

# Green 20 Youth Deal 22

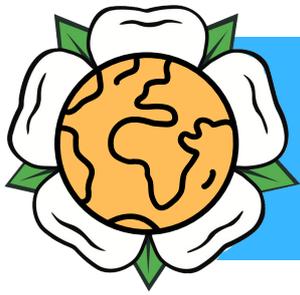
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A progressive and hopeful manifesto for  
net zero and social justice by young people

**RYCA**

**YORKSHIRE & HUMBER**





# WHO ARE RYCA

The Regional Youth Climate Assembly (RYCA) is a group made of members from across the Yorkshire & Humber region to provide a collective youth voice for young people within the climate discussion. RYCA encourages young people living in Yorkshire & Humber to represent their local authority on a regional, national and international stage to solve climate change and other social issues .

RYCA is dedicated to striving for a better world by combating the effects and causes of climate change. We partner with different organisations and groups from around the world to promote positive actions and practical solutions for making our world a better place.

Members of RYCA typically comprise young people from individual local authorities (youth cabinets/ councils), regional groups and members of Youth Parliament from across the Yorkshire & Humber Region, all of which are ran by the Youth Work Unit (YWU), a strategic youth work development agency for the Yorkshire and Humber region. It is the focal point for the youth work sector in the region and has a unique role in bringing together the dual functions of support and development. They support the work and members of RYCA and have done so since its creation in April 2020.



RYCA began as a demand for greater youth engagement and action towards the fight against climate change and has demonstrated this through many of our campaigns, collaborations and international work.

Most noticeably is our involvement at COP 26 through the ‘Ripple Effect | Youth Are Leading’.

“The Ripple Effect was a film made by young people from the UK and South Africa on the ways – sometimes less obvious – in which climate change affects them where they live, right now.”

“The project featured interviews, vlogs and mini films created by the young people and cutting across all of the experiences were the deep concerns the young people shared about their futures, their families, the destruction of the natural environment and climate justice.”

The film was a collaborative effort from a team including the Y&H Regional Youth Climate Assembly, the University of Leeds, Leeds City Council, the Yorkshire and Humber Youth Work Unit, the Place-based Climate Action Network and Youth@SAIIA (the South African Institute of International Affairs youth programme). The Ripple Effect had been filmed entirely by the young people involved, with production assistance from filmmaker Paul Cooke (Professor of World Cinemas at the University of Leeds).

Subsequently, the Ripple Effect premiered and was live streamed at the Glasgow IMAX theatre in the UN COP26 greenzone on Monday the 8th of November 2021 followed by a workshop delivered by young people involved from RYCA and SAIIA.



When writing our **Green Youth Deal** and throughout all our work RYCA has always maintained 4 key principles.

Climate change is the greatest threat we face but climate action offers us a chance to reshape Britain.

Through decarbonisation we can tackle the deep rooted societal problems and revolutionise young people's place in society

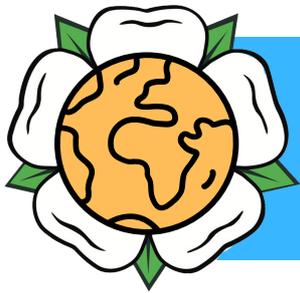


If we want decarbonisation to be truly progressive and to tackle societal problems, the path to net zero must not leave people behind. Whether it's changing job markets or communities having to adapt we need a just transition. We can never make the same mistakes of generations before us.

Young people are not the next generation. Often politicians and decision makers will claim we are the future but all that does is kick the issues we face down the road and lock us out of the decision-making process. We need a Youth Democratic Renaissance where young people are co-designing policy that affects us. That means expanding voting rights, involving young people in all decisions and reshaping our relationship with decision makers.



Power to the people! We need to redesign how power is distributed across the UK; both when it comes to young people and communities. For too long most of the power had been held in companies and Westminster. To achieve net zero and a just society we need devolution across the UK and investment, both in money and respect to communities and to young people



# Introduction

The **Green Youth Deal** is intended to be a comprehensive action manifesto that will inform leaders, policy and decision makers on a wide range of issues and actions that young people, from across the Yorkshire & Humber region, believe must be prioritised and addressed when delivering climate action.

The manifesto includes actions that the Regional Youth Climate Assembly (RYCA) is dedicated to work on and crucially outlines the need of bringing young people to the table of local, regional and national climate decision making.

Whilst demonstrating a handful of creative work that young people from across Yorkshire & Humber are already doing, RYCA's manifesto aims to inspire further actions in addressing the climate crisis and to thus influence greater urgency and the inclusion of young people across the region.

RYCA outlines, 10 manifesto points that we believe are crucial to Yorkshire & Humber's strategy in combating climate change:

- **Climate Education**
- **Green Jobs**
- **ACE Awards**
- **Green Housing/ Construction**
- **Agriculture**
- **Fast Fashion**
- **Pollution**
- **Transport**
- **Climate and National Security**
- **Carbon Tax**

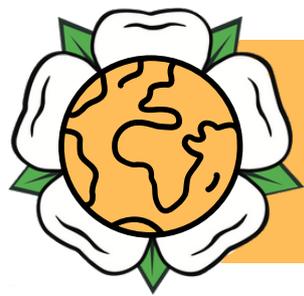
We at RYCA believe climate action should and can be a catalyst for further political and social change. In other words, climate change isn't just about saving the planet, it is in addition to solving many other issues that climate action parallels to or at least helps resolve. It allows for many other constituent areas to use it's avenue to enact a further sense of change and action towards intersectional factors.

