

Institute for Public Policy Research



ABERDEENSHIRE CLIMATE AND FAIRNESS PANEL

**BRIEFING AND JUROR
RECOMMENDATIONS**



**IPPR and the Aberdeenshire
Climate and Fairness Panel**

June 2021

ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

The Aberdeenshire Climate and Fairness Panel was organised by the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission.

The recommendations of the panel will be presented to local politicians and decision-makers and submitted to the major national cross-party commission, as part of a more detailed report on the process the panel has gone through.

The Environmental Justice Commission was created in 2019 with the aim of working with people across the UK to develop policies and ideas that will tackle the climate crisis and restore nature as quickly and fairly as possible, and that put people and fairness at the heart of the response to the climate and nature emergencies. The commission is co-chaired by Hilary Benn MP, Laura Sandys and Caroline Lucas MP, leading politicians from the Labour, Conservative and Green Parties.

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IPPR

14 Buckingham Street

London

WC2N 6DF

T: +44 (0)20 7470 6100

E: info@ippr.org

www.ippr.org

Registered charity no: 800065 (England and Wales),

SC046557 (Scotland)

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The progressive policy think tank

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

The majority of this document is in the words of the Aberdeenshire Climate and Fairness Panel. Additional content was provided by IPPR's **Stephen Frost, Emma Killick, Becca Massey-Chase, Luke Murphy, and Lesley Rankin.**

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A summary of the panel's recommendations is published here:
[ippr.org/research/publications/citizens-jury-aberdeenshire](http://www.ippr.org/research/publications/citizens-jury-aberdeenshire)

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SUMMARY

For decades Aberdeenshire has been famous for its relationship with fossil fuels. As the UK moves to reduce its carbon emissions and respond to the climate crisis, this relationship must end. Aberdeenshire is also home to the largest fishing port in Europe and over one-quarter of Scotland's arable farming, both of which will also be affected in the transition to a cleaner and healthier economy. The Aberdeenshire Climate and Fairness Panel are clear that, although this transition brings significant challenges, there are many opportunities ahead to improve people's quality of life and create a fairer society.

Their recommendations see Aberdeenshire as a leader in the UK's response to the climate and nature emergencies. They call for support for local farmers and landowners to adopt nature-friendly practices that give wildlife what it needs to recover and lock in carbon, whilst at the same time ensuring their livelihoods. They want government and business to work together to build on Aberdeenshire's assets, including the skills of its workers, to deliver an urgent shift from 'the oil capital of Europe' to one renowned for renewable energy. Delivering a nature-rich and low-carbon economy will mean putting lifelong education and training at the centre of the transition.

To ensure fairness, they want a substantial role for the public in shaping local and national action plans. Everyone must be supported to play their part in the transition; the costs cannot fall on those who are least able to afford it. The jurors want clear targets, informed by the best available evidence, made accessible to the public and used to hold businesses and government to account for delivering at the pace of change needed and in a way that is fair for everyone.

FOREWORD

from the co-chairs of the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission

We thank the jurors for this essential contribution to the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission.

The commission was founded to put forward a bold, positive and fair vision of how to tackle the climate and nature crises. In the jury's conclusions, we recognise our own belief that the right response to these emergencies can also provide the opportunity for good jobs in nature-friendly and climate-safe industries and support everyone to live happier, healthier lives.

The Aberdeenshire Climate and Fairness Panel makes clear the urgency and scale of the challenge, and their recommendations show that addressing the climate and nature crises must be integral to all government decision-making. They call on governments at all levels, as well as business, to show the leadership required and to demonstrate their commitment with swift and tangible action.

The jurors argue that the benefits of a fair transition will require communities to be empowered to act and the public to be provided with the opportunities to shape the decisions that will have a profound impact on their futures. Their vision for change builds upon the many assets of the area – from ports, harbours and nature rich land to the skills, talents and expertise of the people who live and work in Aberdeenshire.

We welcome the recommendations set out in this report and are excited to take the conclusions forward. This briefing will be invaluable to policy makers and stakeholders in the region, Scotland and the UK, as decision-makers at all levels grapple with implementing a fair transition. The contents of this briefing will also inform the work of the commission, including the final report, which will be released in early summer 2021.

We thank the jurors for the time, energy and commitment they have given to this process. As they do, we hope to see their recommendations enacted to address the climate and nature emergencies in a way that is fair for all.



Handwritten signature of Hilary Benn in black ink.

Hilary Benn MP



Handwritten signature of Caroline Lucas in black ink.

Caroline Lucas MP



Handwritten signature of Laura Sandys in black ink.

Laura Sandys

FOREWORD

from the Aberdeenshire advisory board

The Aberdeenshire Climate and Fairness Panel was assembled to provide recommendations on the practical steps needed locally to address the climate crisis and restore nature in a way that is fair for everyone.

The jurors have provided a clear picture of the future of Aberdeen City and Shire and the path we need to take to get there. Within their comprehensive statement, wellbeing framework and set of 31 recommendations they have laid out a cohesive view of the action required across society, with implications for government, local councils, business, communities and individuals.

The members of this panel come from a wide range of ages, backgrounds and, before they started out on this process, they also had a range of views on the seriousness of the climate and nature crises. Together, they represent a cross section of the communities of the region. By listening to each other's views and considering the implications of different policies in each other's lives they have provided a unique perspective on what a fair approach to addressing the climate and nature crises looks like.

Their conclusions show the need for urgent action and establish a clear set of actions and principles for a rapid and fair transition, demonstrating the opportunity to improve economic and social justice at the same time as tackling the climate and nature emergencies.

They also highlight the unique challenges for our region as well as the benefits that could be realised through ambitious and decisive leadership. Across their recommendations, they describe the need to engage and involve people in both decision making and implementation; the desire to align investment and the tax system around action for nature and climate; an approach to education that both connects people with nature and provides them with the skills they will need to protect it; and the benefits of a quick and fair transition for the oil and gas sector.

We commend and thank the jurors for this valuable contribution to the future of Aberdeenshire and the wider debate on the response to the climate and nature emergencies. As individuals, as well as members of our respective organisations, their conclusions inspire us.

