



‘CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS’

A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Eris Roberts

Lama Shehata

Caitlyn Ng

Zero Carbon Guildford Volunteers

AGENDA

1. Climate Change in Education (CCE)

- ▶ Student views
- ▶ Why we need CCE
- ▶ Educational constraints
- ▶ Local Impact of Climate Change on Students
- ▶ Suggested Initiatives

2. Interactive Activity



STUDENT VIEWS ON CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION

..it's taught as a far away problem & a lost cause.

...I don't want to be lectured to - I want hands on learning!

..CCE is outdated, case studies are not relevant.

This is our future problem but we need educating now!

..My school doesn't take it seriously. I have no one to talk about my worries and it makes me anxious watching the news.

..CC in schools focus on problems not solutions.

...why is CC only taught in science or geography?

..No point learning about the problem if we can't do anything to make it better.

STUDENTS CARE ABOUT THEIR ENVIRONMENT!

Young people are VERY concerned about climate change ... *WHY?*

- ▶ Our generation has more access to social and electronic media - more aware of what is happening globally than at any other time in history!
- ▶ Awareness of issues without the tools to find solutions is causing eco-anxiety amongst students.
- ▶ It is our future at stake and we feel left out, powerless to change it - we want to be consulted!



WHY DO STUDENTS NEED CC EDUCATION ?

- ▶ Because we are the workers of the **FUTURE** and most jobs will require green knowledge. Climate change will create new job opportunities.
- ▶ Most large companies already employ sustainability leads and recognise its importance **BUT** our current education is behind the curve
- ▶ By 2030 across England - 700K jobs in low carbon & renewable Energy - rising to over a million by 2050.

Environmental Related Careers

Environmental Engineer, Env Scientist, Conservation, Hydrologist, Agronomist, Ecologist, Climatologist, Env Compliance, Clean Energy, Eco Builder, Urban Farming, Env Planner, Sustainability Expert, Wave Energy, Biofuel Engineers, Green Design, Recycling, Hazards, Wind Turbine Technician, Solar Panel Expert, Env Educator, Meteorologist, Env Media & Comms, HSE, Renewable Energy Consultant, Coastal, River and Flood Management, GIS Data & Mapping, Environmental Lawyer Air Pollution Analyst, Water & Waste Management, Countryside Management, Civil Engineer, Env Policy, Landscape & Planning

STUDENTS FEEL “CURRENT CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION IS OUT OF DATE AND NOT RELEVANT”

Promote Hands-on, action-based learning not lecturing

Use local case studies which are relevant

Students want solutions not facts

Recognition: ask us what we want
- acknowledge our contributions



FACT: There is limited space in the curriculum for climate-related topics in Schools !



WHY IS CC EDUCATION LACKING IN SCHOOLS?

Its not just lack of space in an over-stretched Curriculum...

- ▶ Exam Board constraints - this affects Year 9 upwards
- ▶ Lack of Planning - has to be planned and added in well in advance
- ▶ Lack of Training - 75% of Teachers feel they are not educated enough
- ▶ No-one has asked students what/how they want to learn about CC

But 68% of all students want to know more about CC !



WHERE IN THE SYSTEM?

Within the Curriculum

PROs

- CC taken seriously - designated lessons
- Creates foundation - bottom up
- Students leave school equipped with tools to make a difference

CONs

- Turn-off students if lectured at / exams
- Limited space in curriculum
- Teachers not trained enough
- Only selected students engaged

Pastorally - Assemblies, Clubs etc

PROs

- Available to wider student audience
- Richer engagement (workshops, clubs etc.,)
- Students can choose how they get involved

