

YOUNG CLIMATE WARRIORS

Impact Report 2024/25



Aureus Primary School, Didcot, with Ioana

www.youngclimatewarriors.org
Reg charity no: 1192440

Message from Our Founder

Young Climate Warriors has grown from seedling to sapling this year. Our team 'on-the-ground' has expanded substantially - now with 8 part-time staff (equivalent to 2FTEs) ... ideas are flowing, energy and enthusiasm brimming over, and solid delivery processes in place. Our 4 well-established programmes are now on a roll ... each unfurling and stretching towards the sunlight of buoyant demand. On Earth Day (22nd April) we launched our new Climate Change Club in a Box ... a series of 12 sessions - jam-packed with creativity and imagination they offer a simple, yet engaging deep dive into all sorts of climate-related topics. Delve in ... and enjoy some of the highlights from our year... thank you for being with us on our journey!

Katrina

Our Vision

For every child in the UK to feel engaged and empowered to be able to reflect, discuss and choose their own informed path of climate action.

Our Mission

To advance the climate literacy of all children aged 7-14yrs, in the UK, by providing free resources to all teachers, educators, families and community groups.

To inspire a nationwide team of 'young climate warriors', so that every family is practicing carbon-cutting actions and making sustainable living choices.

Our Year in Numbers

Sept '24 – Aug '25

47
interactive assemblies held across the UK from Glasgow to Brighton.

8,959
children reached via our 2024/25 Climate Change Assemblies.

652
educators receive our weekly topic/challenge resources

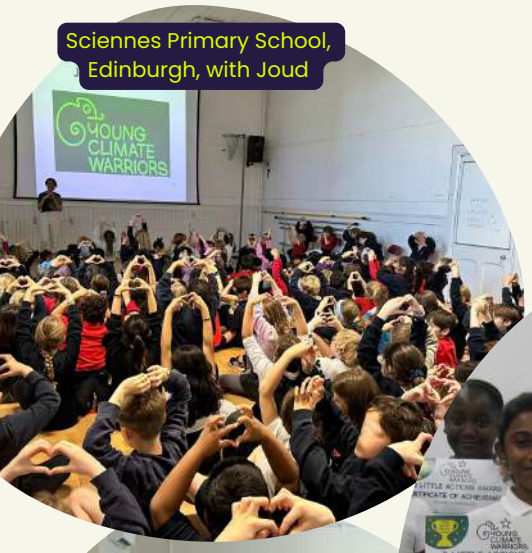
186
educators requested our resources during 2024/25.

63
young people completed our 3 month DofE programme of climate change skills challenges.

55
young people ready to share climate change assemblies as YCW Ambassadors.

14,900+
children reached via all our 2024/25 programmes.

916
families receive our weekly carbon-busting sustainable-living challenges.



Sciennes Primary School, Edinburgh, with Joud




Boskenwyn Primary School, Cornwall, with Anna







Soha 're-imagining rubbish', Keerthi, 'on two wheels not four', George, 'looking with different eyes'.

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Our goals

Engaging our audiences - achieving our YCW goals.

Children

Goal: To advance climate literacy and engage and empower children (7-14yrs) to take action

Teachers

Goal: To support teachers and educators to improve climate literacy and opportunities for climate action.

Families & community groups

Goal: To encourage families to learn about climate change, take carbon-cutting actions and make sustainable living choices, inspiring societal behavioural change.

Young People

Goal: Supporting young people (14-23yrs) in building skills to become future 'green changemakers'.

In 2024/25 we reached over 14,900 children across our four programmes. Sharing our inspirational climate-related resources we're empowering children to take action whilst encouraging reflection and discussion about sustainable-living choices. With a 'stubborn optimistic'* ethos, we focus on igniting curiosity, building critical-thinking skills, sharing positive solutions, getting 'out into nature' and motivating a shared responsibility for the well-being of our planet.

Educators have a crucial role to play in building climate-literacy amongst children. In all our conversations with teachers we witness a passion to bring a hopeful message to their pupils. Increasing expectations and ever-expanding curriculums however mean they simply don't have the time to prepare resources to engage young people in climate conversations. This is where we step in. Providing inspiring resources our goal is to ease the burden on teachers, whilst also driving the change we strive to see.

*'Stubborn optimism is not the result of a success, it is the necessary input for addressing any challenge if we want a chance of success.' Christiana Figueres: Costa Rican diplomat, previous UNFCCC Executive Secretary, architect of the Paris Agreement, a founding partner of Global Optimism.

