

The 2050 Climate Group was established in June 2014 in partnership with Young Scot and the 2020 Climate Group. We are a collection of young professionals across Scotland who share a commitment to actively engage in climate change adaptation and mitigation to help Scotland transition to a low carbon economy and significantly cut carbon emissions by the target years of 2020 and 2050.

In November last year, we held Scotland's first ever Youth Climate Summit, attracting more than 200 young people from across the country, encouraging them to take action on climate change at an individual and organizational level. The Summit was only the beginning: now the real work begins for the 2050 Group.

Today's young leaders are architects of the future and will be the decision makers in the country by 2050; we firmly believe that there is an unfulfilled need for a climate leadership programme targeting this group in Scotland. We know if we can engage a significant number of young leaders, who can inspire within their spheres of influence, they will lead the transformational change necessary to address climate change and achieve a low carbon society.

In October 2015, we will launch the Young Leaders Development Programme (YLDP) aimed at developing climate awareness and the leadership skills of 100-150 leaders of the next generation in the Scottish public, private and third sectors.

The aim of the YLDP is to educate, empower and engage the young leaders via the following two development streams:

- Leadership skills – such as communication, understanding and influencing others, inspiration, emotional intelligence, self-awareness and values.
- Climate change and transitioning to a low carbon society – such as sustainable food, energy, transport, resource use, transitioning to a circular economy, volunteering action days, consumer choices.

The 2050 Group will set the YLDP a series of individual and group challenges to undertake using the knowledge and skills gained from each development event. These challenges will provide an opportunity for the YLDP intake to practise their leadership skills at home, with friends or in the workplace. Each challenge will deliver valuable feedback to the 2050 Group regarding what methods of engagement work, what the perceived barriers are to taking more action, and what information needs to be communicated and how.

The 2050 Group will function as a key voice for young leaders on climate action. Through the challenges and structured feedback, young leaders will feed into 2050 policy and position statements, government consultation responses and government policy development, such as RPP3.

Our ambition is to continue to expand the development programme over the next 5 years to inspire over 500 future leaders and develop an exportable model that could be implemented around the globe.