

# Young People's Climate Advocacy Action Pack

@OfficialSYP  
#TheMoment



# what is The Moment?

The Scottish Youth Parliament, Children's Parliament, and Scottish Parliament have teamed up to give children and young people from across Scotland the opportunity to take part in nationwide climate meetings with Scotland's decision makers as part of a new initiative to ensure their voices are heard as part of the debate on the climate emergency.

Taking place on Friday 29th October 2021, The Moment will be an opportunity for children and young people to engage with their elected representatives in the places where they live. It will allow them to communicate their expectations and wants for their future.

Ahead of this, we are encouraging children and young people to communicate their calls to action in tackling the climate emergency before the COP26 conference in Glasgow.

This toolkit has been created to empower young people aged 14 - 25 across Scotland to explore and raise issues around the climate emergency, and to help you prepare for The Moment.



## about syp

The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) exists to give young people aged 14 - 25 a national platform to discuss the issues that are important to them, and to campaign for changes to the nation they live in.

Members of SYP (MSYPs) listen to and recognise the issues that are most important to young people in every community across the country and ensure that decision-makers listen to their voices.

You can find out more about SYP at <https://syp.org.uk/>.

## Questions?

If you have any questions about The Moment or anything in this pack, please contact SYP at [hello@syp.org.uk](mailto:hello@syp.org.uk).



# The Moment

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Section 1:

investigate



## the themes

To help you investigate climate change in your area, you could think about five different themes:

Diet  
Land and sea use  
Lifestyle  
Travel  
Work and learning

These are the five themes the Children's Parliament explored through their work with Scotland's Climate Assembly. You can read more about this in their report [here](#).

## activity:

**Understand your impact on the environment (your carbon footprint), and set yourself a challenge to reduce your carbon footprint.**

This carbon calculator has been created by WWF to help people understand their carbon footprint, and makes suggestions to help you make small changes which will reduce your impact on the environment: <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>

# activity:

## Explore climate change in your local area

Get out and about in your community, take photos and make notes on the five themes:

- Diet - where does food come from in your area? Are there lots of takeaways and cafes, or local businesses and zero waste shops?
- Land and sea use - how is land used in your area? Are there lots of buildings and roads? How about parks, fields, rivers, woodlands?
- Lifestyle - How do people get rid of waste in your area - can you recycle different types of waste, or does everything go into landfill? Are there any incentives to encourage people to live in a more environmentally friendly way?
- Travel - how do people travel in your community? Are there public transport options and safe routes for walking or cycling, or does everyone have to rely on cars?
- Work and learning - what do young people learn about the climate emergency in your area? Are there opportunities for young people to find out about and get involved in environmental jobs?

When you get home, have a look through your findings and put them together into a display, report, or presentation. Is there anything you would like decision makers to change in your area? You could present these findings at The Moment.

## activity:

Find out what young people in your community think

To help you find out what young people in your community think about the climate emergency, you could carry out a short survey. Here are some questions you could ask:

- What does climate change mean to you?
- What should Scotland's decision makers do to tackle the climate emergency?
- Why is it important for young people to be involved in decisions about climate change?

Present your findings in an interesting way, and use the responses to help you identify what needs to change in your area.

## Young People's views

As well as your own investigations, SYP has a lot of policy relating to the climate emergency and these themes. There are some examples on the next page, and you can find an info sheet with more young people's views [here](#) - you could refer to this during your surgery.

# SYP Policy

SYP policy is a collection of statements that outlines the collective views of Scotland's young people on a huge range of different issues and topics. Our policy is made in different ways - through our manifesto [From Scotland's Young People](#); through Members' Motions and Committee Motions, which are voted on by MSYPs; and through consultations with groups of young people on specific issues.

"The right to food should be upheld in Scotland by creating a fair, healthy, and sustainable food system that is accessible to everyone." (From Scotland's Young People, 90% agree)

"Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government should provide funding to support initiatives which make it easier, cheaper, and safer for young people to use active and sustainable travel options." (From Scotland's Young People, 89% agree)



**"The global climate emergency is an issue of climate justice, where those who contribute least to greenhouse gas emissions are most impacted. Countries most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions must:**

Compensate loss and damage incurred in less developed countries as a result of climate change by contributing finances to a global fund, supporting research, and working on international cooperation."

*(From Scotland's Young People, 70% agree)*

Share benefits of their increased wealth and development with those countries most impacted by climate change."

*(From Scotland's Young People, 71% agree)*

Be the first to reduce their emissions."

*(From Scotland's Young People, 75% agree)*

**"The food and retail industry should:**

make it possible for people to rely less on packaging that can only be used once."

*(From Scotland's Young People, 86% agree)*

make it possible to recycle and reuse packaging."

*(From Scotland's Young People, 94% agree)*

avoid using too much packaging in their products."