When we talk about tackling climate change, we must also confront the institutional oppression and systems that perpetuate these underlying 'climate' inequalities and issues that arguably have been exacerbated through the lack of climate action.

Examples such as youth voice, public transport, the revitalisation of employment (green jobs), and geographical disparity are all, in one way or another, interdisciplinary with either the issue of climate change or the actions in which help resolve it.

By focusing on the corresponding waves of issues climate change consists of, it will allow more focused and pragmatic strategies to underpin actions by all collective communities and groups.

**"Climate action could and should be a catalyst for further social and political change"**



# Youth Voice

Climate change plays a huge role in offering the seats to young people in political and social discussions as it is one of the only significant issues whereby decision makers and individuals have been willing to welcome young people in their own political process and discussions. However this inception of democratising young people shouldn't just end here, youth representation and youth boards should be integrated in all other issues and departments that affect them also, not just in the sector of only climate change.

There has been a growing unification of demands and actions advocated by young people, most noticeably through the vast demonstrations, strikes and youth-led campaigns internationally.

The reason for this is because young people are no longer just viewing the issue of climate change as an urgent imposition inflicting them now, they are viewing it as an additional means for which they can further tackle the lack of representation of young people in the wider discussions for decision making that ultimately affects them the most.

They are using the avenue of climate change not just to help save the planet but as an extra platform to which they can advocate the greater oppressions affecting young people as a whole and how climate action links into that.

The crucial impetus and significance in which young people have provided has been significantly recognised due to the investment and opportunities given to them by their elder counterparts, however if such attention and opportunities were given to them in the first place, and in other fields of issues also, imagine how much more they could do to help and achieve.

The intersectionality within climate change is not necessarily a direct issue that needs to be addressed in order to reach the target of net zero but one in which is comprehensive to the actions of solving all constituent parts within climate change.

## Actions:

### Locally:

- Youth councils must be established to have young representatives on a diverse range of boards

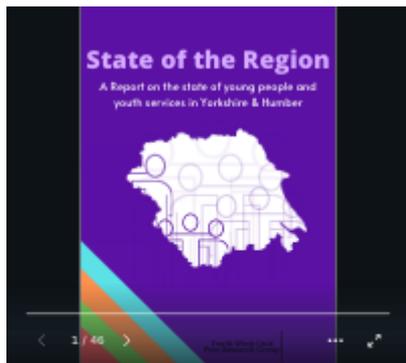
### Regionally:

- There must be the establishment of youth combined authorities in all devolved regions. These youth groups/ boards must also be youth efficient and young people led, with decision makers engaging in deep meaningful conversations and carrying out subsequent actions from them.

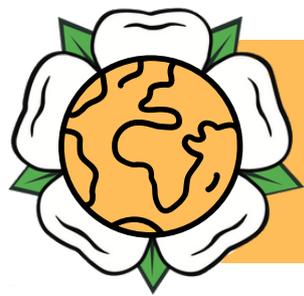
### Nationally:

- Young people need to be a part of the decision making process at COP blue zone, not just the green zone.

Everyone that engages with young people must understand what proper youth inclusion is: see the 'State of the Region Report' made by young people from across Yorkshire & Humber around attitudes towards the younger generation



Tap to open



# Youth Voice

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## ACTIONS

### Locally:

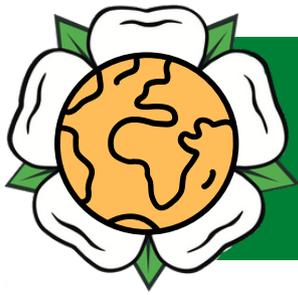
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### Nationally:

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# Climate Education

Climate education is an essential part to any net zero transition. Without it we'll be left with another generation unequipped to tackle the climate crisis. Young people need to be taught about the causes, effects and solutions to climate change from primary to sixth form. Currently, the only climate education students receive is in limited amounts in geography and some sciences. So if you don't pick those options for GCSE or A Level, or go into an apprenticeship post 16, you are left without any real climate education.

Education has two roles in young people's lives:

- (a) To give us the transferable and necessary tools to expand our knowledge that we can use later in life and our careers
- (b) To inspire us and to give us ideas about what we want to in our careers

However, this can't be achieved by simply expanding what is taught in geography and the sciences nor by introducing other subjects (like the Natural History course). Climate education needs to be throughout the curriculum. In Religious Studies how different faiths view the planet; in History the progression of the climate movement. Furthermore, in the sciences and geography the content needs to become much more solution based and empower people to take action.

Primary school children also need climate education. Both an introduction to the world around them and the broad challenges we face. This should also be solution based. By educating young people you educate families as well.

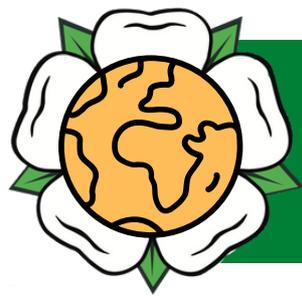
Climate education and green jobs also go hand in hand. By giving young people the base knowledge about climate and the environment they are better equipped for a market of more and more green jobs.

