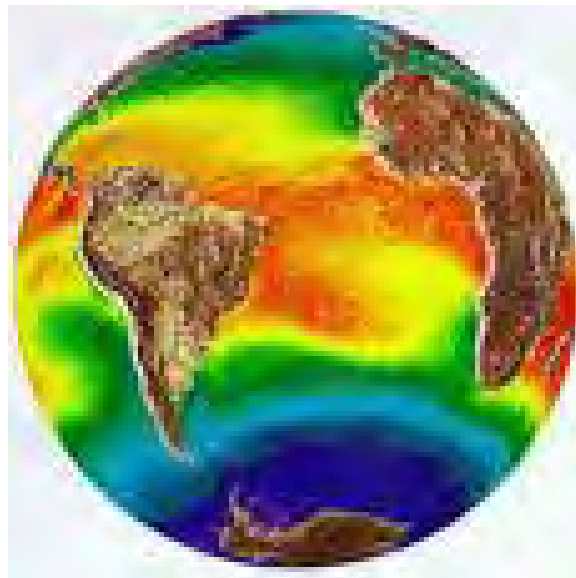


Climate Change Debate



Friday 26th October 2007
Riverside, Exeter

January 2008

The UK Youth Parliament enables young people to express their views on issues that concern them. In the South West one of those issues is climate change.

South West Members of the UK Youth Parliament, their deputies and other young people from across the region, recently came together to work on ways to save the region they live in from damaging levels of climate change. Our region, rich in history with beautiful architectural buildings and home to 5 million people, will continue to be badly effected by extreme weather and rising tides unless we do something immediately.

Therefore we in the South West Youth Parliament want to take a stand, alongside the other regional organisations, and encourage everyone in the region, and especially all young people, to work together to save our future. The South West Members of the UK Youth Parliament believes there should be more education on how to stop climate change and its effects, and schools, colleges and youth organisations should be encouraged to become more environmentally friendly, setting a good example for future generations.

One person can make a difference and so it is vital that every person lives to the belief that any action - no matter how small - can preserve our country and the beauty we so often take for granted. If we work together we can achieve so much more.

South West Members of the UK Youth Parliament therefore support the creation of the South West Climate Change Action Plan.

UK Youth Parliament
South West region



Introduction

The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) aims to give a voice to young people between the ages of 11 and 18 years. There are 29 Members of the Youth Parliament (MYPs) in the South West and 29 deputies, each who have made their own mark for local and national campaigns. MYPs are elected by young people living locally, through elections that are held in schools and youth centres.

Members of the UK Youth Parliament in the South West organised this debate to look at the issue of climate change and invited other young people from their local areas to attend.

The event was supported by V (www.vinspired.com) and their campaign to promote volunteering by young people. MYPs are not paid and they are expected to give up their own time to represent the young people who voted for them.

The day was also supported by the South West Regional Assembly as part of their work with partners to produce a climate change action plan for the South West.

The event was held in Exeter, Devon during half term and 64 young people and their support workers gave up a day of their holiday to attend. The young people who attended came from all across the South West region from Gloucestershire to Cornwall.



What changed as a result of the day?

The young people made an early decision that the whole event should not just be about talking - there needed to be action!

- ◆ After listening to and questioning Claire Brewster from the South West Regional Assembly, the UK Youth Parliament decided to write a letter endorsing the Climate Change Action Plan being produced for the South West region (the letter is on page 2). UKYP hopes to be involved in delivering and supporting parts of the action plan.
- ◆ After hearing and questioning Leslie Watson from Sustainability South West, young people decided to sign up to the Fair Shares Fair Choice campaign (www.fairsharesfairchoice.com) and try to live within their own personal carbon budget. UK Youth Parliament South West region also signed up to the campaign.
- ◆ After watching the DVD made by Penwith Youth Forum, young people helped them come up with ideas and activities to use when taking the DVD into schools.
- ◆ Young people worked with Jon Croose from Means of Production to develop a short play on climate change which they could take back and use in their own local areas.
- ◆ Young people worked with textile artist Catherine Grimaldi to produce a flag highlighting the problems of climate change for the region. The flag can be used at future youth events.
- ◆ At the end of the day, young people made personal pledges on what changes they would make to help tackle climate change. These are listed on page 17.
- ◆ The change in knowledge and attitudes were monitored using 2 questionnaires. One done at the start of the event and another right at the end. The results are given on pages 15 and 16 and show an increase in knowledge and awareness amongst those attending about climate change as a result of the day.
- ◆ The event generated a lot of positive publicity. Young people did radio interviews and the event was also featured on Westcountry TV.

