

The Day One Project

"Every Movement Has a Day One—This Is Ours."



Our Team



**Young
Volunteers**



**Youth Voice &
Influence
Service**



My Pockets

Who are we?

Youth Voice & Influence Service

The Youth Voice and Influence Service are a team of professionally qualified Youth and Community Workers with a passion for ensuring young residents voices in the city are heard.

By Youth Voice & Influence we mean:

- listening to young people
- valuing what we hear
- acting upon it to make positive change.

We support and empower young people to shape, lead and produce their own activities and programmes.

We make sure the mechanisms are in place for young residents to be involved in decision making at all levels.

Day One Young Volunteers

This group was created in response to the Sustainability Team's desire to understand what climate change means to young people; how it impacts their lives and the solutions they want to see in Sheffield.

A group of 18 young residents aged 11 - 22 years old, have been working together since April 2024 on this Climate Change Project.

The group represents a diverse mix of backgrounds, coming from schools, colleges, communities, and youth groups across Sheffield, each bringing unique life experiences, knowledge, and interests in climate action.

Their goal: to explore the many ways climate change intersects with young people's lives and to amplify their diverse perspectives. They want to help others connect emotionally with this issue, to feel something and to inspire meaningful action.

Our Partners



**The SCC
Sustainability
Team**

**Sheffield
Energy Hub**

Crystal Peaks



**Universal
Youth
Services**

**Green
Estate**

**The Art
House**

**Sheffield
Hallam
University**

**Sheffield
Town Hall**

**Mantra
Media**

**Holly Burton
Photography**

**The Sheffield
College**

**The
University
of
Sheffield**



Our Purpose



“Bring attention to Climate Change”



“Make people think”




“Make Decision Makers act”





“Change policy”




“Get people to think how they can help the environment”



Our Aims & Objectives



The Project

- Young Volunteers to use creative forms of expression to communicate their views on Climate Change, the impact it has on their lives and the solutions they would like to see in Sheffield to reduce the impact on young residents across the city.
 - Young Volunteers collaborate & co-produce the project to develop their skills and knowledge; creative, art's based, planning, organisation, public speaking, team working, negotiation.
- 

The Exhibition



- To explore how climate change relates to areas of everyday life.
- To display young people's views on Climate Change, the impact it has on their lives and the solutions they would like to see in Sheffield.
 - To start conversations about Climate Change amongst young people, their friends, families, communities and decision makers.
- To demonstrate there are numerous ways to take action on Climate Change at all levels & encourage people to make changes.

Our Hopes

Help young people dream big!

Give young people more chances to learn, grow, and connect with universities, colleges and training opportunities.

Work together on Climate Change.

Keep the conversation going after the exhibition and take action in our communities.

Hear it from young voices.

For decision makers to listen to what young people think, what matters to them, and their ideas for Sheffield.

Turn ideas into action.

Leaders are inspired to act on what they've learned from young people and use it to tackle Climate Change.

Keep young people in the loop.

For decision makers to share what they're doing and update young people on their progress.

To make people think about climate change in a different way than just "save the bees".

A changed mindset and to show how much young people do care about our planet.

To share the power of society when we work together.

Starting a change, especially in somewhere like Sheffield which is known for the steel industry, which adds into climate change quite a bit, it would make quite a loud voice for other people to make changes too.

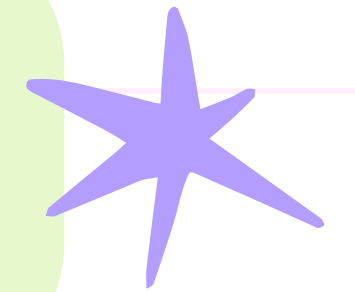
What methods did we use?

Creative Consultations
Young Volunteers
Issue-Based Campaign
Youth-Led
Workshops
Art Sessions
Collaborative Art
Zine Making
Screen Printing
Co-Production
Working Groups
Preview Night
Touring Art Exhibition
Meet the Artists Events
Community Art

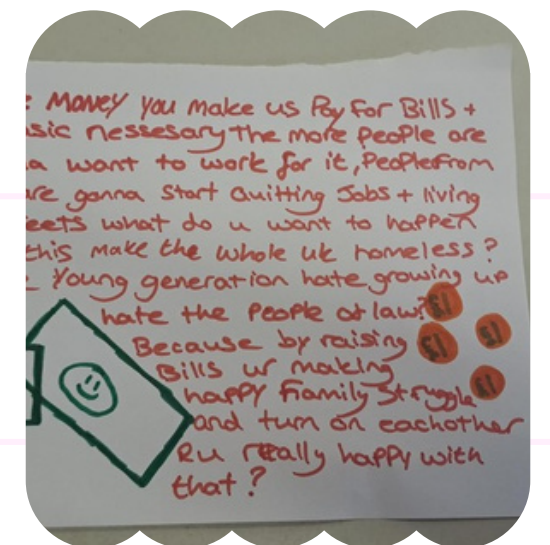
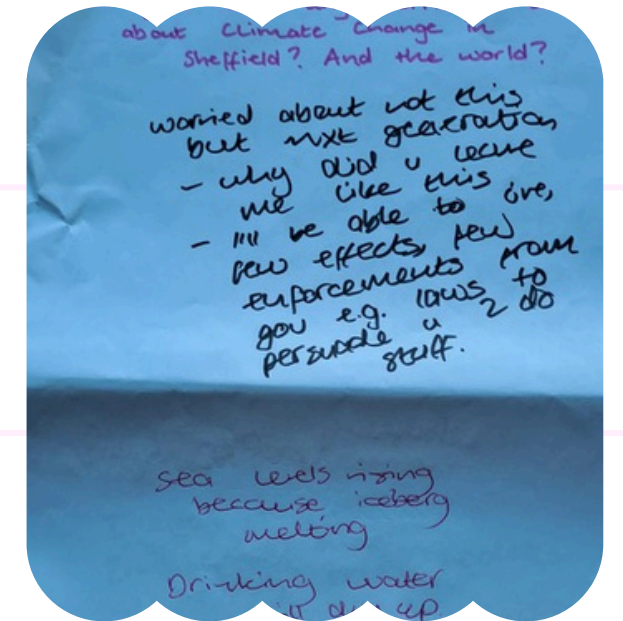
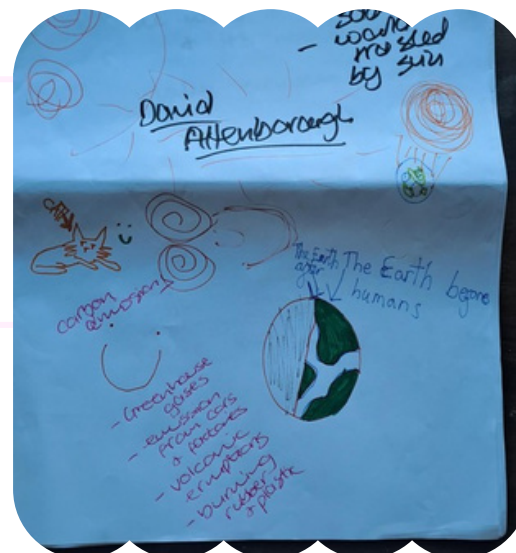