## Actions

**Local:** Local authorities should be working with colleges and academies/schools in their area to develop local climate education plans. They should also be working with businesses to offer green apprenticeships

**Regional:** Where metro mayor's have powers over skills they should be prioritising green upskilling. As well as working with businesses to offer green apprenticeships

**National:** We need massive reform to the school curriculum to include climate education, in every subject and year. The DfE should be prioritising reform.



# Climate Education

Climate education is seriously lacking in our schools. Young people need effective and solution based climate education across all school subjects, from primary up to secondary.

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(a) To give us the transferable and necessary tools to expand our knowledge that we can use later in life and our careers

(b) To inspire us and to give us ideas about what we want to in our careers

We need a broad and solutions based climate curriculum to empower green jobs and prepare people to tackle the climate crisis.

## Actions

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# Green Jobs

We can't reach net zero without massively expanding the number of green jobs. Not only do we need to create new green jobs but we also need to work with businesses, educators and unions to turn existing jobs green. A green job spans net zero and a whole sustainable and circular economy, whether that be someone who fits solar panels, an EV car mechanic or a sustainable farmer. A green job needs to contribute to reaching net zero by 2050 and the protection of biodiversity; it should also be highly skilled and fairly paid. Industries and sectors need to be committed to growing green jobs and strengthening workers' rights in every community. Good working conditions and being able to earn a decent income, and creating a work culture that is aware of social issues and how a business impacts its community. We need all of these values underpinned when delivering climate action in a circular economy.

This way of thinking places people as the solution, not necessarily the problem - green jobs should empower people to find meaning in their work.

Not only do green jobs help fulfil the demands to meet environmental targets, but they revitalise jobs and industries thus providing young people further vocational pathways and career choices for them to pursue.

As a result, green jobs improve productivity through innovative opportunities and training for workers; it therefore acts as a direct solution to our climate crisis and satisfies a large part of a worthwhile, sustained way of living.

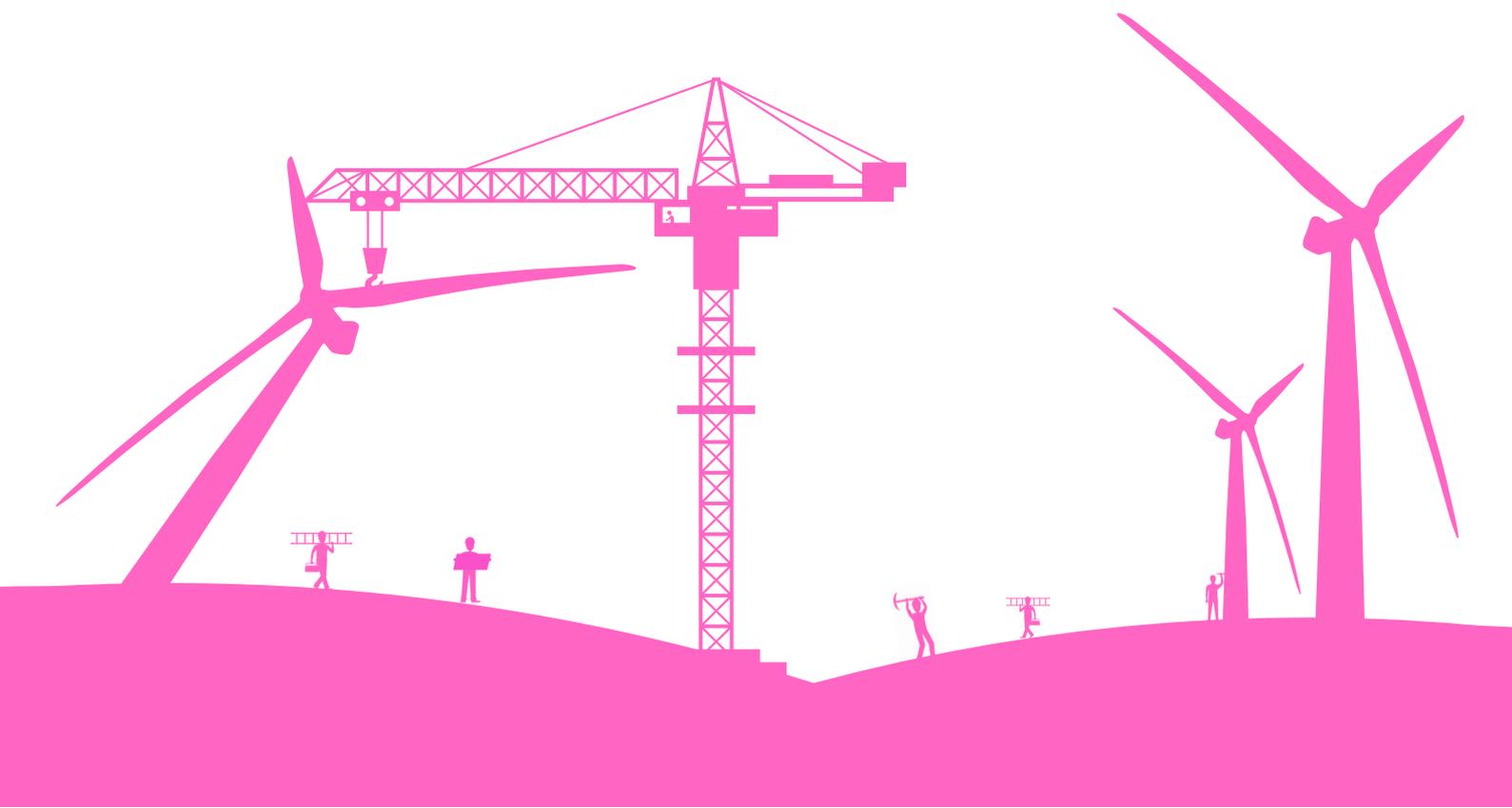
We need actionable, inclusive and sustainable businesses that create green jobs so that every employer can feel that their work is truly meaningful and really contributes to a better world.

