

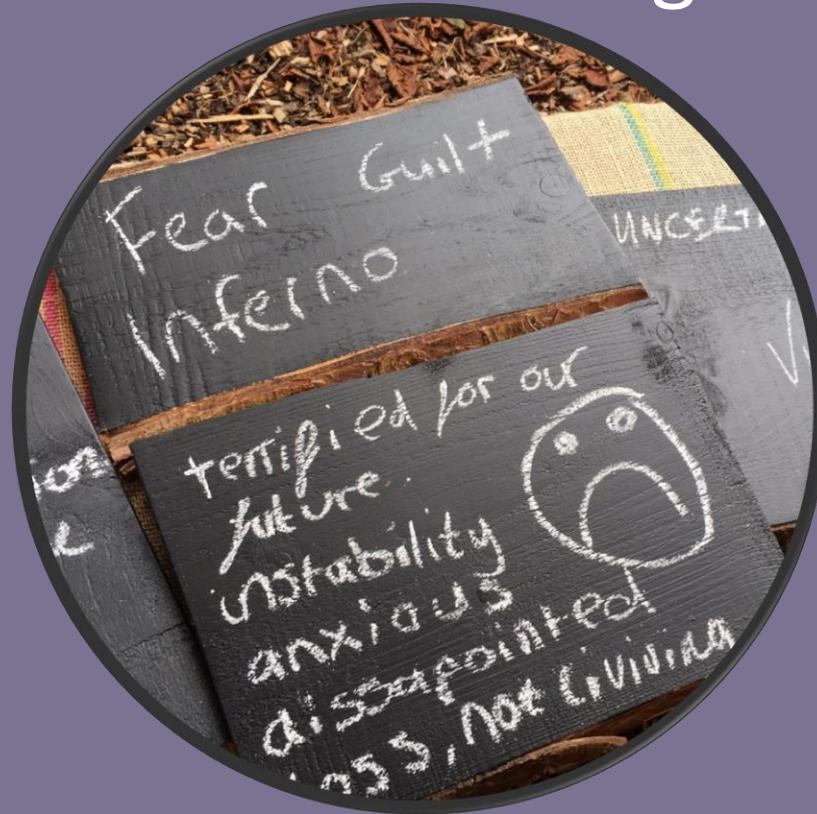
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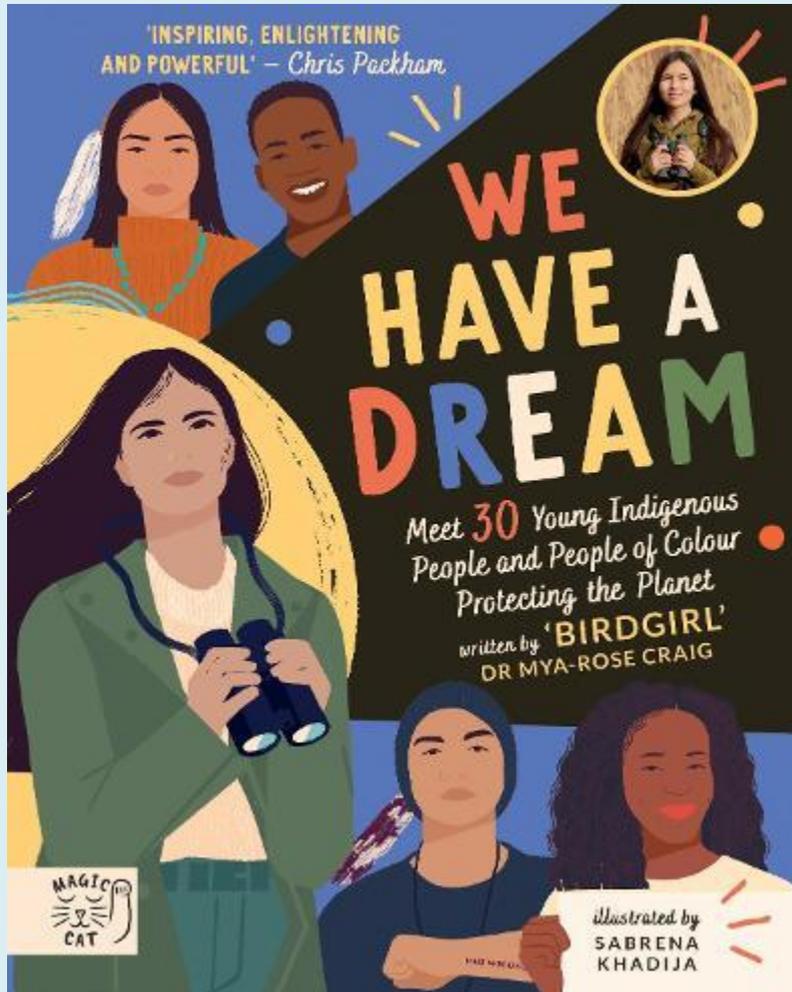
**Dr Verity  
Jones**