Who did we speak to?



Arbourthorne Youth Club
 Bramall Lane Youth Club
 Broomhall Youth Club
 Com.Unity (Westfield) Youth Club
 Darnall Youth Club
 Earl Marshall Youth Club
 Heeley Youth Club
 Jordanthorpe Youth Club
 Leo's SEND Youth Club
 Lowedges Youth Club
 Norfolk Park Youth Club
 SClub 5 Youth Club
 SENDing Voices Youth Voice Group
 Sheffield Youth Cabinet
 Shiregreen Youth Club
 Stocksbridge Youth Club
 The Day One Group
 U-Mix Youth Club
 Wesley Hall Youth Club
 Woodthorpe Youth Club



Initial Conversations

1. What is Climate Change?

2. How do you think Climate Change effects your daily life?

3. Is Climate Change important to you?

4. How has Sheffield been affected by Climate Change?

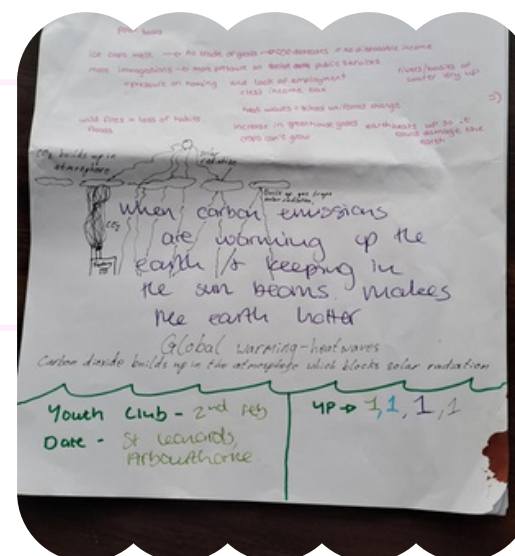
5. Do you have any worries or concerns about Climate Change in Sheffield? And the world?

6. What would you like to see happen? What changes should take place? And who by?

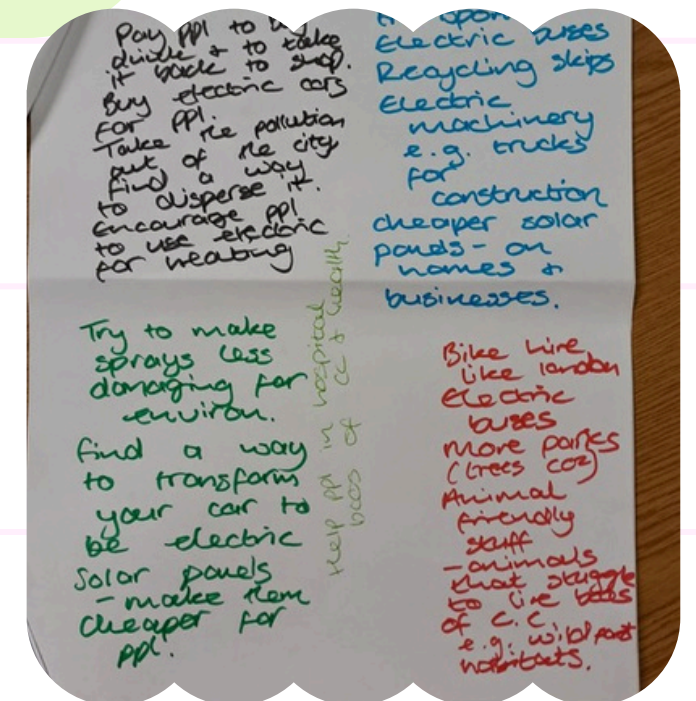
7. If you were in charge of Sheffield, what would you do?

"I have to eat my tea, fully dressed, in bed because we can't afford to put the heating on"

"We need more money to have better lives, everyone should get to have fun."



"Is there any science to prove this?"



"Not all young people have the same access to education, some young people find school very difficult"



Initial Conversations




Common Themes:

1. Environmental Protection & Climate Action

- Tree planting and green spaces were repeatedly mentioned as essential for air quality, biodiversity, and wellbeing.
- Recycling was a major concern, especially in schools and public spaces.
- Young people want more bins, better recycling systems, and education on how to use them.
- Pollution (air, water, and land) was a consistent worry; young people called for:
 - Fines for littering and industrial pollution.
 - Cleaner rivers and seas.
 - Bans on burning rubbish.