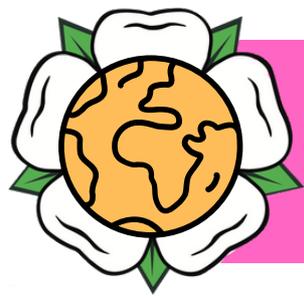
## Actions

**Local:** Local authorities to meet with their business partners to work with them to offer green jobs, apprenticeships, upskilling and diversifying existing roles. As well as offering them as a Local Authority and co-operating with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

**Regional:** Combined authorities need to be advocating for and allocating more money and investment into green jobs. As well as working with larger businesses to offer green jobs, apprenticeships and upskilling. As well as offering them as a Combined Authorities and bringing LEPs together.

**National:** The government needs to be investing into green jobs and infrastructure projects. They also need to be supporting SMEs to decarbonise and to become environmentally successful. They also need to make sure all government jobs are green jobs.





# Green Jobs

We need green jobs up and down the country to reach net zero with a green transition.

This means not only making existing jobs 'green' but creating new green jobs by government investment and projects. As well as massive investment in infrastructure and upskilling.

## Our Definition of Green Jobs

A job that contributes to reaching net zero by 2050 and the protection of biodiversity. It should also be high skilled and fairly paid.

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# ACE Awards

The ACE Awards stands for the Advocates for the Climate & Environment Award and is a school accreditation designed to decarbonise the entirety of the school estate. Designed by Calderdale Youth Council it looks at everything from: climate education to transport; energy to biodiversity and more.

Schools can achieve ACE Awards ranging from Bronze to Platinum depending on their dedication and success. We and our partners (Calderdale Council and Solar 4 Schools) have created resources for schools to use including climate education packs, funding streams, useful links and more.

Where we want ACE to go

RYCA wants to expand the ACE Award to schools across Yorkshire & Humber. As well as to create a larger network of partners and opportunities so schools and colleges can learn from each other and improve. We would also like to see the expansion of ACE to businesses, university, organisations, events and more. Using the ACE model we can adapt it, speak to experts and stakeholders to design new ACE Award schemes. Not only will this give businesses and others the help they need to decarbonise, it will help young people and the public make eco-friendly choices.

## Actions

Personal - Ask your school or college about ACE or other similar schemes

Local - Youth Councils are vital in making sure the ACE Awards work; they have the connections and knowledge that help it run. RYCA will need to rely on Youth Council to help facilitate ACE

Regional:

- Reach out to schools across Yorkshire & Humber as well as work with key partners in designing future ACE Awards (ie the Environment Agency and Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission)

National:

- Work with partners at the DfE and look at wider national options for ACE



# ACE Awards

ACE = Advocates for the Climate and Environment

The ACE Award is a school accreditation designed to decarbonise every aspect of the school (from the canteen, to education and energy use to transport). It is being trialled in Calderdale and will hopefully be expanded soon

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# Green Housing

Residential properties make up 15% of UK GHG emissions (2019) and construction is a massive contributor to our carbon footprint. In particular our energy use and how we build new properties. Huge developments need to happen in how we heat and insulate home as well as our energy supply.

Housing (like many other sectors) not only contributes to climate change but is also at constant threat from it, therefore it must play a pivotal role in decarbonisation. We've got to see:

- Increased district heat systems
- Large scale retrofitting (including insulation and Solar PVs)
- Widespread introduction of smart metres
- New builds to include Solar PVs and high-quality insulation as standard.
- Upgrades in boilers and other heating systems.

There are two major problems with all housing decarbonisation.

1. The first is people's inability to pay for such major retrofitting. New boilers and proper insulation costs thousands of pounds, money most people don't have to hand. Loans and grants (that are accessible, comprehensive and understandable) have to be introduced. And soon.

2. The second is a broader issue on young people's ability to become home owners. Basically, we can't. In the Institute for Fiscal Studies' (IFS) 'Barriers to homeownership for young adults' they found that: "Since 1997, the average property price in England has risen by 173% after adjusting for inflation, and by 253% in London. This compares with increases in real incomes of 25- to 34-year-olds of only 19% and in (real) rents of 38% "

Young people's prospects of owning a home, and especially an eco-friendly home, are becoming slimmer by the day.

That's why RYCA wants to see [Sustainable Housing Bonds \(SHBs\)](#). SHBs are schemes young people (or anyone) can pay into either in their name or as a gift. The money made by these bonds goes towards investing in eco-friendly businesses and housing project (like an endowment fund). The profits raised from these investments will then go towards paying a section of the down payment/ mortgage of those who invest in the bonds

This is a massive project and one RYCA has no capacity running alone, that's why we want to work with government (local, regional and national) as well as businesses across Yorkshire & Humber and beyond. It will need government backing and a secure guarantee but if successful can mean massive progress in sustainable and affordable housing.

