

# Response ID ANON-YA6Q-S7W3-N

Submitted to **Climate Change - Net Zero Nation: draft public engagement strategy - consultation**

Submitted on **2021-03-24 14:44:46**

## Our Approach

### 1 Objectives

**What are your views on the three objectives underpinning our approach to engagement on climate change?:**

no comment

**1 (b). Do you think that any of these objectives should be removed or changed?:**

no comment

**1 (c). Are there any objectives that you think should be included that are currently missing?:**

no comment

### 2 Principles

**2 (a). What are your views on our seven principles for public engagement set out in Box 1?:**

no comment

**2 (b). Do you think that any of these principles should be removed or changed?:**

no comment

**2 (c). Are there any principles of good public engagement on climate change that you think are missing?:**

no comment

### 3 Other Comments

**3 (a). Do you have any other comments on our overall approach?:**

no comment

## Green Recovery

**4 What are your views on the opportunities and challenges for public engagement in the Green Recovery?**

**Please provide us your views:**

Opportunities

- Communicate how every individual, business, community, family, charity, institution, public body can be part of a Green Recovery.
- Public participation that includes a diverse group of people creating green recovery policies.
- Communication that a Green Recovery will require every sector, every part of our economy, every community, Government and public bodies to align on a shared direction.
- Defining 'Green Recovery' in terms of a just transition that embodies nature recovery, a renewable energy future, low carbon living, a circular economy and a wellbeing economy.

Challenges

- "Green Recovery" needs to make sense to people in the context of their own lives.
- "Green Recovery" is at risk of being an abstract concept and not easily defined – is it transformative change across every sector of society or is it funding for 'shovel-ready' projects in some sectors? The former requires long-term vision and investment from government and every sector of our economy.

## Communicating Climate Change Policy

**5 What are your views on our approach to communicating climate change policy?**

**Tell us your views:**

To help communicate climate policy, the government could increase transparency and access to data on the amount of renewable energy capacity required to meet future energy demands and net zero emissions by 2045. As an eNGO we would like to be able to communicate to stakeholders about the energy need, the amount of land required to meet net zero emissions and how land uses need to change to meet the net zero emissions target. To help us to do this we would welcome communication from the Scottish Government, which could be through future Climate Plan updates, policy statements or statistical publications, on the

total renewable energy capacity needed for electrification of sectors that have not decarbonised (heating, transport etc.) and, of this, what capacity can come from the following:

- Offshore
- re-powering
- extensions to existing development
- existing or planned hydro
- reduced demand as result of improved energy efficiency, smarter energy use, circular economy in action
- new technology

Once we have this national picture, the Scottish Government would be in a better position to say what the expected need for new renewable energy development is and what the land requirement is, which helps us and other stakeholders to engage and inform decisions about which areas of land might be appropriate to develop.

## **6 Are you aware of any practical examples or case studies of good practice for communicating on climate change that could be useful for informing our approach?**

**Please provide further comments:**

no comment

## **Enabling Participation in Policy Design**

### **7 What are your views on our approach to enabling participation in policy design?**

**Tell us your views on participation:**

We commend the Scottish Government's commitment to making it the norm for children and young people to be involved in decision-making across Scotland. The Scottish Government should lean on stakeholders with youth programmes – e.g. the John Muir Trust, which manages the John Muir Award and a Junior Ranger Programme, to help reach young people and enable greater participation in policy design through existing youth social action initiatives or programmes that can be adapted for youth social action.

In enabling participation the Scottish Government should seek to work with organisations, communities and institutions to overcome barriers to participation such as digital divides, unequal access to information, and also consider the different needs of individuals to participate or engage meaningfully.

All sectors should have an opportunity to participate in policy design.

### **8 Are you aware of any practical examples or case studies of good practice for enabling participation in decision-making that could be useful for informing our approach?**

**Give us your views:**

Examples of good practice for enabling participation in decision-making:

- The Children's Climate Assembly is a good practice example of enabling the voices of young people in participatory democracy.
- Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Youth Committee: [www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/looking-after-the-park/young-people/youth-committee/](http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/looking-after-the-park/young-people/youth-committee/)
- Cairngorms Youth Action Team: <https://cairngorms.co.uk/caring-future/education/youth-action/>
- Junior Ranger programmes across Scotland (SCRA), including at John Muir Trust properties (Quinag, North West Highlands, and Nevis, Lochaber).
- Scottish Rural Action's Rural Parliament.

## **Encouraging Action**

### **9 What are your views on our approach to encouraging action?**

**Tells us your views on our approach to encouraging action:**

Creating belief in the importance of individual action seems really important, so too is showing how individual action can contribute to collective action. Creating belief is not just about showcasing work but about creating environments in which people can participate and play an active role – this happens when communities have more control over community assets and there are public spaces and facilities for people to exchange information, ideas, meetings and resources.

