

One Planet Cardiff

Cardiff Youth Council & Active Involvement Team

2021

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Report on CYC Response to One Planet Cardiff Draft Strategy

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## Introduction

In order to support a member of Cardiff Youth Council (CYC) that will be sitting on the One Planet Cardiff board, a subgroup has been formed that includes other members from CYC that will discuss the strategy and give their perspective on the issue. During the first meeting of the subgroup, the young people were given the option of looking at the One Planet strategy and then discussing whether they felt anything was missing, or undertaking a 'Magic Wand' exercise. The group chose the 'Magic Wand' exercise, which was an exercise where they discussed what changes they would implement if they had a magic wand in order to make Cardiff a carbon neutral city by 2030. These ideas would then be cross-referenced with the strategy, in order to see if they had identified anything that wasn't included in the strategy. The young people then ranked the seven key themes of the strategy in order of importance. The table below shows the order in which these key themes were ranked, alongside the changes the young people would implement in regard to each key theme.

## Themes

Themes	Suggested Changes
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon reduction</li> <li>• Food producing method</li> <li>• Lean manufacturing techniques</li> <li>• More monitoring and put hi level roads into special measures</li> <li>• Create electricity through the current Cardiff barrage</li> <li>• Tidal power</li> <li>• Hydrogen power</li> <li>• Schools with classroom control of heating</li> </ul>
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electric charging infrastructure</li> <li>• Even more cycle lanes (link all parts of city e.g. circular cycleway)</li> <li>• Trams</li> <li>• Reusing old lines (train/tram)</li> <li>• Reducing flights with low numbers</li> <li>• Stop business flights</li> <li>• Tax frequent flyers</li> <li>• Reduce people from traveling to meetings when Zoom/Teams can be used effectively</li> <li>• Stop use of petrol and diesel cars in the City</li> </ul>
Built Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retrofitting</li> <li>• Better built houses</li> <li>• Solar panels on all new builds and retro fitting</li> <li>• Solar fields</li> <li>• Solar panels on large existing business buildings including council</li> <li>• Floating solar farms (sea)</li> <li>• Barrage (but has to be environmentally friendly)</li> <li>• Wind farms</li> <li>• Stricter regulation of planning (net zero builds)</li> </ul>

Themes	Suggested Changes
Green Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical Gardens (Moss)</li> <li>• Plant and wildlife preservation</li> <li>• marine wildlife reserve</li> <li>• Community gardens</li> <li>• Planting plants and tress</li> <li>• Increase access to allotments</li> <li>• Bioluminescent Trees</li> </ul>
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buy local (stickers to show food is local)</li> <li>• Refill shops and supermarket stations</li> <li>• Food producing method</li> </ul>
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sewage into energy</li> <li>• Water fountains (reduce plastic use)</li> <li>• Recycling</li> <li>• Circular economy (companies take the items back and repurpose)</li> <li>• Composting</li> <li>• Reusing</li> <li>• Recycling</li> <li>• Plastic</li> <li>• Reusing rain water</li> </ul>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleaner water</li> <li>• New technologies for ground water and irrigation</li> <li>• More local produce</li> <li>• Flood defences                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rewilding</li> <li>○ Marine Nature Reserves</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Differences Identified to One Planet Cardiff Strategy

As can be seen above, most of the changes that the young people would want to introduce have been outlined in the strategy. However, after cross-referencing the young people's discussions from the 'Magic Wand' exercise with the strategy, a number of the changes stated above are not found in the One Planet strategy.

The list below outlines what the young people felt were missing:

- Education
- Ban household fires
- Reducing flights with low numbers
- Stop business flights
- Tax frequent flyers
- Create electricity through the current Cardiff barrage
- Schools with classroom control of heating
- Floating solar farms (sea)
- Barrage (but has to be environmentally friendly)
- Wind farms
- Sewage into energy

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- Vertical Gardens (Moss)
- Marine wildlife reserve
- Community gardens
- Increase access to allotments
- Bioluminescent Trees
- Normalising and providing education to adult, yp and businesses
- 15 min cities
- Green job creation (encourage green companies) – pipeline of clean energy projects
- Cleaner water
- New technologies for ground water and irrigation
- Rewilding

## Education

One of the most important changes that the young people identified that wasn't included in the strategy was education. The young people felt it was essential that procedures were put in place that ensured that children, young people, adults and businesses all received education around the topic of carbon reduction and climate change, especially what they could do to mitigate it.

