

Our Future Our Vision



The voice of young people on climate change



Dear UK delegates to COP 15,

I write this letter with the hope that it is read, digested and given more than a moment of your time to emotionally and intellectually respond to. As the chair of Envision's Grad Advisory Panel, a network of over 6000 young people, I take this opportunity to present a small snap-shot of the thousands of voices of young people across London and Birmingham who demand strong political action to tackle and abate climate change.

We are a generation of passionate, intelligent and politically motivated young people. Through both traditional and increasingly modern and innovative ways, we are coming together to find a common voice. A common message; that we care about our future, we care about our lives, our community and the whole of humanity.

Between now and Copenhagen this voice will get louder, this voice will get stronger and our message unavoidable. What is this message?

The decisions and the actions that are being taken by politicians, businessmen and women and civil society today determine our future prospects and the chance of a prosperous, safe and happy world.

We will not stand by and wait 20-30 years to achieve the traditional positions of power that will allow us to appropriately tackle climate change. We do not have that time. It is your responsibility at Copenhagen to represent your citizens and current generation of young people to mitigate climate change by ensuring that all UN members sign up to 80% carbon emissions cuts by 2050 and a stabilisation of carbon emissions to 350ppm as soon as possible.

We do not care about the current vested interests in society, nor votes and popularity. We care about something much more serious, we care about our survival. The information that is presented to you in this charter, capturing the voices of Envision's young people, confirms this fact.

We are prepared to accept short-term sacrifices. We are prepared to accept a world in which all human life is given equal respect and chance of survival. We are prepared to realise a better future for all.

We are not prepared to accept inadequate representation at Copenhagen. We are not prepared to accept the future threat of resource wars, food and water shortages, mass migration and increased climate deaths.

So on behalf of 6,000 hopeful and truly inspiring young people; **are you prepared to meet this challenge?**

Yours faithfully

James Mummery

Young people will...

Lead by example and encourage others to live responsibly and **be the change** we want to see. We know that we don't need to completely change our lifestyles but need to 'try our best' by committing to the little things. The small things can make a difference and the small changes in our everyday lives help others and the environment without having a negative impact on us. We can make people close to us care about it and inspire adults to care about our future.

Spread the word and get political by joining campaigns and signing petitions. We will keep spreading the message that together there are things we can do.

Make a commitment to **reduce, re-use, recycle**.

Stop burning as much fuel when we're out and about by riding a bike and using public transport. We'll stop flying as much and try and visit places by train or discover the wonders our own country has to offer.

Reduce our energy use by turning down the heating and wearing more jumpers, turning off the lights, watching less TV and not leaving things on standby. Make sure our schools and families do their bit too as both are meant to have our futures in mind and helping to tackle climate change is the best thing they can do to protect it.

Help to **teach others**, especially younger generations, about the causes of climate change and the sustainable actions that can help to tackle it. This means we need to know the facts ourselves so we will learn more and pass it on.

Consider how far our food has travelled and buy local when we can.

Reduce how much water we waste and pester those around us to do the same.

Think before we do. The easiest way to act sustainably is to think more about where things come from, what they're made of and if we really need them.

Run our own projects and **take action** to improve the environment in our communities.

So you should...

Involve us and think about our futures. Become better at listening to the voices of those whose lives will be most affected by climate change. Climate change is not only an environmental issue, above all it is a young people's issue. Our opinions matter because whatever you decide will affect us.

Make businesses take responsibility. Governments should offer subsidies to companies to use sustainable products and provide economic support for sustainable industries. Tax industries that create pollution and force them to find a way to reduce pollution. Harness the creativity and use common sense to force corporate cooperation. Simple things like all mobile phones using the same charger would mean less waste.

Put money into scientific research to improve on existing renewable energy sources and discover new ones. Commit funding for independent university research.

Commit to reducing carbon emissions. Do this through using renewable energies and not nuclear power and by spending a quantity of money that reflects the vast size of the problem. Put in place recycling systems that are the same across countries to reduce the amount of resources we are all wasting.

Balance the desire for economic growth with protecting the environment and addressing the needs of developing countries. **Learn to think of the well being of humanity over profit.**

Help people to make better travel decisions. **It should always be cheaper to get a train than a plane.** Invest extra money in low carbon transport across countries especially rail.

Hold public bodies to account; all publicly funded institutions should have to justify their resource use.

Accept climate change is a crisis, take it seriously and **show leadership.** Don't let us be the generation people look back on and blame. Change is about positive action not just positive thought. Take responsibility for your decisions and the future and walk the talk. Act now!

Raise awareness and get the message straight: by using renewables and thinking sustainably we can not just maintain, but improve our lifestyles.

Work together. A unified global policy on climate change would be rather lovely...