2. Sustainable Energy & Transport

- Strong support for renewable energy (solar, wind, water) for homes, schools, and public transport.
 - Mixed views on electric vehicles: some support them, others prefer petrol cars due to performance or cultural preferences.
 - Calls for more electric charging points and eco-friendly heating.
- 

3. Education & Awareness

- Some young people feel they don't understand Climate Change, especially those who have experienced disrupted education or don't have their needs met in schools.
- Requests for more Climate education in schools, especially beyond primary level and outside of GCSE Geography.
- Young people want inclusive eco-committees, opportunities to share and creative learning (e.g. art, graffiti, videos).

4. Youth Voice & Participation

- Strong desire for decision-makers to listen and actively engage with young people: "Stop ignoring us", "Invite young people to meetings".
- Young people want to be involved in solutions, from litter picking to designing campaigns.

5. Social Justice & Cost of Living

- Climate Change is seen as intertwined with poverty: rising bills, cold homes, and food insecurity were issues consistently raised across groups.
- Young people expressed frustration at economic inequality, tax avoidance, and lack of support for families.
- Climate inaction was linked to systemic injustice, calling out the rich and powerful.

Initial Conversations

Intersectionality Insights:

- **SEND** young people raised unique concerns: lack of accessible education, need for visual & creative communication, and sensory sensitivity.
- **Cultural Identity** influenced views: some young people from Eastern Europe preferred petrol cars; other young people from African backgrounds linked Climate Change to agriculture and migration.
- **Socioeconomic** status was a recurring theme: the cost of transport, unaffordable bills, and the desire for paid opportunities.
- **Gender** and aspirations surfaced subtly: e.g. young men aspiring to "a beautiful girlfriend and a BMW" - reflecting gendered ideals and material goals as priorities over Climate Change.

Standout & Surprising Messages:

- "I'm more scared of my mum than Climate Change" - highlights disengagement and competing priorities.
- "They'd rather the poor people have no power than save the planet - tax the rich!" - critique of inequality and Climate justice.
- "I don't want to be guilt-tripped" - a reminder that messaging needs to be inclusive and sensitive to personal circumstances.
- "If we're wiped off the face of the planet, the planet would still survive" - reflection on human impact.
- "I am ginger so last year when it got hot I got heat stroke every time" - a personal experience of Climate Change.
- "Shorts for everyone, jumpers off, open windows" - practical ideas for adapting schools to extreme weather.

Zine Making

Zines are small, self-made booklets combining art and words. They originated as sci-fi fanzines and have been used as a tool by the punk, feminist, DIY & LGBTQ+ movements. They have become a powerful medium for self-expression and activism at grassroots.

- We began by using zines as a creative tool to spark ideas and conversations.
- Each young person responded to a series of prompts in their own zine, writing and drawing their thoughts.
- Everyone came together to share & discuss ideas for each question at The Sheffield College who shared their creative spaces with us.
- Young people identified & agreed the key messages that resonated with them – the ideas that “stuck.”
- The group began sketching images & choosing wording for each concept.
- Phrases came directly from their zines or direct quotes collected during youth club consultations.
- This process ensured that the final designs truly reflected young people’s voices.
- The group collaborated to turn these sketches into screen print designs, creating powerful, shared artwork that represents their collective perspectives.
- One young person took the lead on designing a zine activity booklet, encouraging people to make their own artwork and spark big conversations.

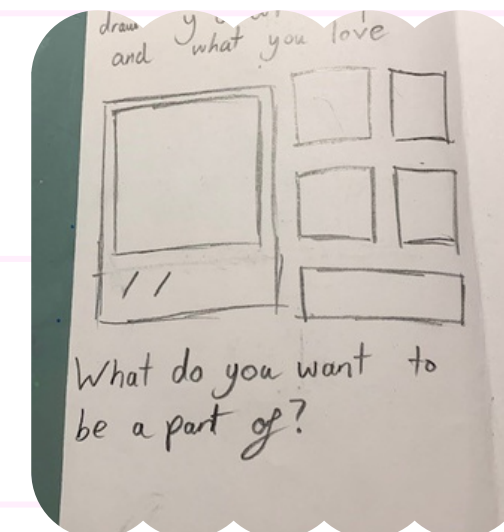
What is your dream life?



What would your protest sign be?



Draw the power in you.



What makes you feel guilty, but you do nothing about?

Screen Printing

Screen printing pushes ink through a mesh screen using a stencil, creating bold, layered designs.

Young people used this technique to share views and solutions on Climate Change through striking prints that spark conversation and represent the voice of Young Sheffielders.

The Process:

- Design Creation: Pete from My Pockets turned their drawings into screen designs.
- Creative Space: Workshops were hosted in the Art Department at Sheffield Hallam University.
- Hands-On Learning: Young people selected sustainable materials and learned the process step by step.
- Collaboration: Teams printed together—holding frames, applying paint, drying prints, and cleaning tools.
- Inclusive Approach: Focused on representation over perfection, ensuring every voice was visible.



Youth Club Sessions

To make screen printing and zine-making accessible, My Pockets worked alongside Universal Youth Services and Youth Clubs to take creative sessions directly to young people in the spaces where they usually meet, encouraging participants to complete their creative journey.

1. Continuing the Conversation

- After initial conversations with Youth Voice and Influence Workers, My Pockets visited clubs for follow-up sessions.
- These sessions built on earlier ideas, encouraged personal expression and collaborative creativity.