## Consultation

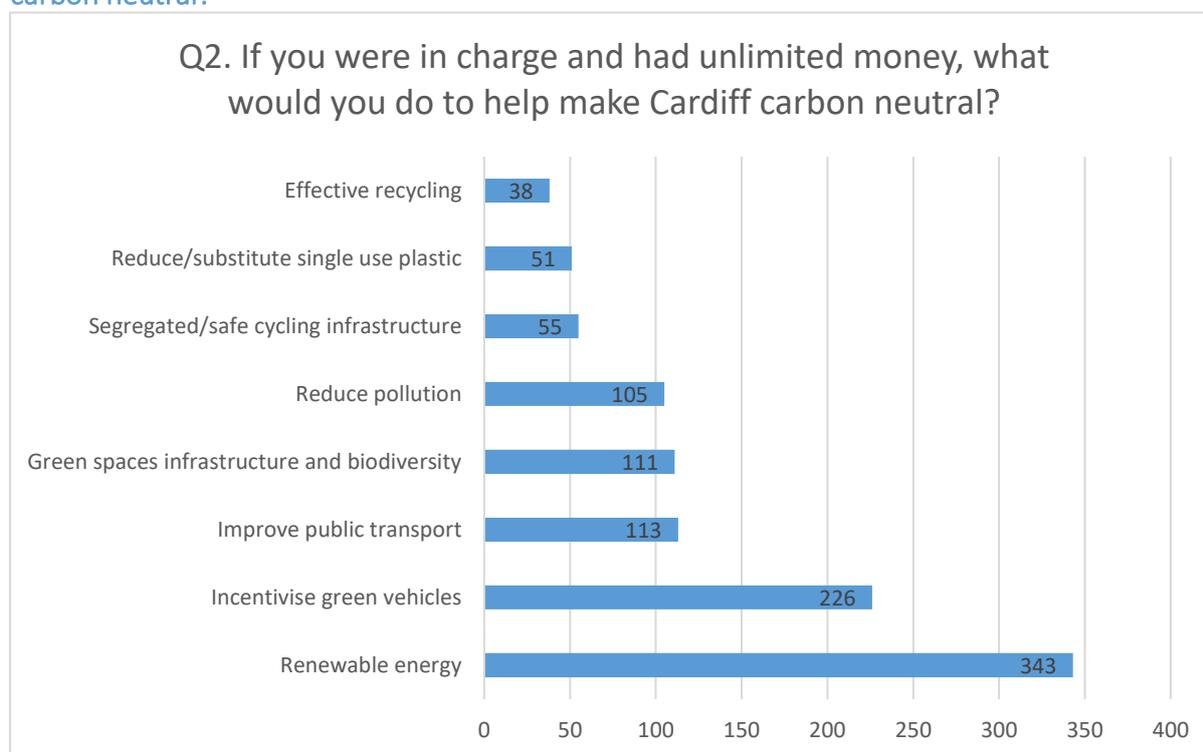
In addition to looking at the strategy from a young person's perspective and identifying what changes they believe need to be put in place to make Cardiff a carbon neutral city by 2030, the group also ran a consultation with other young people across Cardiff, in the form of a questionnaire on Microsoft Forms. The questionnaire was sent out to CYC members, local schools, EOTAS provision and shared with the Council's Education Department in order to garner a wide range of a responses. Below are the questions that were included in the questionnaire:

1. What is your age?
2. If you were in charge and had unlimited money, what would you do to help make Cardiff carbon neutral?
3. Looking at the themes below, rank them in order of importance to you.
4. What do you think you could do as an individual to help make Cardiff carbon neutral?
5. If you could choose one thing that the council should do, what would it be?
6. Should more be taught about climate change, its consequences and what we can do about it?
7. If yes, how do you think people can learn more around climate change, its consequences and what we can do about it?

The consultation ran between the 22<sup>nd</sup> January and the 1<sup>st</sup> March and garnered 875 responses from young people across Cardiff.

## Consultation Findings

If you were in charge and had unlimited money, what would you do to help make Cardiff carbon neutral?



The table above outlines the most popular answers respondents gave to question two. Renewable Energy was the most popular answer given, with 343 respondents mentioning it, over a hundred more than any other answer. Incentivise Green Vehicles was the second most popular answer with 226, followed by Improve Public Transport and Green Spaces Infrastructure and Biodiversity, with 113 and 111 respectively. The answers were put into the categories above in order to make grouping easier when going through the results. A breakdown of the answers included in each category can be seen below:

### Renewable energy:

- Increase in the use of renewable energy (includes solar panels, wind turbines, hydroelectric power, etc.)
- More investment in renewable energy.

