

Appendix 3: Summary of Youth Climate Action Summit no 2

1.0 Event Summary

Nearly 350 pupils and teachers from schools across Manchester gathered for a special summit on 17th January 2020, to have their concerns heard, their voice listened to and develop new ideas for action on the issue of climate change. The Youth Climate Change Action Summit, held at the Manchester Central Convention Complex, was the second event of its kind to be held in the city. It gave pupils aged from 9 - 14 the chance to explore what they can do to help the city to meet its ambitious, science-based target to become zero-carbon by 2038 at the latest.

At the event three Manchester schools delivered presentations detailing their approach to tackling climate change. Young people expressed their views on how climate change should be tackled, explored its causes and challenged a panel of local civic leaders on the actions they are taking to ensure that the city meets its ambitious zero-carbon target. Pupils attended workshops hosted by experts in their field, exploring what steps they can take at home and in school to reduce the carbon impact of energy consumption, transport choices and food and goods consumption, and explored what steps they can take at home and in school to reduce their carbon emissions. All schools in the city were invited to send a group of pupils to represent them at the event.

The event was recorded by young people from Groundwork as part of the 'Young Reporters Project', enabling young people to gain new skills in journalism to help get their voices heard and showcase their filming from the day.

2.0 Background

The first Manchester Young People's Climate Change Action summit was held in July 2019, during the same week that Manchester City Council formally declared a 'climate emergency'.

The motion declared that climate change is a serious risk to Manchester's future and committed the council to embedding the issue as an integral part of its decision-making process - ensuring that all key decisions are taken with the city's target of becoming zero-carbon by 2038 at the latest in mind.

3.0 Introduction

Objectives for the event:

1. Outline what the city's commitments are on climate change and share progress to date.
2. Share good practice between Manchester schools.
3. Provide an opportunity for young people to meet organisations, policy makers and decision makers, in order to understand what is happening and give young people a platform to challenge and debate.
4. To listen to young people!

5. To provide information through themed workshops to help young people develop skills and take practical action in their homes, communities and schools.
6. To provide teachers and school staff an opportunity to network, learn from other schools and be inspired to take away ideas.

Young people's outcomes of the event:

1. What can I do - in my school, in my community and at a city level.
2. What do I need help with to enact change
3. Help young people to articulate what they feel is missing. Capture this, consider and respond - including through actions that need to be taken forward by other organisations, as part of the Manchester Climate Change Framework for 2020-38 and Action Plan for 2020-22.

Format of the event:

The aim was to make the event an interactive experience - to encourage active participation from delegates. The event was designed to inspire and enable our young people to get their voices heard and get ideas to take forward action at home, school and in their communities. The event was hosted by young people, with presentations from Manchester schools showcasing good practice and workshops delivered by experts in their field.

3.1 Attendee metrics and survey

Table 1: Attending schools by geography

Area	Total Schools from Area	Primary	Secondary	Total Area % of Attending Schools
North	11	7	4	22%
Central	14	8	6	29%
South	24	17	7	49%
Totals	49	32 (65%)	17 (35%)	

Feedback on the day: A graffiti wall was created in the foyer for young people to write down their feedback following the workshops.

Post event survey: Following the event a survey was sent to all schools to collect feedback to understand what worked well and what could be improved. The survey included 10 questions about the venue, the content of the event and open questions to capture likes / dislikes. The survey included a mixture of quantitative and qualitative questions.

3.2 Program and speakers

The Summit was organised by Manchester City Council - by a cross directorate group of staff from Youth Strategy, Education, Directorate Support and the Waste & Recycling Team with support from the Manchester Climate Change Agency.

Figure 1: Event programme

  	
<h1>Agenda</h1> <p>Manchester Central 17 January 2020</p> <p>The event will be compered by young people from the Manchester Youth Council.</p>	
10.45am	Sign-in/Security
11-11.20am	Welcome and Energiser activity
11.20-11.30am	Welcome from Councillor Rahman A snapshot of the council's achievements so far (animation)
11.30am-12noon	A school's approach to climate change Sharing good practice Three Schools: - Dean Trust, Ardwick - Loreto, Chorlton - Unity Community Primary, Cheetham
12noon-12.30pm	Lunch (In auditorium)
12.30-1.05pm	Workshop 1
1.10-1.45pm	Workshop 2
1.50-2pm	Young leaders feedback (auditorium)
2-2.25pm	Ask the Leaders - One minute to answer each question - Nominated responders
2.25pm	Next steps
2.30pm	Close

