



**InterClimate
Network**

What you thought about the 2016 Model Climate Conferences...

In November 2016 InterClimate Network (ICN) ran a series of three Model Climate Conferences in Cheltenham, Reading and South Gloucestershire as part of its Climate Voices project. Over 150 young people participated in the events. The conference and preparation beforehand enabled students to improve their grasp of the complex world of national politics, climate science and global policy that is integral to climate change negotiations.



Feedback reflected the energy, enthusiasm and creative ideas for climate action in school generated during the conferences. This brief summary brings together the headlines.

100% of teachers said they would be interested in attending future events.

A high level discussion on climate change: encouraging pupils to think about how global issues are discussed.

(Teacher – Cheltenham Conference)

Having attended the conference previously expectations were high – these expectations were met!

(Teacher - Reading Conference)

99% of students told us that they had enjoyed their experience of the Model Conferences.

98% had found it a useful experience.

I would definitely come back next year!
(Student – South Gloucestershire)

Listen to opinions of younger generation who will feel the effects more.

(Student – Cheltenham)

This year local leaders, active community groups, businesses and schools were there to talk with students about taking action on cutting carbon. The Ideas Zone that followed 'formal negotiations' brought into focus what students can do in their own school. As a result almost three quarters of students said they want to do more and we are now talking with teachers to find out how we can support young people's drive to make a positive difference.

74% of students said they would like to take more action on climate change.

Inspiring action on climate change

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Curriculum relevance Feedback from teachers suggests that the topic and approach had real relevance to what students are learning in the classroom particularly:



Geography – at all stages up to GCSE and A level, learning about climate change and developing nations, energy issues – renewable energy production, learning about global political frameworks.

Science – the science behind climate change, environmental science/studies, design and technology in relation to renewable energy.

The conference briefings, approaches and debates that students became involved in had relevance to politics, citizenship, developing research skills as well as any green team or eco schools activities within schools. Teachers indicated that the experience could be useful for sixth form students in their UCAS applications.

Very useful, easily accessible – a great starting point. Website [links] were useful and saved research time. (Teacher – Cheltenham)

*It was very clear and self-explanatory. Good to have the materials in advance for students to do their research.
(Teacher – South Gloucestershire)*

95% of students said that the experience had improved their confidence in debating and team working a lot or a bit.

Teachers' feedback also highlighted the opportunity to develop debating, negotiation and team-working skills. They stated that their students benefit greatly from public speaking, interacting with other schools and learning the skills required for networking.

*"Broader, softer skills are disappearing from our curriculum. This event gives us a welcome chance to work on public speaking, negotiation and team working skills."
(Teacher – Cheltenham)*

What next?

Thank you for all your hugely positive feedback. Helpful points for us to factor in to our planning for the conferences running in Autumn 2017 were that more time for debating would be appreciated and for briefing materials to be available as early as possible (we do try to reflect actual country positions going in to UN Climate Conference which can be last minute!).

ICN will be running a further series of Model Climate Conferences in 2017, to coincide with COP23 in Bonn. We will be in touch in the summer term with the dates and venues for these conferences and look forward to your continued involvement in the Climate Voices project.

Thanks from the ICN Team

Follow us @ClimateVoicesUK and at www.interclimate.org

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