### Incentivise green vehicles:

- More electric or hydrogen cars.
- Make electric cars cheaper or free.
- Give people incentives to buy green cars.

### Improve public transport:

- Make public transport better.
- Make public transport cheaper.
- Make public transport more eco-friendly (electric buses and trains).
- More stops (especially in the suburbs).

### Green infrastructure and biodiversity:

- Increase the amount of green spaces in Cardiff.
- Preservation of existing green spaces in Cardiff.

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- Plant more trees.
- Rewilding.
- Increase wildlife.
- Restrict the impact of developers on green spaces.

### Reduce pollution:

- Ban or tax polluting vehicles.
- Ban fossil fuel fires.
- Decrease dependence on fossil fuels.

### Segregated/safe cycling infrastructure:

- More safe cycling lanes.
- Promotion of cycling and walking.
- More segregation between bikes and other vehicles.

### Reduce/substitute single plastic use:

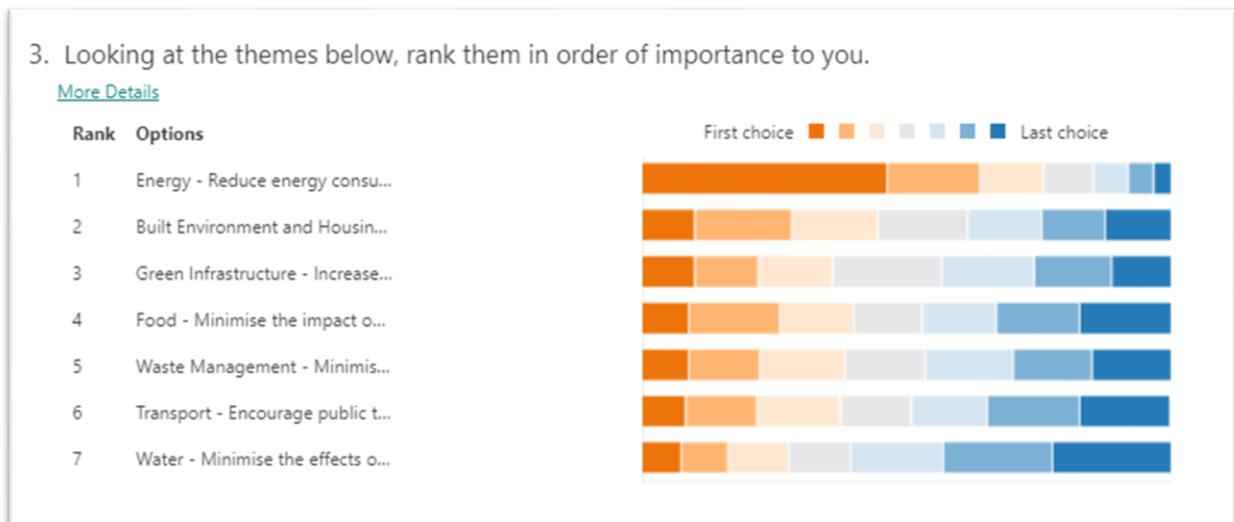
- Ban single use plastics.
- Less plastic packaging in supermarkets.
- Use biodegradable alternatives.

### Effective recycling:

- Improve recycling processes.
- Increase the amount we recycle.
- Make recycling easier.

Some other popular answers that were given by respondents were: Pedestrianisation of the city centre (this included reducing the amount of cars in the city centre). Increasing the amount of electric car charging points, using more sustainable and local produce, litter picking and waste management, education and raising awareness, reducing waste, carbon capture, more public recycling points, and creating an electric tram system to replace buses.

