



# REPORT OCTOBER 2021



Hello everyone!

We are the Jersey Youth Parliament Climate Change campaign group.

The main focuses that we have been exploring are reducing carbon emissions, improving recycling facilities and usage and increasing sustainability both of the Island as a whole and of Islanders' lifestyles

## Meet the Group



The environment is the best part of our world, it's what we live in, it's what we interact with daily. There is nowhere else we can find what we have now so we need to save it.

I think that it is important to protect our environment because it provides us with things that the younger generation might not have due to deforestation and rising sea levels.



Biodiversity and trees are the most important thing about this world, without them we wouldn't exist. We wouldn't have food or materials. I think biodiversity is the most important thing we should be worrying about.



Everyone should have the chance to grow up in a world where they can breathe clean air and swim in the sea without there being any pollution. I think we have a responsibility to protect the earth and the animals that inhabit it.

Young People are the future of this world but we won't have much of a future if we don't act now! This is our planet and we need to spread the message quickly and efficiently before it is too late.



I strongly believe that we should protect our environment, but at the moment wildlife's homes are being damaged and I think it's very bad

The environment is important to me as the earth is such a beautiful place full of amazing wildlife and we need to do everything we can to look after it. We are so lucky to live on this wonderful planet and at the moment we are destroying our environment. If we all work together we can repair the damage and safeguard our world for the future.







Sebastian

I believe climate change is a first priority that needs to be fixed. We have bitten the hand that feeds us and now we need to fix it before we all die.

If we damage the world there is going to be things like flash floods and forest fires which can really harm human life and wildlife. We need to look after our environment. There is no planet B.



Sydney



Wojtek

The environment is the most important thing right now - it is the world around us. We have the trees, leaves, the grass, the birds and the bees. If we neglect it, all that could be gone. We can see already so many extremities like flash floods and heatwaves, destroying our planet is destroying our architecture.

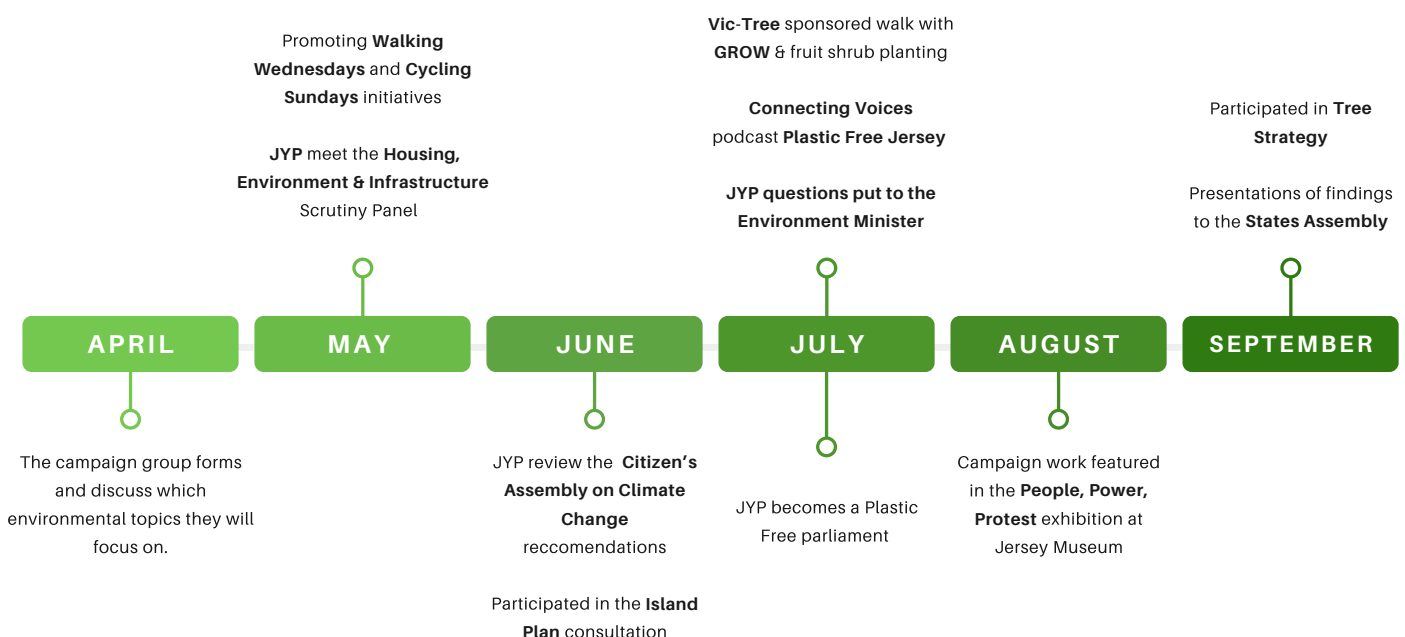


## Our work so far..

We'll begin by giving you an update on the main topics we have discussed and considered in our weekly meetings, of which we have had 25 since the commencement of the Jersey Youth Parliament.

