

Leeds Climate Change Citizens' Jury recommendations

The question considered by the Leeds Climate Change Citizens' Jury was
'What should Leeds do about the emergency of climate change?'

Jury statement

The following statement was written by a group of ten jury members and then edited and approved by the whole jury within a large group discussion:

'Climate change is not someone else's problem. It won't go away or get better if we ignore it. We are facing a climate change emergency - immediate and urgent action is required.

Everyone – from Leeds City Council, individuals, politicians, businesses, community groups, and other organisations - has their part to play.

Every action counts.

We are a diverse group, unified in our passion to resolve this issue. We have had the opportunity to challenge our own and each other's preconceptions. We have concluded that we are at a crisis point.

We believe our recommendations can make Leeds a better place to live as well as addressing climate change.

We don't have all the answers but we hope that our recommendations will go some way towards tackling the problem.

Leeds led the world in the industrial revolution - we believe the city can now lead an environmental revolution'

Recommendations

The recommendations have been put into themes for the purposes of the small group discussions

	Votes	Rank
<p>TRANSPORT</p> <p>A: We recommend that extensive positive action is taken to make the use of private cars a last resort for transportation. As a priority, bus provision (starting with First Bus) should be taken back within public control¹.</p> <p>Other measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Safe cycle lanes and cycle storage. b) Park and Ride. c) Increased and improved pedestrian areas. d) A united public transport fare system e.g. Oyster card. e) Framework to help car sharing (including taxis). f) Congestion charge 	20	1st
<p>HOUSING</p> <p>B: All existing housing must be made energy efficient – housing must be retrofitted. We recommend that Leeds City Council enables communities to come together and insulate their homes and transition to greener energy sources via locally organised social enterprises. This would encourage sharing skills and teaching people to be more green.</p>	17	=2nd
<p>COMMUNICATION</p> <p>C: Leeds act together: there needs to be a large-scale communication drive in Leeds delivered through social media, face-to-face events, community groups, company advertising, screens in the city and other methods. Education in schools is central to this. We believe this needs clear, positive and practical messages which emphasise the necessity for individuals, community and organisational action at all levels.</p>	17	=2nd
<p>MAKING IT HAPPEN</p> <p>D: Funding/finance. We recommend exploring a variety of funding sources so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we are not over reliant on any single one. • We can access finance readily and cheaply, and • each source has a positive effect on people’s behaviour. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) An Investment Fund that: investors (anybody) buy shares in. The fund invests in projects, the projects make money. The money goes back into new projects and to pay investors a return on their investment. b) A Local Government/Green Bond: Council identifies projects, batches them together, asks investors to buy a bond. Investors money funds the projects. Council pays interest to investors who hold the bonds c) A Carbon Budget for every individual so that: you can choose lower carbon products with smart labelling. You can change your behaviour by avoiding high carbon activities e.g. flying. d) Pension Funds: encourage pension fund managers to invest in green bonds and green investment fund and cleaner greener companies. e) Crowdfunding: a website of accredited schemes for would-be investors f) Business case support: to help communities identify and develop proposals that could be invested in by the investment fund or as part of a green bond or for crowdfunding 	15	4th

¹ the suggestion that 'bus provision (starting with First Bus) should be taken back within public control', was approved by 100% of the members of the Citizens' Jury.

MAKING IT HAPPEN		
E: We recommend that there should be more locally devolved power to ensure and enable action on climate change. We recommend that the political groups in Leeds and the Yorkshire regions should work together to get more decision-making power locally (like Manchester).	14	5th
HOUSING	13	6th
F: Create more green spaces in Leeds (parks, trees, community gardens etc.) and reclaim abandoned spaces		
HOUSING	12	7th
G: All new housing must be as future proofed as possible i.e. A or B energy rating, and include: a) green spaces. b) shared facilities and communal areas. c) new technology e.g. smart homes		
MAKING IT HAPPEN	11	8th
H: Call for a 'Leeds Green New Deal'. A Green New Deal is a set of social and economic policies to stimulate the development of low carbon solutions, creating new jobs, boosting the economy and improving people's lives. This could include a citywide housing retrofit program creating jobs and reducing energy bills. Also investing in green public transport improving air quality etc. This would attract 'green' businesses to Leeds and buy/promote green energy.		
TRANSPORT	9	9th
I: We recommend stopping Leeds Bradford airport expansion – it is not compatible with zero carbon targets. To make this recommendation happen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leeds City Council should not approve new road building or selling land to develop. Residents should block expansion and be educated about the impact on the carbon footprint. <i>18 out of the 21 citizens Jury members (86%) believe that it is the wrong decision to expand Leeds Bradford airport (two abstained).</i> We also believe flying must be discouraged by for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a frequent-flyer tax (based on income and number of flights and location i.e. domestic.) Advertising holidays in the UK rather than abroad. 		
THE ROLE OF BUSINESS. RECYCLING	8	=10th
J: Ask companies and organisations in Leeds to pledge to become carbon neutral by 2030. A Leeds First scheme, kitemark/badge scheme, (a bit like Fairtrade) for Leeds businesses that are actively investing in/supporting climate change action.		
THE ROLE OF BUSINESS. RECYCLING	8	=10th
K: We recommend that more extensive recycling opportunities are made available and accessible to all (e.g. disabled people and nondrivers).		
THE ROLE OF BUSINESS. RECYCLING	3	=11th
L: We recommend that no one in Leeds accepts single-use plastic and no businesses in Leeds offers it. We recommend that all food and drink outlets in Leeds provide refundable deposit cups in place of disposables.		

Progress Report

(The jury also wrote and agreed the following text regarding a progress report of the jury recommendation implementation).

(There should be a) 'progress report from Leeds Climate Commission, Leeds City Council and any other stakeholders.

- Update report on all recommendations with details on why/why not taken on.
 - Progress report on any ongoing project from our recommendations at the following intervals: 3 / 6/ 9 / 12 months from launch date.
 - Review of rejected recommendations to see if now relevant.
 - Investigate the idea of a repeat process with this group and maybe some new recruits'.
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