2. Starting with Zines

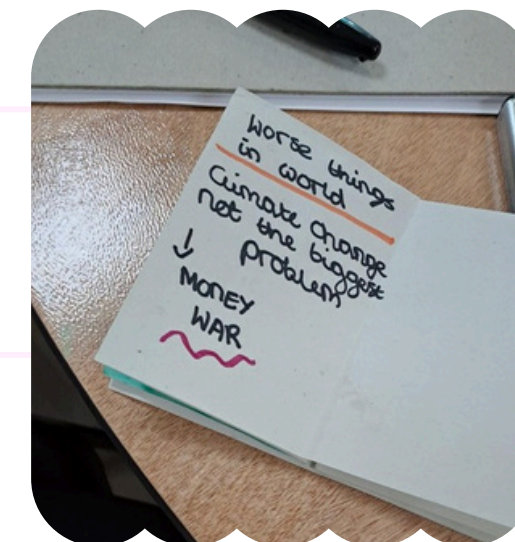
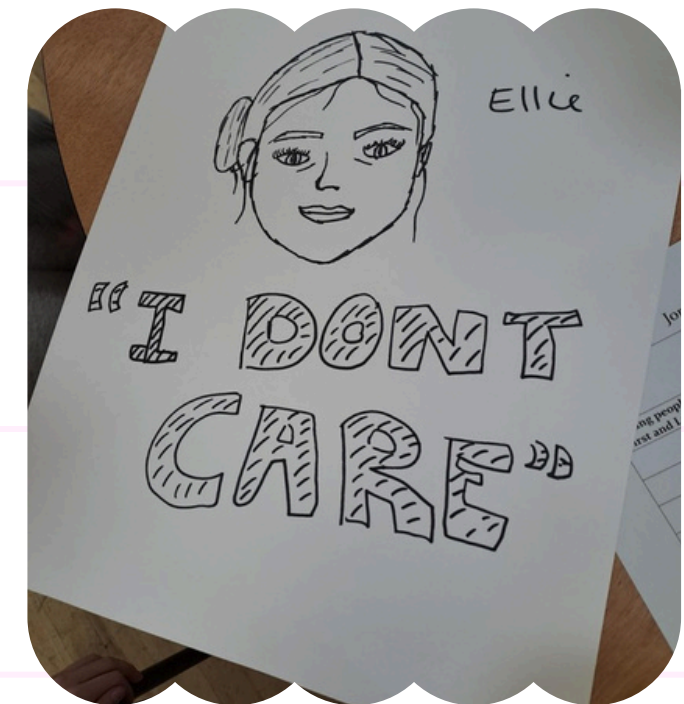
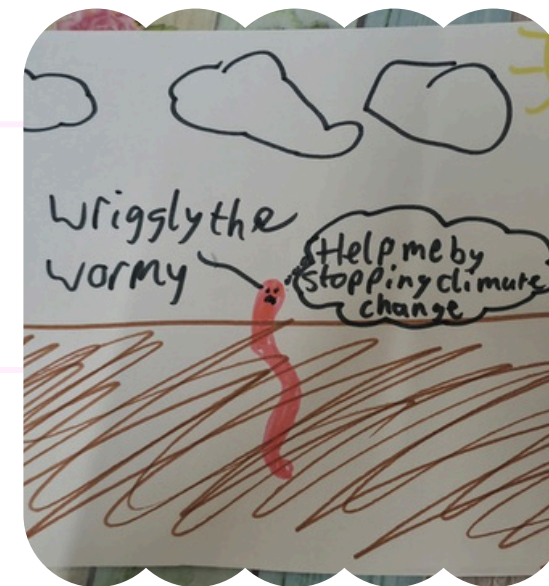
- Zines were created to explore ideas, themes, and messages they wanted to share.
- Young people used zines as a springboard for visual concepts.

3. Developing Posters & Artwork

- Young people transformed zine ideas into drawings and poster designs.
- Artwork was refined through feedback and collaborative discussions.

4. Screen Printing in the Community

- Screen printing equipment was brought into youth clubs.
- Young people were given hands-on experience, printing their own designs onto posters.



Online Meetings

Project Catch-Up - We shared updates on the project so far and mapped out what's next to keep things moving forward.

"Making Of" Video - We started designing a fun, scrapbook-style video to showcase the journey of the project and celebrate what we've achieved together.

Pledge Cards - We worked on creating pledge cards where people can make promises to help the planet, e.g. swapping clothes with friends and supporting climate causes.

Zine Development - We planned a hand-drawn, creative booklet packed with thought-provoking questions and activities to spark conversations and inspire art.

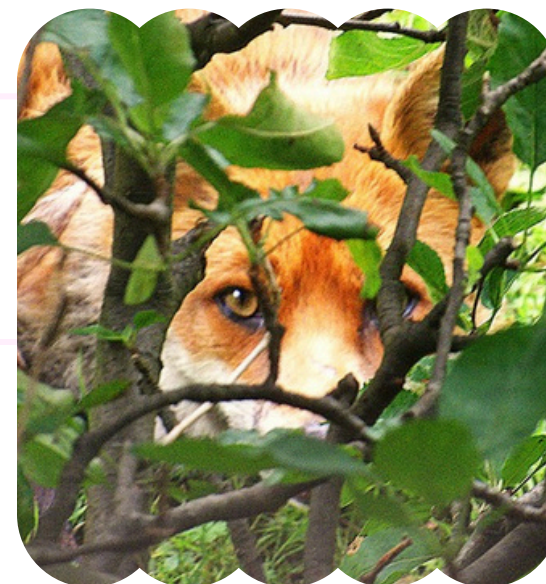
Accessible Event Planning - We reviewed the venue map to make sure everyone can fully experience and feel comfortable at the event, including calm spaces, lifts, and easy transport links.

Food Choices - We explored sustainable, locally sourced, and vegan-friendly options so everyone can enjoy delicious food while connecting.

Art & Prints - We refined screen prints for the exhibition, shared fresh design ideas, and made sure the messages stand out and represent diverse voices.

Event Logistics - We planned the exhibition preview night, including invites, guest lists, roles, and making sure the space works for everyone.

Sharing Reflections - Everyone shared their favourite memories, new skills, and hopes for the future through voice notes, videos, and drawings.



Working Groups



Young People
co-created the
project, all
aspects of the
Preview Night
& Travelling
Exhibition



Thank you for caring, for caring about me, about us, for young people, the birds you see soaring and the trees you see standing. For caring about the future of our world.

Hopefully you've received a 'wiggly worm' in your gift bag - this worm is really important to us. It symbolises how every living thing, however small, insignificant, will be affected by Climate Change and also has the power to make a difference.

