

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic feel. The shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the slide, framing the central text.

Essex Climate Ambassador Network

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Strategic Rationale

- ▶ Young people are keen to engage in climate action.
- ▶ However, many lack the cohesive knowledge and resources to effectuate change.
- ▶ Even when successful, projects are often limited to a few schools/communities with a small group of proactive members (e.g. a particular teacher).
- ▶ Therefore, by creating a network of passionate students, we:
 - ▶ Increase youth engagement in climate action
 - ▶ Widen the scope of existing projects
 - ▶ Foster a sense of stewardship
- ▶ To aid our research, we partnered with Design Council as part of their Design Differently programme.

Research: Co-Creation Workshop

- ▶ Participated by 3 schools, with a total of 10 students and 4 staff members.
- ▶ Workshop objective: to establish the underlying reasons for creating a network. Central questions included which themes of the environment young people want to make a change in, and how this change can best be realised.
- ▶ Top 5 themes from Let's Talk Trash event: Restoring Nature (47), Clean Energy (31), Caring Communities (27), Our Learning Environments (23), Tech for Good (23)
- ▶ Top 5 from post-workshop survey: Restoring Nature, Caring Communities, Circular Communities, Tech for Good, Our Learning Environments
- ▶ These results should inform the focus areas of the network going forward

The World We Will Create

Our pathway to 2033

Initial Thoughts on emerging themes - v1

Circular Communities

Developing circular and collaborative skills - like growing food, cooking, making, repairing, and more - that bring us together creativity for reduced consumption and zero waste.

Restoring Nature

Putting trees, plants, flowers and wildlife ecosystems back in our towns and cities.

Tech for Good

Developing technology ethically to empower us, educate us, connect us, and solve problems.

Caring Communities

Developing skills and spaces to talk, listen, and spend time with each other, taking care of each other through kind actions, not things we buy.

"A healthy utopia life"

Improving health and wellbeing through low-carbon activities like reading, learning, meditation, exercise and positive communication.

The New Role Models

Finding more people and businesses with qualities that inspire us, and sharing them.

Clean Energy

Reduce fossil fuel energy use and advocate for energy efficiency, through renewables like solar and heat pumps, insulation, and active travel.

Systems Change

Uniting our voices to improve the justice system, education, equal opportunity, global fairness, funding distribution and courageous leadership.

Future of Work

Creating the conditions for the working practices we want, the jobs we love, and the professions we value, to be accessible, respected and paid fairly.

Our Learning Environments

Making operational and behaviour changes in schools to reduce emissions and preserve resources.

Research: Online Workshop

- ▶ Participated by students from previous workshop.
- ▶ Workshop objective: to gauge the practicalities of a potential network. Questions centred around what specific action young people want to take, what their vision is for the outcome of that action, and how they hope to achieve this.
- ▶ Conversing about these questions for an hour enabled in-depth insights that could not otherwise be gained.
- ▶ Limitations: sample size was quite small, and participants are already proactive in climate action.
- ▶ Results:
 - ▶ Localised projects (but with an overarching organisation)
 - ▶ Whole-network meetings monthly, local meetings more regularly
 - ▶ Reach out to students directly as opposed to going through schools
 - ▶ Schools-based projects, regular internal meetings within schools

1. Do you want to do something about climate change?
2. If yes, what would you want to do?
3. Are you ready, willing and able to give some time to climate action?
4. Would you be interested in connecting with other young people in order to take action on climate change? 4a If yes how much time would you be prepared to give?
5. Why would you like to engage in coordinated activity?
6. Would you want to take action within the school environment or outside of school?
7. What would be the point of young people coming together to take action on climate, eg green your schools, influence national government, local council, support those with climate anxiety?
8. What would you want to achieve?
9. What sort of actions would you be interested in taking for example running a refill store in school signing petitions holding protests run a community energy project send a letter to your MP working closely with teachers?
10. Would you prefer a pan Essex project or something more localised?
11. What tools or support would you need?
Eg toolkit for action, speakers to come to your school or a network to connect you to other young people in Essex County Council
12. What would you expect from any coordinated activity? Eg meetings online or in person, monthly or quarterly, organise projects etc

Survey & Registration of Interest

- ▶ To gain a broader perspective, we are pushing a county-wide survey of young people on this topic.
- ▶ We currently have 72 responses and counting.
- ▶ The survey is still live and will close on the 15th of December.
- ▶ After this, we will consult with the initial group of students from the workshops to finalise the structure and vision for the network, which we expect to evolve.
- ▶ We are also looking to gauge interest and expand participation in these early stages.
 - ▶ A registration of interest form is also live and is being shared to students.

Provisional Structure and Aims

- ▶ An overarching organisation that is responsible for administration, as well as organising monthly meetings, speaker events, etc.
- ▶ Local networks of schools which focus on area-specific projects, meeting at their convenience.
- ▶ Groups of students in each school meeting internally to implement projects.
- ▶ Aims:
 - ▶ Looking for ways in which schools can reduce carbon footprint e.g. by consulting School's Advice Pack
 - ▶ Enacting information provision and awareness campaigns, area-specific
 - ▶ Creating dialogue and engaging students on crucial topics
 - ▶ Potential action beyond schools, in local communities