Empowering communities should include empowering them to make collective decisions for a low carbon future – there are examples that Scottish Government could learn from and promote e.g. the North West Highlands Vision 2045 and the work of community land owning trusts.

Consider where and how public meets private interest and how these can be brought closer together through community participation or action – e.g. is there a role for Scottish Government to bring landowners in touch with communities on land use changes as part of a public engagement strategy? Landowners are a group of people with control over a significant asset (land) that could contribute significantly to climate action if managed as a natural carbon store. Case studies and examples of landowners who are changing land use for climate action could be part of public engagement campaigns.

Nature-based solutions are place-based but they don't just benefit communities close to recovering habitats, they bring quantifiable and significant benefits to everyone in Scotland. The connection between place-based community action and benefits to everyone else in Scotland is real and worth communicating.

Learning for Sustainability, a government endorsed entitlement for all learners is a key driver for encouraging action. Learning for Sustainability is an educational approach encouraging us to learn to live within the environmental limits of our planet and to build a just, equitable and peaceful society. It offers a framework to help embed global citizenship, children's rights, sustainable development education and outdoor learning approaches. Outdoor learning approaches offer a personal context for exploring sustainability through direct experiences of nature. Schools through the Learning for Sustainability agenda have led the way on climate change education – are workplaces another environment to encourage climate change education?

Children's Climate Assembly actions for climate included a National Tree Planting Day – a day when everyone in Scotland has the opportunity to plant a tree – this could become a national event for place based nature-based solutions in action. Initiatives such as Scotland's Young People's Forest could also be drawn on and good practice replicated, creating more opportunities with codesign and empowerment at the heart of taking action for the natural environment. See two films for more info:

1. children's learning through the Climate Assembly:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfpmvzCkcUM&list=PL9oSX4FZBIPVhr1pgITB6NLgRD6OtHmpe&index=12>

2. children's journey + calls to action: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oy-wZLvzbnE&list=PL9oSX4FZBIPVhr1pgITB6NLgRD6OtHmpe&index=13>

Linking climate with biodiversity to encourage action is important given how closely related the problems and solutions are.

The emerging field of nature connection research acknowledges happiness, health and wellbeing benefits of closer relationships between people and the natural world, also the long-term influence this has on a person's pro environmental behaviours. Nature experiences can impact on our values, reinforcing concern for issues such as biodiversity and climate change. Direct nature connection experiences create diverse opportunities to explore sustainability issues, from considering our behaviour and human impacts on nature in our local communities and favourite wild places, to engaging with 'bigger-than-self' national and global issues.

## **10 Are you aware of any practical examples or case studies of good practice for encouraging climate change action that could be useful for informing our approach?**

**Please tell us any examples you can think of:**

We are aware of the following practical examples and case studies of good practice for encouraging climate change action that could be useful:

• Communities that have coordinated climate action around land ownership and partnerships to bring land under community management:

1. Yearnstone project - established in 2018 by Eadha and Starling Learning with one ambitious vision - to restore natural processes in the area for the benefit of wildlife and people, and to improve the resilience of local communities to climate change and other pressures. -

[http://www.eadha.co.uk/projects/351\\_yearnstone\\_project](http://www.eadha.co.uk/projects/351_yearnstone_project)

2. Langholm Initiative and community buyout of Langholm Moor

3. Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape partnership

• #IWill campaign puts young people at the heart of social action, including the environment-focused #IWill4Nature campaign, with leadership and support offered via youth #IWill ambassadors.

• The John Muir Trust is committed to natural climate solutions that include nature connection opportunities. Engagement initiatives such as the John Muir Award continue to encourage people from all backgrounds to experience benefits of wild places and get involved in nature conservation. The John Muir Award's Conserve Challenge promotes simple concepts of personal responsibility and making a difference which can be used to explore what sustainability means - individually and collectively - in ways that are relevant and meaningful to people. It helps us to understand the impact of actions both local and global and engages us in developing solutions to the challenges we face as global citizens: [www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award/impact-and-updates/conserves-audits](http://www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award/impact-and-updates/conserves-audits).

• John Muir Award examples of climate action:

1. Pupils from Levenmouth Academy in Fife worked with Bat's Wood - a social enterprise - to turn five acres of former playing fields near their school, into a healthy wood. Not only did their impressive effort help manage flooding and capture carbon in their local community, but it also counted towards a John Muir Award ensuring that everyone involved - including pupils, teachers and community members - felt recognised and celebrated.