We've talked extensively about electric cars, and their future in being a huge part in helping our Island to reduce its carbon emissions. We've also thought about methods of increasing sustainability in our own lives and how we can extend that to the whole community in Jersey. We've discussed the importance of recycling, and how we can encourage islanders and businesses to do so, but we've also considered what improvements could be made to the current facilities available. However, we think it is crucial to understand that in order to become a green island, we must concentrate on reducing the amount of waste we produce in the first place. Another topic that is important to us is biodiversity and how we can protect wildlife in our island. We hope that in the future we will explore lots more issues relating to the climate emergency, and that we will continue to have such meaningful conversations.

# Campaign Timeline



## A summary of our work...

Here's a summary of what we have achieved in the first months of our campaign:

- We've visited La Collette to understand more about the recycling process in Jersey.
- We've also had meetings with Scrutiny panels, to find out what they've been up to and what they plan to do.
- We organised a Vic-tree walk on which we planted fruit bushes as part of a project that promotes caring for the environment and connecting with nature, something really important to us as a group.
- We've become a Plastic Free Youth Parliament, after an almost unanimous vote, which means we're well on our way to becoming more sustainable.
- We promoted Walking Wednesdays and Cycling Sundays as initiatives which would help Islanders to reduce their carbon footprints and try to get into greener habits.
- We have reviewed the new Island Plan and explored how it aims to make Jersey a more sustainable place, which was really interesting for us as we were able to explore new angles of how to combat climate change.
- We learnt from an expert how to encourage people to have conversations about climate change and how best to equip them to spread the message to protect our environment.
- And most importantly, we have recently reviewed the recommendations put forward by the Citizens' Assembly and made a statement (See below). We are fully in favour of the recommendations they have made, and we aim to make sure these initiatives are put into action.
- Participated in the 2021 Tree Strategy consultation to respond to the island's current and future needs.

## **What we are asking the States Assembly to do...**

Firstly, we are asking you to commit to becoming carbon neutral by the year 2030. We want you to embrace the urgency that the timescale conveys and to respond to it by putting absolutely everything you have into combating this climate crisis.

Crucially, we want you to listen to the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly and consider them carefully because we as a youth parliament believe that they are key in our Island's journey towards sustainability.

An initiative that we think would be beneficial for our island is an island-wide recycling collection plan, including the recycling of more types of materials, such as food waste. This would result in increased recycling uptake as it would eliminate barriers for those who cannot bring their waste to the recycling centre.

As a group, we are also extremely passionate about biodiversity, which is an issue of great importance here in Jersey. We feel that measures need to be taken in order to protect all the beautiful wildlife which we are so lucky to have.

We believe that emphasis is needed on the value of green electricity sources as an important part of carbon neutral plans. We need to ensure that we reduce our carbon emissions as low as possible and we think this is an area requiring significant consideration.

As part of this, we think a focus on electric vehicles in the island would be extremely valuable as it would enable us to make Jersey a much greener place. Jersey is a perfect place for this initiative, since we are a small island, meaning driving distances are relatively short therefore the infrastructure required for charging facilities would not be too exorbitant. Electric vehicles not only reduce carbon emissions (of which transport makes up 40%), but they also reduce pollution, hugely beneficial for our natural environment.



We as a Youth Parliament strongly believe that as we make the changes in order to become more sustainable, **we must make sure that no one is left behind or forgotten.** It is so important to recognise that while changing our lifestyles will be challenging for most people, it will be incredibly difficult for some people, particularly those experiencing financial struggles. **It is our duty to ensure that there is help available to enable everyone to be part of our journey towards a greener island.**

Another important issue is how our shift towards sustainability will be achieved. Clearly legislation and guidance is required in order to show islanders the way, but incentives for those who are reluctant and help for those struggling are also imperative to make certain that our quest for carbon neutrality goes smoothly.

**We are also respectfully asking you all to be good role models for the people of Jersey, especially for young people,** as it is essential that a clear example of sustainability is set as we all take responsibility for our impact on the environment.

We need you to take action now, before it is too late. We as a campaign group are extremely passionate about caring for our environment and we hope that you will share this enthusiasm and let it be a drive for change. **So please join us, starting from today, in protecting our world and making our island a better place.**

Finally, **we need to take a new attitude towards the climate emergency. It may be scary, might seem impossible, but it is something that can be beaten.** We just have to start doing something. So we as members of the Jersey Youth Parliament are going to do all that we can in our own lives to battle climate change, and we are also going to do all that we can to help others to make changes, but today, we are asking you, as members of the States Assembly to do all that you can to create a brighter future for our Island of Jersey.

