



SCOTTISH YOUTH CLIMATE PROGRAMME

EVALUATING ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE AS CLIMATE CHAMPIONS

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

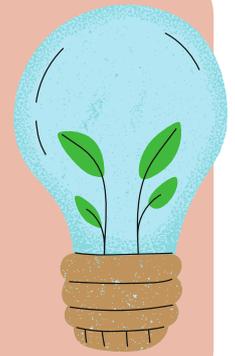
This resource will provide youth workers with advice and a framework to help you think about the conversations you need to have to support evaluation of your youth groups' climate social action projects. It also includes a range of tools you can adapt and use with your youth groups as you co-design and evaluate the impact of your own and your young people's role in tackling the climate emergency.

An evaluation framework will:

- Enable young people to recognise, make sense of and articulate what they are learning in the context of the climate emergency and how it is supporting their development as individuals and climate champions
- Highlight the significant impact young people and youth workers have in tackling the climate emergency on a local and national level
- Shape youth work programme design and delivery of climate social action projects
- Strengthen the case for funding youth workers to support young people as climate activists

KEY STEPS

- Build a shared understanding of desired outcomes with stakeholders and young people where appropriate
- Clarify how progress towards these can be measured
- Collate and analyse data over the course of the project being undertaken
- Reflect on data insights with young people and stakeholders
- Effectively communicate insights



TOP TIPS

Start with the end in mind

- Plan your evaluation before delivery with young people begins
- Ensure methods for data gathering are agreed from the outset
- When using 'hard measures' of impact such as attendance, make sure they are realistic and appropriate to the groups you're working with

Put young people at the heart of the evaluation process

- The primary reason we measure progress is to support the development of young people. Create opportunities for young people to explore the language of skills and experiment with a variety of approaches to support reflection on learning
- Ring-fence time for individual and collective progress review
- Where possible, use a range of media to enable young people to share what they are learning directly with stakeholders

Articulate progress in terms of skills

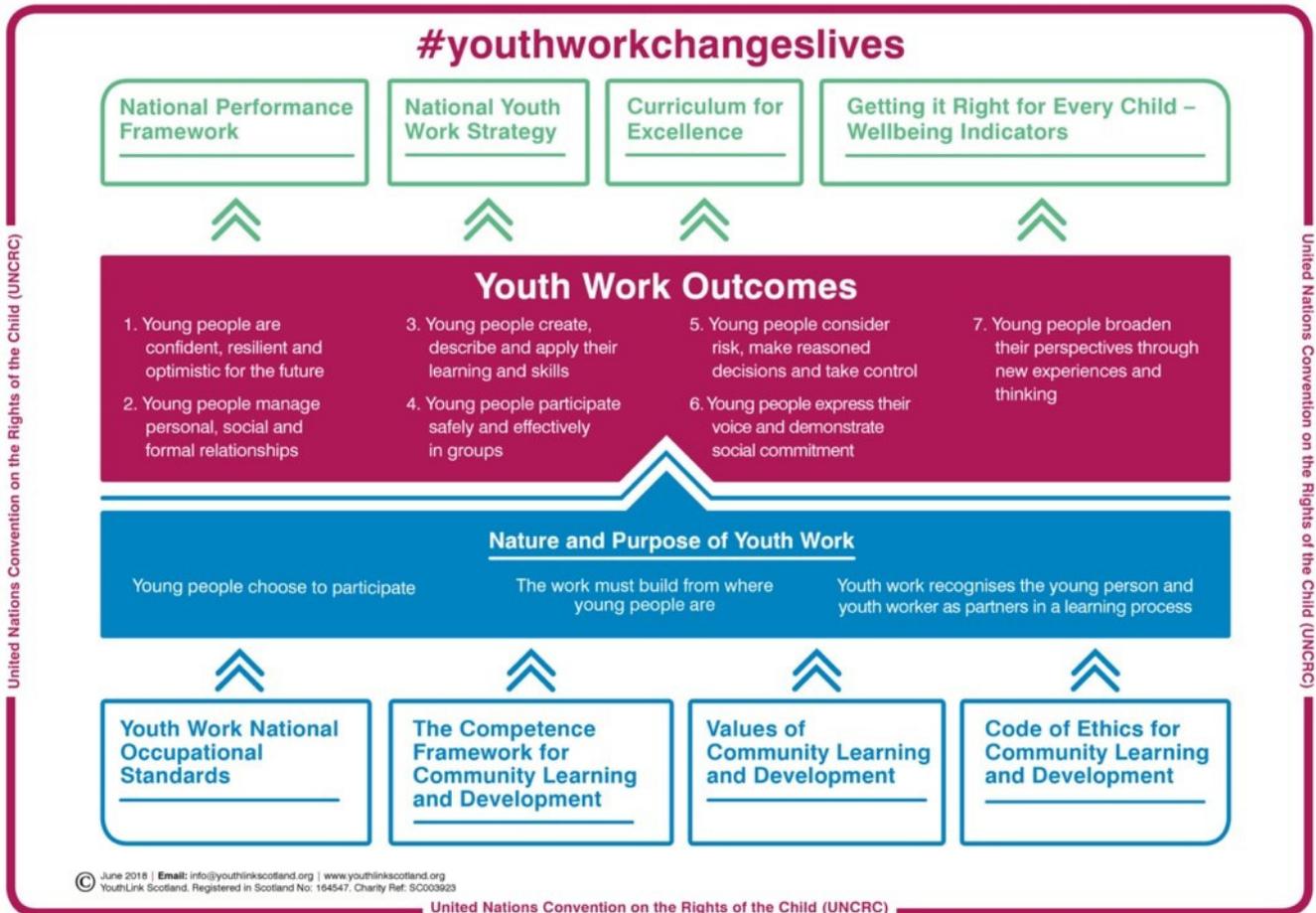
- Consider using the Youth Work Skills Framework (as detailed below) as a common language for setting goals and tracking progress
- Work collaboratively with young people to agree on a small number of clear, specific, observable 'indicators' of progress that can be measured in relation to skills development (don't try to measure everything)

