

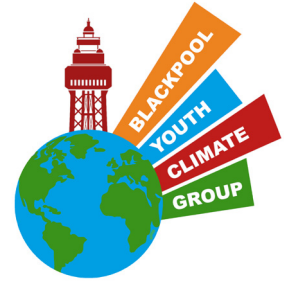


# BLACKPOOL YOUTH CLIMATE ASSEMBLY



# About the group

The journey that we have been on to end up with a cross-Blackpool Youth Climate Group has been a really exciting and interesting one for everyone involved. This document has been co-produced to give the reader a clear understanding of how the group has been created and what we hope to achieve as Blackpool's dedicated Youth Climate Group!



On 26th June 2019 Blackpool Council issued a Climate Emergency Declaration. A big difference between Blackpool Council's declaration and other councils was the emphasis that was placed on the voice of young people being at the heart of any discussions that would happen, and decisions that would be made!

In the UK's largest youth consultation Make your Mark 2019, 399,652 young people voted 'Protect the Environment, we believe that we have a responsibility to protect the environment from the effects of climate change for the next generation; and that the Government should look towards carbon neutral alternatives' as their most important issue that young people are facing.

Out of Blackpool's 6,213 votes, 2,666 of these votes were for 'Protect the Environment' putting it first for Blackpool's results. This consultation was held between August 2019 – October 2019. From this Blackpool Youth Council held their Youth Summit in November 2019 that saw professionals take part in a Q&A style event to discuss the top issues. Representing the environment at the event was the Fylde Beach Care Officer for Keep Britain Tidy/ LovemyBeach.

We saw this as an excellent opportunity to combine the individual efforts of youth organisations around climate change in Blackpool, to campaign and work together, to make a difference based on concerns and ideas that young people have around climate change and the environment.



# Blackpool Youth Climate Group

Our group brings together young people across Blackpool to collectively take positive action to combat climate change in our town. We started as a collaboration between the Blackpool Youth Council, Junior Park Rangers and Headstart Blackpool, coming together as proud co-leaders of the Resilience Revolution; to organise Blackpool's first Youth Climate Assembly in January 2021.

We meet regularly and are always looking for new members! For more information about how YOU can get involved, contact:

Sam Richardson, Headstart

- [sam.richardson@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:sam.richardson@blackpool.gov.uk)

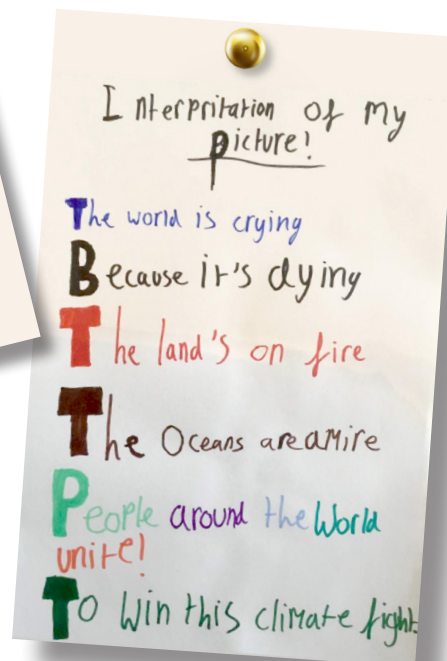
April Rankin, URPotential

- [april@urpotential.co.uk](mailto:april@urpotential.co.uk)

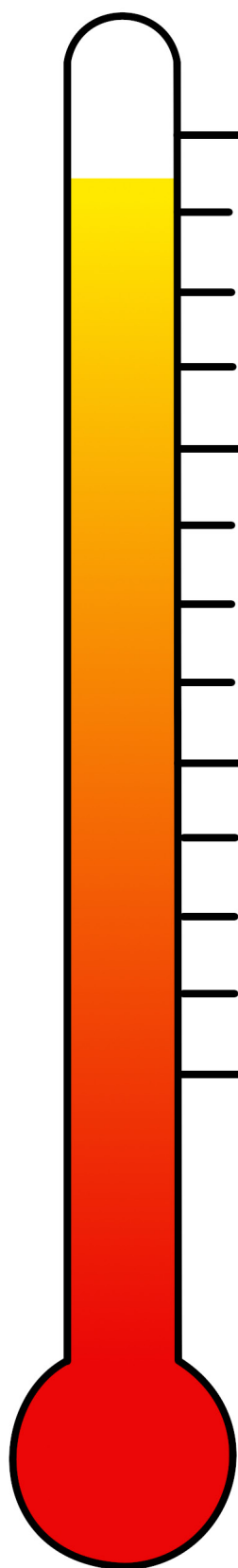
Rebecca Wright, Junior Park Rangers

- [rebecca.wright@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.wright@blackpool.gov.uk)

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY READING ABOUT WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR!