## Actions

### Personal:

Reach out to us if SHBs is something you would be willing to use.

### Local:

Local governments need to advocate and allocate for funding in retrofitting and greater sustainable development (although we understand without proper funding from government these projects will never get off the ground). However, councils have great power in communicating and running projects with local businesses and encouraging people to buy SHBs.

### Regional:

Both combined authorities in Yorkshire (WYCA and SYMCA) have powers over housing and they must use their powers to allocate funding, raise awareness, pressure central government and support green construction and SHBs.

### National:

Central government needs to take a firmer stand on sustainable housing and construction. Not only on their own estate but across the country; legislating higher environmental standards which require green technologies to be integrated as standard. Doing more to promote natural materials and supporting companies that are eco-friendly. As well as supporting more young people to get onto the housing ladder by supporting and funding projects like SHBs.



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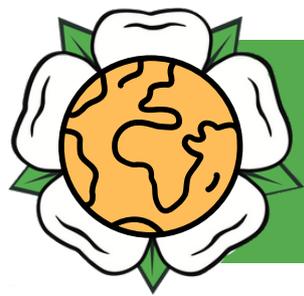
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# Agriculture

Farming is a huge part of Britain's economy and its carbon footprint. Agriculture accounts for ~10% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the UK (2019 statistics). Unlike other contributors the endgame for farming isn't clear; for energy we know we need to be using renewables, transport we know we have to get people on public transport and electrify every vehicle.

There are major questions on how we get there but the goal is relatively the same for everyone. Farming decarbonisation doesn't have such a clear goal: yes we know we have to reduce meat and dairy consumption but other than that it's unlike anything else.

Furthermore, agriculture is in an interesting middle ground between affecting climate change and being affected by climate change. Many of the issues faced across sectors are concentrated in the farming sector. Electrification of farming equipment, adaptation from flooding and more. Agriculture also has massive potential in increasing biodiversity. Farmers are also a perfect example of why a just transition is so important. We can't simply abandon cattle farmers, we have to decarbonise whilst maintaining people's livelihoods by upskilling and using the skills they already have in the most effective ways possible.

RYCA wants to see the diversification of farms (both in produce and in rewilding) as well as introducing the crops that will best suit a net zero world. We've undertaken research into the use of crops such as hemp and bamboo in the road to carbon and methane neutral farming.

We also want greater education in three key areas:

- For farmers on how to decarbonise
- In the classroom on the climate impacts of agriculture
- On the shelves: people should be able to tell on food labelling the emissions and environmental impact of what they're buying (just like with Fairtrade labelling)

Actions:

Personal:

- Reduce your meat and dairy consumption as much as possible

Local:

- Local governments (especially rural authorities) have got to reach out to farmers and into their communities to start the process of working with them to reduce their emissions

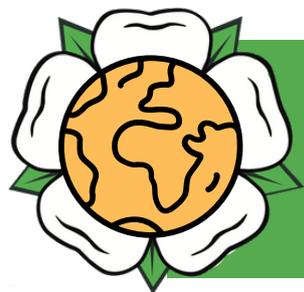
## Regional:

- Regional leaders (like Metro Mayors and Combined Authorities/City Regions) also have to be a part of the conversation with farmers. They must also advocate and allocate funding to help farmers decarbonise. Especially, with the introduction of a North Yorkshire Mayor this year, a deeply rural and agricultural part of Yorkshire. Regional Leaders have to work with groups like the Environment Agency, Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission and the National Farmers Union to do this as they have the expertise we need.

## National:

- The government through DEFRA has to allocate funds for farms to decarbonise. As well as introduce a system of food emission labelling (through BEIS and DEFRA).





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Agriculture both contributes to climate change and is massively effected by it. Farms are often sacrificed in floods. Increased extreme weather events cause crops to die and changes in overall temperature let new pathogens to grow

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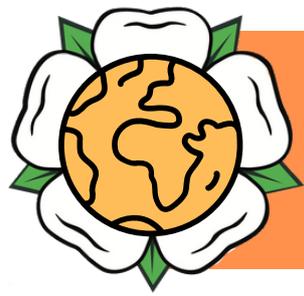
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# Fast Fashion

In the modern day, fast fashion has become a large factor of our lives, from magazines like Vogue and Grazia which promote different clothes monthly to clothing brands relying on ever changing fashions to sell more, worse quality clothing. This is a problem for many reasons, for their hard labour (including children) but the main problem is the very harmful impacts it has on the environment.

These negative impacts are things such as: the many factories which release lots of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the mass production of clothes which are wasted and put into landfill, the materials that are being used for production are causing things like deforestation and, the waste created by the factories causing water and air pollution.

Additionally, due to the mass production of clothing, there is a large amount of untreated toxic wastewater. This textile waste contains many harmful chemicals (including lead, mercury and arsenic) which have a very negative impact on human and marine life. It increases the production of things like algae but suffocates other living things which causes many aquatic eco-systems to be unstable. Us humans also use this water, so it increases the risk of many diseases which -according to WHO- kills around 500,000 people a day.