@VerityJones\_Edu

Oct 2021

# Hear Our Voice: 7-18 year olds and the climate emergency





Young people,  
all over the  
world are  
talking about  
and doing  
climate  
activism



***TEACH THE FUTURE***

- Teach students about climate change
- Include green skills in many vocational courses
- Make educational buildings climate friendly

Research in this area tends to focus on the relationship between young people's concerns for the climate and their desire for action for the climate.

*Wu et al. (2020)*

Exclusive

# Climate change: Revealed - how many Britons are unwilling to change their habits to tackle the crisis

Only 50% of respondents in the YouGov poll for Sky News supported a ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030.



**Lisa Holland**

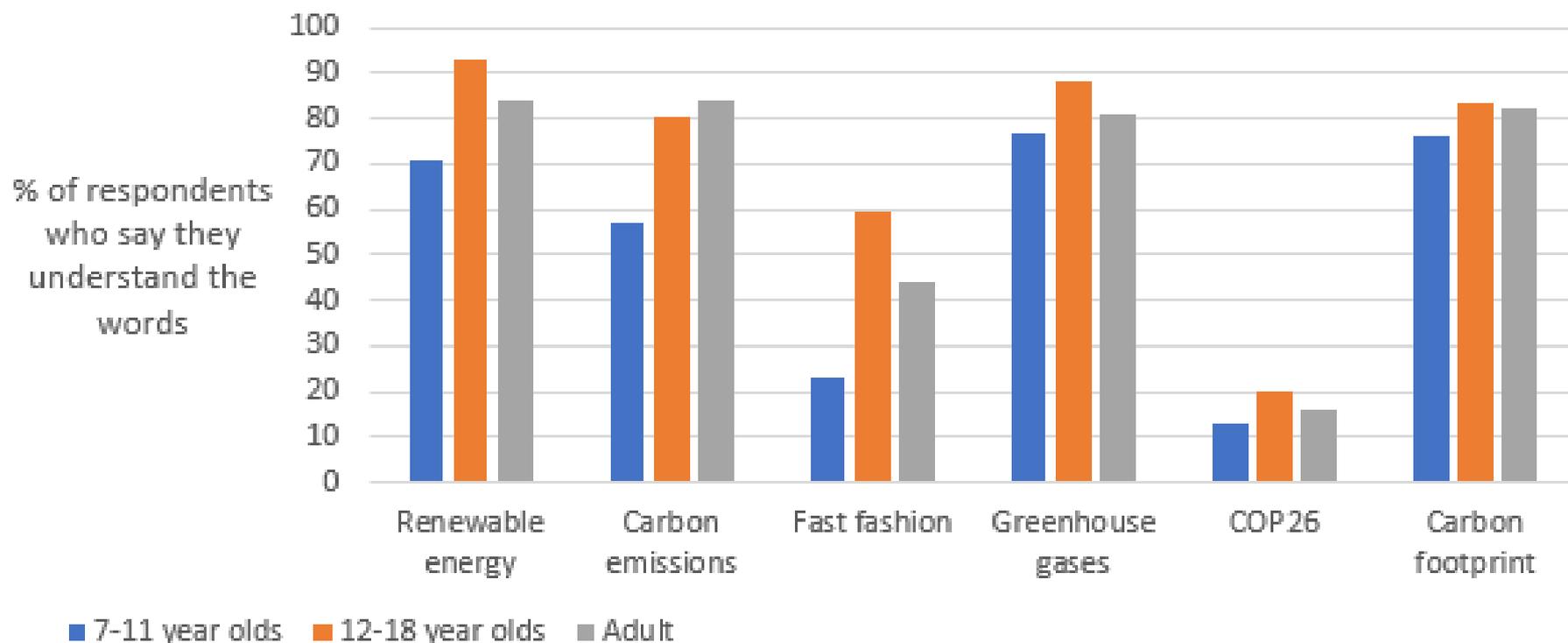
Communities correspondent @LisaatSky

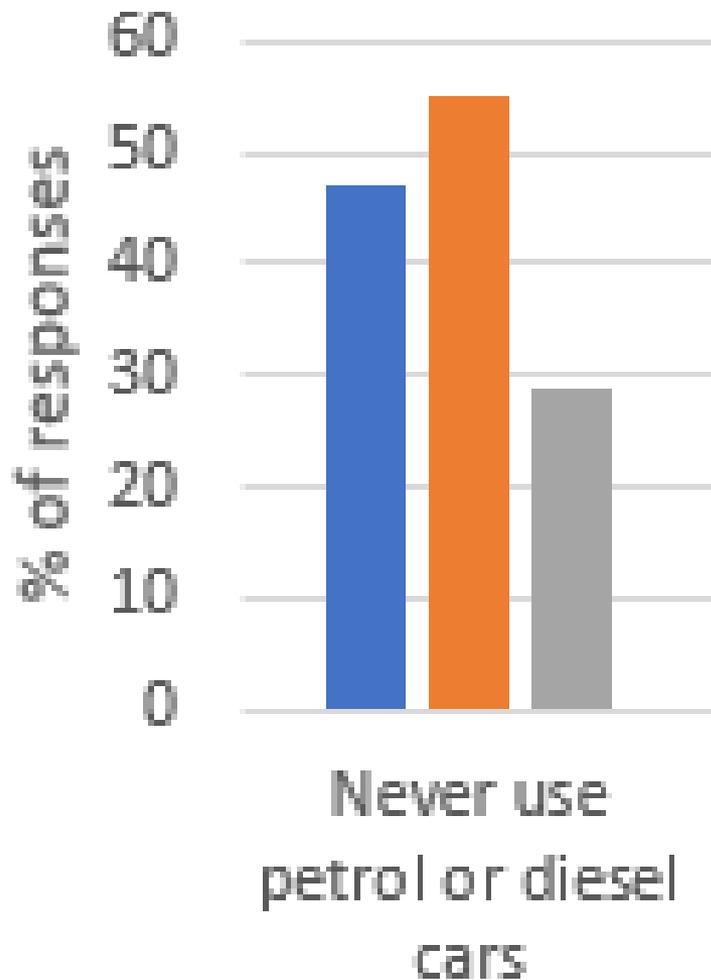
🕒 Wednesday 7 April 2021 11:07, UK

# Hear Our Voice: a survey for 7-18 year olds

- How were key terms used when talking about climate change, understood?
- What actions are young people prepared to take in order to tackle climate change?
- Who do young people hold responsible for causing climate change?
- Who do young people hold responsible for stopping climate change?

## Understanding of words associated with climate change





Young people are overall most enthusiastic about never using petrol or diesel cars than any other action and much more likely to choose this option than adult.



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## Hinkley nuclear power station on track for 2026 opening

By [Dave Harvey](#)  
Business Correspondent, BBC West

🕒 29 September | [Comments](#)



Europe's largest building site at Hinkley Point in Somerset, where two new nuclear reactors are being built

