

# Youth Climate Festival Report

March 2023



Kirklees  
**CLIMATE  
EMERGENCY**

 **Kirklees**  
COUNCIL

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Young People's Climate Festivals, Our Climate Our Voice, were held on Tuesday 11th October 2022 at Kirklees College, in Huddersfield and Thursday 13th October 2022 at the Al-Hikmah Centre in Batley and helped ensure the younger generation were able to share their views and actions. In attendance at each event, we had ten primary schools and two high schools which in total consisted of eight four primary pupils and twenty high school pupils.

The event was designed to provoke conversations, share ideas and actions as the council draws up long-term plans to address climate change. During the festivals children and young people engaged with two workshops about recycling and reuse provided by Kirklees Recycling Team and fairandfunky.

The festival also provided a chance for schools to network and find out what their peers are doing to address the climate emergency, with the potential to share resources as well as ideas. There were also several themed stalls with organisations such as Eco Schools represented. Over twenty primary and secondary schools attended from across Kirklees. Information and stalls were also available, from Eco Schools to Kirklees Libraries.

The council's Energy and Climate Change Team has also contacted and encouraged all schools in Kirklees to register as an Eco School. The programme, run by Keep Britain Tidy, provides steps and topics for schools to work through on their eco journeys to achieve the prestigious Green Flag Award.

## BACKGROUND

A project group was set up at the beginning of January 2022 to organise an Annual Youth Climate Festival. This is following the success of the Young People's Our Climate, Our Voice event which took place in March 2021 as an online event delivered by the 'Our Voice' Team.

After consultation with schools, we have decided to hold an in-person event during the week commencing the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. The attendees would be a mix of primary and high school children as well as staff.

The Youth Climate Festival provides another opportunity for the voice of young people to be heard and to create opportunities for Children and Young People to participate in local climate projects that will have a positive impact on their environment.

## MAIN OBJECTIVES

The Youth Climate Festival provided another opportunity for the voice of young people to be heard and to create opportunities for Children and Young People to participate in local climate projects that will have a positive impact on their environment.

- Engagement with young people has been identified within the Council's Climate Change Action Plan and Environmental Sustainability Strategy.
- The Council are keen to engage young people on the journey to net zero and climate ready for 2038.
- The Youth Climate Festival provided a platform for schools to engage more proactively with Eco Schools; and to make the council and local community aware of their current climate projects and activities. We have also created links to the National Curriculum so that schools can incorporate climate change activities throughout Key Stage 2 to 4.
- The festival also provided a chance for schools to network and find out what their peers are doing to address the climate emergency, with the potential to share resources as well as ideas.

Following on from the festival we will be continuing our engagement with young people via the website [Climate emergency | Kirklees Council](#) which contains a range of information and resources to support young people on their eco-journey.

This was also an opportunity for schools to be able to tell us how they want to be involved in climate change activities and what works best for them.

## TWEETS AND PRESS PHOTOS



Left to right: Batley High School pupils Kye, Muhammad, Mckenzie, MP Kim Leadbeater and Ahmad



Left to right: Whitechapel Primary pupils Jack, Rocco, MP Kim Leadbeater, Jessica and Evie





Left to right are: Connor (Meltham CE (VC) Primary School), Holly (Holmfirth High School), Geoffrey (Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School), Cllr Simpson, Cllr Pattison, Oscar (Meltham CE (VC) Primary School), Dylan (Holmfirth High School), Sal Kerry (Energy and Climate Change Team, Kirklees Council), Annabel (Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School).



Left to right: Melody (Gomersal St Mary's CE (VC) Primary School), Abigail (Windmill CE Primary School), Ahmed (Upper Batley High School), Luke (Gomersal St Mary's CE (VC) Primary School), Lisa Woods (Kirklees Climate Commissioner), Sal Kerry (Energy and Climate Change Team, Kirklees Council), Cllr Simpson, Noel (Windmill CE Primary School), Jessica (Windmill CE Primary School), Mohammed (Upper Batley High School).




# KIM LEADBEATER MP

 **Kim Leadbeater MP**  @kimleadbeater

Such a pleasure to join children from across #BatleyAndSpen at the Kirklees Youth Climate Festival this week. Fantastic ideas about tackling climate change & protecting the environment. 🌍🌈  
@GomersalStMarys  
@RoberttownSch  
@Windmill\_CE\_Sch  
@BBGAcademy  
@UBHSCHOOL  
#Whitechapel

8:28 PM · Oct 14, 2022 · Twitter Web App



 **Kim Leadbeater MP**  @kimleadbeater · 3h

Great to chat to students from @BBGAcademy at the **Kirklees Youth Climate Festival** in #Batley. Fantastic ideas about tackling **climate** change & protecting the environment. Well done to the team from @KirkleesCouncil for a great day & all the children & staff for taking part. 🌍🌱

 **BBG Academy** @BBGAcademy · 8h

These students have done a fantastic job of representing BBG at the Kirklees Youth Climate Conference today. Was wonderful to speak to @kimleadbeater about our eco plans. Now back to BBG to put our plans into action




