



University Climate Action: negotiating and implementing a shared vision



delivered by:

**Sheffield
Hallam
University**

Civic University
Network



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This webinar will
commence at
10.30am

Host and Speakers

Host:

Des McNulty - Honorary Fellow, Civic Partnership and Place Leadership, University of Glasgow

Speakers:

Emily Morrison - Head of the Institute for Community Studies (ICS), The Young Foundation

Fiona Goodwin - Interim CEO, EAUC - The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education

Duncan Ross - Chief Data Officer, Times Higher Education

Julie Tam - Deputy Director for Policy, Universities UK



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The role of HEIs in Climate Action Measurement and Governance

Why focus on governance and measurement of climate action?

HEIs role in the climate action agenda should include 'supporting agency and inclusive governance'.

Alignments included to EAUC Scorecard; the SDGs; and disparate local measures such as numbers of green jobs/ sector growth; economic measures; to air pollution and more advanced instruments.

Challenge of measuring activity from small scale to large scale projects, and between contribution to attribution efforts.

Different local areas are working to different time windows – 2030, 2035, 2040, 2050...



Figure 1: Domains of place that will be affected by net zero transition in the UK. Source: Morrison, Snell, Middlemiss et al, for the Institute for Community Studies, 2022.

- The indicators and focus of measurement depends on how the challenge is defined:
 - Economic?
 - Social?
 - Environmental?
 - Place-centred innovation?
 - ‘Just transition’?
- The majority of ‘mature’ strategies include goals for:
 - championing environment and staff/student participation
 - decarbonising the economy with a focus on meeting net zero scope 1, 2 and 3 for 2035;
 - biodiversity on and off campus;
 - ethical educating and public engagement;
 - ...very few include HEI to HEI collaborative working and shared climate goals between HEIs or FE.

“[The HEI] has very much adopted an environment and climate emergency response, acknowledging we face an environmental crisis with multiple components. We are really keen to ensure that biodiversity and the natural environment aren’t forgotten in this race to net zero.”

– HEI from the coastal and small towns place group.

Four emerging models of local governance around climate

University-Led

There is a strong core of sustainability leadership and applied use of the Scorecard, ensuring measurement of campus and institutional level activities, supply chains and some additional capture of the university communities' foot print. There may be accompanying student organising movements and university research groups focused on green transition.

Fund-devolved

The action around climate or net zero transition locally is distributed and resourced by different funds, within the university and across local government and the voluntary and charity sector. This includes R&D funding, infrastructural funding, potentially a devolution deal, and the future shared prosperity fund. Coordination is limited to individual partnerships.

Affiliate-Anchor

The university is part of a city-level or local government led working group on net zero transition or climate action, often inspired by the Council / Authority declaring a Climate Emergency. HEI is one of many anchors including the NHS, local trusts and businesses. The local authority has a developing roadmap, and possibly a climate commissioner, and the university's particular role and goals are not always well defined.

Business-innovation led

The challenge is conceptualised as one of 'innovation' or adaptation, with local action led primarily from a large investor, business working group or the Council working with largest local employer (airport, or mono-employer). The focus is primarily on hard infrastructural change (transport, housing, technology) - with the university positioned as the source of research and development, attraction of innovation funding and future investment.

Perspectives from Universities UK



The run up to COP 26



Contributing locally

Collaborating with stakeholders, universities help to achieve local ambitions and advance local initiatives, not least supporting green recovery and growth.

Climate Action Toolkit for the Higher Education Sector

Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education



140 universities One voice

We are the collective voice of universities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland



PUBLICATIONS

Confronting the climate emergency

Our report on universities and the climate emergency looks at the commitments universities are making, how the government can help, and what senior university leaders see as the greatest challenges.



