

WHERE TO START?

Creating a legacy for COP26

Hosting COP26 and the associated fringe events in Glasgow has meant that for many young people in Scotland, the climate crisis has never felt closer to home. Whether they've been following the negotiations, attending the school strikes, or taking part in the incredible array of civil society, artistic and cultural events happening in Glasgow over the two weeks of COP, young people in Scotland have been engaged in this COP more than any other. For many, this may be the first time they've heard of the UN COP negotiations, and this new wave of interest can be supported by the youth work sector to help strengthen the youth climate movement in Scotland.



FINDING YOUR PLACE IN THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT

Precisely because the climate movement is so wide and varied, it can be hard for young people to know exactly where to start. One of the fundamental principles of youth work is **meeting young people where they are at**, which means not expecting them to have prior knowledge or experience of the climate crisis, but supporting them to educate themselves and engage at whatever level they are able to. This lack of expectation will help bring new young people into the climate movement who haven't been involved until now, and who come from less privileged backgrounds, as **the movement needs all voices to be successful**. As youth workers, we can support young people to find their place in the climate movement and use this process to help the young people reflect on what is important to them, and what solutions are needed. To do this, **Ayana Elizabeth Johnson** suggests drawing a simple **Venn diagram**, which can be adapted according to the young people's needs. It can also be useful for youth workers to think about where climate action can fit into our youth work practice.

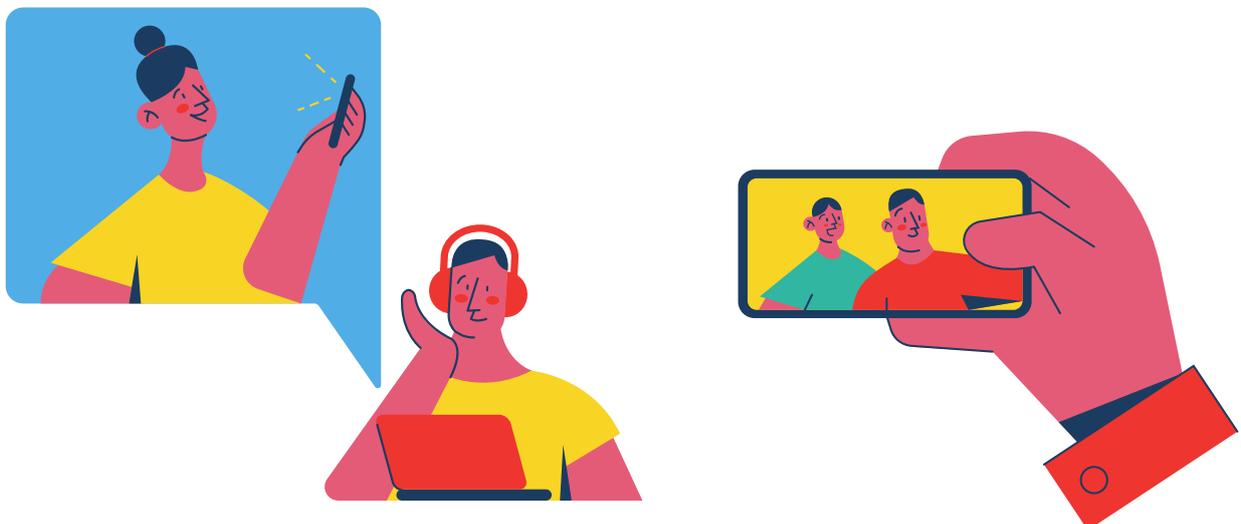
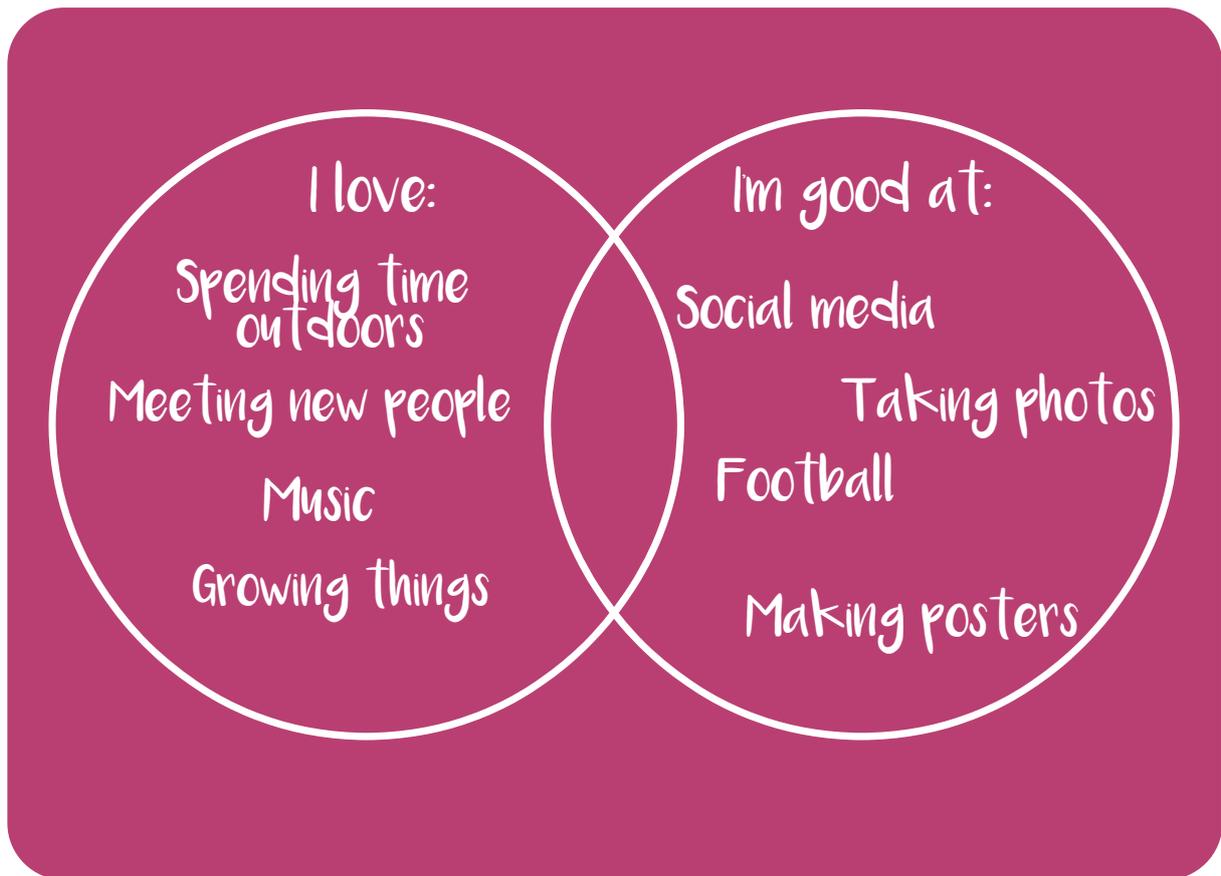
WHAT DO YOU LOVE DOING?

