

NEWS RELEASE:

For immediate release



LONDON LEADERS

City Hall ‘Warms Up’ to London’s future leaders

240 young people come together to plan a sustainable future for London

On Friday 12th November, **240 young people** raised the roof at London’s City Hall as they became young leaders for sustainability and took part in a spectacular mass drumming performance.

The young people, all aged between 16 and 18, met journalists, politicians and other experts from MTV, TfL and national charities. The skills they gained - from public speaking to filmmaking – will help them lead other young people in making a difference.

In a packed Council Chamber, the gathered young leaders heard from:

- **Patrick Feehily**, Greater London Authority Sustainability Development Manager
- **Pamela Chesters**, Mayoral Advisor on Health and Youth Opportunities
- **Karen Lawrence**, Director of Delivery, Energy Saving Trust and London Sustainable Development Commissioner
- and **Faye Whaley**, 18, Labour Councillor for Canonbury and England’s youngest.

Drawn from **35 schools across London**, these young people will continue working with youth organisation **Envision** to improve their local communities over the next year.

London Leader and Envision’s Head of Development Rachel Urquhart, who closed the event, said, “These young people have proven tonight that they can work together to achieve something great. I’m really excited to see what these young London Leaders get up to in the next year and the change they make in their communities across London.”

Phillip Park, 17, said, “Through joining Envision I have learnt a lot about different issues affecting young people across the country. This has made me want to do all I can do to help those around me!”

As part of the London Sustainable Development Commission’s **London Leaders** programme, they will be trained over the course of the year to become leaders in their communities. They will use the skills and contacts developed at this event to run projects that improve local wellbeing, reduce waste, live more sustainable lives and ensure equal life chances for all.

-Ends-

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Envision (full name Environmental Vision) is registered as a Charity and a Limited Company in England and Wales
Charity Reg No. 1095328 Company Reg No. 442212

Notes to editors:

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Envision

- Envision provides young people with the opportunity to make a difference. The charity was established in 2000 by four young people who wanted to challenge the stereotype that young people are apathetic and disengaged.
- Envision works with over 3000 young people a year in London, Birmingham, Bristol and Leeds, helping them design their own local community projects tackling issues ranging from street crime to climate change. The experience builds confidence, aspirations and skills – inspiring the next generation of young community leaders.
- **Workshops included:**
 1. Being a brand guru (with MTV)
 2. CV and interview skills (with TfL)
 3. Thinking politically (with Guardian journalist Rowenna Davis)
- For more about **Rachel Urquhart** and her role as a London Leader see <http://www.londonsdc.org/londonleaders/profile.aspx?ID=38>
- For more about Envision visit www.envision.org.uk
- For more examples of projects that young people working with Envision have run in the last year, see www.envision.org.uk/case_studies

London Leaders

- The London Leaders programme was launched in 2007 to catalyse change - the kind of change that we need to tackle London's most ingrained problems.
- These problems are solved through strong leadership at every level, by people working together and by being empowered to take action. Providing individuals and their communities with the confidence, skills and support to make sustainable changes in their lives can lead to positive change.
- The London Sustainable Development Commission's priorities for London are:
 1. Climate change adaptation and mitigation
 2. Equal life chances for all
 3. Sustainable levels of resource use
 4. Sustainable economy
 5. Improving local wellbeing
- For more about London Leaders see <http://www.londonsdc.org/londonleaders/> or call 020 7983 4537

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