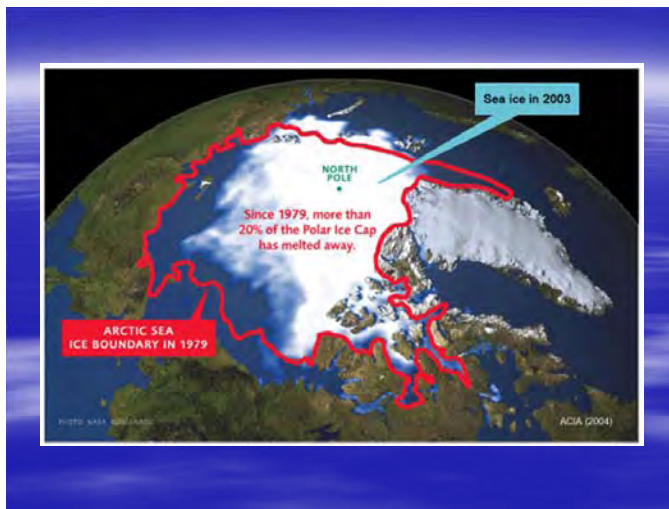
Climate change debate

11am	Welcome & introductions
11.15 – 12.15	Textile workshop with Catherine Grimaldi for young people attending who are not Members of the Youth Parliament.
12.15 – 1pm	Lunch
1pm	Who is listening today? Claire Brewster, South West Regional Assembly
	How to make your own climate friendly choices Leslie Watson, Chief Executive, Sustainability South West
	How can we get the message across? DVD presented by Penwith Youth Forum
1.45 – 2.45pm	Workshops (young people to choose one on the day) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Getting the message across to children & young people – Penwith Youth Forum• Textile workshop to create a climate change flag with Catherine Grimaldi• Drama workshop with Jon Croose from Means of Production
2.45 – 3.00 pm	Break, refreshments & signing of pledge wall
3.00pm	Final questions & what next?
3.30pm	Goodbyes & depart

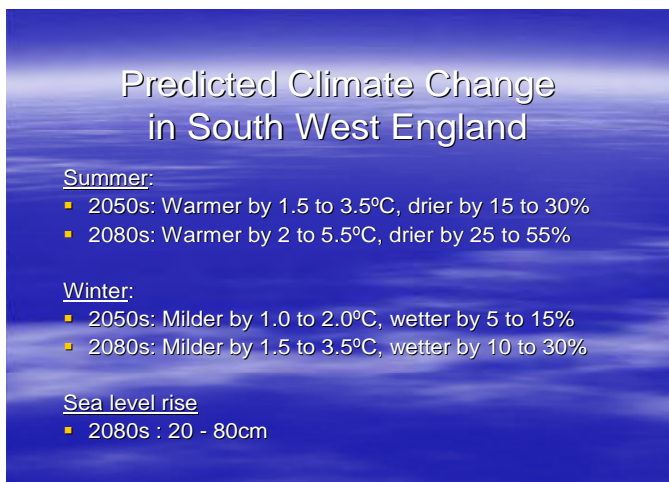
Who is listening today?



**Clare Brewster –
South West
Regional Assembly**



The surface temperature of the planet is increasing and over a short timescale. This isn't the result of natural forces, it is man-made influences that are causing climate change. The UK is one of the worst emitters of Carbon Dioxide.