This briefing provides positive, insightful and tangible recommendations that can be taken forward by national and local government, as well as by companies and communities. We urge politicians of all parties, policymakers, industry representatives and stakeholders to read this briefing and help us take forward these recommendations.

Together, we commit to respecting and channelling this ambition as we take steps within and beyond our own organisations to tackle the climate and nature emergencies.

THE ADVISORY BOARD

Cllr Phillip Bell, Aberdeen City Council

Colette Cohen OBE, CEO, OGTC & Just Transition Commissioner

Ian Francis, area manager NE Scotland & Shetland, RSPB Scotland

Charlotte Hartley, trustee, 2050 Climate Group, Just Transition commissioner & Environmental Justice commissioner

Annette Hastings, director, Surf: Scotland's Regeneration Forum

Martyn Link, chief strategy officer, Wood

Douglas Peedle, head of policy, Scottish Wildlife Trust

Pete Smith, vice principal finance and resource, North East Scotland College

Cllr Iain Taylor, chair, Sustainability Committee, Aberdeenshire Council

Megan Virrels, CEO Royal Bank of Scotland Social & Community Capital



1. INTRODUCTION

The Aberdeenshire Climate and Fairness Panel was organised by the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission. Co-chaired by Hilary Benn MP, Laura Sandys and Caroline Lucas MP, from the Labour, Conservative and Green parties, the commission's mission is to:

“present an ambitious, positive vision shaped around people's experiences and needs, and develop a plan of action that integrates policy both to address the climate and environmental emergencies and to deliver economic and social justice”

The commissions' work with communities that will face unique challenges as a result of the transition is key to this. The Aberdeenshire Climate and Fairness Panel is one of four citizens' juries around the UK held by the commission in late 2020 and early 2021.

This report documents the Aberdeenshire panel's considered view on the practical steps required to address the climate crisis and restore nature in a way that is fair for everyone. This set of recommendations has five parts:

1. a statement on a fair response to the climate and nature emergencies
2. a wellbeing framework and vision for a better life for all
3. recommendations on the principles of how we respond to these emergencies – decision-making and fairly sharing the costs
4. recommendations on nature on land and sea
5. recommendations on work and industry.

ABOUT ABERDEENSHIRE

Aberdeenshire, in north east Scotland, is made up of both the city of Aberdeen and the largely rural shire. Known as the 'oil capital of Europe', the area is also home to the Cairngorm mountains, rich agricultural lowlands and varied coastal landscapes.

Aberdeen has become central to discussions about the 'just transition' to low carbon jobs for workers in carbon intensive industries. As part of its commitment to the Paris Agreement and delivery of its 2045 net zero target, the Scottish government has established a Just Transition Commission to ensure that action to reduce carbon emissions creates 'decent work and quality jobs' (Scottish Government 2021).

The risks of a rapid transition to a zero-carbon economy are great, with more than 10 per cent of total employment in Aberdeenshire currently in the oil and gas industry (Emden, Murphy and Gunson 2020). In recent years, significant fluctuations in oil prices have resulted in high job losses, population decreases and cuts to wages and hours. Job losses include those working directly in the oil industry, its supply chain and in other sectors reliant on the industry's activity, such as retail, hospitality, transport, and property (ibid). The decline in jobs is set to continue with recent estimates predicting up to 6,000 fewer jobs in the energy industry in Aberdeenshire by 2027 (ibid).

With leadership and investment, there are also significant opportunities for the region. Across the decommissioning of oil and gas rigs, installation of underwater cabling for wind farms and new wind projects, carbon capture and storage and production of low-carbon hydrogen around 275,000 jobs could be created (Emden, Murphy and Gunson 2020).

FIGURE 1.1: MAP OF THE REGION COVERED BY THE PANEL BASED ON MIDDLE LAYER SUPER OUTPUT AREAS (MSOAS)



© OpenStreetMap contributors

This alone would make the region a valuable place to convene a climate and fairness panel. There is, however, more to Aberdeenshire than oil and gas.

Before becoming synonymous with energy, the region's relationship with the North Sea was well established. There has been a harbour at Peterhead for more than 400 years; it is now the largest fishing port in Europe (Peterhead Port Authority 2021). Over one-quarter of Scotland's fishers are based in the region and 4,000 people are employed in the fish processing sector (Aberdeenshire Council 2020). There are concerns that current approaches to protecting marine habitats aren't working, threatening the sustainability of the fishing industry in Scotland and the communities they sustain (Our Seas 2021).

The region is rich in natural assets, including 23 per cent of the UK's native pinewoods, 19 per cent of Scotland's raised bog, 11 per cent of Scotland's sand dunes and 19 per cent of Scotland's coastal vegetated shingle (Stuart 2021). This diverse landscape is home to some of the species of highest conservation concern for the UK, including red squirrels, guillemots and Atlantic salmon (ibid).

Aberdeenshire is home to over one-quarter of Scotland's arable farming area and there are over 2,500 farm businesses (Aberdeenshire Council 2017). These farmers

will play a crucial role in delivering the changes to the region's landscape that will support nature to thrive and help tackle the climate crisis.

ABOUT THE ABERDEENSHIRE CLIMATE AND FAIRNESS PANEL

Citizens' juries are used all over the world to deliberate on policy issues. They bring together a small group of people, representative of the demographics of a given area, to learn about an issue, discuss ideas with one another and make recommendations about what should happen and how things should change, drawing on the citizens' practical knowledge and experiences.

The Aberdeenshire Climate and Fairness Panel was commissioned by the Environmental Justice Commission to examine the question:

“What practical steps should we take together in Aberdeenshire to address the climate crisis and restore nature in a way that is fair for everyone?”

22 residents¹ of Aberdeenshire came together online for over 20 hours of deliberation across eight sessions over six weeks. Collectively, they were representative of the area in terms of age, ethnicity, gender, locale (rural/urban) and qualification level and started the process with a range of attitudes to climate change.²

Plans for the sessions were informed by insights into the policy context from an advisory board (see appendix A). These local decision-makers and sector leads also advised IPPR on local contacts.

The jurors heard from 21 speakers, providing a grounding in the climate and nature emergencies, the local context, and positive, ambitious proposals for action across four topics: 'nature on land and sea', 'work and industry', 'how we make decisions' and 'fairly sharing the costs' (see appendix B for a full list of speakers). The panel also developed their own 'wellbeing framework' to help guide their recommendations.