Since 2000, people are producing 2x more clothes and keeping them for half the amount of time. About 60% of the garments made in factories are almost taken straight to landfill or to be burnt in incinerators. Companies like H&M have many tons of 'deadstock' which are unsold and unused items which are just burnt. Only 15% of our clothes are reused and recycled and 10,000 items of clothing are being put into landfill every 5 minutes.

Even though this isn't an environmental impact, the exploitive labour methods in the fashion industry are horrible. Things including child labour and forced labour, terrible pay, and even worse working conditions. But not just the exploitation of people, but also their culture. Big brands use the culture of the people they are taking advantage of and turn it into a new 'fashion trend' but as these companies are so well known, most people just turn a blind eye.

## Actions

### Personal

- Stop supporting and buying from companies that use fast fashion to profit themselves and don't try to make themselves greener.
- Buy second hand clothing and donate clothes to charities. Just because you don't like an item, that doesn't mean nobody else will. Charity shops are good to donate and buy from as the money goes to a good cause and none of the products go into landfill.
- Don't go with the fashion trends at the time, good fashion is always trendy. Buy clothes that you think are nice. Don't just buy things because somebody said that it's good, just buy the good clothes that you like. This will stop you from affecting the environment with your wasted clothes and the non-sustainable companies won't get as much money.
- Spread awareness and tell people about it; tell them not to shop at certain places, or tell them to check the label to see if the clothes are 100% sustainable.

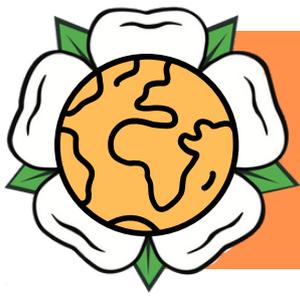
### Local/regional

- Have points system in place when buying charity shops (rewards card)
- Work with schools to have a recycle station of school uniform that is still of good quality

### National

- Governments to invest in the highstreet and local shops to encourage shopping in person rather than online reducing impulsive buying and purchases from online only, fast fashion brands





# Fast Fashion

Fast fashion is becoming an increasingly prevalent part of our lives with more and more companies mass-producing low-quality clothes. Not only does the production and shipping of these clothes release tonnes of greenhouse gases but also the disposal of them. Fast fashion is a huge environmental threat and a culprit of exploitative workers rights. Individuals, government and businesses need to be working hand in hand to end fast fashion and ensure a sustainable industry.

## Actions

### Personal

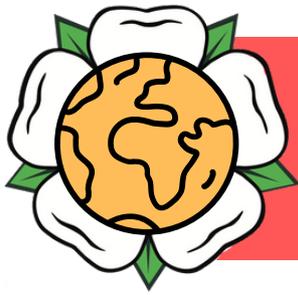
- Stop supporting and buying from companies that use fast fashion to profit themselves and don't try to make themselves greener.
- Buy second hand clothing and donate clothes to charities. Just because you don't like an item, that doesn't mean nobody else will. Charity shops are good to donate and buy from as the money goes to a good cause and none of the products go into landfill.
- Don't go with the fashion trends at the time, good fashion is always trendy. Buy clothes that you think are nice. Don't just buy things because somebody said that it's good, just buy the good clothes that you like. This will stop you from affecting the environment with your wasted clothes and the non-sustainable companies won't get as much money.
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# National Security and Infrastructure

Climate Change and National Security are intrinsically link each being affected by and in turn effecting the other. Dr Prabhakaran Paleri (an Indian Naval Officers and academic) described 14 areas of national security including: military, economics, resource, health, food, disaster, geostrategic energy and environmental security.

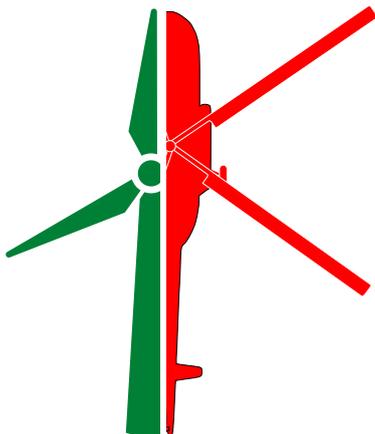
National Security covers huge amounts of our lives and although often viewed as just intelligence and defence it includes whether or not we have a stable economy, if we have enough food, if vital infrastructure is protected, do we have energy to keep the country powered. All of these will and are being effected by climate change including our defence capabilities. Furthermore, conflicts are likely to be exacerbated by climate change and the dwindling of resources.

Not only is climate change a growing and ever more dangerous national security risk. National Security contributes to the climate crisis as well, imp articular the Ministry of Defence which accounts for just under half of the government's emissions.

Like all of RYCA's outlook to solving the climate crisis we know that tackling climate change is not only good for national security because it reduce the impact on it but decarbonising measures can be actively positive to national security capabilities.

- The RAFs use of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs), especially synthetic fuels, not only reduce their carbon footprint but they are also capable of being synthesised on site which reduces reliance on outside sources.
- Renewable energy increases our energy security and reduces necessities for foreign fuel, especially for our allies. One of China and Russia's major power plays is playing with power supplies

National Security also directly encompasses the protection of communities from major weather events. Yorkshire has been dominated by flooding in recent years and things aren't getting any better. Adaptation is the second part of all climate action, hand in hand with mitigation,



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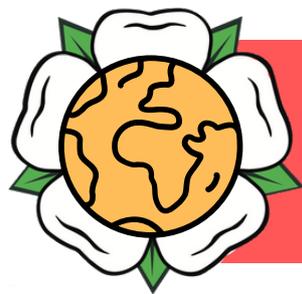
Local governments have got to put pressure on government and work together to increase funding for adaptation projects.