<h1>Workshops</h1> 	
All young people will attend two workshops	
Food Real Food, Wythenshawe	Join the revolution - why you should grow your own food A workshop about respect for food. Food miles with a focus on an apple's journey - impact of globalisation, power of supermarkets, food map. Solutions: Grow your own - Intro to skills, consider alternative methods of growing - aquaponics, eat seasonal, demand local food, Practical - planting, teek cloning, natural science.
Energy and Mobile Phones Manchester Museum	Find out more about the raw materials inside your phone, where they come from, how they are extracted, and their true costs. Use this insight to write your own short label for a museum specimen that will make the reader think twice before replacing their phone with the next model.
Climate Change Manchester Environmental Education Network	Manchester Environmental Education Network is working with eco teams in Manchester to take social action on climate change. The aim of this session is for young people to learn about the issues, share their knowledge with others, then take action in their community.
The Ignition Project Royal Horticultural Society, City of Trees and Groundwork	Plants and trees for health and wellbeing. A design workshop exploring the use of plants and trees to improve human health and wellbeing.
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Biffa	Why recycling is important in terms of saving energy, conserving raw materials, and protecting the environment.
Nature Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Action for Conservation	Nature and how to protect the environment. This workshop will get the students on their feet, defining conservation in relation to the environment and nature. It will challenge them to think about what they can do to protect the environment.
Campaigns Keep MCR Tidy	We will be looking at the key ingredients for a great campaign and thinking about the use of visual images in campaign material. We will also try our hand at designing campaign material to promote the upcoming Great British Spring Clean.
Food & Food Waste in the UK FareShare	This workshop is about how much food is wasted in the UK. We'll discuss what that means for the planet, and explain how FareShare turns food waste into a social solution.
Carbon Literacy Project AMU	How to reduce the youth carbon footprint. Carbon footprints across the world and what you can do to reduce them.
Transport Living Streets	Why changing the way we travel is important in tackling climate change. We will start with an activity looking at facts around emissions and transport. We will focus on everyday local journeys and consider the wider benefits of walking and cycling. We will ask young people to think about how they could travel more sustainably and how they could encourage more students to walk and cycle at their school.

Three schools (Dean Trust, Ardwick, Unity Community Primary School, Cheetham and Loreto High School, Chorlton) presented their schools approach to tackling climate change. This was the most popular segment of the event and received overwhelming positive feedback.

All delegates attended two workshops after lunch which were delivered by partners including Action for Conservation, Biffa, City of Trees, FareShare, Groundwork, The Ignition Project, the Journalism Club, Keep Manchester Tidy, Living Streets, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Manchester Environmental Education Network, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester Museum, Real Food Wythenshawe and the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).

This was followed by a Question and Answer session which included a panel of experts: Cllr Luthfur Rahman (Exec Member for Skills, Culture & Leisure), Cllr Angeliki Stogia (Exec Member for Environment, Highways and Planning), Cllr Garry Bridges (Exec Member for Children's Services), Amanda Corcoran (Director for Education), Matthew Roberts (Transport for Greater Manchester), Jonny Saddler (Manchester Climate Change Agency).

3.3 Location and venue

The event was held in the Exchange Hall at Manchester Central Complex, which is located in the city centre. The venue was easily accessible by public transport and had a car park on-site for those who travelled by car. Positive feedback was received from young people, school staff, workshop providers and MCC staff about the venue. The venue is purpose designed for conferences and suited the format of the event. The event began and ended in the auditorium. Workshops were delivered in the atrium spaces and small meeting rooms - which worked well.

Registration for the event took place in the entrance, the space became quite congested during the registration period and led to delays starting the event. This could have been eased by having two registration desks and providing a longer period of time for schools to register prior to the event starting. A disney style queuing system could have made the process more ordered.

3.4 Marketing, media and promotion

The event was promoted via the Schools Circular (to all of Manchester's 168 schools and education establishments) in December 2019 and again in January 2020. Schools were invited to request upto 5 tickets for young people aged 9-14. Tickets for the event were managed via Eventbrite. The aim was to allocate 300 tickets to schools - in total 356 were allocated. On the day 348 young people and school staff attended - a drop out rate of 2.25%.