Protecting our local environments

Fighting tree disease, conserving our coastlines, advancing red squirrel research, and mastering marine protection

...and making them cleaner and greener

Better breathing, a reusable cup revolution, and virtual reality cities

Creating green jobs

Fuelling the future, greener trains, and a renewable district

Co-creating sustainable solutions

Climate positive gin, community-owned energy, and sustainable mushroom farming

Engaging communities with climate issues

Pollution pods, fighting energy invisibility, and planting for the planet

Discover more

1. WATCH THE CAMPAIGN VIDEO

2. GET INVOLVED

3. READ THE CASE STUDIES

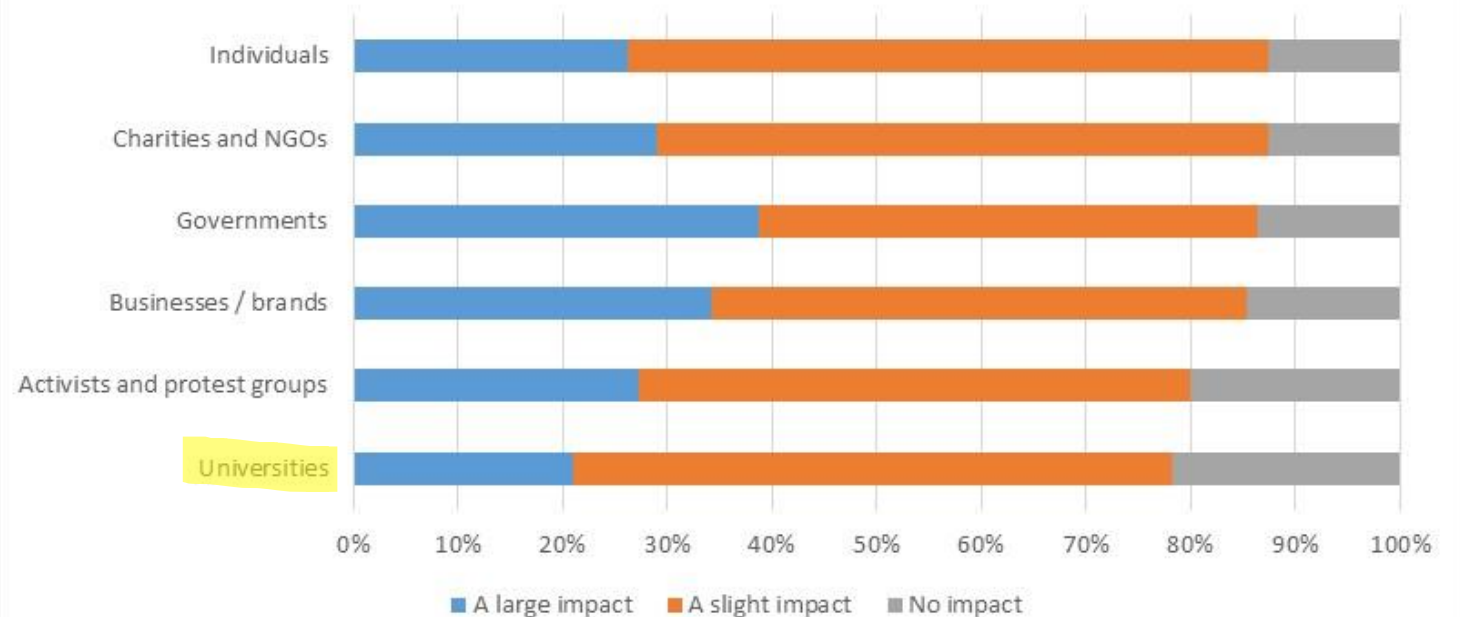


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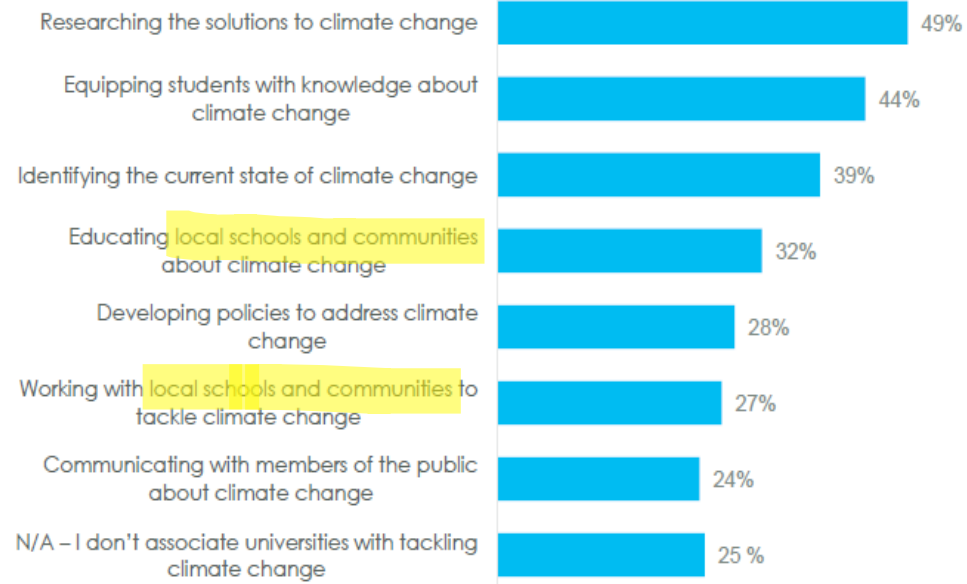
Most parents don't recognise role of universities in tackling climate change