These recommendations, written in the panel's own words, are an important contribution to the work of the commission and have been shared with the advisory board and other key stakeholders. More details about the process can be found at appendix C.

1 23 residents were invited to join the panel but one had to drop out for personal reasons after three sessions.

2 National attitudes to climate change (Ipsos/Mori July 2019) were used as a proxy for attitudes within the area; this informed the range of attitudes represented.

STATEMENT FROM THE JURORS

A FAIR RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCIES

We believe that an equitable response to the climate and nature emergencies in Aberdeen city and shire must ensure that action is implemented in a way that is fair to everyone. This action must reflect the urgency of the situation. We need to act now. Leadership has to be shown by government but everyone is accountable for taking action and should feel part of making the changes that are required.

Central to enabling this change is providing people with the information they need to understand the action required. We want to see clearly published targets that enable progress reporting on a local and national level. This transparent system will be accessible by the public and allow us to hold national and local governments to account for taking the action required. The public should be supported by an independent regulatory body that stops the nonsense – providing the focus that is needed on these emergencies – and has legal powers to drive action.

Education and training need to be right at the centre of the movement. Children and young people should learn about nature, climate, and the changes that they will see in their lifetimes within schools. The curriculum needs to provide both the skills and a pathway into careers in green industries. Young people will be the most affected and they should feel part of shaping this greener future.

We need to support people to develop the skills to work in greener industries. Oil and gas workers need access to training opportunities that will allow them to move quickly to new jobs that make the most use of their existing skills. To make sure these jobs exist we need the investment to be put in place now. We should urgently start the transition of Aberdeen from the oil and gas capital to a centre of excellence for renewable energy for Europe – building on what we know and our local assets. The cost of the training required for workers to transition to new jobs should not fall on individuals.

Agriculture is the pride of Aberdeenshire. Due to the scale of the land used for farming, particularly for grazing, there are big opportunities for our farmers to make changes that will improve the land for nature. There are a wide range of options for what this change should look like and support should be provided for farmers to make the right choices for them, and for their land. Fair incentives must be put in place for farmers to allow them to make these sustainable and nature-friendly improvements within our region. We need all landowners, across both city and shire, to make positive changes for nature – including tree planting, restoring degraded peatlands, and setting aside more space for wildlife. We believe that making these changes will support more jobs in the nature industries and help farmers, and other businesses, diversify their income.

Companies need to play their part in this transition. Government needs to work with businesses to incentivise and encourage action. Where their response is too slow, we need to put in place taxes and regulations that force the change we need to see from them. It should always be more profitable to run businesses that are part of the solution, rather than those that contribute to the problem. Companies should have greater incentives to reduce waste, which in turn can reduce litter

and destruction to nature and the environment. We can support businesses and our communities by investing in making more ourselves – where possible manufacturing contracts should stay within Scotland.

We need careful oversight to ensure that the groups most affected are supported with the transition. We need to support those on low incomes to make changes in their lives that will improve their wellbeing and address these emergencies. People and small businesses are strapped for cash so the tax system, and the subsidies and incentives put in place to support action, need to help those with the least to overcome the upfront costs involved in the transition.

Communities should be supported to respond to the climate and nature emergencies in their local area. They need financial support, and their successes should be celebrated. We have heard from inspiring projects as part of this jury and more people should know that action is possible. Together we can get the ball rolling across our region.

To bring people with us on this journey we need to see this not as a sacrifice but as a progression to a more sustainable way of life. We need to be positive in our response to these emergencies. Initiatives like Aberdeen's hydrogen buses and safer routes for cycling show that people will still be able to access the things they care about in the future, and to do it in a way that is better for the environment.

We believe a fair response to the climate and nature emergencies will support the most vulnerable to thrive in a changing world.

Note: All jurors considered their individual views on 'fairness' and discussed these as a full group. A small group of volunteer jurors then worked with an IPPR facilitator to write this statement based on that discussion, on behalf of the jury. This was reviewed and amended by the whole jury over the course of the final two sessions.

THE JURORS' WELLBEING FRAMEWORK

We believe in a better life for all in Aberdeenshire. This means a future where everyone:



We recognise that **local government action is essential** to enable many of these elements. These elements are interdependent and support each other.

DEVELOPING THE FRAMEWORK

The concept of wellbeing was used to frame deliberation on what constitutes a fair response to addressing the climate and nature emergencies.

This approach was introduced to jurors by Dr Katy Roelich, associate professor in the School of Earth and Environment at the University of Leeds, with support from Dr Nathan Wood. The methodology is based on their research experience in participative decision-making.

Jurors developed a place-specific wellbeing framework that describes the kind of lives they want to lead, in terms of what they are able to be and do.

This framework was used in two ways throughout the deliberative process: to support jurors in critically appraising evidence and proposals, and to highlight the significance of their own lived experience.

As a tool to support critical appraisal, jurors used the framework to determine how proposals would affect people's wellbeing. If an impact or proposal had a negative impact on an element of wellbeing, this was deemed to be unfair and jurors discussed whether proposals could be altered to reduce any negative impacts.

The wellbeing framework also connected complex interventions and scientific information to the daily lives of jurors. This highlighted their crucial knowledge about how the nature and climate emergencies, including the action required to address them, would affect people's lives.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT TO VALUE IN ABERDEENSHIRE

The wellbeing framework was first introduced in the second session. The jurors completed a 'visioning' exercise in groups to answer the following questions.

- What kind of 'beings' and 'doings' do you value?
- How can we describe these as simply a possible?
- How do these 'doings' and 'beings' support each other?

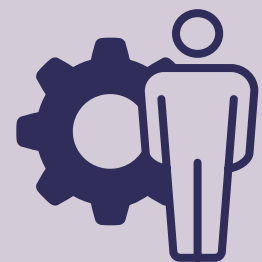
The draft framework created from this session was then developed further through a survey, completed as a homework exercise, a brief revisit in session four and then finally agreed in the form of a vision in the closing weekend.

