

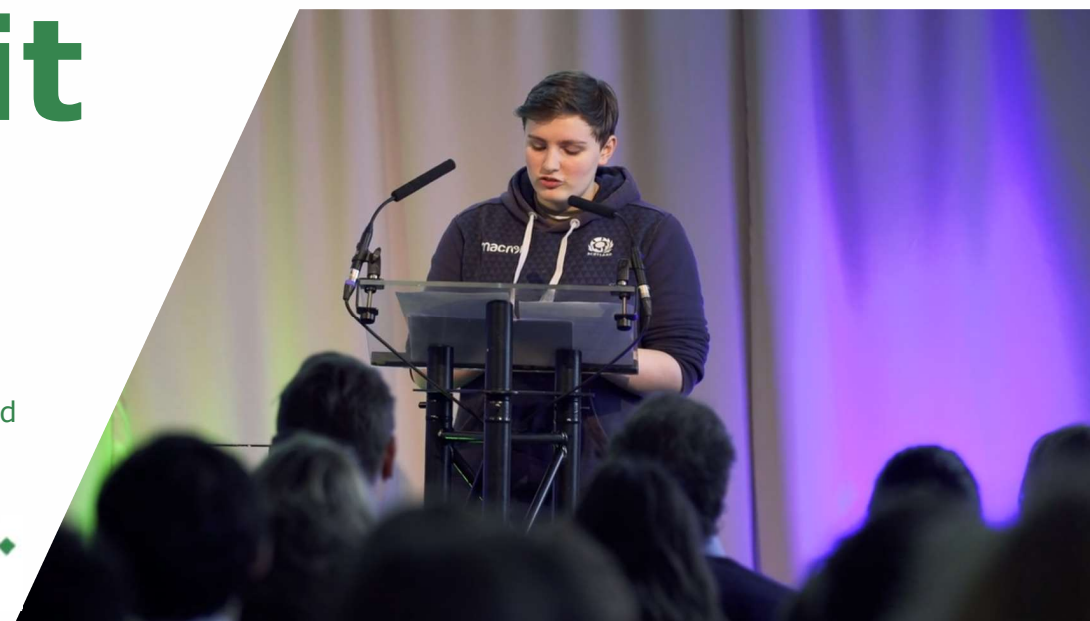


Youth Summit

28 February 2020

Workshop Summary

In partnership with young volunteers from Scottish Youth Climate Strike and Scottish Youth Parliament





Overview

The Youth Summit was organised in partnership with The City of Edinburgh Council and young volunteers from Scottish Youth Climate Strike and Scottish Youth Parliament.

117 young people attended from 8 secondary schools in Edinburgh. Workshops were facilitated by young organisers and volunteers.

Objectives of Youth Summit:

- Young people share their concerns, issues, priorities regarding climate change
- What challenges does the city face and how might we tackle them?
- What actions will young people take? What actions would they want to Council to take? Other citizens?

Method

Workshops:

- Topic related workshops were carried out focusing on the five key areas where carbon emissions could be impacted:
 - Transport
 - Housing
 - Consumerism
 - Biodiversity
 - Food
- The following slides provide the key findings from discussion with young people during these workshops and are split into:
 - General concerns/issues of young people
 - Key challenges Edinburgh faces/Barriers preventing action in Edinburgh
 - Key actions young people would like to see in Edinburgh

Transport

General concerns/issues:

- **Pollution/Carbon emissions** – “Too much gas/diesel and it's affecting the planet”
- **Health issues** – “Asthma and other illness a result of pollution”
- **Culture** – like driving/easier to drive

Key challenges Edinburgh faces /Barriers preventing action in Edinburgh:

- **Costs** – public transport costs, high cost of electric cars.
- **Public transport time/routes restrictive** – “Some places in Edinburgh inaccessible on public transport”, “transport restrictions during large events”
- **City designed for cars** – “too easy to drive, too hard to bus/walk/cycle”
- **Culture/Lack of education** – “People unwilling to make change”

Transport

Key actions young people would like to see in Edinburgh:

- **Encourage use of public transport/active travel** – improve cycle and walking routes, more just eat bikes, remove cars from city centre, improve transport networks in and out of the city, discount buses, lower train prices, congestion charges with concession and free buses, extend tram route.
- **Encourage electric car use** – community owned electric cars and car sharing, reduce cost of electric cars, invest in charging ports.
- **Improve education** – solution oriented, school important to drive change.



Housing

General concerns/issues:

- **Unsustainable housing**
- **Unsustainable boilers** – old/gas boilers
- **Carbon usage**

Key challenges Edinburgh faces /Barriers preventing action in Edinburgh:

- **Badly built/unsustainable housing**
- **Cost** - sustainable housing is expensive, too expensive to upgrade old houses.
- **Unsustainable investments** - Housing continues to encourage use of fossil fuels, investments in business with a poor impact on the climate.
- **Historical preservation** – limiting choice.

Housing

Key actions young people would like to see in Edinburgh:

- **Contractors assessed on sustainability measures/Developers to take more responsibility** – “Assess on green credentials”, “Disinvest/withdraw support from environmentally unfriendly businesses.”
- **Improve/Provide more affordable and sustainable housing** - Invest in electric boilers, funding to upgrade council housing, funding for local services, improve recycling, limit tourism in city centre to allow more affordable housing.
- **Create more jobs in sustainable housing.**

Consumerism

General concerns/issues:

- **Plastic packaging** – “Use of single use plastic on foods”.
- **Social/cultural issues** – “shopping is seen as a social event rather than a necessity”, “social media”.
- **Big chains and fashion industry** – “Deals in shops make it easier to buy items you don't need” and “supporting big chains instead of local shops”.

