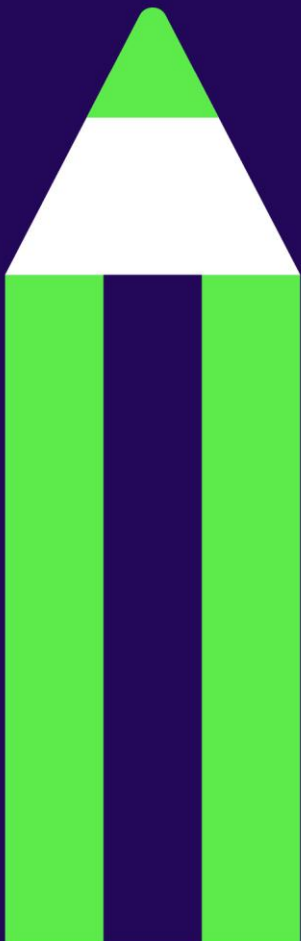
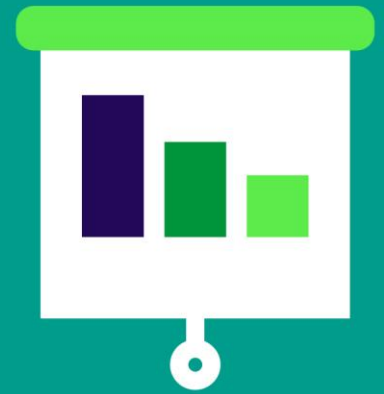


# The Climate Connection

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# Youth Voice on Climate Action

**UAE**

#TheClimateConnection  
[www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection](http://www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection)

# The Global Youth Letter on Climate Action is a call for action from young people globally, directly addressing the leaders attending COP26 – the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, in Glasgow, November 2021.

It is the result of a large-scale research exercise between the British Council and not for profit social enterprise Catalyst in Communities, who used a mixed methodology approach to garner the views, experiences and aspirations of 8,000 young people across 23 countries.

Aiming to be as representative as possible in terms of gender, background, location and socio-economic status, the research team worked through global COVID-19 restrictions to amplify the unheard voice of the climate debate: today's young people. Research for the report was carried out between January and March 2021.

The Global Youth Letter on Climate Action, and accompanying 8,000 Rising campaign, is part of the British Council's [The Climate Connection](#) programme, a global platform for dialogue, cooperation and action, connecting millions of people through shared solutions to the climate crisis.

**Read the Global Youth Letter on Climate Action, the research report and join in the 8,000 Rising campaign here:**

[www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection/get-involved/global-youth-letter](http://www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection/get-involved/global-youth-letter)

## UAE's young people and climate action

The following letter and accompanying data represent the views and perspectives of young people in UAE.

It is a collective statement of all those who participated in the Global Youth Letter on Climate Action research in UAE and can be used as a starting point for leaders and policy makers to understand how to address young people's concerns in relation to climate change, and how they can use this untapped potential in to bring about climate action.

We hope the following letter inspires both young people and decision makers across UAE and beyond to work together to find sustainable solutions to climate action.



# Dear COP26 leaders,

As-salaam 'alykum. We, the young people of the United Arab Emirates, are here to share our aims and aspirations for the future of our country, and our planet.

We are home to vast deserts and rolling sand dunes, iconic cities with the world's tallest building, and long stretches of coastline on the Persian Gulf. We are proud of our land, which is why we want to safeguard it for future generations.

Those who contributed to this collective statement represent the unheard voice in the climate conversation. Three-quarters of us are female, and 89 per cent are from urban areas. We have different levels of education and employment.

## How climate change affects us

While most of us mainly learn about climate change online, we only need to look outside our windows to see how climate change is affecting our country every day, and nearly half of us have felt its impact.

The three main effects of climate change we see are:

1. coastal erosion
2. depletion of freshwater resources
3. decreased agriculture productivity.

By participating in this research, we have become more familiar with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and better informed about COP26. It's also true that 81 per cent of us believe climate change to be one of the biggest threats facing our country's future – and can see the very real impact it is having on our lives today.

## Our commitment to climate action

With climate change impacting everybody's lives, we realise that policy makers and civil society organisations can't deal with the problem alone. Which is why more than 70 per cent of us think young people have a vital role to play in climate action. We are willing to become community leaders on climate action, and to engage young people, especially those from marginalised and vulnerable groups.

Yet, 67 per cent of us have never participated in a climate awareness exercise, and this needs to change if we are to reduce the impacts of climate change.

## What we propose to our leaders

We are asking you to rely on us even more, so together we can develop sustainable climate solutions!

We need your help to remove hurdles to participation, which include:

- limited or no community-level initiatives to engage youth for climate action



- limited or no youth engagement opportunities offered by civil society and non-governmental organisations.

As a diverse group, we are prepared to act; we can't do it alone, and neither can you. But you do have the power to 'mainstream' youth climate action. You can better prepare us by improving access to better knowledge and skills development and by drawing on our potential within climate mitigation and adaptation interventions in the United Arab Emirates.

## Our voices

*'There is a climate change communications crisis between youth because of a lack of accurate information being spread from international organisations.'* **Female voice**

*'Create more presence on social media for youth, while also connecting with youth via weekly emails and social marketing.'* **Female voice**

*'Build energy-efficient cities using green building techniques, wind power and bioenergy. We should also reduce pollution and emission from cars and factories and create a new system to monitor and evaluate the weather and sea level to help people be safe (coastal erosion).'* **Rural, female voice**

*'Support international climate resilience and preparedness by scaling up international finance and encouraging stronger global engagement.'* **Rural, unemployed voice**

*'Young people must be motivated in order to truly participate in international summits and have their voices heard.'* **Rural voice**

*'Build a platform for collecting youth voices and do not discriminate by age, sex or gender.'* **Female voice**

## Our parting message

Through education and collaboration, together we can develop sustainable climate solutions. We can become symbols of hope for others around the world, we are ready to contribute to the discussion of plans and actions –address the major environmental challenges facing our country, and our planet