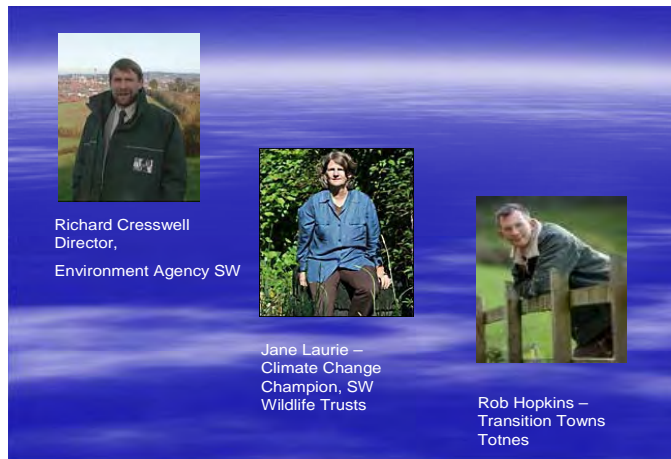
The impact of that here in the South West is that summers will become warmer & drier and winters will be milder and wetter

Sea levels will rise and that will have a problem for our coastline.

What is the South West doing?

So who is listening and helping to tackle the problem?

The UK Government are supporting a long term international framework to tackle climate change. They are setting legally binding carbon targets for the whole of the UK economy, recognising the important of carbon pricing, supporting more energy saving action and low-carbon technologies.



Climate change champions
in the South West include:



The South West Regional Assembly is taking the lead to work with partners and produce a climate change action plan. The plan will be about how the South West can play a part in reducing carbon emissions, but also how the region and its people will have to adapt to the changes that are already happening. We would like UK Youth Parliament to support that action plan and send a strong message to others to join.



How to make your own climate friendly choices

**Leslie Watson
Sustainability South West**

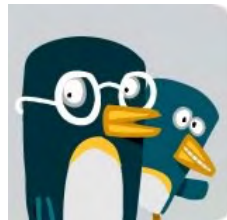
In order to be sustainable, it is important that we live within the environmental limits of our planet – this issue is becoming increasingly important.

Mark Lynas, a campaigner on human rights and sustainability for many years decided to concentrate his efforts on climate change. Mark's latest book, *Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet*, outlines – degree by degree – what climate change has in store for humanity and the planet over this century if we don't take serious action soon. Just a 2 degree rise in temperature is really bad news.

We've taken his model and worked out a carbon budget for the South West – this is the amount you can 'spend' in terms of the energy you use, CO2 emissions you generate from travel etc. The first step to joining in is signing up to the principle of 'a globally fair and safe carbon share for everyone. If everyone lives within a fair carbon share together we can avoid the worst effects of climate change!

A carbon budget is worked out for you – basically that's how much carbon you are allowed to spend this year and over the next 10 years. There's no point setting a budget after that, as it's the next 10 years that really count.

Once you sign up, there are carbon coaches to help you with reducing your energy use, how you can reduce carbon when out shopping and travelling. There's also a confessions page.....



So far, 700 people and organisations here in the South West have signed up to live within their carbon footprint and we'd like you to join.



Getting the message across to children and young people Penwith Youth Forum

The young people watched the DVD produced by Penwith Youth Forum highlighting a number of environmental issues.



'Dawn of the Bin' looked at the problem of waste and the need for recycling.



Is climate change a penguin conspiracy to reduce the polar ice caps and kill off polar bears?

Well it's one idea of why climate change is happening, but is it the right one?



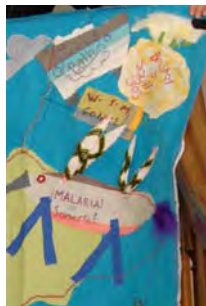
Need a gift?
Well use the Penwith shopping channel to choose from a wonderful selection of 'unfair trade' goods.

After watching the DVD, young people worked with the youth forum to devise a set of activities that could accompany the DVD when shown in schools and youth clubs.

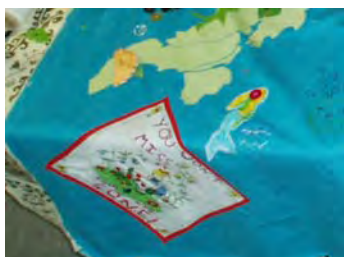
**Textile workshop
Catherine Grimaldi**



Young people created a flag to highlight the issues of climate change in the South west with textile artist Catherine Grimaldi.



