



Parliamentary One Pager

Youth Climate Activism and Climate Education

“Dear MSP, I Think You Should Listen and Don’t Talk Down to Us” -Secondary Student Attending Youth

Youth Climate Action Background:

Edinburgh Youth Climate Summit, held on 28th February 2020 at Dynamic Earth, gave young people a forum to express their priorities and concerns in relation to the climate crisis.

Youth Activism Through Our Tree:

Young people wrote what behaviour they were willing to change in order to mitigate climate change. These were then placed on UN House Scotland’s Climate Pledge Tree, as pictured top right.

- *“I will walk more”, “I will cycle more”, “I will take fewer flights”*
- *“I will switch lights off when I leave the room”, “I will only use recyclable plastic”, “I will use reusable scups and metal straws”*
- *“I will bring my own shopping bag”, “I will buy more second hand stuff, I will eat less meat”*

Dear MSPs, What We Expect From YOU:

Alongside a willingness to change their own behaviour, students also had many expectations from Parliament. Their recycled postcards to MSPs, pictured to the right, outline their demands.

- *“Ban cars from the city centre”, “Please, please, please make it easy to cycle everywhere”*
- *“Ban single use plastic”, “Bring back bottle-return scheme”*
- *“I would like for there to be more education about recycling and climate change”*
- *“Stop relying on teenagers and scientist to solve climate change for you. It has to be a communal effort”*

Climate Education and Action in Schools:

- According to Curriculum for Excellence: “Every school should have a ‘A Whole School Approach’ to learning for suitability that is robust, demonstratable, evaluated and supported by leadership at all levels” (CFE, Scotland 2020)
- Yet **only a third** of Scottish Schools are Green Flag certified (Keep Scotland Beautiful, 2020)
- Moreover, the average secondary school produces **22kg of waste per pupil** each academic year, this is **45kg per pupil** for primary schools (Recycle for Scotland)

Recommendations:

1. Evaluate climate education consistently across every Scottish school.
2. Provide funding to encourage Recycling Programs and monitor them at schools.
3. Further investment in renewals at Scottish Schools.