Our reach

Sept '24 - Aug '25



Key:

- Schools - receiving our resources
- DofE participants - completed challenges



St Matthew's Primary School, Leeds

In 2024/25, Young Climate Warriors engaged with schools all across the UK, from Glasgow to Cornwall, reaching over 14,900 children across all our programmes.
Climate change is already impacting us all, but these impacts are not experienced equally. Vulnerable communities, the urban poor, and those already experiencing poverty are - and will continue to be - disproportionately affected, and children from disadvantaged backgrounds feel the impacts most strongly. At Young Climate Warriors, we are driven to ensure that our work is open and available to all. This year, 38.6% of the schools we have engaged with have greater than average 'free school meal eligibility', and we are continuing to prioritise schools in areas that rank more highly against the Multiple Deprivation Index, ensuring that we are doing everything we can to support children from all backgrounds across the UK.

Ambassador Assemblies

Interactive Climate Assemblies, shared by our YCW Ambassadors across the UK. 'The youth of today inspiring the youth of tomorrow'

Beneficiaries	What we have achieved this year
Supporting children aged 7-11yrs	• Shared 47 Climate Assemblies building climate literacy across the UK, reaching 8,959 children, from Edinburgh to Cornwall, from Liverpool to Kent. • Our bespoke YCW movie looks at our incredible natural world, and the basics of climate science, prompting discussion on 'what' climate change is, 'why' it's happening, 'how' we can take action and 'who' can take action (... everyone!) • Our passionate, dynamic YCW Ambassadors act as positive role models, share our 'climate ditty', and run our interactive sustainable-living game - 'what's in the bag'?
Supporting young people aged 18-23yrs	• 55 young people trained as YCW Ambassadors, recruited from 24 towns/cities across the UK. • Our YCW Ambassadors build their climate knowledge, and channel their passion and climate-concern into a tangible community project. • Ambassadors develop skills in climate oracy and public-speaking, building a platform to become confident potential future 'green changemakers'.

'Our pupils left this assembly, buzzing with questions, reflecting on their own habits and thinking of ideas to help our school reduce waste.'
St Mary Magdalene, Greenwich

Adel Primary School, Leeds: YCW Ambassador, Kate, shared our Climate Assembly in February - she was 'warm, friendly and confident, the content was pitched well, and presented so that all pupils could access it'. In April, Kate returned to inspire their newly established eco-club by sharing two of our 'CCC in a Box sessions' - 'Understanding climate change' and 'Environmental footprints: recycling and inspiring curiosity' ... these in turn spurred on the eco-club to undertake a school environmental audit, following which they recorded some creative eco-messages that they shared with the whole school ... an excellent example of how YCW encourages and empowers action at school!



Radford Primary Academy, Coventry, with Arfa

'The students were curious & engaged, and it sparked some really thoughtful and creative answers... encouraging them to think critically about everyday items and their environmental impact'
YCW Ambassador - Arfa

'Ioana's passion, powerful examples and eye-opening facts made a real impact- thank you for inspiring change!'
Sunningwell CE Primary School, Oxon

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DofE Climate Skills Challenges

Three months of climate challenges, supporting DofE participants to develop sustainable-living skills via practical guided activities.

Beneficiaries	What we have achieved this year
Supporting young people aged 14yrs+	• Supported 63 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze/Silver participants on a 'climate journey' building a deeper capability set for climate action and sustainable living. • Through 13 weekly challenges, with personalised email support, young people strengthen their critical thinking skills and develop their values framework based on a shared planetary responsibility. • 100% say they will continue changes such as shorter showers, eating less meat and buying less.
Supporting wider communities - family and friends	• Intergenerational engagement strengthens climate action. Feedback shows 99% of participants discuss their climate challenges with family, teachers, friends or relatives, extending our reach into wider communities.

Listen to the wind, do you hear the tale unfold?
Of melting ice and trees, that we turned old
Oceans rise, sweeping away villages and towns
Whilst nature has clearly died down

The once vibrant blue skies are nothing but grey clouds,
Where is all the greenery that we once found?
To seek refuge, creatures roam
We stand here carelessly as we destroy their home

Answer me, is this what you desire?
Do you love the problems we now acquire?
For a greener future, make the right choice
Fight for what's right: use your voice.

Poem by Fiha, DofE participant

Fighting fast fashion: 80% of 16-24-year olds can't remember what clothes they own — can you? Can fashion be 'cheap, cool and kind to nature'? What is the circular economy and can it help combat fast fashion? Our YCW challenges spark debate and stimulate critical thinking. This challenge also encourages seeing clothes as part of a 'portable memory box' ... restoring them to new life where possible. Here's a beautiful cushion that Alice made from an old pair of jeans.



'I now feel more confident about taking action to help tackle climate change in ways I hadn't considered before.'
Harry, DofE participant

'I spoke with my mum, nanny and grandad and they really enjoyed the challenges we did together.'
Caleb, DofE participant

'This is a fantastic initiative that encouraged my daughter to think critically about climate change and what we can do as a community to help our planet'.
Solange, DofE parent

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Climate Change Club in a Box

Ready-to-use, zero cost small group resources. Designed to build climate literacy & stimulate deeper sustainable-living discussions.