The effect of hotter and drier summers in the South West could mean that diseases like malaria come to the region. Malaria can be fatal and is transmitted by mosquitoes. Malaria is a big problem in Africa, but cases have already been reported in Europe.



The South West is lucky to enjoy a beautiful environment – we need to tackle climate change now to make sure that it's not a case of you won't miss it until it's gone.

Drama workshop Jon Croose – Means of Production



Young people worked with Jon Croose to develop a play on climate change.



The script was designed for use by large groups and the young people can now run the play in their own schools and youth clubs to highlight the issue of climate change.



Means of Production Community Arts

Drama Workshop Plan

A brief history of climate change

Scientists Politicians Weatherwatchers Population EVERYONE

Image 1 Scientists in the lab

1753 CARBON DIOXIDE: Joseph Black discovers carbon dioxide. He later finds that CO₂ is present in the atmosphere, produced during the fermentation of **beer** and is contained in air exhaled by humans. In 1827 Jean-Baptiste Fourier suggests the existence of an atmospheric effect keeping the earth warmer than it would otherwise be. He uses the analogy of a **greenhouse** and the greenhouse effect is born. In 1896, Arrhenius, a Swedish chemist, advances the theory that carbon dioxide emissions from burning coal will lead to global warming.

Image 2 Population says hello

1900 POPULATION: There are 1.6 billion *Homo sapiens* on the planet.

Image 3 Scientists

1924 **ATMOSPHERIC CARBON DIOXIDE:** Based on 1920 coal use, Lotka, a US physicist, says industrial activity will double atmospheric carbon dioxide in 500 years.

Image 4 Fighting the Dust Storm

1940 Average surface air temperatures increase by about 0.25 °C. Some scientists see the **terrible drought** of the American Dust Bowl years as a sign of the greenhouse effect at work.

Image 5 Population gets bigger

1950 **POPULATION:** The population of the world is now 2.5 billion.

Image 6 Scientists on computers

1967 **GLOBAL TEMPERATURE WARNING:** The first reliable computer simulation calculates that global average temperature may increase by more than 4°F when carbon dioxide levels reach double that of pre-industrial times.

Image 7 Walking on the Moon, Waving from the Earth

1969 **VISION OF EARTH:** Astronauts **walk on the moon** and send back pictures of the earth from space.

1975 **POPULATION:** The population of the world has hit 4 billion.

Image 8 Politicians argue

1979 **CLIMATE CHANGE WARNING:** The report of a National Academy of Sciences panel **warns** that a wait-and-see policy on climate change may mean waiting until it is **too late**. The **FIRST WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE** adopts climate change as major issue and **calls** on governments to foresee and prevent potential man-made changes in climate.

Image 9 Scientists and Weatherwatchers - Stormy weather

1987 **ICE-CORE EVIDENCE:** An **ice core from Antarctica** reveals an extremely close link between carbon dioxide levels and temperature going back more than 100,000 years.
WARMEST YEAR ON RECORD: The 1980s turn out to be the warmest decade, with seven of the eight warmest years recorded up to 1990. Even the coldest years in the 1980s were warmer than the warmest years of the 1880s.

Image 11 Politicians get busy

1988 **UNITED NATIONS TAKES ACTION:** The United Nations sets up the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to analyse and report on scientific findings.

Image 12 Population gets even more bigger

1990 POPULATION: The population of the world is 5.26 billion. EVIDENCE OF WARMING: The first report of the IPCC finds that the planet has warmed by 0.5°C in the past century. The IPCC warns that only strong measures to halt rising greenhouse gas emissions will prevent serious global warming.

Image 13 Volcano!

1991 Mount Pinatubo erupts in the Philippines, throwing debris into the stratosphere. The dust shields the Earth from solar energy, which helps interrupt the warming trend. Average temperatures drop for two years before rising again. Scientists point out that this event shows how sensitive global temperatures are to disruption.

Image 14 Politicians sign up for change

1992 CLIMATE CHANGE AT RIO EARTH SUMMIT: The Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), signed by 154 nations in Rio de Janeiro, agrees to prevent 'dangerous' warming from greenhouse gases and sets initial target of reducing emissions. On 21 March 1994, the FCCC, which was signed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, comes into force. To date, it has been ratified by 181 countries.