Climate change will affect us all so we must all unite to stop it. We still have time, it's not too late. We must not shy away or try to forget. Our planet deserves our action. We must not take Earth for granted.

"So many of us think we're in a world made for ourselves when in reality the world is made for all of us and all forms of life."



Working Groups



Tour Guides

**Accessibility
& Inclusivity**

**Thank You
Letter**

**‘Making of’
Video**

**Young
Curators**

Pledge Cards

**Zine &
Creative
Activities**

**Menu &
Catering**

**Promotional
Materials**

**Thank You
Worms**

Speech Writing




Preview Night: The Art House



Purpose of the Preview Night

- Launch the Day One exhibition with young people's voices and creativity at the centre.
- Spark conversations about Climate Change in everyday contexts.
- Provide a platform for young residents to share ideas and solutions for Sheffield's future.

What Happened & Outcomes

- Youth-Led Event: Young people opened the night and guided guests through the exhibition.
 - Venue Choice: The Art House was chosen for its inclusivity, creativity, and community values.
 - Accessibility & Inclusivity: Shared accessible entrance and a quiet space for sensory needs.
 - Interactive Engagement: Young people acted as tour guides, encouraging dialogue on creativity, Climate Change and sustainability.
 - Sustainable Catering: Vegan and gluten-free options; fun dialect debates (bread cake vs. bread cob) broke the ice.
 - Attendance: Over 90 guests, including decision-makers, youth workers, youth clubs, parents and carers, business leaders, and community representatives.
 - Impact: Celebrated youth leadership, initiated climate conversations, and built connections with key stakeholders.
- 



Preview Night: The Art House



Preview Night: The Art House



“Be positive by doing something positive.”

“Words cannot express how passionate, and compelling these young people are towards the matter. It gives me hope for the future.”

“Each piece was a reminder that 1) there is so much wrong with our world and 2) we can still do something.”

“Gives me energy to continue trying for a sustainable world.”

“The exhibition of posters gave a true feel of what our young people feel and think about this subject with a key link being belonging.”

“This powerful project was all about helping people connect—with each other and with climate change. It sparked important conversations in communities, encouraged action, and made people *feel* the urgency and hope that comes with tackling such a big issue.”

“It poked me in the eye, and made me stop and think. Now to action!”

“One of the young people shared that she loved the inclusivity and diversity of the project because it brought together young people from all over the city from different economic backgrounds, ethnicities and genders.”

“I was absolutely blown away by the quality of the art on show and the impact it had on me and others.”

“Running parallel to the sadness of these prints is a profound sense of hope.”

“Some of the graphics should be street art!”

“Very emotional work.”

“This is both beautiful and powerful.”

“This exhibition reminds me why I do what I do every day. Your prints are powerful.”

“Really proud of my sister that created the wiggly worm.”

“Cheers from Portland, OR, USA! I am heartened to see the care and concern on a global scale. Standing with you in love.”



Travelling Exhibition



Purpose:

- To decentralise access to art; ensuring creativity isn't confined to traditional spaces or hubs that are perceived to be exclusive.
 - Empower children and young people to develop their own art and responses; fostering ownership and creativity.
 - Bring art into the community – making it visible and accessible in everyday places for people to explore at their own pace.
 - Encourage communities to find their own solutions, promoting community focused ideas and local voices.
 - Shift focus away from just decision makers, valuing lived experiences and grassroots perspectives.
 - Show that all communities matter; creating an inclusive and representative cultural experience.
 - Go to where people are; meeting communities in their own spaces rather than expecting them to come to central venues.
- 





