

Stirling Council

# Climate Ambassadors Initiative

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Learning for Sustainability is embedded in the School Improvements Plans of all high schools across the authority in Stirling.

Two years ago, the authority engaged senior managers in all the high schools with the aim of developing a platform for young people to discuss and action themes that were important to them.

As a result of this, all high schools across the authority were supported with an application process and invited to recruit a minimum of four young people in S5 and S6 to become Climate Ambassadors. The focus of the program is to provide the space and time for young people to meet, collaborate and lead on climate related projects in their schools and local communities.

Twenty-seven young people took part in the initiative in year one initially coming together as one group for a weekend residential to discuss Stirling Council's Climate and Nature Emergency Plan, before identifying broad priorities for action and cascading this information across the high school network.



In year two, the Climate Ambassadors have been focussing on identified priorities within their own schools. Examples include MacLaren High School in Callandar focussing on food waste and recycling and Stirling High School developing a plan to ensure all S1s receive a free reusable water bottle before writing up their sustainability plan and sharing with other high schools.

The Climate Ambassadors are supported by the authority through a variety of online and face-to-face meetings throughout the year. Whilst the authority facilitate this joint communication, the Ambassadors also maintain contact through social media platforms and Google Classroom.

As well as projects within their own schools, the Climate Ambassadors have been working on an authority wide innovative partnership with Transition Stirling's Reuse Hub entitled Dress to Waste Less. The project seeks to minimise the impact of fast fashion by encouraging young people to hire second hand prom wear.

Now in its second year, the Climate Ambassadors have been selected as finalists in the annual National Youth Awards (2023).

Following evaluation and feedback from the students, the authority is making some changes in year three. Next session representatives from the newly formed Climate Team will be voted on to the Board of Governance that focuses on delivering the Climate and Nature Emergency plan and the opportunity to become involved with the Ambassadors program will be opened up to students in other year groups from August 2023. Learning for Sustainability links with feeder primary schools are also being strengthened.

For more information contact [educ-comments@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:educ-comments@stirling.gov.uk).