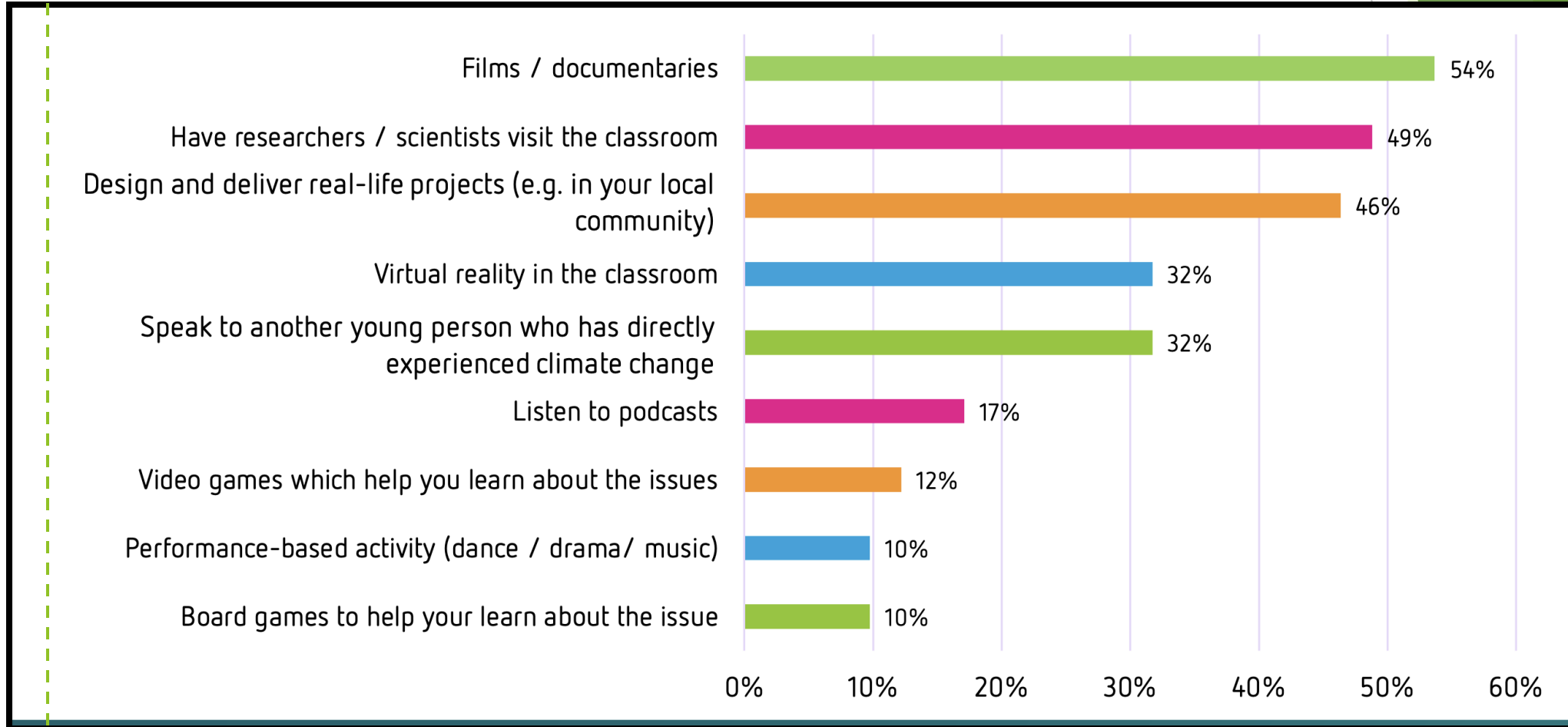
CONs

- Schools left to their own initiative - varying effort across Schools
- Funding for teaching resources for additional workshops clubs etc
- Given lip service



HOW DO STUDENTS WANT TO LEARN ABOUT CC?

Top Ways Young People would prefer to learn about CC



Source: Future Forum Climate Ed Report June 23



WE NEED TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS BY COVERING MORE LOCAL ISSUES!

- ▶ Only addressing global climate change issues or overseas case studies disengages students resulting in a feeling of hopelessness
- ▶ Need to engage students through more local issues

Red Cross has devised an educational tool kit covering:

- ▶ Flood education
- ▶ Heatwaves
- ▶ Eco - anxiety



ARE SURREY STUDENTS AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE?

YES! extreme weather in Surrey is no longer an isolated incidence...

- ▶ **Extreme weather:** higher no. students travelling public transport/car - don't walk to school and more likely affected by flooding, power cuts, road closures
- ▶ **Contamination of waterways by flooding/run off:** affecting school clubs & sport activities
- ▶ **Air Pollution:** 19 Schools in Surrey exposed to the highest pollution levels in the UK (M25 expansion wont help!).