## Questions in the States Chamber...

Whilst presenting our campaign work in the States Chamber, on **September 28th 2021**, we were asked additional questions by the Ministers in response to our findings.

**Deputy Young** asked what barriers there are to addressing Climate Change in Jersey.

The JYP felt that awareness was an issue surrounding recycling and that some local businesses might not be willing to change for financial reasons. There is a need to work together and for individuals to see direct benefits from their changing their recycling habit.

**Deputy Ward** challenged the JYP and questioned if action against climate change should be addressed by larger countries?

The JYP feel that it is important to be trailblazers and by making a start others will follow. Small changes can make a big difference and this cascades into behavior change. Although we are a small island nation we can act and the effects will be a positive chain reaction, like dominoes. A lot can be learnt from behavioral sciences such as the Asch Conformity Experiment. Understanding ourselves can help us to move forwards. They also felt that we cannot follow a restricted line of reasoning as nothing will get done. The JYP also feel that some larger countries have other problems to address (such as distribution of clean water and safe food). Our small changes might buy others time and we can then share knowledge and technology. Our smaller size can be an advantage because we are able to act swiftly with small changes (electric cars for example) and we can influence bigger countries to do the same.

The JYP also considered what would happen if we do nothing. History tells us that we cannot afford to think like that. Science tells us that we don't have time to think like that.

## Questions in the States Chamber...

Whilst presenting our campaign work in the States Chamber we were asked additional questions by the Ministers.

**Deputy Wickenden** asked what the JYP felt had been 'done right'?

Moving away from fossil fuels has been positive for Jersey and accessing electricity from France, which has been produced by mixed sources such as wind, hydro and nuclear.

**Deputy Young agreed** that the Climate Emergency will affect every area of life including the economy and our political systems - it is 'transformational'. He felt that there may be a mountain to climb but this can be done in stages.

He felt that through the positive actions that the JYP lead on, their voice will be heard.

Deputy Young acknowledged that the cost would be high and it is estimated at £300 million and that there will be implications for those with lower incomes.

The Minister will ask the Officers to assist JYP Members in their research.

He posed a further question to the JYP about energy sources.

"Should we be reliant  
on one energy  
source from Europe?"





## JERSEY YOUTH PARLIAMENT RESPONSE TO THE CITIZENS ASSEMBLY RECOMENDATIONS

We as the Jersey Youth Parliament agree with the recommendations made by the Citizen's assembly on climate change however, we have ambitions that we want to achieve but we need your help to do this.

Firstly, **we want a bright sustainable future for Jersey** and as the youth of our island we have strong dreams that we aim to accomplish. Our views are very important as **the government have said that they want to put children first, and therefore we need to be heard**. We have loads of ideas that we feel should be implemented into the carbon neutral roadmap and together, we can work to make a difference to our beautiful island of Jersey. We are all very passionate about this issue as it determines our future and the future of generations after us. **How can we as the Jersey youth parliament focus on other issues on the island when we are conscious that we might not have a world to fix if climate change isn't tackled now?**

**We fully support the decision that has been made to set the year of 2030 as the target for carbon-neutrality.** We feel that this is a timescale which both reflects the urgency of the climate crisis and provides a real opportunity for us to achieve our aims. If we work together as an island, we can challenge climate change before it's too late. **These recommendations are key to securing a thriving and prosperous future for us all to enjoy and cherish.** With all this in mind, we firmly believe that the use of fossil-fueled vehicles should be phased out and not banned as cost of living is going up and banning these might limit the quality of life of young people.

We have carefully discussed each recommendation made and its implications and we firmly believe that these are the steps we must take to secure our future. **We appreciate the work by the citizens assembly** that has gone into producing these recommendations, and **we hope that you will fully consider them.** We look forward to seeing the carbon- neutral roadmap and to a path which will help us to combat the climate emergency.

**We only have one chance, so we need to make it count.**

## What do we want to do next?

So, what do we want to do next, bearing in mind that this is only the beginning of our Youth Parliament journey?

- We want to promote sustainable lifestyles for all islanders of all ages and backgrounds, and we want to support them and enable them to take these steps by eliminating any social and economic barriers to change.
- We also aim to motivate everyone to do all that they can to combat climate change and learn to love our planet's nature. This means that we want to inspire the people of Jersey to make changes, however small, to take a step towards a better world, and we also want to inspire you, the leaders of Jersey, to take action before it is too late.
- Our ultimate aspiration is to see a real transformation in our Island by the end of our time in the Jersey Youth Parliament and set an example of our efforts for years to come to cause a chain reaction of change on our beautiful planet.

## Acknowledgements

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Sheena Brockie, Grow Jersey

Terry Stevens, Digital Jersey & The Digital Leadership Program 2021

Lisa Hart, Deputy Greffier to the States

JYP Volunteers

*"The world right now is a  
ticking time bomb - but we  
don't know when it will blow."*