Travelling Exhibition



Crystal Peaks

**Sheffield
Winter
Garden**

Sheffield Town Hall

**The Environmental
Association for
Universities and
Colleges Conference**

**Youth Voice
and Urban
Regeneration
Conference**

**Sheffield
Manor Lodge -
Green Estate**

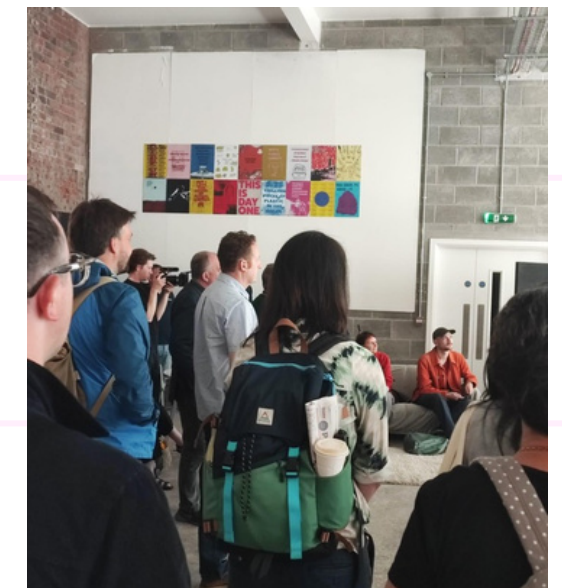
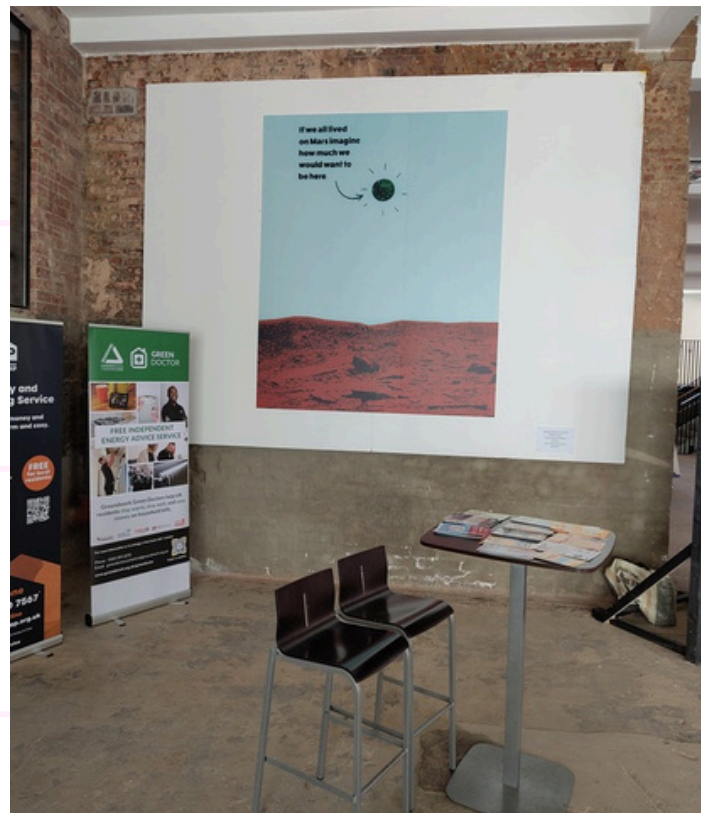
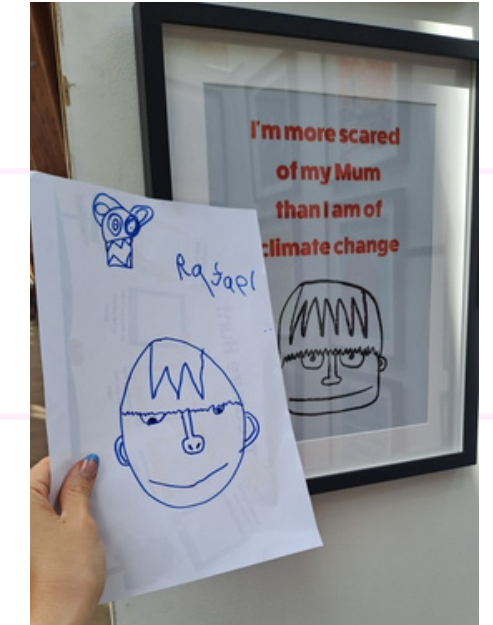
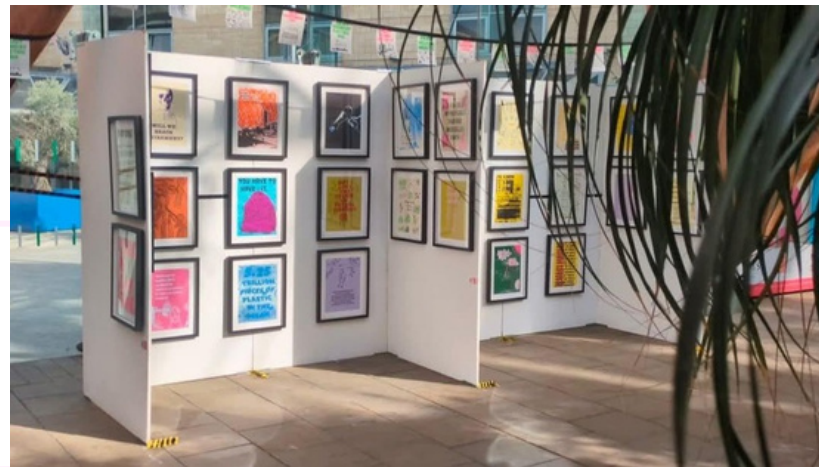
**Sheffield
Hallam
University**

**Sheffield
Energy
Hub**

Meet the Artists

**Ministerial
Meeting**

Travelling Exhibition



Action

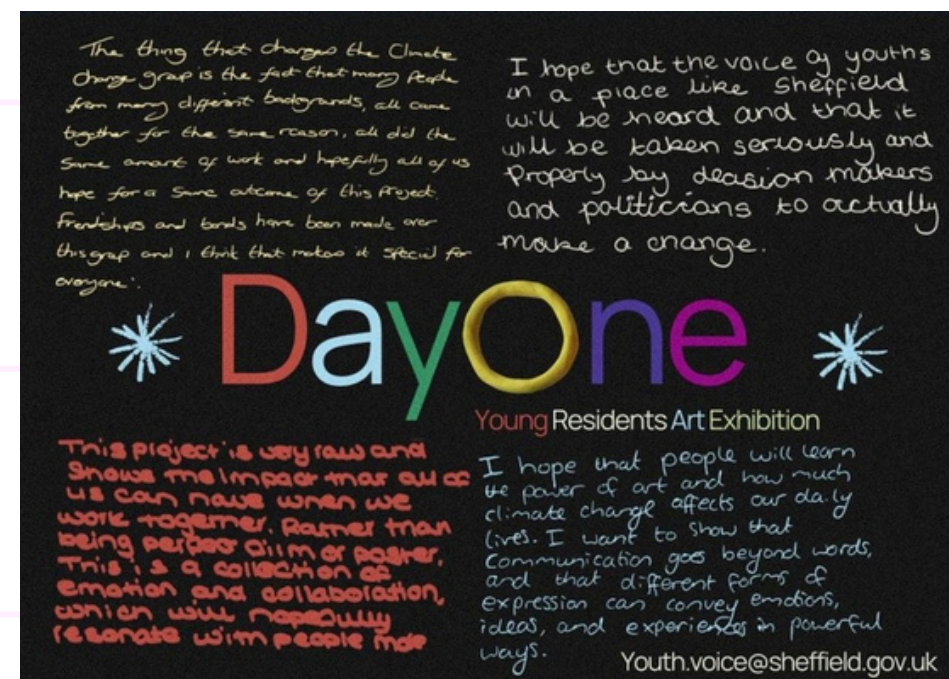
Young People wrote a letter to everyone who attended the exhibition:

"Thank you for caring, for caring about me, about us, for young people, the birds you see soaring and the trees you see standing. For caring about the future of our world.

Hopefully you've received a 'wiggly worm' in your gift bag - this worm is really important to us. It symbolises how every living thing, however small, insignificant, will be affected by Climate Change, and also has the power to make a difference.