STUDENT ECO ENGAGEMENT : OUTSIDE THE CURRICULUM

1. PARTICIPATION INITIATIVES:

- ▶ Classroom Gardens 'make and sell' own produce
- ▶ Rewilding/new ponds to encourage biodiversity
- ▶ Expert Led Workshops, Live Lessons - PHSE/Assemblies
- ▶ Sustainability: Recycling, Food Drives - no Meat Monday
- ▶ Eco Links with overseas Schools
- ▶ Mock CC Policy Debates

2. STUDENT-LED INITIATIVES:

- ▶ School Eco Clubs, Councils & Societies
- ▶ Eco Prefects/Monitors/Warriors
- ▶ Positive action ie Clean Up Campaigns and Eco Drives,
- ▶ Climate Demonstrations
- ▶ Students/Schools linking with external local organisations- eg Zero Carbon, Guildford, Volunteer Work

STUDENT MORALE - GIVING HOPE TO THE FUTURE

There is a lack of youth voice in schools about climate-related topics:

- ▶ Engage Students in community action so they feel they have a voice and can make a change - this will help reduce anxiety around climate change issues.
- ▶ Coping in a crisis - teach real solutions not theory
- ▶ Balance teaching with solutions - the more we educate, the more we empower, the greater the chance of real change.



CC EDUCATION - STANDARDISATION

- ▶ MANY organisations are involved in Climate Change Education - hard for Students/Teachers to know where to go for information
- ▶ There needs to be regulatory bodies responsible for providing information / curriculum to schools and colleges
- ▶ All students need access to the same climate change education information - not disadvantaged by what school they go to/where they live



CC EDUCATION - IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE



New Natural History or Environmental Science GCSE course



More Schools to offer A level courses in Environmental Science



1 Sustainability Lead in every primary, secondary & college?



Ring-fenced funding to support CCE across all school levels?



National Centre /Eco Park for Climate Change for Students to visit



National Climate Leader Awards / Certificates - recognising youth involvement



ANY QUESTIONS ?





‘INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY’

Wheel:

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwheelofnames.com%2Ftmm-xxv&data=05%7C02%7C1ashehata%40guildfordhigh.co.uk%7C64face50a864862640608dd42b81322%7Cd171773e6f614345a7071656ccbd752c%7C1%7C0%7C638740080538976362%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMClslAIiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Zl5LKxBvJVI43thyLulg7Ray%2FrszDgXPJdx7leRe1%2FE%3D&reserved=0>

Questions:

https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fdocument%2Fd%2F1RBGC2iOZkQvXHGHSklJ0D0FYPOGSpLvZHL_4SxyfEXc%2Fedit%3Fusp%3Dsharing&data=05%7C02%7C1ashehata%40guildfordhigh.co.uk%7C6eaf0456aac04c13b11e08dd42b93f6d%7Cd171773e6f614345a7071656ccbd752c%7C1%7C0%7C638740085575954257%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMClslAIiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tTHyvi%2BkGtgb9R9B2yD3G8utUDDmMOBPaL%2FA2dYBO7Q%3D&reserved=0



ENGAGING OUTSIDE OF SCHOOLS

Intro: reasons why engaging with youth outside of schools is important

- Schools might not always have the ability to teach youths about climate in detail, so it is a way to raise awareness and fill gaps in knowledge where school has not.
- Youths spend 5/7 days of their week in school, so maybe attracting youth to places outside of school with make them more likely wo want to engage.
- Activities such as... and in places such as....
- Go where the youth go

**EMPOWER,
DON'T
PREACH**

**GO
WHERE
THE
YOUTH
ARE**

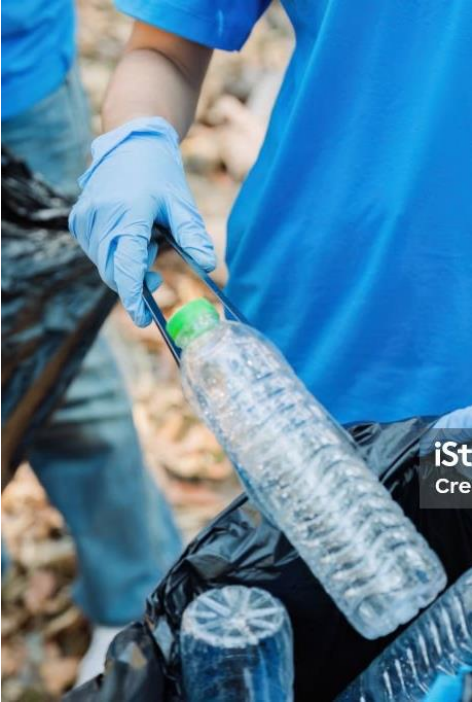
**MAKE IT
FUN AND
SOCIAL**

Swap and shop:

- Adaptable
- Social
- Fun
- Budget friendly
- Range

UCL- has been doing these 'swap and shops' regularly, with the next one being on the 7th of Feb.