Image 15 Phew what a scorcher!

1995 THE HEAT IS ON: Hottest year yet.

1996 CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSES AND IMPACTS: The Second Annual Conference of the Parties in Geneva confirms human influence on global climate. It is agreed that change in climate will impact on food supply, water resources and human health. In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol agrees legally binding emissions cuts for industrialised nations, averaging 5.5 per cent, to be met by 2010.

1999 HOTTEST DECADE IN 1,000 YEARS: Scientists reconstruct the global climate for the last 1,000 years, using weather records, tree rings, coral and ice-core readings. They declare that the decade of the 1990s is the **hottest in the last millennium**.

Image 16 Population gets even more more-bigger

2000 POPULATION: The population of the world is just over **6 billion**. On 27 July, 2001, 178 countries give life to the Kyoto Protocol. United Nations weather agency reports that 2001 is the second hottest year since records began. Nine of the ten warmest years since 1860 have occurred since 1990, and temperatures are rising three times as fast as in the early 1900s.

Image 17 Blowing hot and cold! Heat, snow, hail and hurricanes.

2003 HOW HOT IS TOO HOT?: Globally it is the third hottest year on record, but Europe experiences the hottest summer for at least 500 years, with an **estimated 30,000 fatalities** as a result. Extreme weather costs an estimated record of \$60 billion this year.

2003 EXTREME WEATHER: 13 million trees are damaged in a **freak snowstorm** in Beijing.

2005 Researchers link warming to a record US **hurricane** season, accelerated melting of Arctic sea ice and Siberian permafrost, and apparent disruption of the global ocean current that warms Europe. A NASA study finds that 2004 was the fourth warmest year on record.

Image 18 People take a stand / Politicians take a stand.

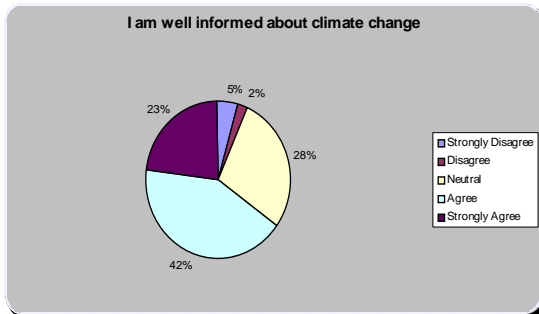
2005 POPULATION: The population of the world is **6.45 billion**. 2005 KYOTO PROTOCOL RATIFIED: 16 February. **G8 LEADERS ACT**: At the G8 Gleneagles summit in July 2005, climate change is one of the two main issues addressed by leaders of the eight largest industrial nations, along with invited developing nations. The other issue is poverty in Africa.

Image 19 What can you do to combat climate change?

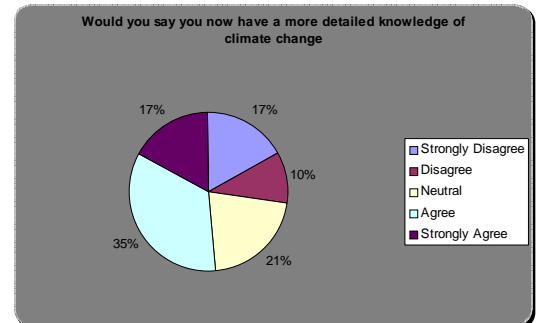
Understanding of climate change and attitudes

Everyone was asked to complete a questionnaire on arrival seeking their views on climate change. An exit questionnaire then recorded different levels of understanding and how attitudes had changed.