Use and share what you learn through evaluation

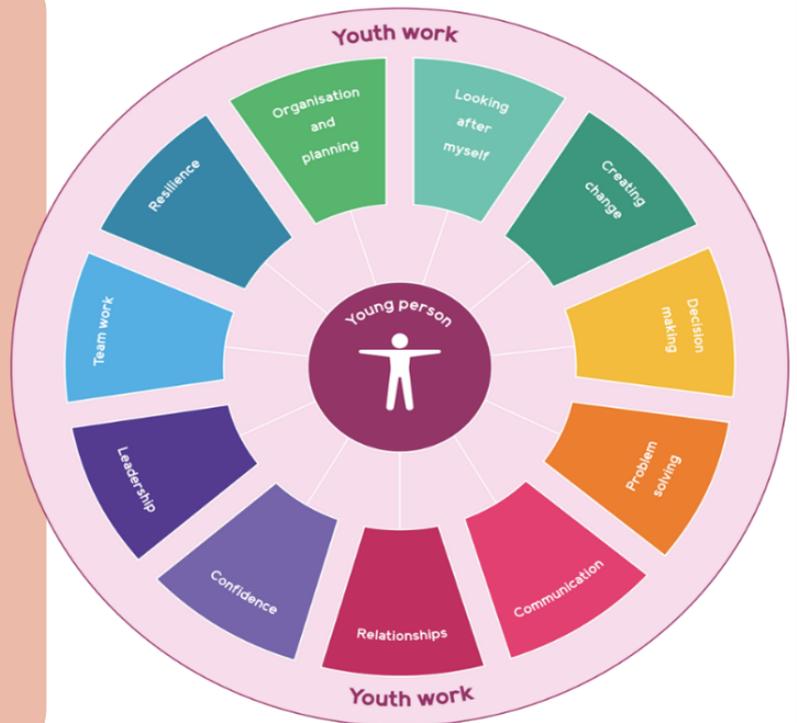
- Make sure you use your evaluation to inform future programme design and promote the value of youth work in tackling the climate emergency. One way you can do this is by completing a [case study submission](#) to share best practice across the youth work sector.

EXISTING FRAMEWORKS, OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS

The National Youth Work Outcomes and associated indicators are a great place to start when considering how you will measure the success of your youth work. Indicators connected to the National Youth Work Outcomes are also useful to consider.



The Youth Work Skills Framework also summarises 11 key skills that young people can hope to develop through experiences of youth work. Each skill within the youth work framework is also described by a clear set of observable, measurable ‘indicators’. The skills framework and associated indicators provide a clear focus, understood by all, for codifying and measuring progress you hope young people will make.