# Timeline



## 2021

### February:

2nd - Launch of the Blackpool Youth Climate Group.

### January:

27th - Blackpool Youth Climate Assembly Debrief: Making sense of the Assembly and thinking about next steps.

20th & 21st - Blackpool Youth Climate Assembly.

## 2020

### October/November/December:

Regular planning sessions

### September:

HeadStart, JPR & BYC combine to co-produce Youth Assembly. Blackpool Council choose organisation to deliver Climate Assembly

### March:

Blackpool Council, URPotential and Resilience Revolution meet to discuss climate activities in Blackpool and potential collaboration during a climate citizen assembly

## 2019

### November:

Blackpool Youth Summit where thoughts on Climate Change/ Environment are explored via a Question & Answer session.

### September:

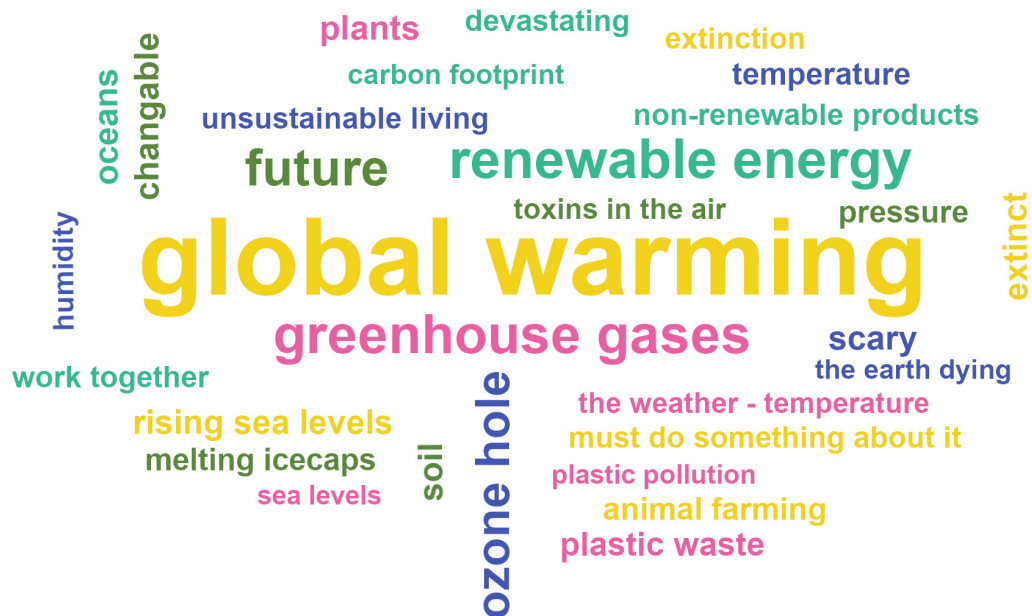
BYC highlighting climate change as top concern for Young People as part of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament's Make Your Mark.

### June:

Blackpool Council declares a Climate Emergency in June 2019.

# Session 1

What does climate change mean to you?



What does the environment mean to you?



# Session 1

Session One of the Blackpool Youth Climate Assembly brought a group of young people, volunteers, councillors and practitioners together to explore and learn about climate change and the environment with a view to learning about issues and then going on to come up with solutions.

Session One was about setting the scene and finding out what young people thought about climate change and the environment before inviting a range of guest speakers to help build the knowledge of the young people who were part of the climate assembly.

We had speakers from Blackpool Council who introduced their vision for a green Blackpool.

Viktoria from the University of Brighton set the scene and explored with the group some words they might come across or be unsure about.

We then heard from Guy from Generation Climate Europe/Transition Network about food and agroecology, we heard from Sam from Groundworks and Emily from LoveMYBeach who introduced us to green and blue spaces. Blackpool Youth Council then raised awareness about Fuel Poverty and finally, Leah from Active Blackpool talked to us about cycling and sustainable transport solutions.



## Session 2

Session two of the Blackpool Youth Climate Assembly brought the group from session one back together ready for the final 2 hours. This session was all about giving young people the opportunity to split into smaller groups and talk about their views and opinions on one of the topics from session one.

Emma, a member of Bury Youth council came to talk about her experience getting involved in climate change and what events she has been involved in. She spoke about things young people could do to help combat climate change and answered questions from the group. After the break, the groups came back together from their discussions and gave feedback on what they spoke about and each group gave a possible action around their topic to be pursued following the climate assembly.

Evaluation forms were filled out at the end of the session and the young people were made aware that we would carry on as Blackpool's climate group and if that was something they wanted to be a part of then they could come to an open session on the 2nd February 2021.



