

# COP26 SCOTTISH YOUTH CLIMATE PROJECT

## CASE STUDY

### NORTH LANARKSHIRE YOUTH CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

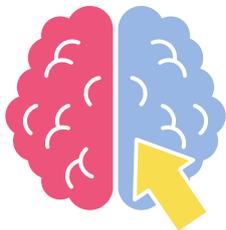


<b>ORGANISATION</b>	North Lanarkshire Council
<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	North Lanarkshire Youth Climate Ambassadors
<b>LOCATION</b>	North Lanarkshire
<b>NO. OF YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED</b>	13
<b>AGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED</b>	Aged 13 - 19 years old

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The North Lanarkshire Youth Climate Ambassador Group formed in February to tackle the issue of climate change. They participate online each week, and meet up outdoors regularly to undertake community-based environment action. The members participate in interactive activities on a wide range of climate related topics. The sessions give an opportunity to collaborate and learn together, as the young people contribute their own views, knowledge and research on the weekly topic or task. The group had success when their film 'Dear World Leaders' was highly commended in the youth climate film project. They screened the film locally and quizzed council leaders on their climate policies. This project enabled the young people to research the issues, identify actions to combat climate change, and provided a platform to raise their voice.

Two representatives from the group sit on the ActNow2021 Co-ordinating group – a North Lanarkshire strategic group on climate change, ensuring that young people’s views are represented. They’ve carried out litter clean-ups, undertaken nature conservation, and created more films and content to share on their social media channels. They were part of the delivery team for a North Lanarkshire school climate conference, presenting workshops at the event, attended by 8000 school children and their teachers. Members met Mairi McAllan MSP, Minister for Environment for a discussion and supported the launch of the new national programme of events that will put the voices of young people in Scotland at the heart of the climate conversation during COP26. More recently, they took part in 'The Moment' event organised by the Scottish Youth parliament, where they had the opportunity to discuss climate issues with other young people, decision makers and local politicians, in addition to running workshops for participants and young leaders.



## ABOUT THE YOUNG PEOPLE



The young people come from across North Lanarkshire and all signed up when they heard about the group being launched, as they are all passionate about climate change and environmental issues. Many are combining the activities they participate in with their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Saltire award and Dynamic youth award, amongst others.

## THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH WORKER

Youth workers Kirsty and Kirstin support the group each week by facilitating the weekly sessions, and any other trips and activities. During the weekly sessions, the young people participate in interactive learning and discussion activities on climate related topics, from food to fashion, children’s Rights, UN sustainable development goals, weather systems, global impacts, Co2 emissions and much more. These sessions are delivered via video clips, quizzes, challenges, creative tasks, discussions and presentations, all designed to engage young people. Much of the content is drawn from resources that have been collated by the youth work team, and sourced from their own training or networks. View some of the activities [here](#). Prior to setting up the group, the staff attended the Climate Emergency training for youth workers run by Youthlink and Keep Scotland Beautiful, which gave us a great basis for development of this project. Kirstin also attended the additional film making training, enabling her to support the groups film making endeavours.

"I really enjoyed being out in the fresh air and working as a team. Although it was hard work, I would definitely like to do something like that again and I learned a lot from the warden."

David, the RSPB Warden: "It was brilliant having the climate ambassadors down to RSPB Baron's Haugh! They got stuck right into the tasks we gave them, didn't complain about getting ever so slightly muddy and did so with a smile on their face. Their work will help us manage the wetlands this year, ensuring it remains a special place for wildlife and people"

"Being involved in the climate film project was great because it gave me a chance to get my voice heard and speak up about the important issues that affect me, I think it's important that all young people get an opportunity to raise awareness on situations that affect them."

## THE IMPACT

Young people have gained knowledge and skills, and improved their confidence. Awareness raising activities on the subject of climate change have been carried out. Environmental action has taken place.



### YOUTH WORK OUTCOMES

- **YOUNG PEOPLE ARE CONFIDENT, RESILIENT AND OPTIMISTIC FOR THE FUTURE**
- **YOUNG PEOPLE MANAGE PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND FORMAL RELATIONSHIPS**
- **YOUNG PEOPLE CREATE, DESCRIBE AND APPLY THEIR LEARNING AND SKILLS**
- **YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY IN GROUPS**
- **YOUNG PEOPLE EXPRESS THEIR VOICE AND DEMONSTRATE SOCIAL COMMITMENT**
- **YOUNG PEOPLE BROADEN THEIR PERSPECTIVES THROUGH NEW EXPERIENCES AND THINKING**



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- **QUALITY EDUCATION**
- **SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**
- **CLIMATE ACTION**



## CHALLENGES

This project has been run mainly online due to covid restrictions. This can have its own challenges such as connectivity, interaction, ability to get to know each other as a group, but we are moving to a more blended approach as restrictions ease. One of the biggest challenges as a youth worker is keeping things positive. The potential impact of climate change is terrifying, and discussions on the topic can feed into new or existing eco-anxiety, leaving young people feeling hopeless and depressed. One of the best antidotes to this is to support the young people to take action. Even though many aspects are out of their control, there are plenty of changes and actions they can take on an individual or collective level to make a difference, so we tend to end sessions with conversations about what we can do next to tackle each issue.

## SUCCESSES

Continued engagement from the young people involved and the many opportunities for further participation that are available right now e.g. COP26.



## NEXT STEPS

The group are planning to spread the message further by delivering climate workshops to more schools and youth groups around North Lanarkshire. They will also be continuing regular environmental action projects in their local communities.

