

Notes from Young People Engagement Session about the draft Climate Emergency Action Plan – 9 October 2023

Question 1: What actions are you/your family/your friends already doing or have already done?

Recycling – participants are recycling plastic and metal, but it is often confusing, parents need telling what can be recycled.

Compost – some homes do put food waste in compost.

Charity – do give things to charity, participants generally not keen on idea of buying second-hand clothes, buying from charity shops not seen as cool.

Travel – participants often rely on getting lifts from family, many do use buses regularly so they're important to them.

Cycling – some able to cycle and have bikes, but not all. One participant noted they feel like they see very few motorbikes now.

Flying – noted that many celebrities are setting a bad example by flying a lot and posting about it on social media.

Electric cars – aware that they are very expensive, perception they're hard to fix and more trouble for owners.

Switching Off – some have family members worried by what smart meters show, think that energy costs going up already made people make a lot of savings.

Costs – think that cost of measures very important.

Question 2: What do you think is stopping people from doing more?

General – if people really cared then a lot of this would already be sorted, we already know what needs doing.

Supermarkets – could get rid of receipts, can just be digital now, need to think about small steps like this.

Rental bikes – asked what happened to hire scheme, but also said bikes were not that appealing to them. Feeling that scooters would be more attractive and are in other cities, but also an awareness of how dangerous they can be.

Communication – council could organise a big 'Eco-Week' to promote work and communicate with public, we need to show people the actual impacts of climate change.

Rewards – suggestion people should be rewarded for recycling, and there should be lots more places to recycle. Liked idea of deposit schemes.

Buying – perception that green/efficient things cost more, so people can't afford them.

Food – discussed idea that people should be charged more if they don't finish food in restaurants, as seen in some other countries.

New Homes – agreed that builders are the ones who should be responsible, and electric companies should play role in replacing heating with electric alternatives.

Climate Change Evidence – suggested we need to bring in scientists to communicate proof, idea that a lot of people like the sound of hotter weather.

Question 2 & 3: What could the council or others do to help or encourage people to take more action?

Boilers – discussed idea that people should be made to act, and that laws could be used.

Education – more focus on communicating with people, could have climate warning on products like cigarette packets have. Feel like a lot of people don't care about climate.

Old cars – people should be able to recycle them and grants should be available, could also use fines or have scheme like London's clean air zone here.

Landlords – Should be their responsibility to improve properties, they are the ones who own them, renters are only living there briefly a lot of the time. The council should take action on its own properties.

Consultation – Promote it better, idea of offering a reward to people participating, such as vouchers, which would increase engagement.

Funding – asked if there was any way to raise money for climate work.