Climate Change will affect us all so we must all unite to stop it. We still have time, it's not too late. We must not shy away or try to forget, Our planet deserves action. We must not take Earth for granted.

"So many of us think we're in a world made for ourselves, when in reality the world is made for all of us and all forms of life"



Pledge Cards Designed by Young People to inspire action in the community

pledge to:

Stay open-minded and kind	<input type="checkbox"/> 50
Shop Local	<input type="checkbox"/> 75
Grow your own food	<input type="checkbox"/> 150
Walk, cycle, get the train, get the bus	<input type="checkbox"/> 100
Have a vegetarian day	<input type="checkbox"/> 75
Pick up litter	<input type="checkbox"/> 50
Drive electric	<input type="checkbox"/> 75
My own pledge is:	

Collect the most amount of points!

Here are some easy and some hard things that young people would like everyone to do to help:

1. Switch the lights off when you leave the room
2. Have a vegetarian day.
3. Stay open minded and kind.
4. Talk about Climate Change.
5. Check where your food has flown from.
6. Shop local.
7. Buy second hand, swap and fix things.
8. Walk, cycle, get the train, get the bus.
9. Grow your own food.
10. Pick up litter every now and then.
11. Don't cut your grass in May.
12. Consider what young people would want you to do.
13. Protest and join a group.
14. Fundraise and donate to climate causes.
15. Insulate your house.

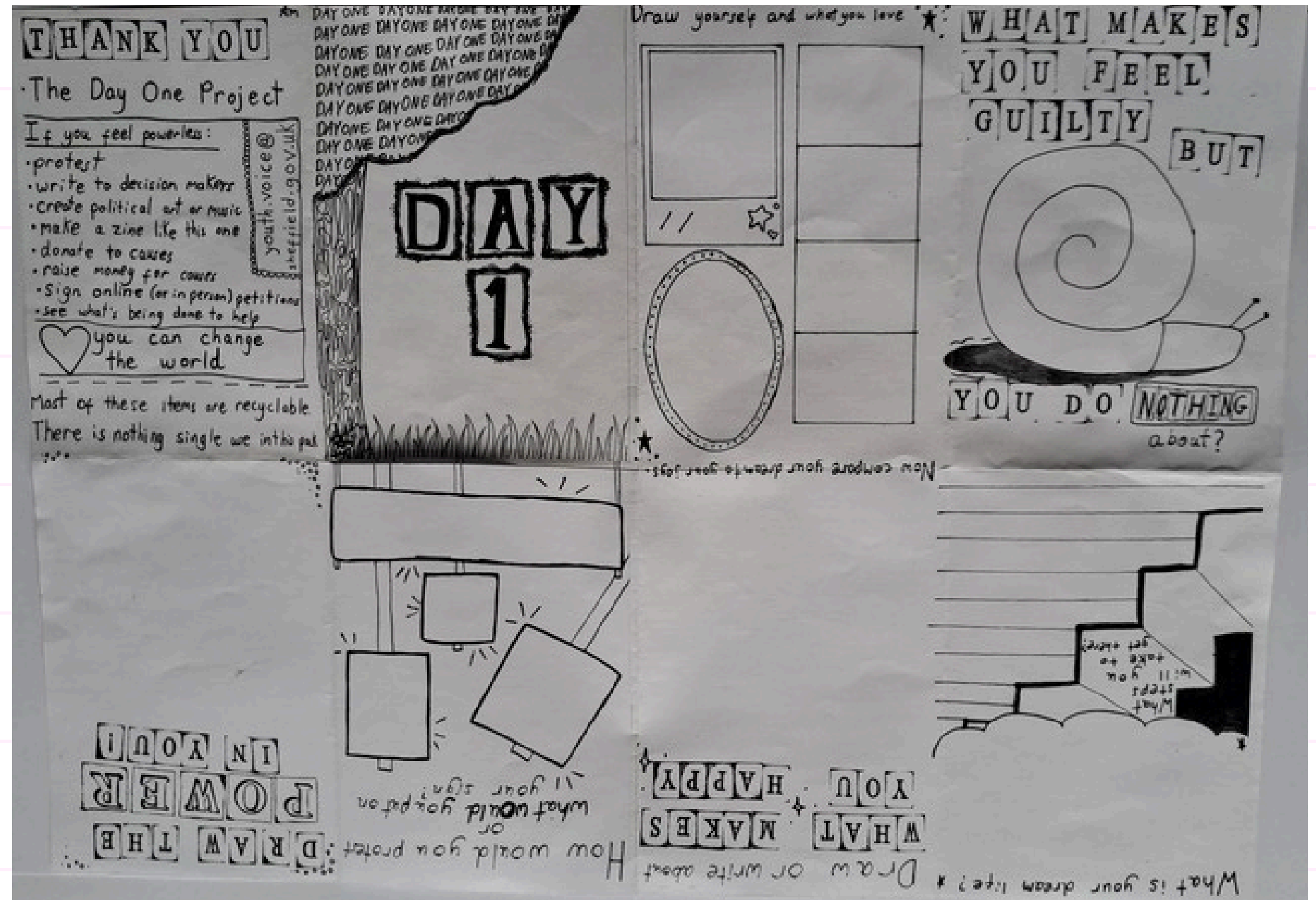
Action

Create Your Own Climate Action Zine

Use the zine designed by young people to reflect on the artwork, pledges and messages.

Express your own ideas through artwork and storytelling.

Use the zine as a space to share thoughts that spark conversations and inspire meaningful action on climate change.



Our Evaluation Tools

- Individual evaluation sheets at the end of each workshop.
- 'Evaluation Station' for group evaluation during each workshop.
- Group reflective discussion at the start & end of each session.
- 15 minute project staff debrief.
- Exhibition Pledge Cards.
- Exhibition Guest Book.
- Online feedback form.
- Microsoft Forms online survey.
- Email reflections from exhibition attendees.