When reflecting on key impacts on their wellbeing, several jurors mentioned anxiety around work, ranging from job uncertainty to a lack of "meaningful productive and lasting employment".

"I think lack of employment in Aberdeenshire negatively impacts on people's wellbeing and sense of purpose."

The impact of the oil industry on the local economy was writ large in their discussions: "Job losses, even prior to Covid, due to downturn in oil industry". This extended to "high costs of living, limited job prospects and high levels of competition for jobs".

Asked what negatively impacts wellbeing in Aberdeenshire, one juror responded: "In general: poverty."



Air pollution "in city centre and trunk roads", waste, and pollutants in rivers and on beaches, especially due to industry all were causes for concern.

"I don't think for example huge companies such as Shell etc at gas terminal in St Fergus is doing enough for our area to help. With the profits they boast year in year out."

"River pollution, plastic and many other pollutants being dumped into the river, carried by rivers to the sea and littering the riverbanks. The sea is polluted by waste thrown overboard by oilrigs and the waste is being washed up on the beaches."



A lack of transport options also had a negative impact: "More bike road[s] needed. Better access between towns." Although some noted the benefits of clean air compared to "other parts in the whole world".

Access to the things that matter was central to their collective view of what makes a good life. They frequently returned to access to nature as core to wellbeing. They valued the accessibility of varied and often "wild" natural landscapes, from forests and mountains to the coast, including from the city centre.

"In Aberdeenshire we have the best of both worlds as we can easily and quickly get to the countryside or the coast and we have lots of green spaces, parks and beautiful beaches."

"Plenty of options available to get out and appreciate nature."

"So lucky in our area to have plenty of wide open spaces on both land and sea."





Green space within the city was also valued: “City has lots of parks and greenspace, although many are fairly small”; “quiet - places aren’t too crowded, allow[s] for reflection”.

Jurors also appreciated leisure and recreational facilities: “things to do (ie castles, leisure centres)”.

A strong “sense of community” and local groups were crucial for many, with several mentioning “friendly and enthusiastic people” and “friendly communities, people looking out for each other.”



One juror mentioned increasing action on environmental issues: “There is an increase in greener projects... these often tend to be community driven and not available over the whole area. I think people are becoming more aware of the need to save our environment, which is a really good thing”

The jurors saw the environment as foundational to wellbeing.

“Amongst many other benefits, the environment provides us with air, food and water, the very things needed to survive, and so is critical to our wellbeing.”

“Links are very closely related, poor environment leads to depression about surrounding areas, good environment gives people a positive feel and helps people have a more positive outlook...”

“Being surrounded by a healthy and diverse environment has a positive effect on both our mental and physical health, as it has calming and restorative effects on our wellbeing.”

“Access to nature and wildlife is a positive for mental wellbeing.”



For one juror, nature offered a sense of perspective: “Being out and about whether it be by the sea, hill climbing or walking through the ample woodlands removes most of the stresses that tend to surround me, nature seems to simplify everything.”

Especially during the pandemic, jurors found time outside and staying healthy had become even more important. Reflecting on the impact of Covid-19, one juror shared: “Maybe having a lot of everything is not making us happy and our insatiable greed for more and our consequent disconnect to nature is taking its toll and affecting our overall wellbeing.”

2. HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JURY

Overarching principles

- Decisions on how to tackle the climate crisis and restore nature need to be guided by a broad range of experts, as well as the views of the people who will be affected by the decisions.
- We need better education in both how to participate in decisions that affect us and about the climate and nature emergencies. Ordinary people need to have access to this information as well as the government.
- The decision-making processes and progress on what has been done should both be much more transparent.
- Communication is key to ensuring that good decisions are made and that the decision-makers are held to account. How information is communicated should be tailored to meet the needs of different people within our communities. Information sharing should be two-way and there should be more accessible means of engagement, such as online polls.
- We need some top-down leadership on climate and nature, which prioritises what is needed over party politics. This should involve long-term target-setting and these targets should then be used to monitor the progress made by government and businesses, allowing them to be held accountable if targets are not achieved.
- Genuine, meaningful consultation is crucial to ensure that decisions are fair for local people. People should be involved before decisions get taken and kept informed. When people are asked to have their say they must be listened to and not overruled, otherwise trust is lost.
- Community projects have an important role in engaging people as well as making change happen.
- Lots of different voices and views should be heard in decisions on climate and nature as these decisions will affect everyone.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are ordered according to the level of priority given to them by the jurors as part of a final vote.

1. **Establish a panel of experts to give the government guidance on tackling the climate and nature emergencies**, learning from how experts have been used in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. These experts should come from a broad range of specialisms, including science and economics.
2. **Establish a panel of citizens to give the government guidance on tackling the climate and nature emergencies**, learning from processes like this citizens' jury. These people should come from different walks of life.

3. **Commit to ongoing ambitious targets that are grounded in the best available evidence.** These strategic goals need to be independent of political parties and include action for both climate and nature. The cross-party support for reaching net zero by 2045 is a good example of the regulation we need to see put in place on nearer term goals for specific parts of the economy.
4. **Involve local people in decision-making, including within both the planning system and in developing local action plans.** Each town or city should have a group of citizens advising them.

DELIBERATING ON HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS

The community's role in leading projects, including taking ownership over local natural assets, was a central theme in the jurors' deliberations on who and how decisions are made.

"I loved [hearing about] the community projects... I thought it's something I'd really quite like to be involved in myself."

Several jurors shared experiences of not feeling that the community had had a stake in local decisions. Planning decisions around Union Terrace Gardens in Aberdeen had upset many jurors, who felt: "no one got any consultation whatsoever". One juror said, to broad agreement:

"The community did make a decision and that was overruled by the council... If they're going to give the power to certain people that needs to be seen through."

This juror suggested that the community should be listened to "in the interests of fairness". Overall, jurors agreed that:

"[With] important decisions, like planning decisions, there should be a way to engage the public before the decisions are actually made."

“If people are better informed, they may think a bit more how they will vote and hold politicians and political parties to account

Overall, there were significant concerns about trust and accountability:

"There needs to be a level of trust built with those who are supposedly making decisions for us, in the best interests for us, not them or their pal who owns some big office building or company. Just a bit more transparency."

"They need to be made accountable for what they say they do and what they actually do."