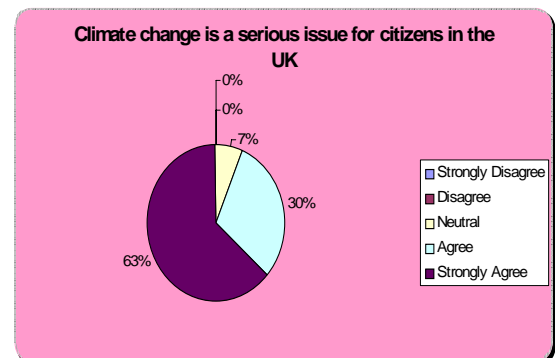
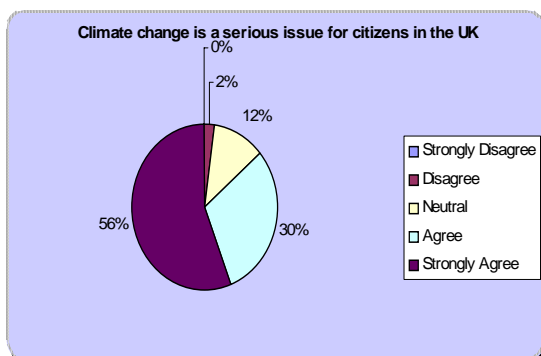
Pre conference



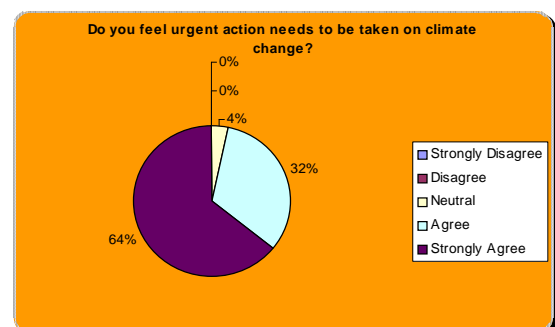
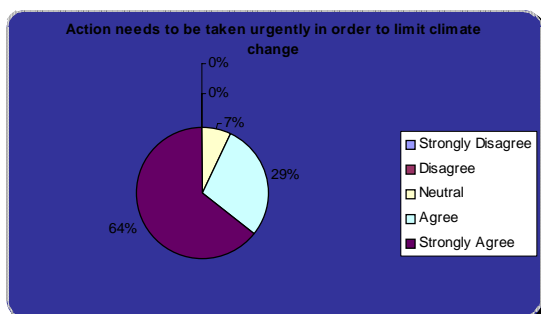
Post conference



At the start of the day, 65% of young people felt they were well informed about climate change. At the end of the conference, the majority of participants (52%) felt they now had a more detailed knowledge.

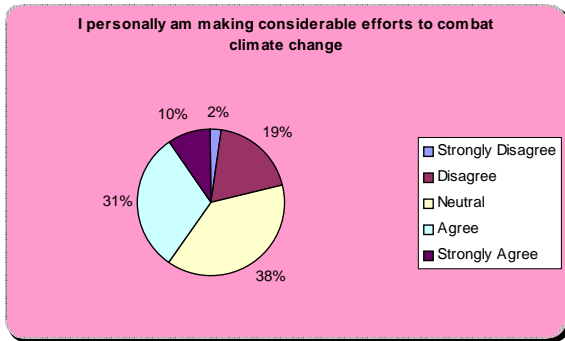


Before the conference 86% of participants felt that climate change was a serious issue for the UK (those who agreed and strongly agreed with the statement.) At the end of the conference 93% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that climate change was a serious issue.

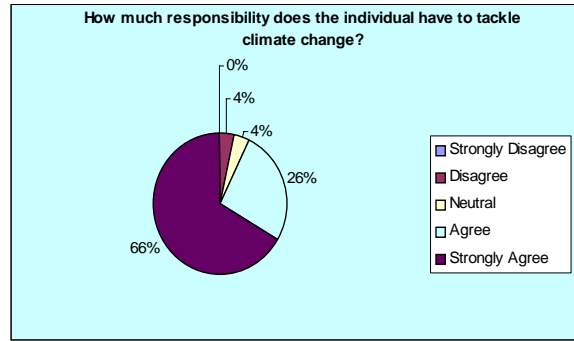


At the start of the day, 93% of participants felt that action needed to be taken urgently. By the end of the conference 96% felt urgent action was needed.