Just four in 10 (44%) parents of 16–18-year-olds believe that UK universities are equipping students with knowledge about climate change.

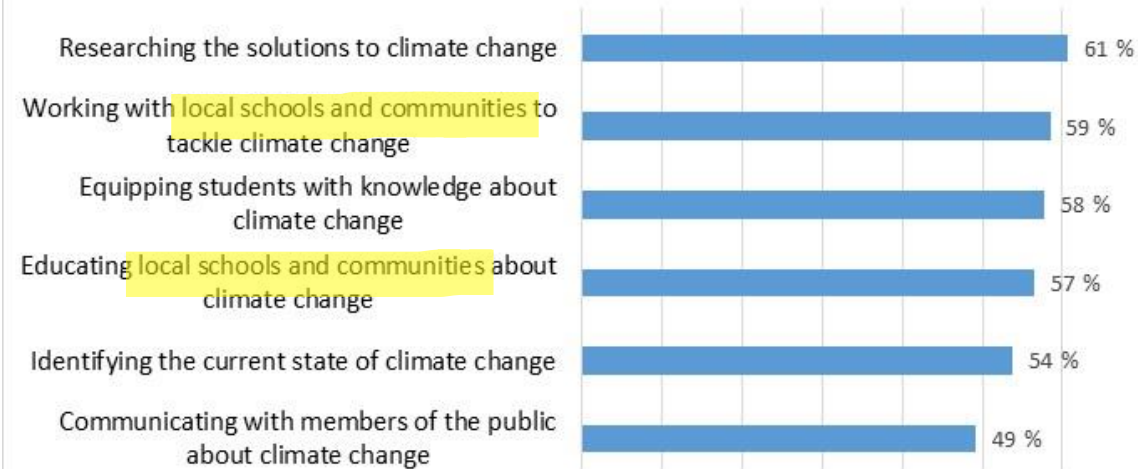
How much of an impact does 'X' have in tackling climate change?



What parents associate universities with when it comes to tackling climate change



'I would like to see universities doing more of this...'



Navigating the challenges



Competing objectives



Better support

Measurement



Governance



RESOURCE:

CLIMATE
ACTION FOR
UNIVERSITY
CHAIRS

Thank you



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Thank you

Upcoming events

22nd November 14:00-15:30 – Climate Action roundtable - student involvement

12th December 13:00-14:00 – UEA Engagement Approach - Case study webinar



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