

IMPACT REPORT

✦ 2022-2023 ✦

Hello!



Laura Brankin

2050 Climate Group Chair

It has been another great year for 2050 Climate Group, as we delivered our sixth Young Leaders Development Programme alongside new projects and collaborations including our Climate Circles and Pint and A Plan. We also welcomed our new Director, Laura Curtis-Moss.


Working alongside such an inspiring and enthusiastic group of staff and volunteers as Chair of 2050 Climate Group is a privilege, and I want to thank each one of them, as their dedication has been central to the successful delivery of our projects this year.

As our organisation continues to grow, we embark on a new chapter as we launch our next strategic plan later this year. Building on our strong foundation and impact to date, I'm excited for what the future holds for 2050 Climate Group.

2050 In Numbers

152 


Young Leaders Development Programme Participants

62 


Energy Circle Members

3 

Policy Consultations

18 

Trustees

689 

Leaders Network Members

2 


New Staff Members

13 


New Blog Posts

42 

Operational Volunteers

76 

Transport Circle Members

6 

2050x Funded Projects

1443 



Additional Social Media Followers

1088 

Registered Event Attendees

Our Team

2050 Climate Group is an award-winning Scottish charity frontlining youth climate action. We are uniquely positioned in that we are entirely youth-led (run by people aged 18 to roughly 35, working for those in the same age range) and predominantly volunteer-driven. Our work is delivered by around 50 brilliant operational volunteers, a small but incredible staff team and 17 amazing trustees.

Last year, we welcomed to our staff team, our new (and amazing) Director - Laura Curtis-Moss!

“I’m so excited to be joining 2050 at such a pivotal moment, I’m looking forward to delivering on our new strategy and increasing our focus on accessibility, equality, diversity and inclusion.”



Laura Curtis-Moss
2050 Climate Group Director

The environmental sector, especially on the back of a global pandemic, can be a particularly daunting one to navigate. We therefore pride ourselves on fostering a culture of well-being within our organisation. Over 2022-23, we took time out to mindfully replenish and rejuvenate ourselves at our glorious Summer Away Day at Beechbrae with calming yoga, plant pot painting and just soaking up the sun. We also organised a fun and warm winter social to round off the year with great conversation, great music and even better food!



Here’s what some of our amazing volunteers have to say about their experience with us:

“I have really enjoyed my time with 2050 so far. I’m new but I can honestly say this is the best volunteering experience I’ve had and the best bunch of people to work with. I admire that everyone is so passionate and dedicated and we have a wealth of experience and knowledge between us and it’s really inspiring to see what we are achieving in our personal and professional lives too.”

“I am just truly grateful to be part of such a wonderful organisation. What a joy to work with people striving to make a better world possible”

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility

The past year has been a momentous one for us in terms of our efforts towards and learnings on Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility - not just within our organisation, but in the broader environment sector.

Over 22-23, we set out our commitment to diverse participation in our E, D&I statement:

Climate Leaders come from all backgrounds, all walks of life and have different lived experiences. We want everyone to feel welcomed, supported and represented as we work together to create a just and sustainable society. We know there are barriers to participating in climate action and we are working together to dismantle them. We will keep learning, reflecting, and challenging ourselves along the way.

Our current E, D&I statement is a work in progress and we are committed to evolving it in response to our policy reviews and learnings from the sector as we go further from here environment sector.

The RACE Report

We were one of the 94 organisations that submitted data to Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK)'s inaugural RACE Report, published in December 2022. This is an initiative by and for environmental organisations in the UK to hold themselves accountable on improving ethnic diversity. We truly value the transparency that the Report brings to the environmental sector.

Even as we strive to work towards dismantling the multifaceted barriers to participation in climate action and in our sector in general, the report's key findings have only reinforced our belief that a lot more needs to be done to make climate action truly representative.

Whilst acknowledging the lack of diversity in our sector, we are also hopeful because of some of the positive developments as highlighted in the report and are determined to only build on and accelerate the progress that we've made so far as a community.

Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Accessibility are of utmost importance to us and it is thanks to initiatives like the RACE Report that we have an even better understanding of where we stand right now and how best to further our efforts from this point on.