They felt that part of the answer to this was better communication, especially on climate and nature.

"What can be done to raise awareness more in the general public of all the climate change issues and what needs to happen? If people are better informed, they may think a bit more how they will vote and hold politicians and political parties to account?"

The jurors felt that the governments, at all levels, needed to show more leadership on the climate and nature emergencies. They wanted to see more top-down action to drive progress across society. In particular, they wanted to see national governments setting targets that “go beyond the terms of office” and have all parties behind them: “We need parties to pull together”.

Many jurors felt that there were similarities between tackling the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate and nature emergencies; both requiring urgent action from across society, a collaborative effort, informed by experts.

“If you want something to happen you should make it mandatory; it’s the same with Covid-19 as with climate.”

“I like the analogy of relating it to the pandemic... So, like in the same way that we heard from the experts... that’s what we need to do – we need to be led by experts. It’s an urgent situation and it has to be: this is what we are going to do to meet this immediate crisis”.

“How quickly we’ve been able to react with Covid; it’s a health crisis but in some respects so is the climate crisis... if framed with health people more likely to act quickly.”

“

If you want something to happen you should make it mandatory; it’s the same with Covid-19 as with climate

They wanted decision-makers to hear from a range of experts, as tackling these emergencies will impact on every part of life, from health to ecology to the economy. They felt that national and local governments need to do more to lead from the top and share information.

“When it comes to the energy transition, everyone’s making it up as they go along; we want to be led by experts.”

“I’ve spoken to a lot of farmers around here to find out more and they’re just following the basic guidelines. There are no experts telling them what to do. They’re just fumbling along in the dark. It should come from the top down.”

They also felt strongly that those with lived experience of an issue should be at the centre of decision-making, both in the community and in the workplace:

“The workers need to be listened to and have a voice on the upper levels of companies as we are the ones that will ultimately suffer the costs for this; hopefully would result in more transparency.”

The jurors wanted action on climate and nature to be shaped by everyone.

“Who should have the power to make certain decisions? I think that choosing a decision should be from a number of people and not from one person because the decision is not related to one person.”

“I think everybody needs to be involved from the government to the individual.”

SPEAKERS ON HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS

- **Cllr Iain Taylor**, Aberdeenshire Council
- **Greg Welsh**, Bonnymuir Green Community Trust
- **Martin Auld and Ian Talboys**, Ury Riverside Park SCIO

3. FAIRLY SHARING THE COSTS

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JURY

Overarching principles

- Action should not be regressive and make life harder for people already struggling. People should be supported to make the changes they need to.
- Action is urgent and we need to accelerate the pace of change. We need to increase the scale of investment and for this to align with the urgency of change required.
- The focus of public investment should be on actions that address high impact activities – start with these and people will be in a better position to tackle lower impact activities themselves.
- Businesses should be supported and incentivised so they can make their current operations more sustainable and diversify into activities that address the climate crisis and restore nature.
- Investment programmes need to be carefully managed and monitored to ensure that those most in need have priority.
- People and businesses should be made aware of the support available to take action on the climate crisis and restore nature.
- Public investment should be made transparently and public bodies should be accountable for how public money is spent. The public should be involved in democratic processes, such as participatory budgeting, to shape the way that public money is spent.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are ordered according to the level of priority given to them by the jurors as part of a final vote.

- 5. Develop a fair tax system that disincentivises activities that exacerbate the climate and nature crises** and taxes those having the greatest impact and are most able to pay, without causing harm to those individuals and businesses less able to pay.
- 6. Invest in the development of low carbon and nature-based solutions to reduce cost and to support the adaptation of existing structures and technologies** (rather than always replacing old technology).
- 7. Ensure that subsidies (including farming subsidies) are more clearly directed to support activities that address the climate crisis and restore nature.**
- 8. Incentivise activities necessary to address the climate crisis and restore nature by reducing tax on key products and activities,** and by providing interest free-loans and grants.
- 9. Do not invest public money in infrastructure, projects or activities that do not address the climate crisis and restore nature** - transparently justify how public investment contributes to achieving climate and nature targets.

10. **Encourage the integration of businesses where this might create efficiencies and speed transition** - especially oil and renewables to support transition to a low carbon energy sector. This might include better coordination on training to reduce duplication and maximise transferrable skills, direct transfer of employees to reduce time out of work and shared strategic planning to increase certainty over the future of jobs.
11. **Consider government ownership of businesses key to the transition, if action is not fast enough**, to ensure that investment in these key sectors is for the benefit of people not shareholders. This might involve creating partnerships between the public and private sector to facilitate this.
12. **Consider direct government investment in low carbon technologies (such as heat pumps) for households.**

DELIBERATING ON HOW WE FAIRLY SHARE THE COSTS

Deliberations covered the scale of investment required to act on the climate and nature emergencies, the cost of inaction and the range of actors who should be involved.

The jurors were clear that framing this as a discussion about only ‘costs’ was limiting; they recognised that many could stand to benefit from action to address these crises. Their discussions included the need for an intergenerational effort, the amount of action that could be taken and afforded by individuals, and the accountability of government and businesses in making change possible.

The jurors want to see systemic harms to the environment addressed, ultimately questioning “how to have capitalism and sustainability?”. They recognised that change wouldn’t come immediately.

“It’s not going to be an overnight change. It’s going to take a long time to come up with a system that operates the ways it’s supposed to, and not just a blanket system that’s easy to manipulate.”

One juror felt that implementing the changes required could lead to challenge from the public: “I see a lot going wrong in the future if government starts making moves.” They were concerned that “anything that’s done to protect future generations and the environment is going to come against people’s liberty – tripling price of meat, saying can’t have petrol car anymore.” Another juror saw a need for more drastic action in sectors of the economy that could afford it:

“Basically, pushing for lifestyle changes is unfair for average and low-income groups, personally I think the fairest way to do it is to introduce legislation for transport, construction, and other polluting industries.”

“*the fairest way to do it is to introduce legislation for transport, construction, and other polluting industries*”

The jury recommended changes to the tax system: “if it could cost people more to use carbon, that’s an incentive to stop using carbon”. This would need to be done fairly as people’s ability to pay more or change their behaviours is not equal.