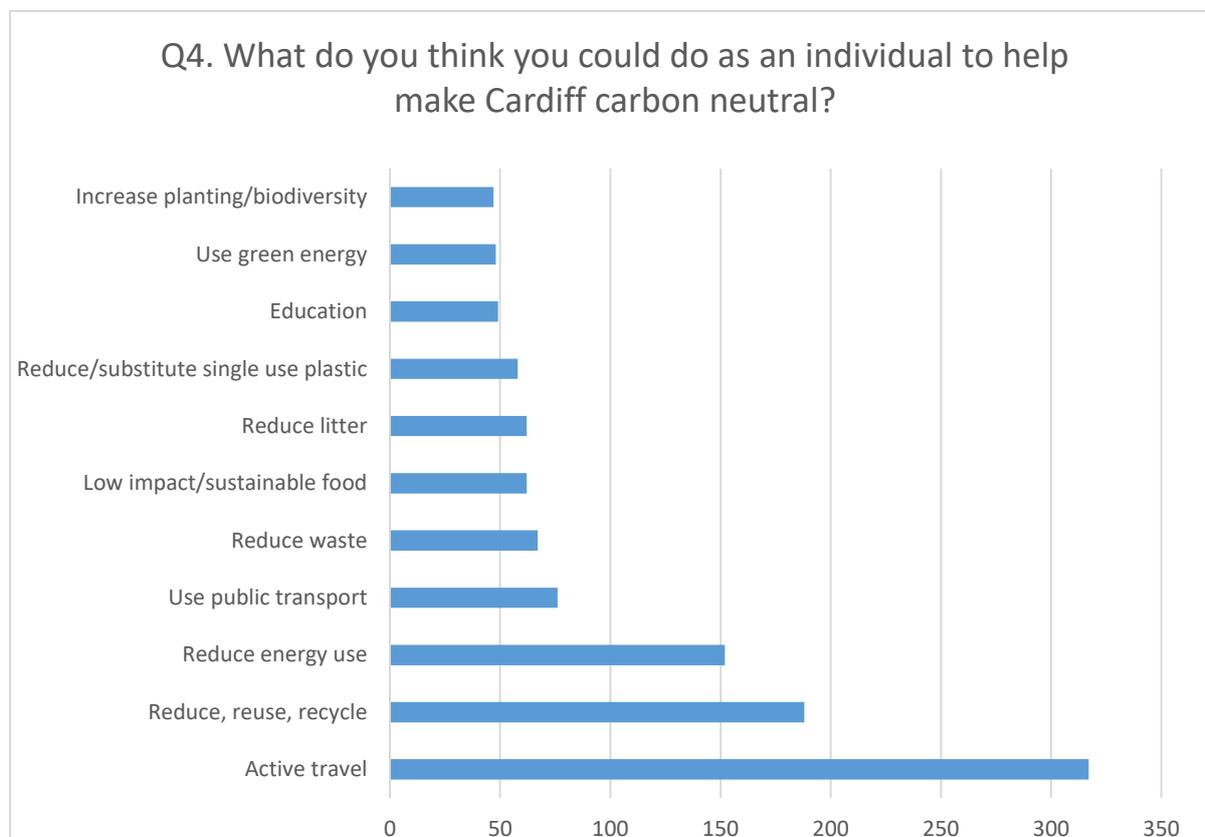
## Rank the strategy themes in order of importance to you.



Respondents were asked to rank the seven themes from the strategy in order of their importance. Dark orange indicates the number of times each theme was put first and dark blue indicates the number of times each theme was put last. The weaker shades of each colour represent second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth place. The answers the respondents gave were then totalled and were ranked overall based on the amalgamated responses from all participants. As can be seen above, energy was ranked as the most important theme, with 46.4% of respondents putting it in first place. This is by far the most popular answer with 2<sup>nd</sup> place dropping

down to around 10 Water was placed last by 22.6% of respondents and therefore was deemed as the least important theme by participants.

### What do you think you could do as an individual to help make Cardiff carbon neutral?



The table above gives a breakdown of the most popular answers to question four. Active Travel was by far the most popular response, with 317 respondents noting that they thought this was the best way they could contribute to Cardiff becoming carbon neutral. 188 respondents noted Recycling as their choice, followed by Reducing Energy Usage, which 152 respondents chose. The rest of the most popular answers were relatively close in the amount of times they were chosen, with them all being around fifty. A breakdown of the answers included in each category can be seen below:

#### Active travel:

- Walk or cycle more (if it was safe/could afford a bike).
- Use car less.

#### Reduce, reuse, recycle:

- Recycle more.
- Stop throwing things away.
- Buy second hand.
- Fix things or upcycle.

#### Reduce energy use:

- Use less electricity.
- Use less energy.
- Use less fossil fuel.

#### Use public transport:

- If it was more reliable.
- If it was easier to use and get to.

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- If it was cheaper.
- If it was more green.