THE RACE REPORT



Young Leaders Development Programme

The 2022-23 period saw us through the sixth year of our flagship and hugely successful Young Leaders Development Programmes (YLDP). Our YLDP is an annual 6-month-long programme, aiming to empower, equip & enable young people in Scotland with the knowledge and skills to become leaders in the climate movement.

This year, we welcomed a diverse group of 152 young people, from 24 local authorities, onto the 6 module programme, where we collectively heard from world-class leaders in the fields of personal, professional & political climate leadership.

A definitive highlight of this year's programme was a partial return to in person delivery! Our three hybrid modules were run alongside three online modules, which were also open to public participation.



This allowed our participants the opportunity to network in-person, as well as to form online communities with one another on both a local and national scale. We had the privilege of seeing these communities form and grow in real time, through our participants' climate action groups. This year's climate actions included tree planting sessions, community litter picks, climate arts events, and campaigning to ministers, councillors and others on climate issues.

By far the greatest reward of the YLDP, year in, year out, is the continued legacy of the programme within the lives of the participants and all involved. This year, we heard from participants who have been inspired to write their masters dissertation off the back of our wonderful keynote speaker's presentations; participants who have taken a role as a charity

trustee, after being inspired by our trustee panel; and participants who have launched climate-based projects at their place of work. Seeing the impact the programme has on the lives of so many young people will always drive our work, making us continually hopeful for Scotland's future and our vision to empower Scotland's young people to be active citizens.



Insights from Young Leaders

Being part of a programme specifically for young people is always a **unique experience** that can provide valuable insights, learning opportunities, and the chance to connect with like-minded people. Recently, I had the privilege of taking part in a 2050 Climate group cohort that focused on being a young leader in the climate change sphere.

One of the highlights of the experience was the **opportunity to hear from experts** who shared their experiences and knowledge on a variety of topics related to Climate change and leadership. From building knowledge to learning how to engage people, the presentations were thought-provoking and insightful. Although I was unable to attend any in person events, the online setup was just as engaging. If you live further away from the central belt, I wouldn't let this discourage you from applying for this valuable programme.

Another aspect of the programme that I found particularly valuable was the **chance to network** with other young people and hear their thoughts and insights. I was able to **connect with individuals**

who are passionate about climate change and share similar interests, which was a great opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from one another.

The breakout sessions also provided a more intimate setting for deeper discussions and focused learning. I attended several sessions that were particularly relevant to my work, and I came away with a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities that exist.

Overall, being part of the 2022-2023 cohort was a fantastic experience, and I would highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in building their voice. I learned a great deal, made valuable connections, and came away feeling energized and excited about the impact I can have.



Drew Ferguson

YLDP6 Graduate

Insights from Young Leaders

The YLDP was a great experience all round. As someone who is lucky enough to work where my passion lies - in Sustainability, climate conversations are always a part of my work but they also have a huge place in my personal life.

I've always found it easier to have climate conversations in work but when it came to my friends and family I struggled to find the confidence to articulate the topic properly. A lot of this stemmed from fear of judgement – I didn't want them to think I was pushing my ideas on to them, I didn't want to get anything 'wrong' since the topic is so aligned with my full time job and I didn't want them to see me as a 'know it all' so most often I stayed quiet.



Molly Armstrong

YLDP6 Graduate

The YLDP gave me the confidence boost I needed to start having these conversations with friends and family members. The main lesson I took from it was to be totally transparent in where you are in your climate knowledge timeline. Everybody is at a different stage, everybody is trying and everybody is developing their understanding of the vast collection of climate related topics so it is okay not to know everything there is to know about climate action. I've now been equipped with the skills to open these conversations with my loved ones and ask them their views without feeling that fear of judgement.