On a large sheet of paper, ask the young people to draw a circle and write inside it things that bring them joy. **What do they love doing?** This is important to make sure that any actions they take are sustainable and that they don't burn out. When thinking about this you can also encourage the young people to discuss what aspects of **COP26** they particularly enjoyed or were inspired by. For example, did they enjoy **learning** from the many talks, panels, films and other events that were running during COP? Did they attend the **youth strikes**, or get involved in a **community climate action**? Were they inspired by the way that **artists and musicians** used their work to highlight the climate emergency and bring the movement together?



WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT?

Next, draw a second circle which slightly overlaps the first. Inside, ask the young people to write down **things that they are good at** – this could be a **specific skill** like making films or coding or painting, or it could be something like talking to others, or spreading optimism. The climate movement needs all sorts of people and skills, so **everything is relevant** here.



WHAT NEEDS DOING?

Then draw a third circle which intersects both of the other circles. Inside this one, the young people should write down **what kind of work needs doing** in the climate movement. This is a big question so you may want to do a separate exercise to come up with some ideas. You could encourage the young people to **draw a map** of their town or local area and mark on it the things that are already happening to identify where they might fit in or whether there are any gaps. These actions could be individual, on a community level, or on a national or international level – **everything counts!**



In the centre of the Venn diagram where all three circles overlap is where the young people should be thinking about how they themselves can get involved in the climate movement. It should be something they enjoy doing, something they are good at, and something that needs doing. **There is a place for everyone in the climate movement**, and young people bring a vital energy and sense of urgency to the conversations around the climate crisis. There are no right or wrong answers here!

SOME IDEAS TO GET YOU STARTED

These are by no means the only things your youth group can do but they might help the young people to come up with ideas to go in the centre of their Venn diagrams.

-  **Make a film** about how climate change will affect your local area
-  **Host a local mini-COP** to get people talking about local climate issues and solutions
-  Sign up for the **Climate Emergency Training** for young people to expand your knowledge of the climate crisis
-  Join a session of **Climate Fresk** for a fun and interactive way to learn about the science behind the IPCC reports
-  Use the activities in the **Climate Emergency Toolkit** for fun and accessible ways to get young people interested in climate action
-  **Start a climate club** in your school or community to connect with like-minded others and share experiences
-  **Attend Fridays for Future protests** in your area or start your own local group
-  Get in touch with your **COP26 Local Champion** to find out about local youth climate action
-  **Put on a climate change related show** or musical as a way of raising awareness and funds
-  **Start a resource-sharing network** – you could share books, clothes, tools, toys, lifts, food – this will reduce waste and consumption, save people money and build community spirit
-  **Record a podcast** and interview local experts on climate solutions
-  **Create a collaborative artwork** depicting climate change in your community, for example a mural or a tapestry