★ Lessons Learned ★

1. What Worked Well

- **Youth Engagement & Creativity:** Young people felt proud, empowered, and inspired. They enjoyed expressing themselves through screen printing, drawing, and zine-making.
- **Collaboration & Inclusion:** Teamwork, mutual support, and the inclusive environment are key strengths of this project.
- **Venue & Atmosphere:** The University setting was appreciated for its creative vibe and accessibility. The relaxed, welcoming atmosphere helped participants feel comfortable and confident.
- **Project Structure:** A good balance of thinking and doing. Activities like exhibitions, speeches, and tours were impactful and memorable.
- **Food & Hospitality:** Snacks were consistently praised, contributing to a positive experience and 'The Worm' became a symbol of the project for young people.

2. Challenges & Areas for Improvement

- **Venue Logistics:** Some young people found venue locations hard to reach and working spaces too small for messy activities.
- **Crowded Exhibition:** The Art House exhibition was oversubscribed, meaning that it was chaotic and crowded at times, which made interaction difficult.
- **Group Dynamics:** Young people would benefit from mixing groups more intentionally to foster new connections.
- **Attendance:** Young people were disappointed when Decision Makers signed up and then failed to attend.

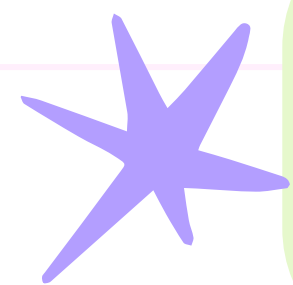
★ Lessons Learned ★

3. What Could Be Done More Of

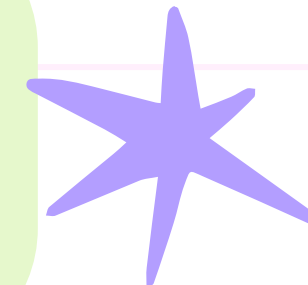
- **School & Community Outreach:** Inviting schools and youth groups to workshops.
- **Multiple Showings:** Repeating exhibitions or showcasing work to broader audiences across the region by linking up with Regional Youth Work Units.
- **Partnerships:** Expanding partners to include Create Sheffield & building upon strong links with Sheffield Hallam University, The Sheffield College and Sheffield Energy Hub.
- **Community:** More workshops and sessions with young people in community settings to create art work in spaces they feel at home.



4. What to Do Next - Expand the Reach

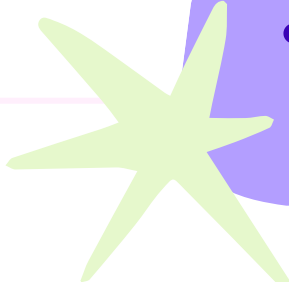
- **Audience:** Take the exhibition & project to schools, youth groups, and influential audiences to amplify its message. Ask young people to create their own Zines in sessions led by Young Volunteers.
- **Create More Projects:** Continue with similar creative initiatives focused on climate change and youth voice. Create a resource pack so young people and communities can lead their own projects.
- **Empower Youth Leadership:** Young people to lead more sessions, co-design future projects from the start, and educate others.



Opportunities



- 
- Continue the travelling art exhibition to maintain momentum and visibility.
 - Exhibition at Schools Climate Conference to showcase youth-led creativity.
 - Create a city-wide art trail to engage the wider community.
 - Sell prints as a fundraising and awareness tool.
 - Display prints in schools and council buildings to keep climate action visible.
 - Use designs for Sheffield City Council communications to amplify youth voice in official messaging.
- 

- Use creative initiatives as a community engagement tool for future climate work.
 - Feed into the Regional and National networks to share learning & expand impact.
 - Build on partnerships established during the project for future collaborations.
 - Use 'The Worm' as a symbol across climate work for consistent branding.
 - Educational sessions inspired by the prints to link art with learning, youth voice & finding solutions in the community.
 - Ask children & young people to create their own zines and artwork in youth-led sessions.
- 

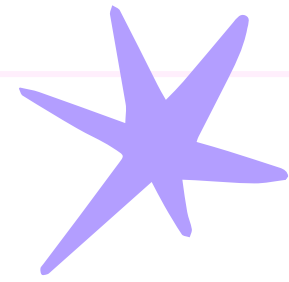
Recommendations

- Use creative initiatives to engage people on climate change beyond the project.
- Use the artwork booklet, pledge cards and actions to influence policy and decision making.
- Creative sessions with decision-makers to foster dialogue and understanding.
- Peer-to-peer learning and sessions run by young volunteers to sustain youth leadership.
- Young people & decision-maker meetings for direct engagement.
- Written responses from decision-makers to show accountability - 'You Said, We Did'
- Refer to youth voice when making decisions across Sheffield City Council to embed young people's perspectives.
- Young people sit on climate focused Committees for ongoing representation.
- Establish a Young People's Climate Group or Panel to formalise youth involvement.
- Appoint a dedicated Young People's Engagement Officer to coordinate youth participation across work on Climate Change
- Connect with the Minister for Climate, MPs and the Mayor of the South Yorkshire Combined Authority to champion youth voice.
- Increase co-production opportunities for young people in climate work to ensure shared ownership.

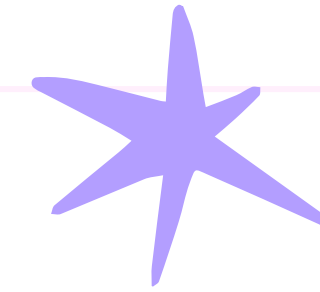
PLEASE
DON'T
WALK
AWAY
AND

CHANGE MY WORLD
CHANGE THE WORLD
CHANGE MY WORLD
CHANGE THE WORLD
CHANGE MY WORLD
CHANGE THE WORLD
CHANGE MY WORLD
CHANGE THE WORLD





Thank You



On behalf of the Young Volunteers, thank you for reading, thank you for caring and thank you for supporting our hopes for Sheffield.

The Youth Voice & Influence Service.

For more information and general enquiries please contact:

youth.voice@sheffield.gov.uk



**Sheffield young residents -
our now and our future!**