YLDP Impact

On a scale of 1-10

I believe I play a significant role in creating a sustainable future for Scotland to a certain extent

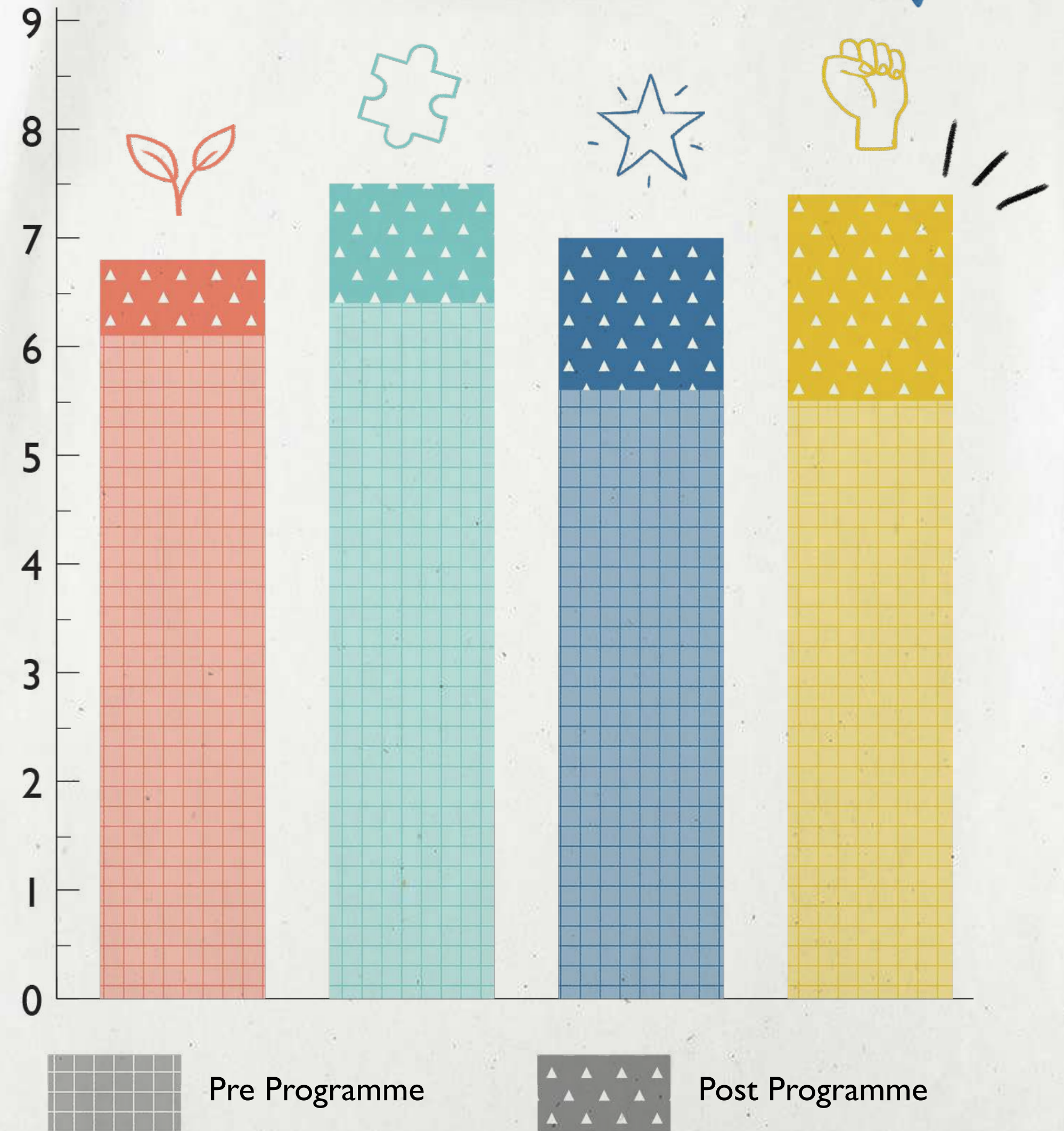


I have a considerable understanding of the solutions to climate change.

I currently feel confident about utilising my influencing and negotiating skills to create positive change.