*(From Scotland's Young People, 91% agree)*

make it possible for people to rely less on packaging made out of plastic."

*(From Scotland's Young People,  
89% agree)*

# The Moment

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Section 2:

take action



# before your Surgery

## what is a Surgery?:

Surgeries are a great way to bring young people and decision makers together to discuss issues and share solutions. This guide gives you an overview of the steps to think about to organise a surgery for The Moment on Friday 29th October.

### step 1: write a to do list

Make a list of everything you will need to do to make the event happen, and set deadlines for each activity. Check your list regularly to make sure you're on track!

There is a handy checklist [here](#) which you could use to keep you on track!

## step 2: decide when and where your surgery is going to take place

The Moment should take place in spaces where young people feel comfortable - this could be your school, college or university, a youth centre or sports club, or even a park! If you're nervous about organising an in person surgery, you could also hold your event online using a platform such as Zoom, Teams, or Skype.

### safety first!

Before you start organising anything, please speak to a trusted adult about your plans. This could be a teacher, youth worker, or parent. They can help you make sure everyone at your event will be safe.

### things to consider:

What time will your event be, and how long will it last? We recommend you aim for it to last around one hour.

If there are any costs, who will pay for these?

How will you make sure your event is accessible so everyone can take part?

If your surgery will be in person, how will you make sure it is Covid-secure?

## step 3: send invites

Email your decision maker to invite them to come to your surgery. Make sure you give them plenty of notice - aim to send your invitation at least three weeks before your event.

We have created [this template email](#) you can use to contact your decision makers.

## who are my decision makers?

Everyone in Scotland is represented by eight Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs). You will have one constituency MSP, who represents your local area, and seven regional MSPs, who represent a wider region. If your constituency MSP is not available, try getting in touch with one of your regional representatives to invite them instead! You could also make contact with your local Councillors or your MP.

Find out who represents you [here](#).

## top tip!

To help you remember who you have invited, set up a spreadsheet with a list of names, or you could use a website such as [Eventbrite](#) for people to sign up online.



# during your Surgery

At your surgery, we suggest you focus on two things:

1. Sharing your concerns about the climate emergency.
2. Asking your decision-maker to take action.

This template agenda has been put together to give you a guide for the structure of the surgery.

## step 1: introductions

Introduce yourself

Explain the purpose of this surgery

Invite everyone at the event to introduce themselves

## top tip!

You could start your event with an icebreaker to help everyone feel comfortable in the room. There are some ideas in [this resource](#).

## top tip!

Decision-makers may bring a member of staff with them. The staff member will be there to help the decision-maker by taking notes and helping them to take action following the event.

## step 2: the climate emergency

Explain how you have investigated this issue, and present your findings from your local investigations.

You could talk about young people's views on this issue. You can find out more about SYP's policy and young people's views on pages 8-9.

If there are other young people at your surgery, you could also invite them to share their views and experiences.

## step 3: make an ask

A successful meeting should always include a call for the decision maker to take action.

During your investigations, you may have come up with some things you would like to see change in your community. Pick two or three of the biggest issues you would like your decision maker to take action on, and come up with some actions they could take to address these issues.

We have suggested some actions you could ask your decision maker to take on the next page.

## you could ask your decision maker to:

More regularly ask children and young people for their views about the climate emergency, and make sure children and young people whose voices aren't always heard are included in these discussions.

Increase funding to make it easier, cheaper, and safer for young people to use active and sustainable travel options.

Improve education to make sure all children and young people in Scotland receive practical environmental awareness education, and are empowered to take action to live more sustainably.

Support businesses to reduce their environmental impact by using less plastic and single-use packaging, by using more locally-sourced produce, and by reducing their waste.

## step 4: ending your surgery

Thank your decision maker for meeting with you, and ask if you can take a photo to share on social media after the meeting (don't be offended if they say no!).

Run through a note of any actions that have come up and make sure everyone is happy with them.

Remind them of any actions you have both agreed to take, and let them know you will follow up with an email in the next few days.

# after your Surgery

Share your photo on social media, and tag your decision-maker to say thank you for meeting with you. Remember to use the hashtag and to tag @OfficialSYP.

Thank everyone for coming - email your decision maker to thank them for their time and to remind them of your key points. There is a template email [here](#).

Remember to keep a note of the actions you agreed to, and follow up on them as soon as you can. If you are going to struggle to meet any deadlines, please speak to a teacher or youth worker if you can, so they can help you.

Fill in the details of your surgery on the map to let us know how it went!

## the map!

We know many young people across Scotland care about protecting our planet and standing up for their rights to grow up in a healthy, safe environment. SYP is working with the Children's Parliament to capture all the different ways children and young people across Scotland are influencing decision makers about climate change, and the changes that are happening as a result!

After your surgery, head over to the Climate Changemakers website to add your own calls to action to the map [here](#)!