## MAYOR OF KIRKLEES



## KIRKLEES DEMOCRACY TEAM

 **Kirklees Democracy** @kirkdemocracy · 13 Oct  
Young citizens from schools across Kirklees are sharing their environmental work and ideas at the Youth Climate Festival events this week.  
#LocalDemocracyWeek

 Photos:  
@dwca\_tweets  
@KirkleesMayor  
@MelthamceEco  
@NewsomeAcademy  
[Show this thread](#)



## QUOTES FROM SCHOOLS AND GENERAL FEEDBACK

*"This was our favorite part of the day. We couldn't believe how easy it was to make a wallet that actually worked! We were excited to take them home to show our parents and we will definitely use our tetra packs in school to show other classes how to do it too".*

**Hepworth School Eco Council**

*"Thanks so much for an amazing day – we took so much away with us and thoroughly enjoyed it."*

**Helen Sutcliffe, Deputy Head Whitechapel C of E Primary School**

*"We really did enjoy the event: the children were buzzing when we got back to school, and we have decided to arrange a whole day of activities at each of our schools relating to climate change. Exciting stuff!"*

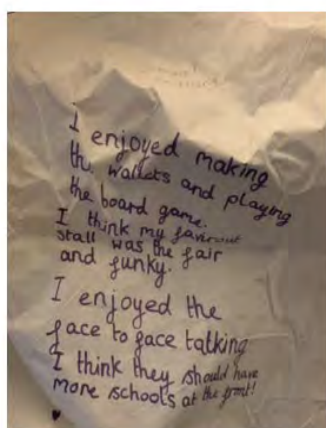
**Nicki Barker, Headteacher Scapegoat and Linthwaite LC Federation**

## FEEDBACK FROM SCHOOLS

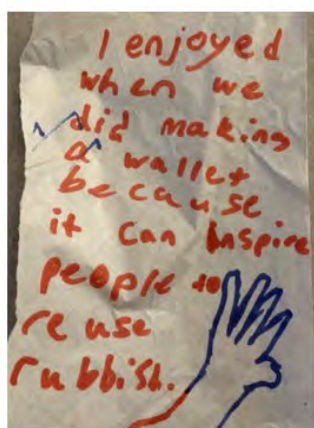
At each of the festivals, we asked schools for input, and students and teachers provided their open thoughts. This had the effect of making biodiversity and food growing one of the festival's more well-liked topics for the following year. The comments also showed that the in-person event was much more enjoyable for the students and professors than an online event. Schools were also asked if they believed we should hold a separate event just for high schools and elementary schools, and the majority said no.

## GENERAL FEEDBACK AND SOME DIRECT QUOTES FROM

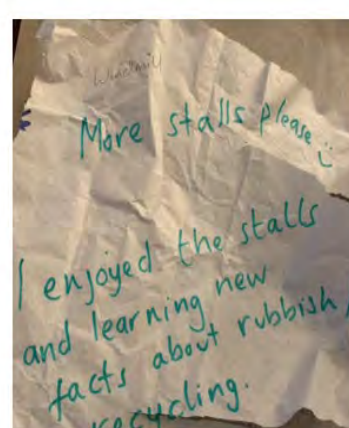
**Gomersal St. Mary's said:**



**BBG Academy said:**



**Windmill Primary said:**





## NEXT STEPS

We want to continue to engage our conversation and journey with schools and young people. We were really impressed with the climate related activities that are already being carried out within the schools that attended the Youth Festival.

As part of our commitment to schools in Kirklees we also have a range of resources on the website [Climate emergency | Kirklees Council](#) . We also have further resources and links on the [Kirklees Education page](#) ranging from topics such as biodiversity, healthy living, and energy saving advice.

If your school is interested in becoming an Eco-school, then we can also help provide support and guidance with this. You can take a look at the Eco-Schools website at [Home - Eco Schools \(eco-schools.org.uk\)](#)

We would also welcome any schools interested in participating in the Kirklees Climate Commission Youth Panel. If you would like to express an interest in this panel, please email us at [youthclimate@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:youthclimate@kirklees.gov.uk) and we will make an introduction.

# APPENDIX

## SELECTION OF PHOTOS 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER KIRKLEES COLLEGE



*Pupils from Hepworth Junior and infant school*



*Pupils from Holmfirth High school*



*Presentation from Hepworth Junior and infant school*



*Presentation from Newsome Academy*



*Pupils from Meltham Moor Primary School*



*Schools browsing the various stalls*



## SELECTION OF PHOTOS 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER AL-HIKMAH CENTRE



*Main festival Hall schools answering workshop questions*



*Main festival Hall schools watching Councillor Simpson*



*Presentation from pupils Diamond Wood Academy*



*Presentation from pupils at Batley High School*



*Pupils from Scapegoat Hill Junior and infant school*



*Pupils from BBG Academy*