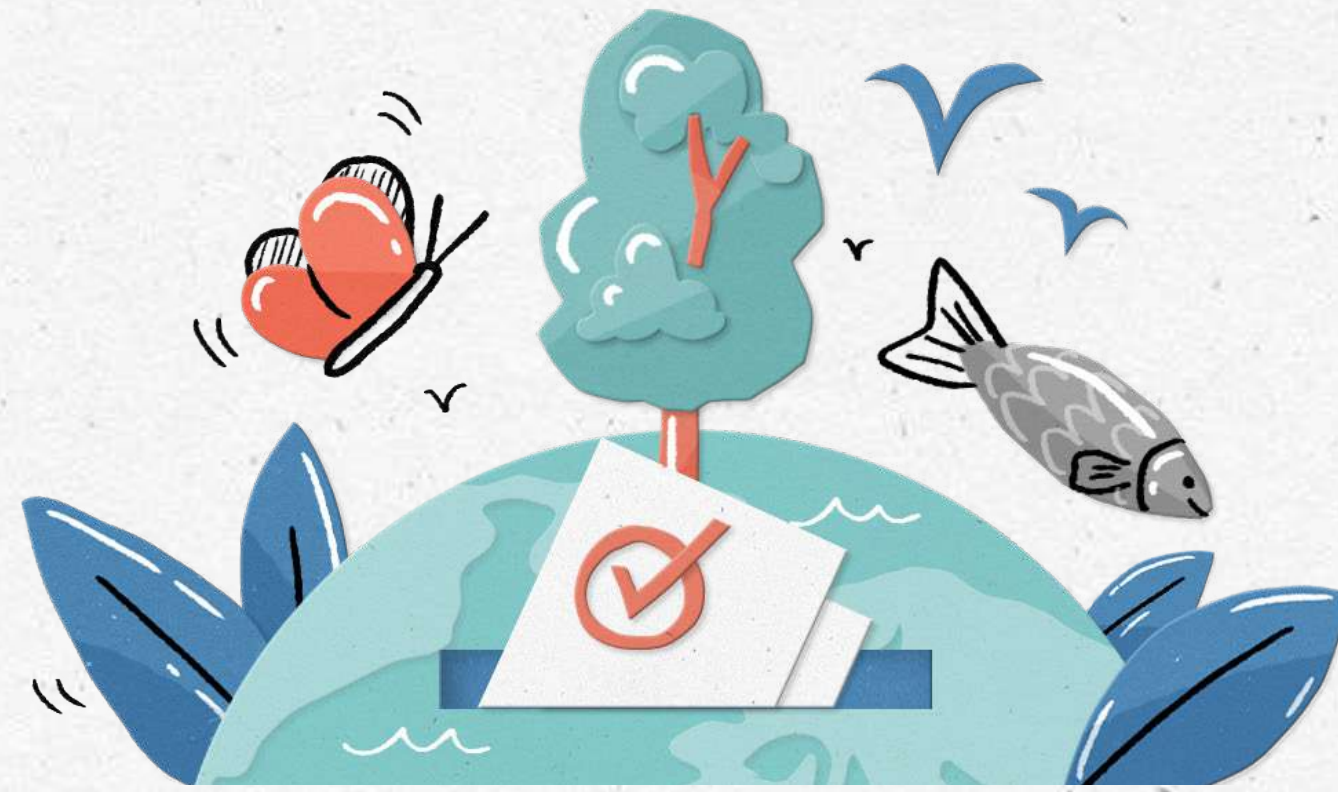
At this stage of the program, I feel well-prepared to lead and take action on climate change.



Policy Engagement Team

Our Policy Engagement team brings in and amplifies young voices in political decision-making processes on a local, national and global level, in a wide variety of ways.

Over 22-23, our Policy Engagement team shared youth opinions and perspectives directly with the Scottish Government by responding to two key Scottish Government consultations, namely the **Circular Economy Bill** and the **Biodiversity Strategy** (in collaboration with Nature Scot). By means of a small focus group, collating data from previous work done and by drawing on the expertise within the team also responded to the Scottish Government and COSLA's joint **Consultation on the 20% Reduction in Car km Route Map**.



Building on the Team's work on the **2021 Holyrood elections**, we sent out a survey to our volunteer bases and extended leaders network. The young respondents highlighted issues they thought were most important for Local Councils to consider. The 85 respondents overwhelmingly highlighted climate change and the environment as a priority and within that, selected Environmental protection, Housing, and Education as the top priorities. We collated our data and findings **in a blog** summarising the survey which was sent in to newly elected Councillors. Using our social media channels to communicate results innovatively with our audience, our Policy Team encouraged close to 6000 young people to go out and vote.



Policy Hub

In order to make the climate movement more accessible and to demystify climate action for young people, in September 2022 our Policy Engagement team published a brand new Policy Hub on our website. The Hub can be accessed here.