# Feedback

## Young people's comments captured

I think people only focus on the environment when they have no other priorities; like it's a novelty rather than an emergency?

In terms of education I think it's important to educate people on the careers associated with the environment - it's something I was interested in and had to learn about on my own. Just a thought :)

Could we set up a bike rental service type idea like Liverpool city bike as almost a replacement for public transport.

By the way we are so positive to each others reasoning :) I like it

Well done everyone

Lets combat climate change together guys!

Yeh!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

# Evaluation

How would you describe the Climate Assembly in three words?



The way this word cloud works is the more times the word is used, the bigger it appears. This shows that the young people who attended the Climate Assembly thought that the event was fun, inspiring and informative/educational just to name a few.

This feedback was reassuring as the word cloud on Day 1 around what climate change meant to them included the descriptions “scary”, “the world is dying”, “extinction” and “must do something about it”. Moving the group from being deeply concerned even before learning more about climate change, to then leaving the Assembly being inspired, hopeful and excited for collective actions as a group in Blackpool.



## What did you enjoy about the climate assembly?

Very inclusive, my responses were welcomed nicely and I felt like I was a part of this.

I enjoyed the discussions and the bouncing ideas off of each other as it pushed us to develop more creative solutions to this problem

I loved that everyone had the opportunity to give their opinions, and that there were different formats to give your views. I also enjoyed the educational side; it made sure everyone was on the same page.

I learned lots of new things about climate change today

Information while being interesting at the same time

the amount of information and knowledge, its so amazing to hear people who think the same as me, so so inspiring and nice to learn and hear more in order to gain for knowledge

I enjoyed listening to people's ideas and opinions

I can agree that I now know more things about the environment and climate change than I did before.

I enjoyed learning about how the world is changing and what we can do to have a positive impact.

Being able to see loads of young people so invested in learning about the environment and wanting to know how they can help. I really enjoyed running one of the sessions, I found it educational and really interesting to know what other thought - Beth

Being apart of change

i learned lots of new things about climate change today

was a huge incite on what we can do to help stop climate change i really loved it i think there should be more things like it

## What would you change or do differently?

Nothing i thought it was perfect

I would have more time for discussions so we can make more decisions

nothing at all - so well organised and was very entertaining

Have this be face to face if/when possible

it was absolutely brilliant with nothing wrong at all

i would do more small group discussions

Not much! I would maybe have a section to discuss miscellaneous issues that people want to add, as well as the predetermined categories.:

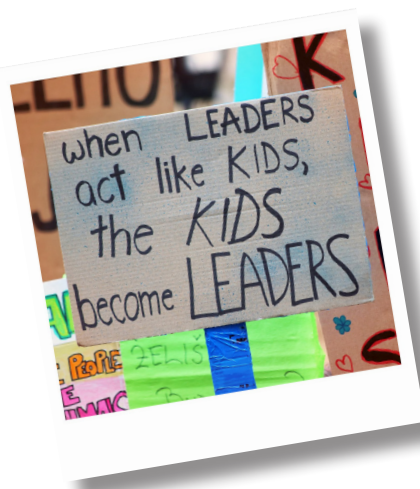
Maybe not having the zoom meeting at tea time

Im not to sure, overall it was a good two sessions.

Hopefully in the future we can meet face-to-face again and do more hands on activities

Put an activity in the separate rooms to break the ice for those that were in them

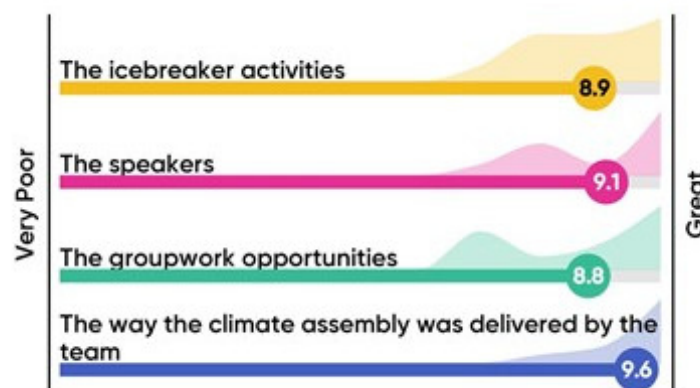
Promote it more.