### **Reduce waste:**

- Reduce food waste
- Reduce water waste
- Compost

### **Low impact/sustainable food:**

- Eat less meat
- Become vegetarian or vegan
- Buy more local produce
- Grow own produce
- Buy sustainable food

### **Reduce litter:**

- Pick up litter
- Don't litter

### **Reduce/substitute single use plastic:**

- Use sustainable produce
- Use sustainable packaging
- Avoid single use plastic
- Get a reusable water bottle

### **Education:**

- Educate others
- Raise awareness
- Encourage others
- Educate self

### **Use green energy:**

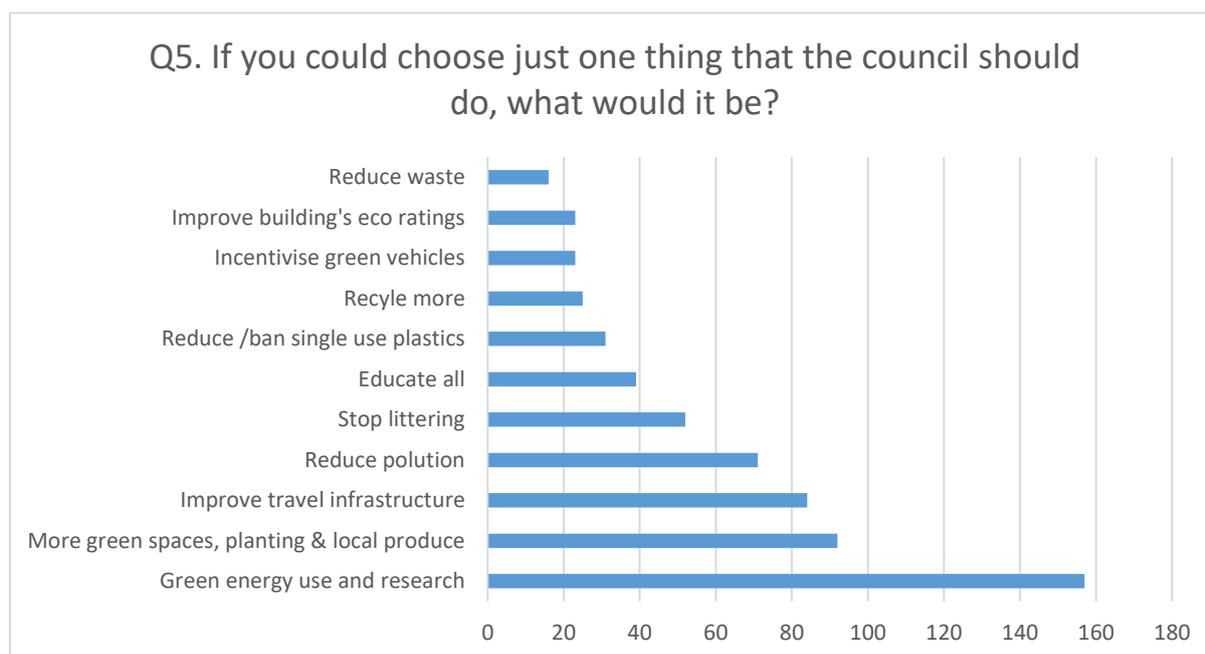
- Install solar panels
- Stop polluting

### **Increase planting/biodiversity:**

- Plant more trees and vegetation
- Stop cutting down trees
- Help nature
- Help increase green spaces

Some of the other popular answers that were given by respondents were: buying an electric car, protesting or activism, using less water, minimising fast fashion (reducing the amount they use or buy), using less public transport, shopping locally, voting for those who pledge to save the environment, and helping endangered species. Four respondents noted that there wasn't much they could do as individuals, as change on a much larger scale was needed to tackle the issue.

If you could choose just one thing that the council should do, what would it be?