Social Media engagement:

#McrClimateChange - 40 tweets were sent out during the event from a variety of groups, including schools, some of the organisations in attendance for workshops, and Manchester Youth Council

@mcrclimateyb - The Manchester Climate Change Youth Board Twitter account (twitter.com/mcrclimateyb) was active during the event, seeing the following response to messages:

Posts: 19
Impressions: 20,500
Retweets: 32
Likes: 139
Replies: 22
Link Clicks: 12

The engagement rate was 1%. Essentially, there was some sort of engagement for every hundredth time someone saw a tweet about this event, which is in line with the Council's main Twitter account.

Media: A media alert was issued on Wednesday 15th January 2020. There was a good response from media outlets and radio / tv interviews were conducted on the day of the event.

BBC Radio Manchester (preview piece, including interview with Cllr Luthfur Rahman, plus on-the-day vox pop with pupils)
Hits Radio / Global Radio (attended on the day, to record interviews with Cllr Rahman and pupils)
BBC North West TV (a short piece ran on Saturday 18th January 2020 bulletins, including vox pop interviews with pupils from Dean Trust Ardwick)
Manchester Evening News - News article on 27th January 2020.

Sponsorship: The organisations delivering the workshops waived any fees they may normally charge for the event.

3.5 Staffing

The venue provided a number of staff as part of the event package. This included security staff to undertake bag checks (venue requirement) and staff to guide young people to the event space. This support was valuable on the day. MCC staff (15) from across Neighbourhoods and Education provided support on the day to support stage management, marshalling, delivery of workshops and registration. 10 staff worked as 'Marshalls' during the event - providing support during ingress and egress. During registration the marshalls encouraged young people to capture their thoughts and feelings about the day ahead using tablets which created a word cloud on the screen in the auditorium. Staff then chaperoned the groups of children to their workshops and then back to the auditorium for the final session.

The registration staff remained at the venue entrance until the final delegates left. A 'quiet space' was made available in a room near the front foyer - teachers were made aware of this space in advance. The room was used by a couple of young people during the event. First Aiders were available from the venue staff and MCC staff present - nobody required first aid during the event.

4.0 Conclusion and recommendations

Feedback from the event has provided some useful learning to take forward and inform future events with young people.

Event Programme:

The majority of delegates thought that the event programme worked well and there was a good balance between listening and active engagement. Overwhelmingly, the most popular part of the event were the presentations from the three schools with over 80% of respondents rating this section as excellent. Young people also really enjoyed the opportunity to question leaders and many would have welcomed more time for this section. Over 87% of respondents thought the length of the event was about right.

Workshops:

The majority of feedback about the workshops was positive and this was an enjoyable section for young people. Young people described the workshops as '*inspiring*', '*fun*' and '*really good*'. Workshop providers fed back that some students

may have benefited from receiving some pre event learning to ensure key concepts were understood - particularly for those at key stage 2. Comments from both schools and workshop providers suggest that whilst there were benefits to bringing primary and secondary school children together, the workshops may have been more effective if split by age: Stage 2 (9-11) and Key Stage 3 (11-14).

Next Steps:

- Pilot the 'skills to save the planet' resource - 7 schools have indicated they are interested.
- Finalise the co-produced 'Environmental Wheel' resource with the Youth Council and pilot with young people.
- Establish a 'Youth Climate Action Network' to keep progressing efforts to support young people to get their voices heard and enable climate change action. This network will create opportunities for MCC Officers with youth / environmental objectives to network, share ideas and collaborate. A link will be made to a wider network of external organisations working in this sphere.
- Education to develop a system to capture schools environmental pledges and track progress.
- Create an award category for 'Young people tackling Climate Change' in the annual young people's Buzz Awards.
- Explore how schools can be better supported to reduce energy consumption from school buildings - this was a key theme which emerged from discussion at the event and from survey feedback.
- Overwhelmingly, feedback from young people and teaching staff showed that the element they enjoyed the most was the opportunity to network and learn from each other. Schools need to be empowered and encouraged to network more.
- Develop an action plan to take forward the recommendations from this report and for this to feed into the Zero Carbon Coordination Group.