- Rubbish pick-up
- Friendly competition
- Social
- Incentives
- Local
- Positive environmental impact

How to organise one of these swap and shop sessions- poster with initiatives and ideas- outline to audience that they could use the slides as an template.

Activity:

Role play:

1. You will split into groups and each take it in turn to advertise an event
2. Your aim is to convince one of us (as a youth) to attend a youth targeted climate change event.
3. You should attempt to use one of the strategies we have talked about

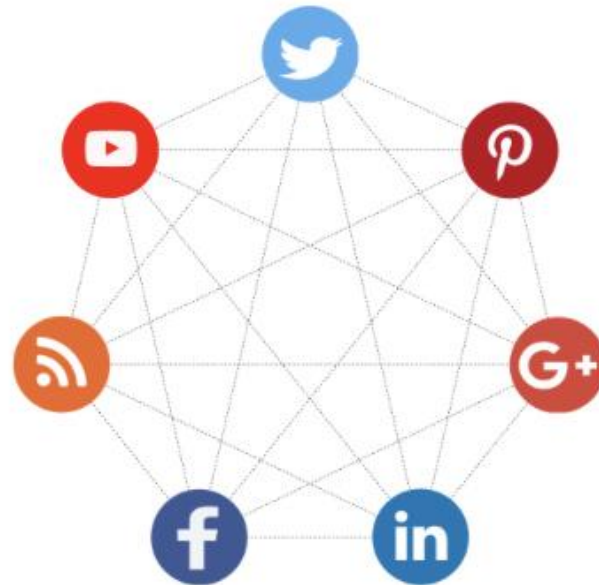
Engaging youth in social media

Intro: explaining challenges associated with social media targeting youth.

Activity:

We will be listing several social media sites and would like you to raise your hand for the social media app you use the most.

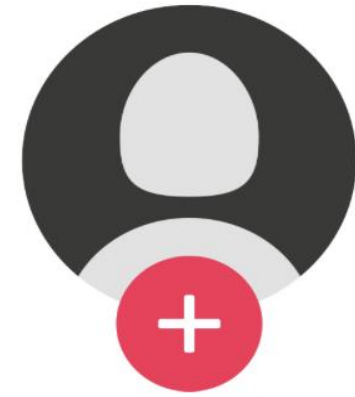
- Instagram
- Facebook
- X (was Twitter)
- TikTok
- YouTube



How to use

TikTok

- Produce 15 second videos with minimal texts as these receive 2.5 times more engagement than longer videos
- Xxx



Type of content resonating with youth



Video: Bellasinwonderland on TikTok



Bedelia

The sad thing is. The people who care,are the people who can't do anything.

6d Reply



luka

i wish there was something i could do.

11-17 Reply



— View 14 replies



x5six2.Angel

WHAT DO U WANT ME TO DO ABT THIS 😭

11-17 Reply



— View 15 replies



Noor

I care,I just can't do anything.

11-17 Reply



— View 70 replies



Enan/mateo

Bro, i love animals way tok much please tell me a way to fix this I dont want polar bears,seals,penguins, i don't want any animals gone

11-17 Reply



De

We cant do anything about it lets be realistic



PINKIEMUNAYA

people do care but they can't do enough

12-5 Reply



emileexo

we do! but what the hell can we do? we're not in charge

11-18 Reply



— View 4 replies



I do care. I just can't do anything

11-24 Reply



DopeFood

We do care but sadly cant do anything 😞😞

11-17 Reply



— View 12 replies



CornfusedSav

I'm sobbing. I feel like there's nothing I can even do. How are we supposed to fix things

Recap on the steps to use

TikTok

Recap on steps

Additional ways to boost a platform

Other methods to boost your account to get your message across to the youth

- Collaborating with influencers with a large following platform
- Use additional popular platforms amongst youth, such as YouTube, simultaneously



Additional ways to boost a platform

Other methods to boost your account to get your message across to the youth

- Collaborating with influencers with a large following platform
- Use additional popular platforms amongst youth, such as YouTube, simultaneously