The United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are another resource that can be fed into your evaluation framework when considering the outcomes you and your youth groups are hoping to achieve through their climate social action projects. The collection of these interlinked global goals as designed to be a 'blueprint to achieve a better more sustainable future for all'.



In addition to measuring progress in relation to skills, you may also want to gather hard data that relates to, for example, project group work attendance, but tracking skills development alongside these will provide more nuanced evidence of impact. This is important in quantifying and supporting the progression of young people, particularly those who are most in need of support.

Think creatively about the different methods and media you use to gather data. These might include:

Quantative (numerical) data

Baseline and follow-up surveys / questionnaires tailored to focus on key indicators of progress

Standardised measurements that align with indicators

Wellbeing wheel

Administrative data e.g. attendance at youth work sessions

Qualitative data

Surveys can also gather qualitative data

Structured interviews with young people / other key stakeholders

Visual feedback

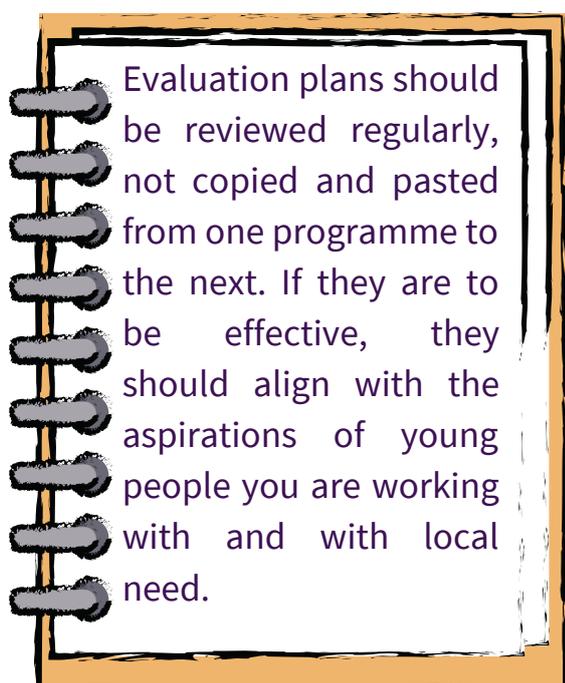
Video diaries / reflections

Interactive online activities to support conversations

Story gathering with participants / other stakeholders

Individual case studies

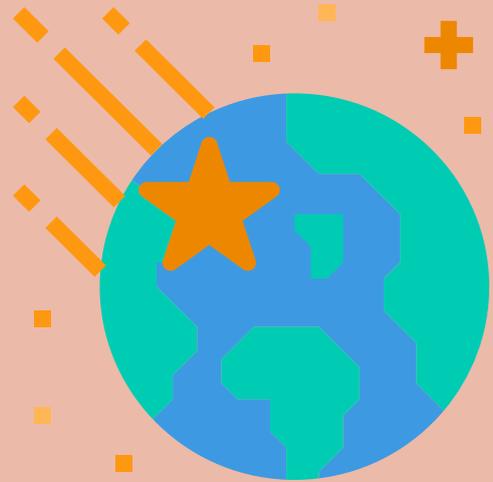
Youth worker / teacher / parent / carer observations



SHARING THE IMPACT

Beyond the youth work and school partnership team, it may be helpful to share a summary of each evaluation with:

- Parents / carers
- The wider school staff team
- Other partners within the school community
- Relevant teams within your local authority
- Education Scotland
- Funders / prospective funders
- Prospective future participants (young people)
- Local / national media



Exploring creative ways to share what you are learning and how young people are benefiting can be very rewarding and need not be resource intensive, particularly if you this is part of your evaluation plan from the outset. Options might include:



Individual case studies – written / audio



Filmed interviews / testimonials from young people and other stakeholders



Colourful artwork by young people



Learning events / workshops (face-to-face / online) where insights can be explored in more detail to prompt action

At YouthLink Scotland, we would love to hear about your success stories by highlighting your projects on our website and social media channels. To help us share best practice across the sector and promote your youth group's work, you can [complete a case study submission form](#). You can also read all of our Scottish Youth Climate Case Studies here for inspiration.

With these tools and existing frameworks in mind, YouthLink Scotland have created a Scottish Youth Climate evaluation framework [accessible here](#) for you to track progress and highlight the impact that climate social action projects are having on your youth group's learning and development, demonstrating the crucial role youth workers play in Scotland reaching net zero.