The table above outlines the most popular answers given to question five. Green Energy Use and Research was by far the most popular response, with 157 respondents stating that this was they felt the Council should prioritise. More Green Spaces, Planting & Local Produce was the next most popular choice, with 92. This was closely followed by Improve Travel Infrastructure and Reduce Pollution, with 84 and 71 respectively. The popularity of the rest of the answers can be seen above. A breakdown of the answers included in each category can be seen below:

**Green energy use and research:**

- Create more green energy
- Reduce reliance on fossil fuels
- Reduce energy consumption
- Invest and research in new technologies

**More green spaces, planting & local produce:**

- Improve green spaces
- Create more green spaces
- Plant trees
- Don't cut trees down
- Don't develop on green spaces
- Grow more local produce
- Moss walls

**Improve travel infrastructure:**

- Cycle lanes
- Make public transport cheaper or free
- Improve public transport

**Reduce pollution:**

- Ban or tax polluting vehicles
- Congestion charge in the city for petrol and diesel cars
- Reduce the number of cars
- More electric cars

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### **Stop littering:**

- More bins around parks and public places
- Clean up more
- Litter picks
- Stop littering
- Increase fines
- Stop fly tipping

### **Educate all:**

- Education on climate change
- Education on recycling
- Raise awareness

### **Reduce/ban single use plastic:**

- Ban single use plastic
- Use more sustainable alternatives

### **Recycle more:**

- Recycle more waste
- Make recycling easier

### **Incentivise green vehicles:**

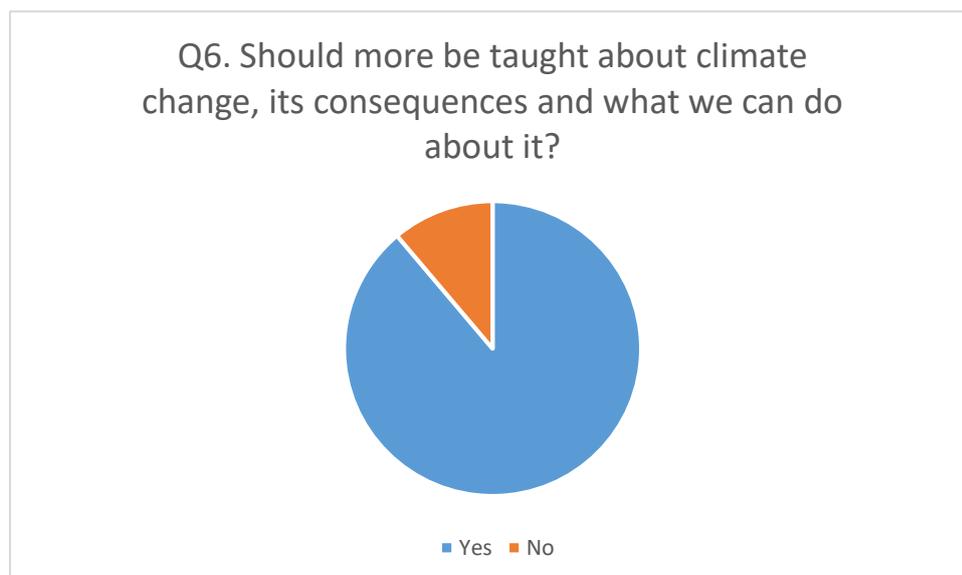
- Subsidise green vehicles

### **Improve building eco systems:**

- Improve the energy rating of new and existing buildings
- Make buildings more eco-friendly

Some of the other popular answers given by respondents were: reducing waste, closing fossil fuel factories and decreasing dependence on fossil fuels, encouraging active travel, putting electric car chargers across the city, putting more laws and restrictions in place to help the environment, grow food locally, and making one day a year car free.

### Should more be taught about climate change, its consequences and what we can do about it?



Respondents were asked whether more should be taught about climate change, its consequences and what we can be done about it. As can be seen above, the vast majority of respondents answered yes. The breakdown of the responses are as follows:

- Yes – 767 (89%)
- No – 96 (11%)

### How do you think people can learn more around climate change?

Respondents who had answered yes to question six, were then asked how they think people can learn more around climate change, its consequences and what can be done about it. Many recurring themes were prevalent in the responses. The most popular responses are outlined below:

- In school or in a classroom
- Practical or hands on learning
- TV – documentaries, advertisements, etc.
- Utilising technology
- Advertising on buses, posters and billboards
- At home
- Educate adults
- Universities
- Colleges
- Youth councils
- Youth forums
- Youth clubs
- Field trips
- City wide education strategy
- Events outside of school
- Public announcements
- Social media
- YouTube videos
- Online studies
- Having a festival
- For people to see the impact of their actions
- Seeing the effects and impacts of climate change in real life

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- Raising awareness through mailing strategy
- Visit the places most affected by climate change
- Experts giving talks
- Make education interesting and engaging
- Better education of the people in power
- Compare scientific data
- Workshops

The vast majority of respondents stated that school or in a classroom was the best way to educate people about climate change.