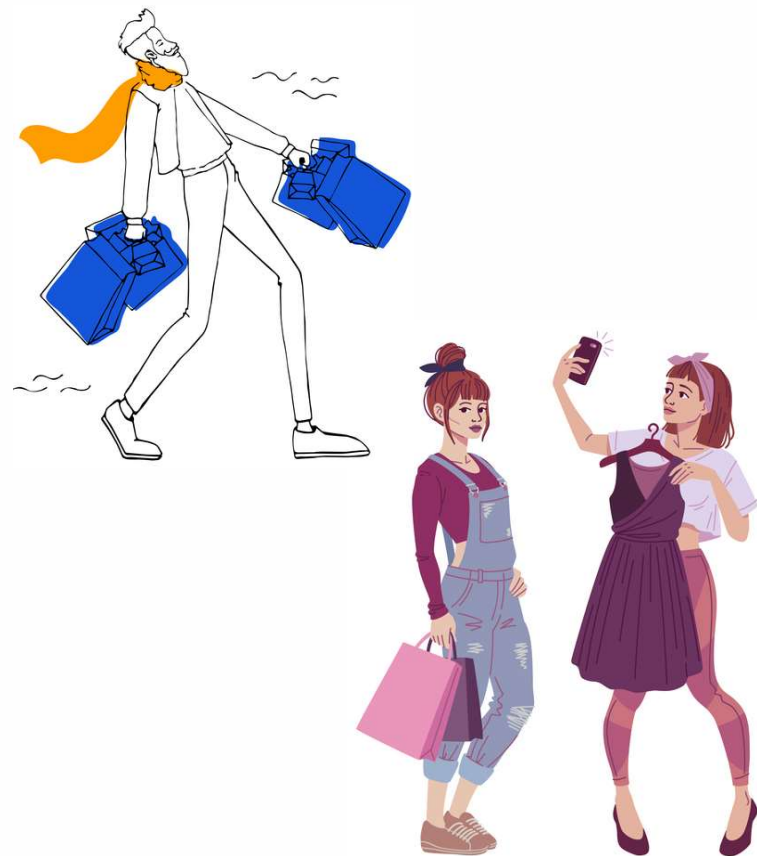
Key challenges Edinburgh faces/Barriers preventing action in Edinburgh:

- **Plastic in schools**
- **Deals** targeted at poorest; cheaper to buy deals and more than we need.
- **Reuse challenges** – Ability (lack of) to donate, buying second hand stigma, fast fashion.
- **Lack of awareness** – sustainable buying “not in public conscious”.

Consumerism

Key actions young people would like to see in Edinburgh:

- **Reduce plastic in schools** – “All council's caterers should use zero waste and encourage reusable tubs”.
- **Raise awareness** – “social media campaign”, culture shift, awareness of fast fashion.
- **Encourage reuse** - greater accessibility to donate, make it easier to donate, buy second hand, encourage zero waste shops, provide more funding for zero waste shops, encourage/contract companies who recycle/are sustainable.



Biodiversity

General concerns/issues:

- **Animal/Plant decline**
- **Impact of agriculture**
- **Littering/Pollution**
- **Natural disasters**

Key challenges Edinburgh faces /Barriers preventing action in Edinburgh:

- **Lack of awareness/lack of education** – “people talk but don't do anything”.
- **Animal/Plant decline** – “Building on the greenbelt of Edinburgh could destroy animal habitats”, “New buildings in place of parks”.
- **Pollution** – littering, plastic waste.

Biodiversity

Key actions young people would like to see in Edinburgh:

- **Raise awareness/education** - Young people should initiate 'school groups' to take action on biodiversity issues themselves, climate change lessons, more about action people can do now, encourage people not to cut their hedges in summer, bug hotels, introduce more wild areas for bugs and animals, encourage people to start their own gardens.
- **More community gardens** – “opportunities for people to get involved”, “dedicated curriculum time”.
- **Provide more green spaces/nature reserves** – greener spaces in and around offices, green roofs, more trees, protected spaces.
- **Recycle/Re-use** rather than throw away – encourage reusable bags, encourage recycling, stop littering, use recycled paper.
- **Encourage sustainable travel** to reduce pollution.
- **Encourage sustainable food usage** – “eat less meat and eat seasonal foods” to reduce impact on environment.



Food

General concerns/issues:

- **Carbon usage of food production**
- **Meat production** bad for the environment.
- **Animal welfare** – meat consumption, a lot of wildlife and habitats are taken over to grow crops.
- **Deforestation** - cutting down trees for space to grow food.
- **Food and packaging waste**

Key challenges Edinburgh faces/Barriers preventing action in Edinburgh:

- **Unsustainable diet/culture**
- **Food miles** used on food imported into Scotland.
- **Lack of sustainable food choices**
- **Food waste** and **food poverty** in the city.
- **Plastic packaging** waste from food.

Food

Key actions young people would like to see in Edinburgh:



- **Raise awareness/promote/encourage** – health benefits of veganism, reducing meat intake, sustainable food options.
- **Cut down on food miles** – display/encourage buying locally or homegrown, display carbon footprint on packaging.
- **Give people more choices to be sustainable** – more vegan products, promote more plant based options.
- **Reduce food waste and food poverty** – provide/encourage more food recycling, composting bins in schools and offices, Vegware, open more food banks and support them financially.
- **Reduce plastic packaging waste from food** – more bins around the city/schools, encourage using own containers in shops, stop packaging fruit and veg.

Thank you