2. John Muir Award in Scotland's Colleges 2018-19 shares examples of how the Award is being used to help embed Learning for Sustainability across various further education programmes, from students taking action to increase biodiversity in local greenspaces, tackling community litter problems through starting their own action groups and bringing global challenges to life through hands-on local action:

[www.johnmuirtrust.org/resources/490-john-muir-award-in-scotland-colleges](http://www.johnmuirtrust.org/resources/490-john-muir-award-in-scotland-colleges)

3. 'How the John Muir Award delivers for Climate Action in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park' - case study coming soon.

4. John Muir Award provider Sunnyside Primary School in Glasgow: 'Our pupils are citizens who live for and love the world they live in. Each class in the school campaigns to make their world a better place to live in. The Ocean Defenders in P7 inspire all other classes in their endeavours – the pupils are effecting change in our world through their campaigns for climate change, saving our endangered animals, reducing pollution, and the most important for our school at the moment – aiming to reduce the amount of single use plastic in the world.'

- 'Trust helps showcase citizen science' - <https://bit.ly/3s5IVYt>

- 'Sunnyside Primary School — using their voice to get climate change on school curriculums' - <https://bit.ly/3cWiBsf>

• The John Muir Trust developed 'STEM by Nature' to inspire learners by making connections between STEM skills, wild places and outdoor learning approaches. It offers opportunity to incorporate hands-on outdoor activities, Citizen Science, real-world learning about the Sustainable Development Goals and climate, whilst also helping address gender and equity engagement challenges. STEM By Nature has been designed and delivered through a partnership between FSC (Field Studies Council) Scotland and the John Muir Trust, supported by Education Scotland's Enhancing Professional Learning in STEM Grants Programme. A phase 1 pilot was delivered for practitioners in Tayside during 2019-20, expanding to Fife during phase 2.

[www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award/ideas-and-resources/education/stem-by-nature](http://www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award/ideas-and-resources/education/stem-by-nature)

- The 2050 Climate Group empowers young people to take action on climate change, by equipping young people with the knowledge and skills to lead, influence and be a driver of change. [www.2050.scot/](http://www.2050.scot/)
- ReRoute, Scotland's Youth Biodiversity Panel, inspires young people to experience the outdoors and engage with and help nature; as well as providing recommendations on how organisations can better involve youth voices:  
[www.johnmuirtrust.org/resources/555-reroute-recommendations-how-do-they-apply-to-where-you-work](http://www.johnmuirtrust.org/resources/555-reroute-recommendations-how-do-they-apply-to-where-you-work)
- Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park's Learning for Sustainability padlet shares resources to support teaching about climate change, nature crisis and the environment: <https://padlet.com/alisoncush/jlbwhckh5cgq3mda>
- Transform Our World's Youth Climate Summit: [www.transform-our-world.org/top-resources/youth-climate-summit-highlights](http://www.transform-our-world.org/top-resources/youth-climate-summit-highlights)

## COP26

### 11 How do you think COP26 can help deliver a positive legacy for people of Scotland and climate action?

Tell us your thoughts on delivering a positive legacy for COP26:

COP26 would deliver a positive legacy for people in Scotland and climate action globally if, as a result of COP26, Scotland can pledge with other nations to form a global peatland restoration fund. Given the global significance of peat as a carbon store and that Scotland accounts for 3% of the world's peatland resource, 80% of which is degraded, it can take a lead in restoring this habitat that would benefit Scotland but also contribute to the global effort to reduce emissions through natural carbon solutions. COP26 is also an opportunity to engage a broad spectrum of people in public debate about a national unsustainably high deer population which is hindering the ability of land to capture carbon and undermines habitat and species recovery.

### 12 How can we work with stakeholders and actors across Scotland to deliver our "people" theme for COP26.

How do you think we can work with others in delivering our "People" theme for COP26?:

no comment

### 13 Are there other initiatives that the Scottish Government should consider joining or supporting ahead of COP26?

Tell us about any initiatives you believe we should join or support:

no comment

## Monitoring & Evaluation of the Strategy

### 14 What are your views on how our progress towards our objectives could be most effectively monitored and evaluated?

Tell us your thoughts on monitoring and evaluation:

no comment

### 15 How regularly – and in what format – should we report on progress on the strategy?

Tell us your thoughts on the regularity on format of reporting:

no comment

## About you

What is your name?

Name:

Rosie Simpson

What is your email address?

Email:

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

John Muir Trust

**The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:**

Publish response with name

**We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?**

Yes

**I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.**

I consent

## **Evaluation**

**Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)**

**Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:**

Very dissatisfied

**Please enter comments here.:**

**Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:**

Very dissatisfied

**Please enter comments here.:**