

CLIMATE CRISIS

YOUTH SURVEY



**Belfast Climate
Commission Youth
Working Group**
5th November 2021



Supported by
**Belfast
City Council**



KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- **98%** of young people have heard of climate change with 28% suggesting that they were very concerned about it and a further 24% extremely concerned about it.
- **30%** of young people indicated that they had been affected by climate change with **42%** stating that they had not.
- Of those that had been affected, **41%** experienced 'anxiousness' while **13%** suggested that they had become distracted from other things.
- According to the young people **global warming** was of most importance.

ACCESSING INFORMATION ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

- **45%** of young people said that they had heard the term climate change at least once every week, while a further **22%** had heard the term at least twice every week.
- **89%** of young people receive their information about climate change through social media with **83%** also receiving it through a school/college.
- **95%** of young people trust information about climate change either a lot or a little from scientists. While **83%** trust information about climate change either a lot or a little from a school/college teacher.
- **35%** trust local politicians either a lot/a little with information about climate change.

PERSONAL PARTICIPATION

- **88%** of young people thought something could be done to reduce the negative effects of climate change.
- **53%** of young people stated that 'people thinking they could not make a difference on their own was the greatest barrier to personally not acting in response to climate change'. A further **43%** indicated that it was 'people in positions of power not listening to young people's views and opinions'.
- **53%** of young people thought that 'if others around me (people in power/elected representatives), were to make more effort to protect the environment' then it would increase their confidence and capacity to engage with the issue.

THE FUTURE

- **87%** either agreed or strongly agreed that 'we all have a role to play in protecting the environment'.
- **55%** of young people either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that 'I feel ignored by adults and people in power'.
- **67%** of respondent either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the view that it was 'too late to do anything about climate change'.
- **74%** either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that 'there needs to be a focus on greener employment opportunities'.

RESULTS FROM SURVEY WHICH HAD A RESPONSE RATE OF 1200 YOUNG PEOPLE (13-24 YEARS OF AGE)



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