, AGE 11, PERTH & KINROSS

DRAWING BY MACI, AGE 8, ABERDEENSHIRE

ABOUT CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

Established in 1996, Children's Parliament is Scotland's centre of excellence for children's participation and engagement. Our mission is to inspire greater awareness and understanding of the power of children's human rights and to support implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) across Scotland.

Through our children's human rights-based, creative practice, we provide younger children up to 14 years of age from diverse backgrounds across Scotland with opportunities to share their experiences, thoughts and feelings so that they can influence positive change in their lives at home, in school and in the community. We use creative, participatory methods to support children to meaningfully engage in decision-making processes, as outlined in Article 12 of the UNCRC.

2021 is Scotland's Year of Childhood, a year-long celebration of childhood hosted by Children's Parliament. During the year we are exploring childhood through the lens of children's human rights, creating opportunities to share rights-based practice in an atmosphere of optimism and confidence. You can find out more and how to get involved here.

For more information, please contact Katie Reid, Children's Voices Project Lead, Children's Parliament: **katie@childrensparliament.org.uk**

Children's Parliament

INVESTIGATES

CLIMATE CHANGE

FOR SCOTLAND'S
CLIMATE ASSEMBLY

CHILDRENSPARLIAMENT.ORG.UK

@CREATIVE_VOICES

Annex Two

Scotland's Climate Assembly

Expert Speakers

Name	Organisation
Dr Alan Renwick	UCL
Dr Alastair McInroy	Mobility as a Service (MaaS), Technology Scotland
Prof. Alice Larkin	Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research
Amanda Grimm	Creative Carbon
Dr Amanda Thomson	UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Ameena Camps	Uist Wind
Dr Andy Kerr	Climate-KIC
Andy Smith	Loganair
Anna Beswick	Adaptation Scotland, Sniffer
Dr Anna Birney	Forum for the Future
Dr Anna Gyrka-Macphail	Obesity Action Group, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
Anna Hughes	Flight Free UK
Anna Richardson	Councillor, Glasgow
Arabella Kennard	Community Energy Scotland
Ben Twist	Creative Carbon
Bruce Wilson	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Dr Calum MacLeod	Community Land Scotland
Caro Overy	Creative Carbon
Chris Morgan	John Gilbert Architects
Chris Stark	Climate Change Committee
Professor Chris Warhurst	University of Warwick
Dr Clive Mitchell	NatureScot
Clive Wilding	Artisan Real Estate
Dr Craig Dalzell	Common Weal
Craig McCormack	Green City Wholefoods

Name	Organisation
Daisy Narayanan	Sustrans
Dr Dan Barlow	ECCI
Professor Dave Reay	University of Edinburgh
David Harkin	Historic Environment Scotland
David Symons	WSP (professional services)
Debbie Adams	The Conservation Volunteers
Deborah Long	Scottish Environment LINK
Professor Deirdre Shaw	University of Glasgow
Eilidh Watson	Young Royal Scottish Geographical Society
Elizabeth Leighton	Existing Homes Alliance
Ellie Harrison	Get Glasgow Moving
Fabrice Leveque	Climate Emergency Response Group, WWF Scotland
Heather Claridge	Architecture & Design Scotland
Hywel Lloyd	Active Building Centre
Professor Iain Docherty	University of Stirling
Iain Gulland	Zero Waste Scotland
Professor Iain Stewart	University of Plymouth
Iona Taylor	Link Group
Jamie Adam	Community Energy Scotland
Jamie Cooke	RSA Scotland
Professor Janette Webb	University of Edinburgh
Jessica Sinclair-Taylor	Feedback
Professor Jillian Anable	University of Leeds
Professor Jim Skea	Just Transition Commission

John Dickie	Child Poverty Action Group	Mike Barry	Former Director of Plan A and Sustainable Business for Marks and Spencer
John Ward	Grantham Research Institute	ProfessorMike Berners-Lee	Lancaster University
Jon Turner	Link Group	Mike Daniels	John Muir Trust
Jonathan Hines	Architype	Dr Patrick Kennedy-Williams	Climate Psychologists
Jonathan Hinkles	Loganair	Professor Pete Smith	University of Aberdeen
Professor Julia Steinberger	University of Leeds	Phil Prentice	Scotland's Towns Partnership
Kaisie Rayner	Royal London Group	Phoebe Cochrane	Scottish Environment LINK
Dr Kate Crowley	University of Edinburgh	Rab Bennetts OBE	Bennetts Associates
Dr Katherine Trebeck	Wellbeing Economy Alliance	Rachel Statham	Institute for Public Policy Research
Kathryn Dapré	NHS Scotland	Richard Hardy	Prospect
Keesje Avis	Nourish Scotland	Rona Mackay	Community Energy Scotland
Keith Anderson	Scottish Power	Professor Sam Fankhauser	Grantham Research Institute
Professor Kevin Anderson	University of Manchester	Sam Gardner	Scottish Power
Kristin Bash	Faculty of Public Health, Food Special Interest Group, Leeds teaching hospital	Sandy Halliday	Gaia Group
		Sara Thiam	Scottish Council for Development and Industry
Laurence Bourton	UK Health Alliance on Climate Change	Professor Sarah Bridle	University of Manchester
Leo Murray	Possible	Sophie Guy-Pearson	Oil and Gas UK
Lesley Macinnes	Councillor, Edinburgh	Stephen Young	Scottish Land and Estates
Libby Peake	Green Alliance	Councillor Steven Heddle	COSLA
Professor Lori McElroy	University of Strathclyde	Stuart Hay	Living Streets
Lucy Gillie	South Seeds	Stuart Stevens	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Martin Kennedy	National Farmers' Union of Scotland	Susie Fitton	Inclusion Scotland
Matt Lipson	Energy Systems Catapult	Professor Tahseen Jafry	Glasgow Caledonian University
Matt McDonald and Colin Howden	Transform Scotland	Will Stronge	Autonomy
Matthew Logan	Community Energy Scotland	Zarina Ahmad	CEMVO Scotland
Megan Kennedy-Woodard	Climate Psychologists		
Michael Cook	Community Resources Network Scotland		