It is designed to be a resource bank for young people interested in engaging with climate policy work in Scotland and beyond. Featuring tools like a climate glossary for jargon busting, tips for writing to elected officials, a guide on who has responsibility for different climate policy issues and more, the Policy Hub is meant to enable and equip young people to engage in the policy making process.



In the week of launch itself, our Policy Hub reached an audience of **7500 people** and enjoyed high rates of engagement on our website. It received high praise from experts in the field including university professors.

COP27*

The world's eyes were on Egypt as it set the stage for COP27 last year.



In the run up to COP27, our Policy Team drew our audiences' attention back to the commitments made at COP26 and the progress made on them since. In our "Taking Stock" series, we published a series of blogs and articles examining progress made on the different COP26 themes.

The series, reaching over 12000 people highlighted:



- **Youth Empowerment** - through interviews with young COP26 delegates



- **Loss and Damage** - through an analysis of Scotland's Loss & Damage Fund

- **Nature** - through looking at progress since COP26 on nature restoration and protection



- **Transport** - by looking at how seriously national and international decision-makers take transport emissions

- **Energy** - by measuring Scotland's performance against the 8 principles

- **Finance** - through sharing inspiration for the future of climate finance



COP27 Debrief



Following COP27, we joined forces with UKYCC in Scotland to host a Community Climate Cook-In event to reflect on UKYCC members' experiences from attending COP27 in person in Egypt and further discuss what more Scotland could be doing to support young people to be represented in international climate negotiations.



Leaders Network

Our **Leaders Network** is a supportive, collaborative community facilitating opportunities for young people to connect and celebrate with each other as we work towards a just and sustainable society. The leaders network consists of graduates of our YLDP programme, recipients of the 2050x Funding and those who join our sector circles. It is open to anyone aged 18-35 with a connection to Scotland.



We now have a community of **848 subscribers** to our bespoke newsletters, a **612 members strong network on Facebook** and a **fast growing 425 members strong network of young people on Slack!**

Over the past year, we've delivered some really exciting events like our ClimaTell and built on our Climate Circles project!



Climate Circles

Circles are communities for collaboration - those working, researching or with an interest in a topic meet, discuss, collaborate and share ideas in an online environment. Over the past year, in addition to our **Transport Circle**, we introduced our **Energy Circle** which became an instant hit among young people in Scotland! Together in both circles, we have a **138 member community!**

ClimaTell 2022

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Aligning with Scot ClimateWeek 2022 and with the Climate Fringe Festival, our largest event last year was ClimaTell - a climate action storytelling based event, delivered in partnership with the University of Edinburgh and the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute.

This was a collaborative event hosted in the form of a fun fair showcased the climate actions, research and other inspired work that young people across Scotland are undertaking -the aim being to share stories, collaborate and inspire!

With over **100 attendees** throughout the day, ClimaTell was a roaring success and there was hope that there would be future editions of the event too!

Our circle leads or “centre points” facilitate events centred around discussion topics which take place online or in-person. Circle centre-points also take on the role of empowering other members to create their own events or lead their own initiatives.

We hope to launch other circles soon, based on the outcomes of our leaders network survey which is currently underway.

2050x Fund

Our stellar Leaders Network run a funding initiative called the 2050x Fund. Through it, our Leaders Network back youth-led projects across Scotland aiming to tackle aspects of the climate crisis. Aside from financial support, through 2050x, applicants also get access to our Leaders Network members who can provide expertise as well as a wide network of contacts.

Over 22-23, our 2050x Fund has distributed about £3000 and empowered a variety of projects ranging from art-based eco-anxiety workshops, rewilding projects, sustainable fashion and much more.



2050x Stories

By Jen Byrne - Size inclusivity & visibility campaign



www.byjenbyrne.com

By Jen Byrne is a sustainable fashion business making unique upcycled clothing with vintage and reclaimed materials, run by the eponymous Jen Byrne. Jen's 2050x powered project successfully helped her expand the "Made to Order" (MTO) side of her business, ensuring that her brand caters to an even wider range of body types, thereby not only connecting more people to sustainable fashion but also significantly reducing surplus stock. Our 2050x Fund has further empowered Jen to conceptualise a size inclusivity and visibility campaign to showcase that sustainable fashion is indeed available for all body types.