“That’s the problem with society, you’ve got the super-rich and it’s going to affect them less than people that are already struggling. So, if you add another tax on, for people that are on minimum wage, if you stick a carbon tax on their car, and they’re already struggling to make ends meet then you’re just going to bring them to their knees. So, it’s something that’s got to be approached really, really carefully.”

Jurors were clear that action would need to “sit more on the wealthy than on the poor” and that people needed help to make changes in their lives: “boils down to making things more affordable for the public”.

The jury emphasised the need for urgency in responding to these crises. They were concerned that government and business were “kicking the can down the road” and putting the emphasis in the wrong places: “offsets were mentioned but it also sounded like we’ll be depending an awful lot on them – should we be doing that?”.

One juror reflected that if government was willing to pay for everyone’s Covid-19 vaccines then why not pay similarly to protect the health of the planet. This prompted the suggestion:

“The government’s on about investing billions into reaching these targets, so for example, why doesn’t the government buy all the heat pumps and give them to households for free?”

Government investment could drive action in industries that were proving slow to respond: “If businesses aren’t going to come on board and invest in the future then government should take ownership themselves in, like, a business model but for the people.” One called for “partnership with investment from business and government.”

“Businesses have got to take more responsibility, profit is not a dirty word but we’ve got to get the balance right

The jurors saw businesses, particularly large companies, as having an essential role in tackling these emergencies.

“Businesses have got to take more responsibility, profit is not a dirty word but we’ve got to get the balance right; they have to take some responsibility, make profit fairly where they can put back into the environment.”

They wanted faster action; businesses have “got to be incentivised as well”. “Tariffs, incentives and rewards” could speed up change. Several jurors were keen to keep businesses in the area: “we don’t want to scare businesses or charge them extra taxes and things or they’ll end up moving to another country.”

A running theme throughout the jurors’ discussions was transparency. This touched on investment funds, particularly pensions – “What are our pensions being invested in?” – and also covered the public investment put in place to support action: “If people don’t know what’s available then how are we going to move forwards?”

SPEAKERS ON HOW WE FAIRLY SHARE THE COSTS

- **Bianca Letti**, Climate Change Committee
- **Adrienne Buller**, Common Wealth

4.

NATURE ON LAND AND SEA

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JURY

Overarching principles

- We should educate people about nature from a young age, including about the risks to wildlife and biodiversity and where food comes from. This will inspire them to protect nature and could encourage them to work in green industries.
- We need to teach people, young and old, the skills they need for careers in ecology, forestry, land management, etc – preparing them for the green jobs of the future and/or supporting them to change practices now.
- Low-carbon, nature-friendly diets should be more accessible and cost-effective.
- Land strategies need to balance the competing priorities of enabling access to nature and protecting nature from being damaged by us.
- We should harness the power of nature and the particular natural assets in Aberdeenshire, for example using tidal power and making the most of the carbon capture potential of the land and sea.
- Individuals and businesses need to take responsibility for reducing waste; this includes creating a culture of ‘repair not replace’. Local councils should make it easier for people to dispose of their waste responsibly.
- We need urgent and wide-reaching action to protect nature; things need to change in order for nature to recover and to thrive.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are ordered according to the level of priority given to them by the jurors as part of a final vote.

13. Tackle waste through a combination of education, penalties, and incentives.

- There should be heavier penalties for fly-tipping and a significant increase in action from councils to tackle the dumping of waste.
- Repairing and recycling should be incentivised. Action on this should come from all levels of government and also be led by businesses. For example, local councils could have repair hubs at recycling centres and businesses could be encouraged to make appliances that are easier to fix than to replace.
- There should be public information campaigns on how to recycle and reduce waste.
- Businesses should be taxed on single-use plastic and for the waste they create in general. Disposable products should be more expensive not cheaper for the consumer.

14. Support farmers to change the way they use the land, through a combination of information sharing, education and subsidies for environmentally friendly practices.

15. **Education on nature should be mandatory and standardised across the UK** and start from a young age. Teachers need to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to teach this.
16. **Create training academies for green jobs**, especially in improving agricultural practices where Aberdeenshire has the potential to really lead the way and create large scale change
17. **Planning decisions should prioritise environmental impacts**, particularly the impacts on climate change. If development is not going to have a positive impact on the environment then it should stop there and then.
18. **Incentivise businesses who make and sell food to promote low carbon and nature friendly diets and tax them more heavily for practices that harm the environment.**
19. **Increase communication from local councils on availability of land that can be used for community-led green activities**, like growing fresh produce and planting trees.
20. **Create a government-led accreditation scheme for companies/farmers if they take extra steps to rewild their land.**
21. **Incentivise using the land and sea for carbon capture**, including trees, peat, and seaweed.

“Everything is about what folks can see, you know, it's the electric car, it's zero car emissions... and you don't hear about biodiversity and nature; it gets buried

DELIBERATING ON NATURE ON LAND AND SEA

This topic covered the action needed for nature to thrive, the benefits to people of being able to access nature, the role of diet and the potential for farmers and communities to respond to the climate and nature emergencies.

As highlighted within the jurors' wellbeing framework, access to and protection of nature was seen as a cornerstone of a good life: "Looking after and improving the environment will only better our wellbeing and be a good thing for our planet and us." This value was felt keenly recently through the pandemic with many finding an increased appreciation of nature on their doorsteps. One juror noted that "with lockdown, the earth has had a real chance to 'breathe'. [It's a] great place to start tackling these issues." They wanted to build upon this renewed connection with nature to mobilise greater

action. At present, many reflected that they felt that the importance of nature was not appreciated by policy makers and it didn't have the prominence and attention it deserves.

"Everything is about what folks can see, you know, it's the electric car, it's zero car emissions... and you don't hear about biodiversity and nature; it gets buried."

They wanted much greater government action on restoring and protecting nature:

“It’s got to start at the top. They’re the people in power so without them working towards targets, getting things right, we can’t do nothing.”

In particular, the jurors agreed that the government needs to put in much more support for farmers to transition to more nature and climate-friendly practices.

“I think they’ve got to help them financially. I’ve got family that have farmed for generations and that’s all they know, you know, farming cattle and sheep. It’s not all that easy to change.”