# Who is responsible for climate change?

	7-11 year olds % Most responsible (N=253)	12-18 year olds % Most responsible (Total N=642)	Holland (2021) % most responsible (for comparison)
Ordinary people	13.4	13.9	11
Business and factories	54.2	48.1	42
Governments of rich countries	13.4	23.1	23
Governments of poor countries	2.4	3.0	7
Someone else	0.8	2.3	2
I don't know	15.8	9.7	16

# Do you trust the government to make the right decisions to tackle climate change?

	<b>'7-11 year olds' N=263 (%)</b>	<b>'12-18 year olds' N=671(%)</b>	<b>Holland (2021)</b>
<b>Trust the Government</b>	42.2	24.0	31
<b>Do not trust the Government</b>	41.1	63.5	54
<b>Don't know</b>	16.7	12.5	15

# Is it possible to sort out climate change?

	7-11 year olds (N=249) %	12-18 year olds (N=620) %	Holland. (2021) %
It is possible for the world to sort out climate change	78.7	71.6	68
It is impossible for the world to sort out climate change	6.8	9.8	10
Neither	4.8	9.4	9
I don't know	9.6	9.2	13

# Summary

- There are differences between responses of young people and adults
- Some processes associated with climate change are understood better than others eg, fast fashion
- There is a lack of trust or knowledge about government response to climate change
- There is inconsistent support for some of the governments 'green' strategies
- There are significant numbers of young people who feel responsible for climate change and the issues might be too big to deal with

# Recommendations

- Have child speak versions of government documents to make them more accessible
- Celebrate and signpost more of the positive projects that are going on
- Greater consultation with young people in climate change policy development
- Provide space in Teacher Training course to explore pedagogies and subject knowledge to support climate change education progressively through the phases
- Have space in the curriculum to explore feelings about the issues

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