Dear Politicians - Eco-poetry

This project, led by University of Edinburgh's MSc Environmental Protection and Management Student, Lili Grosserova, combines environmental science with creativity, providing the opportunity to voice concerns about climate change in a creative way. The main part of this project is a series of global eco-poetry webinars bringing



www.dearpoliticians.com/ecopoetry

together professors, poets, activists and scientists. The best 20 poems will be brought together in an anthology, which will be shared with Scottish politicians - the publication of which has been supported by the 2050x Fund.

Postcards to our future Edinburgh - Craftivism Workshops

An amazing group of Young Leaders from our most recent YLDP cohort, with the help of the 2050x Fund, hosted a lovely and lively craftivism workshop with the aim of engaging members of the public in Edinburgh in climate conversations through creating personalised and hand-made postcards. The postcards, depicting



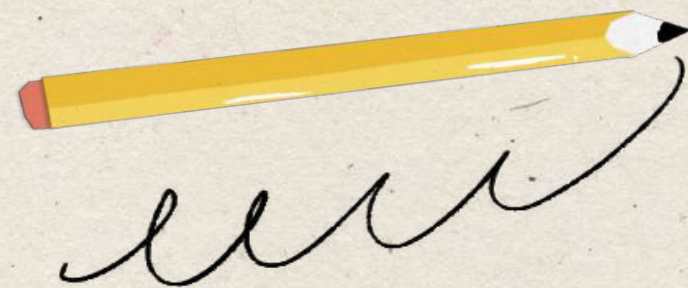
www.twitter.com/postcards

each participant's vision for a sustainable and just Edinburgh in 2050 carried their message for a relevant community leader and will be shared with these leaders, urging them to use their power to make these visions a reality. By means of creating art in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, participants were enabled to take a political action and have their voices heard, creatively.

Pint and a Plan

In an exciting partnership with Scotland's very own Tennent's Brewery and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), 2050 Climate Group hosted two brand new, large scale public events in Edinburgh and Glasgow called 'A Pint & A Plan.' The aim of the events was to introduce young people new to the climate movement to climate action in a friendly and informal setting (over a pint, of course!).

The events took place in pub settings where young people got together in small workshop groups to discuss ways they could make an impact, across the themes of **transport**, **finance** and **stuff**. Fraser Stewart, Energy and Just Transition expert, hosted both events and introductory talks on each theme were provided by Transport Campaigner Gavin Thompson, Sustainable Finance professional Ellie Maletto, and Founder of Less Waste Warriors and Sustainability Influencer Laura Young. Attendees each took away a Pint & A Plan beer mat with 3 climate action pledges written on the back.



Both events were **sold out** beyond capacity with a **total of 230 sign-ups!** With a great number of registered event attendees, the events were both hugely successful with lots of enthusiastic conversations had, connections made and actions pledged!



"Fantastic event. Learned a lot, great chat and have so much thought on what I'll now commit to."

"I met lots of interesting people from lots of different sectors, who all share an interest in climate change and the need for action."

"Thought the whole event was brilliant and really informative, good opportunity to make connections, and good food!"



Thank you to our Partners and Funders

As we keep growing as a charity, we have many moments filled with gratitude. Gratitude for all those who have been a part of our journey so far - from our absolutely amazing volunteer teams who are the heart of 2050 Climate Group to our small but oh SO mighty staff team who relentlessly keep us going to our Board of Trustees whose guidance,

ideas and support give us wings to fly whilst also keeping us rooted firmly in the Earth.

Every single one of the brilliant young people in Scotland who bring their bustling energies, creativity, talent and dedication to our Young Leaders Development Programme and our Leaders Network - **we are so proud of you!**

And of course, massive thanks to our extraordinary Partners and Funders for showing unending faith in our work and by extension, in Scotland's young people. You have helped us reach this point and we are sure we will only do better work and accomplish even greater things with your continued support.

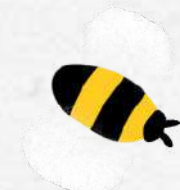
As we gear up to deliver a refreshed strategic vision going forward, we will continue to learn, pause, reflect and challenge ourselves along the way.



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(Scottish Charity Number SC047206)