Beneficiaries	What we have achieved this year
Supporting teachers	• Feedback from our Teachers Advisory Panel informed the re-design and update of CCC in a Box resources. 12 new CCC in a Box sessions launched on Earth Day - 22nd April 2025. • Our CCC in a Box resources can be used in a whole class session, or as part of an eco-club, and each session includes detailed teachers notes. 93 schools requested our CCC in a Box resources in 2024/25
Supporting children aged 7-14yrs	• YCW Ambassadors have to date followed our Climate Assembly by sharing 'CCC in a Box' sessions with 5 smaller groups at 2 schools. • Our 'CCC in a Box' sessions help build climate literacy, develop climate oracy, mitigate eco-emotions, and equip our young people to become 'responsible, respectful, active citizens' (Education Inspection Framework)





Earth Day 2025: Our revamped resources, launched on Earth Day 2025 went down a storm - 40 teachers requested links in the first week, and several MPs got in touch to share with schools in their constituencies. The 12 newly-designed sessions include teacher-requested topics, such as: food waste, consumption choices, fast fashion, plastics, biodiversity ... and many more.
Our sessions include a wide range of hands-on activities: quizzes, top trumps, crosswords, snakes and ladders, card games, competitions, 'shopping lists', detective work, dragons den, puzzles ... and every session includes a creative 'take-away' action to share the discussion with the wider community of family and friends.



St Matthew's CE Primary School, Leeds

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Challenges + Certificates

Fun, age-appropriate weekly carbon-busting sustainable-living challenges taking carbon literacy from school into the community.

Beneficiaries	What we have achieved this year
Supporting children aged 7-11yrs	• Our weekly challenges/topic-based resources shared with 652 teachers (further shared within schools via newsletters, class dojo pages etc). • We received 426 emails from children/families who had completed challenges, we sent each one a personalised reply. • Our '3 Little Actions Award' builds sustainable living skills, whilst engendering a sense of teamwork. 64 children received '3 Little Action certificates'. • Schools in Reading and Shrivenham also received badges and certificates for challenge engagement via their eco-clubs.

Nelson Primary School, Newham, London: pupils at Nelson are extraordinarily lucky, they have an amazing teacher – Jackie – so goes above and beyond to help them engage with climate action. 62 children from across the school choose to participate in our '3 Little Actions Award', 23 completed over 3 challenges ... and 7 children completed more than 10.
'Hello, this week me and my brother stopped watching devices and we planted banana trees, rode our scooters and did our homework. We managed to handle 2 and a half hours without screens.' Ashvini (age 8 yrs) and Jashwin (age 5 yrs)

'I like being a Young Climate Warrior because it means that every small thing I do adds up and can make a difference, slowly but surely helping our planet.'

Syeda, age 9 yrs

'As a family, we have really enjoyed taking part in each challenge and the conversations these challenges have sparked have been great.'

Claire, Parent, Greystoke Primary School, Cumbria



'I like being a Young Climate Warrior because it challenges your creativity and it proves how adventurous you can be as well as saving the planet.'

Amelia, age 9 yrs

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What's next

Our 2025/26 aims

- Increase our reach:
  - Reach over 10,000 children through 80+ assemblies shared across the UK.
  - Support 60+ DofE participants.
- Support deeper engagement in schools:
  - Increase sharing of CCC in a Box with small group sessions.
  - Increase uptake of the 3 Little Actions Award.
- Enhance our impact monitoring and feedback mechanisms.
- Develop our Youth Advisory Panel, and undertake another Teachers Survey in Summer 2026.



Photo thanks to Nyla

Funding received in 2024/25 – for which we are extremely grateful.

Garfield Weston Foundation

The Britford Bridge Trust

South Oxfordshire District Council

JM Johnson Matthey

Chapman Charitable Trust

Nineveh Charitable Trust

dwf

2024 Winner – Movement for Good – Benefact Group

Foyle Foundation

Young Climate Warriors

Meet the team

We couldn't do it with you!

Staff

Trustees

Ambassadors

Other volunteers

Our hard-working, passionate 'core team'


Katrina
Founder and Director


Lynne
Administration & Communications Manager


Kate
Schools Manager


Lucy
Ambassador Administrator


Natalie
Outreach Advisor


Sarah
DofE Manager


Benji
Funding Manager


Helen
Funding Strategy Manager


Kate
Communications Admin Support

Our team of fabulous YCW Ambassadors!



Our 2024/25 Trustees

Chair: Katrina Judge
Treasurer: Tom Wilson
Safeguarding: Sarah Austin
Impact lead: Sam Mead
Funding lead: Mark Fisher
Operations lead: Nicole Finnan

Other volunteers:

Matt Bennett: fundraising
Andy Hopkins: payroll
Sabine Pusch: film-maker
Amanda Vine: trustee board oversight

Our network of other climate education organisations

Coalition members of:

Resources shared at:

We support the Climate and Nature Bill:

We are a DofE Approved Activity Provider: