



Hear our voices

This compilation booklet brings together some of the most insightful and thought-provoking voices gathered from young people in Kenya, India and the UK.

The voices demonstrate a strong understanding of the issues and call, with clarity and certainty, for politicians and those who make decisions in business to provide a framework for change. Their simple message for world leaders is summed up by Molly, age 13 from Upton-by-Chester High School in the UK, "We need you to make the right decision for us...Your choice will change the world forever."

The booklet was distributed at the UN climate talks in Copenhagen and is being sent to politicians and other influencers across the three countries.

Achim Steiner, head of the United Nations environment programme, said: "These voices need to be heard in Copenhagen because they represent the generation that will inherit the consequences of decisions taken by world leaders."

To read the booklet visit: <http://tiny.cc/hearourvoices>



Grass roots action



Even if the Copenhagen climate summit had achieved all its high aims the challenge of bringing about change at the local level would still be here. So, while politicians and policy makers wrestle with the daunting but essential task of reaching binding global agreements, those of us involved with the International Climate Challenge (ICC) will press ahead with the crucial task of supporting young people – the leaders of tomorrow – as they develop their understanding of the issues and their ability to find creative solutions.

We know from ICC that young people relish the process of thinking about the likely impact of climate change on social and economic wellbeing and the measures they themselves can take to mitigate and adapt. They gain an informed voice, they learn how to take action and they develop confidence as leaders. It is this generation that will drive change as we accelerate towards a low carbon economy in the 2020's.

Whilst governments must regulate, citizens must learn how to live differently and ICC is helping young people to do just that. Right now they have the satisfaction of being influential within their own schools and communities by using their knowledge, analytical ability and youthful energy to propose practical solutions to local problems. We want them to take the lessons with them into higher education and their careers.

I hope this newsletter will give you a taste of the work students are doing. Grass roots action will give added value to the political process and enhance the chance of success in future negotiations.

John Davidson OBE
Executive Director, InterClimate Network

Students quiz Barclays on green record

Students from Clapton Girls' Technology College in Hackney and Marling School in Stroud challenge Group Chairman of Barclays PLC, Marcus Agius on Barclays response to climate change.

Their visit arose from the innovative work on their eco-projects, which were judged by peer review, at the 2009 Change-Makers conference, the show-case event from the first year of the ICC project. The Clapton Girls' project, Recycle4envision, involved a workshop, delivered to Hackney primary schools, to show the importance of recycling and build an army of young recyclers. The students from Marling School ran a four-week project called Trip Switch, which aimed to encourage and change peoples' behaviour, habits and attitudes towards local travel and transport.

During their Barclays visits, the students spent time with Marcus Agius, telling him first about their work to raise awareness of climate change issues in their school. When asked why he supported the International Climate Challenge, the Chairman said, "I absolutely believe we have to manage the planet". He talked about his involvement in the Confederation of British Industry's (CBI) Committee on Climate Change. Since becoming Group Chairman, this has inspired him to both take a lead in Barclays to reduce the impact of the company, for example in procurement and with carbon neutral workplaces, and to support staff 'green' initiatives through the annual Chairman's Award.

After the visit, the students said how much they enjoyed meeting the Chairman. They liked his honesty – from acknowledging that his heavy travelling schedule with Barclays stretched his own carbon footprint, to his openness to new ideas from his own staff. The students agreed the visit would definitely give them something to talk about in school and in their college and university applications!



Top: Marling students Hagar Niblett, Thomas Lydon, Callum Kemp, Tom Thorpe, Kieran Colvin, together with Barclays Group Chairman, Marcus Agius and Marling teacher Frank Gann.

Above: Clapton Girls' students Kaysha Wright, Anil Gokturk, Fatima Dawood, Natalie Krisman, together with Barclays Group Chairman, Marcus Agius, and Saskia Elias and Rachel Urquhart from Envision.

Reusing a precious resource

Nestling in the shadow of Africa's second highest mountain, Mount Kenya, sits Nanyuki Boys High School. Climate change is causing the ice caps and glaciers of Mount Kenya to retreat. This is turning off the supply of freshwater historically provided to communities in this region. Some rivers in this watershed have become seasonal and it is estimated that 20 out of 26 streams have dried up. This has serious consequences for the rivers Tana and Athi and the water that many local people rely on.

A student team from the Nanyuki Boys High School have responded to this growing crisis. Working as part of the International Climate Challenge project they have developed a system which focuses on the optimal use of available water. By building three reservoirs they are able to clean waste water to use for growing crops and providing feed for their animals. The process is deceptively simple. The three reservoirs are connected. The first contains dirty water. This is allowed to settle and the solids to sink to the bottom. The water then moves to a second reservoir where it is filtered over a bed of pebbles, charcoal and paper. Finally the water moves to the third reservoir where it can then be used to water crops.



Having their say

International Climate
Challenge takes to the
airwaves.

Students in India are taking to the airwaves to promote solutions to climate change. As part of the International Climate Challenge's work in India students are working with a community radio broadcast by the University of Mumbai: 137.6 FM. On 16th December the station aired a radio play on energy consumption in the local language, entitled bati bandh which means lights off. This was followed by a discussion about the International Climate Challenge project and climate change more generally. The radio station even played the International Climate Challenge anthem.

Other programs aired by the radio station have included Ferguson Pune college students who launched a No Vehicle Day on their school's campus. The radio station is hoping to make the issue of climate change, featuring the International Climate Challenge project, a weekly addition to their schedule.

*Left: Students inspecting
the waste water treatment
system they have produced*



International Climate Challenge

Now in its second year, the International Climate Challenge (ICC) is helping young people around the world prepare for the challenges of tomorrow: today.

ICC is building a global network of young people who are analysing the impact of climate change on their communities and developing practical ways of addressing existing and emerging problems. With projects in India, Kenya and the UK young people are able to understand different perspectives and share ideas using the website, Facebook and video-conferencing.

ICC offers an exciting and stimulating way of engaging with an issue of local and global importance with a focus on building creative solutions to the challenges of climate change.

For some help getting started visit:
<http://tiny.cc/gettingstarted>

Produced on behalf of InterClimate Network
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If you want to find out more about getting involved then please contact us:

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