Reflecting on the farmers they knew in their own lives, many were concerned that farmers weren’t “going to change their ways without a lot of prompting”, that “many farmers I know are very much stuck in their traditional ways”; “it’s something that’s passed down”. There was great concern for the welfare of these farmers: “people they need a livelihood...people need to live day to day as well”.

The jurors’ concern for farmers connected to how they believed diets needed to change, away from high-carbon meat (“I was sold when [he] said that cows and sheep were the problem when it came to emissions”).

“If we move away from a meat-based diet, or even a dairy-based diet, how are the farmers going to survive? It’s bad enough for them as it is, from a fairness point of view: fairness for them so they can still earn a living.”

“That’s going to be the hardest for farmers that specialise in cows; you can’t just change overnight...there’s always going to have to be a compromise though isn’t there?”

Some jurors also expressed frustration that some farmers were not taking enough responsibility for poor practices and that they weren’t being held to account for this. One juror expressed concern that “agricultural land is often over farmed, damaging the health of the soil” and meaning it is not “able to act as a carbon sink”.

“It’s scandalous; it really is. We’re losing all these wee hedgehogs and birds and foxes and all sorts of animals. I think if we do see that happening in our local area, we should be calling them out on it. We should be saying there was a flood in the village because you took down that. We should be shouting it from the rooftops and asking our local councillors ‘well, what are you going to do about it?’”

One juror commented that it shouldn’t just be local government taking action to protect the natural world: “In calling them out, that’s a community thing as well. It needs to come from the bottom and the top”.

Many jurors were passionate about the role of the community in conservation and felt inspired seeing community-led projects. One juror said: “A lot of things lead back to government. Without government support you’re just a little voice in the background.” Another replied: “We’re like a little voice in the government’s ear, but if you gather enough voices, we can be a lot louder”. One juror reflected that community projects are “a great way to get your voice heard through your councils” otherwise it’s “a bit of a black art”.

“ [farmers] need a livelihood... people need to live day to day as well

There was a lot of enthusiasm for the view that “everyone needs to be part of the solution”.

“I'm like, ok, let's do something then. I'm part of this younger generation, I'm the future

“I just think we need to do community projects amongst ourselves if no one is going to do it”.

“The main take home message was everyone doing their part, which really spoke to me. I'm like, ok, let's do something then. I'm part of this younger generation, I'm the future”.

Education and skills were also a recurring theme in the deliberations. Jurors kept returning to the question: “Do we have the skills we need to put this in place?” They wanted to ensure that the “teachers and lecturers” had the right skills and that education wasn't only focused on young people.

“It's really relevant to include the farmers that are there right now because they're the ones that are doing the job, do you know what I mean, and if this is such an urgent change, you know, this has got to be taught to the people who are doing the jobs right now”.

Several agreed that the nature crisis was enabled by a “lack of knowledge”: “I was quite surprised by what I was hearing about the numbers... the extent of it was quite shocking!”

Many were concerned by the scale of the challenge:

“Someone said that peat restoration needs to be increased tenfold. Is that even possible? It seems insane. It seems that this is the case with a lot of things. We're on the right track, but the amount that we need to do is so much!”

However, they were also excited by the potential for change in Aberdeenshire. They wanted to know more about “restoring native trees and ecosystems, as well as how we live and consume”, discussing whether some trees are better for climate and nature than others. They also reflected on “the use of the sea and land underneath the sea and how to use the sea to help us with carbon storage”; one juror referenced new seaweed growing projects in Shetland and was excited by “how the sea could be used a bit better”.

SPEAKERS ON NATURE ON LAND AND SEA

- **Professor Pete Smith**, University of Aberdeen
- **Dr Sue Lawrence**, NatureScot and Climate Ready Aberdeenshire

Policy proposals on nature on land and sea

- **Jo Pike**, Scottish Wildlife Trust
- **Michael Clarke**, Nature Friendly Farming Network
- **Alex Stuart**, North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership

5.

WORK AND INDUSTRY

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE JURY

Overarching principles

- Urgency is needed in the creation of new job opportunities, which must be equitably distributed across the country. This needs to be supported by a clear strategy and monitored over time.
- Ensure that all work, including care work and work in nature, is appropriately valued. This means fair pay and working conditions, as well as giving due recognition and reward for skills and experience, including those not captured by formal qualifications.
- Build trust with all workers as we move through the transition and support workers to participate in decisions in the workplace.
- Build on the local assets that Aberdeenshire already has, and utilise existing strengths whether that be skills, brownfield land, manufacturing assets or ports and harbours.
- Review the existing skills and education system, look at how we can improve it and ensure we are providing the necessary training, skills, and education for the future, ensuring this is available locally.
- Create a balanced strategy that recognises the role of a range of sectors, including hydrogen and wind, and strikes a balance between addressing the climate crisis and restoring nature.
- Create the legal and financial conditions that support experimentation to encourage innovation and diversification.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are ordered according to the level of priority given to them by the jurors as part of a final vote.

- 22. The government needs to have a vision and a strategy that can realise the potential in local sectors like hydrogen, wind, and tidal, support local manufacturing, and rebalance the economy across the UK.** We have huge assets - from our local industry to the skills, talent and expertise of all who live in Aberdeenshire. There is a huge opportunity to build on these strengths, but we need a vision and a strategy to maximise them.
- 23. There needs to be well-advertised education and training opportunities such as apprenticeships and re-training to support workers of all ages and backgrounds, funded by government.** This must include providing support to older workers who are already out of work from existing industries affected by the transition (including oil and gas) or who will need to transition in future. These jobs must be of good quality and well paid. Other climate-compatible careers, such as care work, must receive equal recognition and these jobs should also be well paid. Aberdeenshire should become a centre of excellence for a range of industries, including renewables.
- 24. There should be a joint approach between business and government to invest and create new jobs and opportunities.** The right training must be put in place to support workers of all ages into these jobs.