Regional-

Large scale research on Yorkshire & Humber's infrastructure and its protection against climate events. Then infrastructure projects need to be undertaken creating jobs and ensuring security. Furthermore, regional leaders need to be advocating central government to take greater action to ensure they see climate change is a national security issue and act as such.

National-

1. Defence operations need to be included in the MOD's footprint even when overseas
2. A full review of the National Security ramifications of climate change needs to be undertaken and published.
3. Climate Change has to be at the forefront of all Defence and National Security policy making.



# National Security and Infrastructure

Climate change is a major threat to national security. Just as big as terrorism or cyber attacks or foreign states

Extreme weather events threaten national infrastructure (like power lines, internet connection and our town & communities) as well as weaken the military's ability to carry out operations, increase mass migration and put resources under massive stress

However, decarbonisation can massively improve our national security not just by avoiding the negative impacts of climate change on national security but can improve national security by increasing our energy security, supply chains and more.

## ACTIONS

### Local

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### Regional

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3. Climate Change has to be at the forefront of all Defence and National Security policy making.
4. Massive investment into the protection of infrastructure from climate change



# Pollution

- The previous manifesto issue of Fast Fashion touched on the impact it has on pollution; within this section we will look at the most significant factors and how to decrease the rate of pollution.
- There are three major types of pollution: water, land and air. They can all interlink quite easily but we will look at them as separate subtopics.

## Water pollution:

- Caused by industrial waste, sewage, mining activities, pesticides, oil leaks, burning fossil fuels, acid rain and many other factors.
- Almost 60% of all species on Earth live in bodies of water - as we pollute their habitats, new diseases spread amongst them and death occurs due to oil spills and suffocation in plastic substances.
- We also consume small amounts of plastic which the fish may have ingested building up to an unhealthy amount.

## How can you help?

- Don't pour fat, oil or grease from cooking down the sink.
- Don't dispose of cleaning products or medication down the toilet.
- Avoid single use plastic
- Take part in litter pick sessions locally and/or regionally
- Encourage your school/workplace to use a catering service that doesn't use single use plastic
- Work with your council or local recycling centre to promote recycling

## Land pollution:

- Caused by soil erosion, fast fashion, deforestation, agricultural activities, urbanisation, mining activities, nuclear waste, industrialisation, sewage treatment, littering, overcrowded landfills and many more ways.
- If household waste cannot be recycled it is sent to a landfill or overseas (increasing carbon emissions).
- Landfills often lead to loss of ecosystems and as they overflow, they are burned for more space leading to even more unnecessary carbon emissions also contributing to air pollution.
- Food waste in landfills also degrades anaerobically which leads to methane emissions.

How can you help?

- Limit consumption of goods by buying only things you need and buying from second-hand stores
- Support local clothes shops over fast fashion online stores
- Take part in local and regional litter picking sessions
- Buy products with less packaging
- Avoid using pesticides and fertiliser
- Recycle and use recycled goods

Air pollution:

- Caused by burning fossil fuels (exhausts from factories), agricultural activities, burning of landfills, deforestation and mining activities.
- Majority of the time you cannot see air pollution but that doesn't mean the harmful particles aren't present, they in fact are, and you end up breathing them in increasing chances of asthma, emphysema, cancer and chronic bronchitis.

## Actions

Personal

- Shop local
- Eat seasonal
- Switch energy suppliers
- Cut down on meat intake
- Encourage your school/workplace to use a local caterer
- Do a local/regional project of planting trees
- Support and promote companies aiming to reduce deforestation
- Reduce flight consumption (aviation)

A big contributor to air pollution which we haven't greatly mentioned is transport however, this will be discussed later on - tip use active travel.

The 7R's:

The 7R's are simple ways to improve sustainability in your day to day life; using these methods help decrease all types of pollution in turn benefitting animal habitats and human health. They consist of:

- Rethink, do you really need it?
- Refuse, don't support companies/products which are harmful to the environment
- Reduce, don't just recycle to compensate for not reducing - instead decreasing consumption
- Repurpose, find something else this item could now do
- Reuse, don't use it once and throw it away, say no to single use
- Recycle, find out how to recycle in your local authority, ask/ encourage your school/workplace recycles
- Rot, allow organic waste to decompose into nutrient-rich soil

## Who can you work with?

Don't be shy to contact companies that would be willing to support you in protecting the environment, below are groups which may be able to help you.