Pre conference

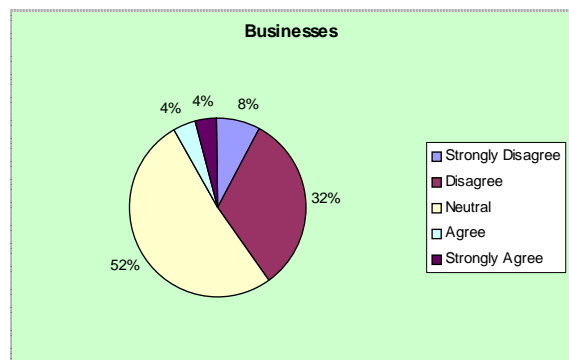
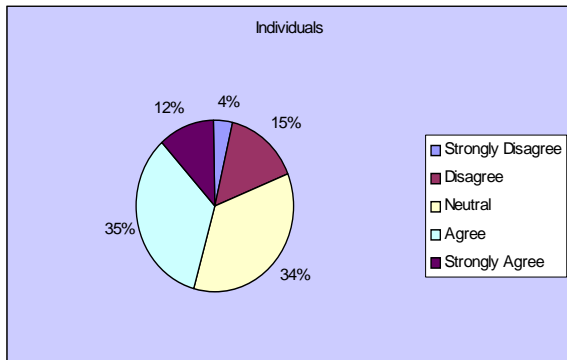


Post conference

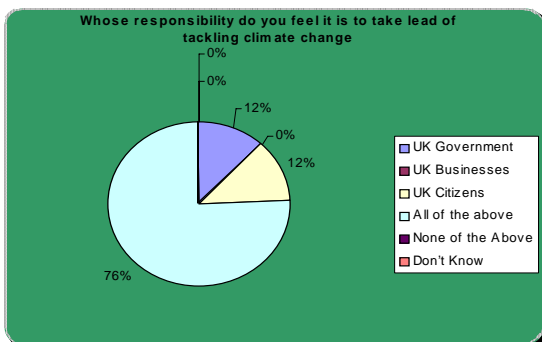


At the start of the conference 50% of the participants were making significant individual efforts to tackle climate change. By the end of the event, 92% felt that it was essential that individuals took action to help tackle climate change.

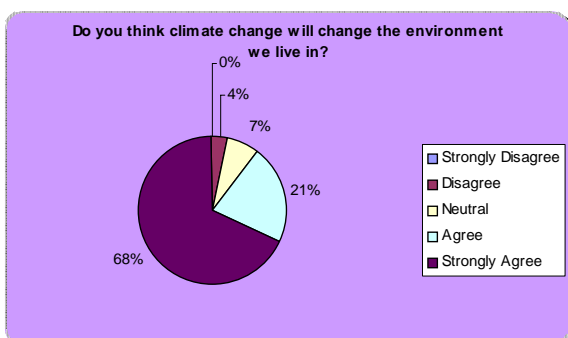
Who do you see as taking the most action at present?



At the end of the day, participants felt that individuals were doing the most to help tackle climate change. They felt businesses were not doing enough.



76% of participants strongly agreed that the Government, business and individuals all needed to work together to tackle climate change.



At the end of the conference 68% of participants strongly agreed that climate change would change the environment in which they lived.

Climate Changes Pledges

After today I will

Remember to recycle and to look after the environment

Take part in persuading people/myself to recycle more

To increase my recycling and to cut down the use of a car. Get it campaigned!

Make my house more energy efficient

Encourage everybody I know to combat climate change and recycle. Turn off lights and plugs.

Recycle More

Encourage and buy fair-trade products and reduce my carbon footprint

Unplug my phone charger after use to conserve energy

Turn radio off at night

Ask County Council why businesses can't use the green box!

After today I will make others at my college more aware of climate change

Reduce the amount of pre-packaged goods I buy

Carry on being an active member of my school environmental committee

Continue to recycle and use more environmentally friendly ways to get around

Campaign to make my area more energy efficient

Speak to my LA about recycling for businesses

Turn things off and not leave things on standby

Use public transport more often

Fair shares Fair choices card. To look at and possibly join

Remember to use long life bags instead of plastic bag or re-use bags

Take part in persuading people/myself to recycle more

Try to get my new MP to put climate change in their new manifesto

I pledge to continue trying to be green and promoting being green

I will lobby my local council about recycling in schools and businesses