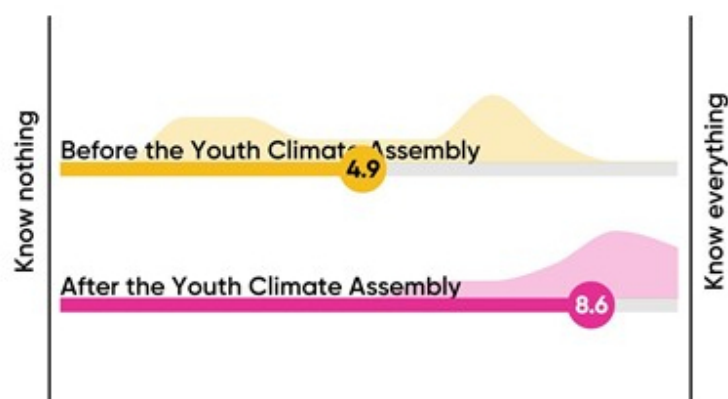
This feedback is overall very positive with the majority of comments stating that the event was good, without the need for any major changes, It was especially powerful to hear how young people felt that they were in an inclusive environment where they could connect to others who also cared strongly about the environment and climate change. Young people reported that they felt hopeful and excited to be part of change.

Suggestions for any future events included to have it take place face to face next time if possible, to have ice breakers in breakout rooms, to have the opportunity for young people to discuss topics that did not fit into the predetermined categories, to change the time to not clash with dinner time and more time for discussion.

**Please rate the following, 1 being very poor, 10 being great**



**Please rate your understanding of climate related issues before and after the Climate Assembly**



A massive well done to the team as this shows they hosted an event that improved people's understanding of climate issues. The purpose of this question was to capture exactly that.

## Any other feedback?

It was great! Thankyou

It was a really good session!

nope very great group

Try to get the meetings out to more people through advertisement so more people can get involved

thank you so much - this was great and I feel like everyone has a lot to do from here!:)

no just that I seriously enjoyed this assembly

The only piece of additional feedback is to advertise more for any future event to try and attract more Young people.

## Our findings and actions

### Food

Young people felt that buying food locally reduces food miles, this helps Blackpool work towards its goals of becoming carbon net zero.

Young people propose that it is important to educate communities on eating seasonally as well as locally, this allows Blackpool to take advantage of allotments and community gardens. This could be developed into community shops that are zero waste.

### Town

Young people wanted Blackpool to normalise the idea of a cleaner and greener town, with individuals taking pride in their town for being litter free and sustainable.

Young people propose education surrounding recycling and sustainability, with access to recycling bins on local parks and beaches, as well as incentives such as the recycling reverse vending machines.



### Blue Spaces

Young people wanted to focus on reducing litter on Blackpool's beaches, this can be through imposing harsher fines, and promoting beach cleans, encouraging recycling and other forms of positive reinforcement.



Young people propose the creation of an event such as Blackpool's biggest beach clean which is something Blackpool's Youth Climate Group aims to develop in the future.



### Green Spaces

Young people felt greenspaces should be seen as a carbon offset solution, greenspaces therefore need to become greener with trees, flower and meadows. This approach puts emphasis on the importance of greenspaces as a way to offset carbon emissions and promote nature.

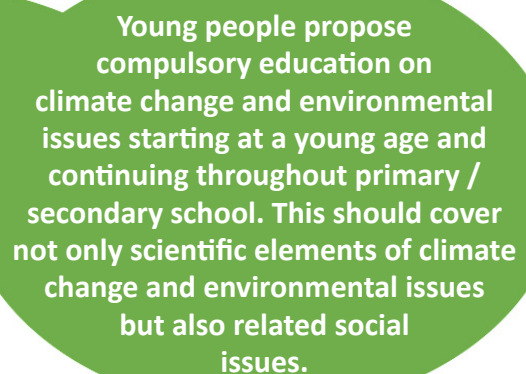


Young people propose tree planting across Blackpool's green spaces, with the utilisation of existing services to encourage communities to get involved in making green spaces greener.



### Education

Young people felt that Blackpool should have a better understanding of climate change and environmental issues.



Young people propose compulsory education on climate change and environmental issues starting at a young age and continuing throughout primary / secondary school. This should cover not only scientific elements of climate change and environmental issues but also related social issues.

## Transport

Young people emphasised the importance of breaking down barriers surrounding active travel, making Blackpool safer for young people to choose to ride a bike, scooter, skate or run instead of using public transport. Additionally, give young people the option to choose active travel by providing more affordable prices or even funding towards active travel.

One idea young people propose is a swap shop where when a young person grows out of their bike they can swap it for the next size up. This also promotes families across Blackpool to reuse.

## Renewable energy

Young people emphasized the importance of people living in Blackpool having the option to use renewable energy, despite the expense.

Young people suggest the creation of a fund allowing people to access money to make their houses more energy efficient and sustainable. Additionally, new builds are to be built with the installation of solar panels.

The most important thing to come out of our assembly is the creation of Blackpool's Youth Climate Group! It wasn't just an event, it is now a movement. From the Blackpool Youth Climate Assembly it is clear that young people are serious about climate change and the environment and we hope businesses, leaders, citizens and decision makers can help us make a difference!