- <https://twiggsuk.co.uk>
- <http://www.potentialenergy.org>
- <https://enzygo.com>
- [https://info.ecosia.org/?tt=fa7e1292&gclid=Cj0KCCQiA0p2QBhDvARIsAACSOONqb0GVQv7STfLVAA6NdwmUxgGP9F5BzulDmJBEooQ93GGocWK2YZYαAIU6EALw\\_wcB](https://info.ecosia.org/?tt=fa7e1292&gclid=Cj0KCCQiA0p2QBhDvARIsAACSOONqb0GVQv7STfLVAA6NdwmUxgGP9F5BzulDmJBEooQ93GGocWK2YZYαAIU6EALw_wcB)
- <https://www.yorkshirewater.com>

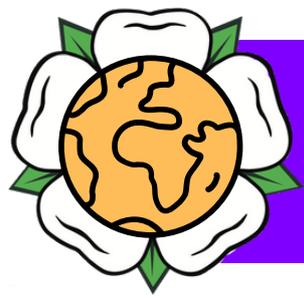
## Local/Regional

- Councils and Combined Authorities should be working together and with business to reshape pollution policy
- No contracts or approval should be given to anything that compromises environmental protection

## National

- Once again no contracts or approval should be given to anything that compromises environmental protection
- The government should undertake progressive policies to both encourage environmental friendly business and to price out polluters (see **Pollution Pricing** section)





# Pollution

There are 3 major types of pollution: water, air and land. Each separate issues but can be looked at intersectionally

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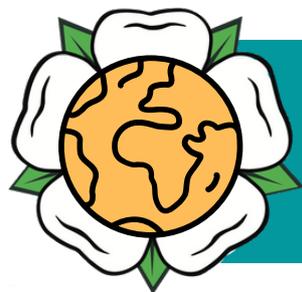
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# Transport

Public transport will play a huge role in decarbonising our means of travel particularly for young people as it is universally one of their main ways of getting around to places.

Having a sustainable, accessible and reliable transport network that is cheap is fundamental to not just saving the planet but in levelling up marginalised communities to thus ensure the most inclusive transition to net zero.

It is clear that public transport in Yorkshire & Humber is incredibly divided and unequal in comparison to other neighbouring regions therefore the government must prioritise it highly in it's 'levelling Up' agenda.

## Case Study:

The 'Zoom Beyond Travel' pass is a great demonstration of the synergies and the importance of inclusion through climate action: The 'Zoom Beyond' pass gives 18-21 year olds a concessionary travel fare of 80p per journey on bus or tram.

This was a policy advocate and influenced by the South Yorkshire Youth Combined Authority, a sub-regional board for young people to positively scrutinise and work with their metro mayor, and as a result, it has made South Yorkshire one of the cheapest places in the UK to use public transport up until the age of 21. This is extremely unique given that subsidy of transport isn't often available for young people at 21, however it instead meant that students on apprenticeships/ uni could too affordably reduce their carbon emissions.

The impact of feasible and fair transport fees have dramatically helped young people to decarbonise their travel and has thus improved the societal readiness initiative in South Yorkshire.

Through the factors of youth voice, the inclusion of young people in the climate decision making process, and the avenue of public transport, it has helped South Yorkshire transition to a positive direction for reaching net zero.

**“CLEAN, GREEN, FREQUENT and FREE”**

## Actions:

- Transport must be feasible if not free for all young people in order to fully encourage greater usage - concessionary fare passes can be further advocated in local youth combined authorities.
- Public transport must have expanded coverage in rural areas as well as improved accessibility and reliability.
- New initiatives such as legalising e-scooters must be looked into along with greater cycling/ pavement infrastructure.
- Government departments must work cohesively in drastically improving transport networks in Yorkshire & Humber.
- National government must actively support, fund and provide sufficient resources for individual regions to implement their Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs)
- All students should be entitled to have free bus travel to school





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# Pollution Pricing

The vast majority of greenhouse gas emissions come from large businesses and countries. As well as high carbon individuals. We need an effective and fair carbon tax as well as increased regulation and fines for pollution. The investment in infrastructure and communities needed to reach net zero is massive, and by taxing the highest carbon producers we free up funds and force decarbonisation. There is also a massive social justice element; the people who are most affected by climate change are almost always the ones that contribute the lowest. We need a carbon tax to move money from the polluters to the polluted.

We want a strong, progressive and exponential carbon tax. We wouldn't tax regular bills (apart from high carbon items like beef, plane tickets and new ICE cars) but we would tax large businesses and individuals who exceed a certain threshold of TCO<sub>2e</sub>. That would then increase for every tonne that exceed another threshold. Such a threshold should be decided by those with the economic data and legitimacy; but they should not adversely hinder smaller businesses.

The funds raised we think should be split into two. One portion should go back into local communities and authorities. And the other proportion should be invested into green infrastructure and jobs. Including helping businesses to decarbonising and investing in zero carbon technology.

## ACTIONS

**National:** The government needs to make bold economic policies to price out pollution and reinvest it in communities.





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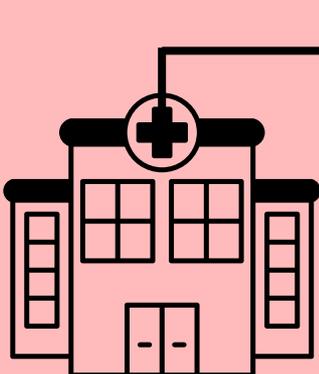
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A Carbon Tax should be fair, enforced and exponential. So as your tonnage of carbon increases so does the price each tonne carries

The money raised from the carbon tax should be split.



Communities & Public Services



Green Infrastructure

RYCA

Yorkshire & Humber | Regional Youth Climate Assembly

Email: [ryca.official@gmail.com](mailto:ryca.official@gmail.com)

Twitter: [@official\\_ryca](https://twitter.com/official_ryca)

Website: [www.ryca.uk](http://www.ryca.uk)