25. **We need to look at recreating local supply chains to support more manufacturing and create jobs and opportunities in Aberdeenshire and Scotland.** Supporting new industries and manufacturing must be done in a way that protects nature with prioritisation of development on brownfield sites.
26. **Use procurement to promote renewable businesses that encourage design, engineering and manufacturing that is local** or UK-based and award contracts that are not based solely on price.
27. **Provide education and information, support, and incentives to enable smaller companies to diversify into activities, or to green their existing operations, to support addressing the climate crisis and nature restoration.** There are often small companies or business owners who want to do the right thing but need more information or support to do so.
28. **The government needs to provide far more information about the jobs and opportunities that will be available in the future.** This should involve careers advisors and job offices providing information and directing people towards the jobs available in renewables and nature, for example.
29. **Provide investment for experimentation, innovation and to back ideas whether that be for small businesses, individuals or others.** Even if those ideas might not work!
30. **There needs to be a national strategy for the fair distribution of decent, meaningful, and well-paid work across the UK and Scotland.** This could include the adoption of a ‘minimum income guarantee’ to ensure everyone, whether in or out of work, has enough to live on.
31. **Put in place regulations to ensure that workers have a voice at all levels,** from workplace to national, in developing a strategy for future jobs. Support organisational structures and business practices that allow workers to engage, raise their voices and be heard.

DELIBERATING ON WORK AND INDUSTRY

The jurors’ deliberations on this topic covered education and skills, support for the local economy, investment and ‘fair work’.

The impact of the pandemic on the economy and people’s relationship to work formed part of the discussions. For one juror, Covid-19 had restricted their ability to work and the sense of purpose they attached to it: “During the lockdown, I’ve been shut at home for the last year because my industry has been shut down... I’m sitting at home twiddling my thumbs trying to find something to do to keep motivated”. They needed “something to get up for, to feel meaningful”.

It was clear to the jurors that responding to the climate and nature crises means “the fossil fuel industry needs to be replaced.”

A fair transition to renewable energy was uppermost in jurors’ minds, with the possibility of it bringing benefits to both people and nature:

“Stop burning fossil fuels but ensure people can be redeployed in replacement energy production.”

“Gas and oil production pollutes our environment and all wild and birdlife in the area are affected. We often find many dead seabirds, including dead guillemots, washed up on our beaches.”

They saw a clear role for government in shaping the transition and ensuring that the benefits of investment in low carbon jobs were felt locally.

“Wind turbines... a clean and sustainable source of energy that is readily available if harnessed, the turbines must be wholly manufactured in the UK and employ as many UK/local jobs as possible.”

“All these low carbon jobs are starting out. So any company that tries it really needs government support both in terms of policy and subsidy.”

As well as moving to renewable energy, they saw the need for countries like the UK to reduce their energy consumption overall and reduce waste by reusing materials across the whole economy: “What I think needs to change... is the global imbalance in energy consumption”; “the linear model of our current economy – take, make, waste. [We] need to move towards a more circular economy.”

The jurors frequently returned to the fundamental role of education: “Educate. This has to be the starting point. Without people understanding the implications of decisions... very little is likely to change.” Their discussions stretched from the approaches taken to teaching – with one young juror reflecting that “we spend all our time indoors, we need to get people learning outdoors more” – through to the need for affordable training or re-training for workers.

“Re-training... which is specific to their industry and field, so that they are more aware of the impact the industry they operate in has on the planet.”

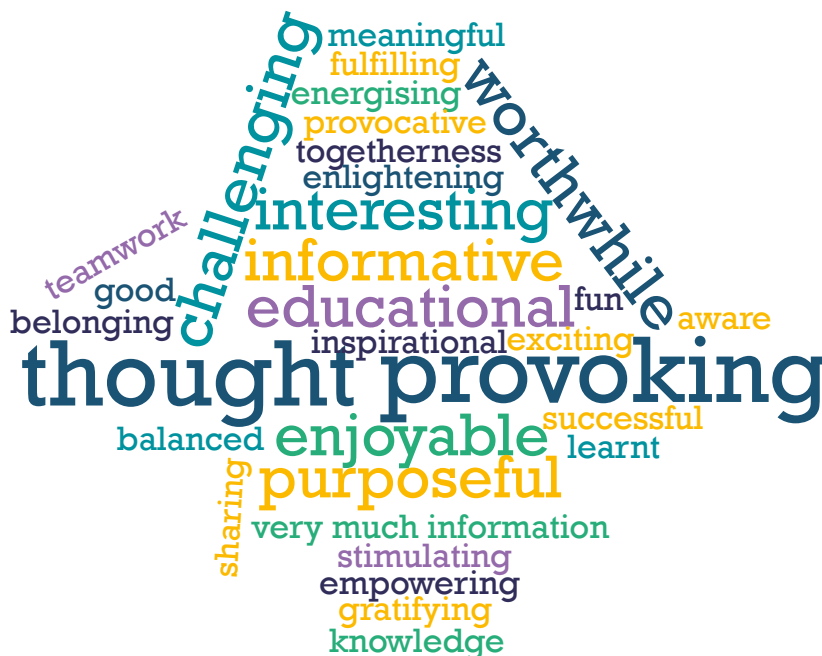
“I think better access to education for people of every age would help. Knowledge is a key to understanding problems.”

Jurors were proud of local projects providing these kinds of educational opportunities, particularly in engaging with nature, and wanted to see more of them: “My hope for the future [is] that there will be more projects like Bennachie (here in Aberdeenshire) which will look after our environment and train younger people to become the ecologists and environmentalists of the future.”

The government’s response to the recovery from Covid-19 was seen as an opportunity to reset the economy: “time for government to hit the reset button”; “a combination of incentives and penalties in the post-Covid world is required”. The need for more active government intervention was seen by one juror as essential: “[Governments] should make the investment for the people, instead of businesses making the investment for the shareholders.” Another juror urged caution in the design of ‘green’ incentive schemes:

“If you are offering incentives for people to make green changes in their businesses and so on, again, it is a careful balance of not having people abuse the system. Because it could be a great way of bringing people over to green operations, but it could be a great way of dumping money into a hole.”

FIGURE 5.1: JUROR RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION: “WHAT THREE WORDS DESCRIBE WHAT WORK MEANS TO YOU?”



Source: IPPR analysis of juror responses to a survey on work

In a survey, 53 per cent of the jurors said their attitude to work had changed due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, with 41 per cent answering ‘no’, and 6 per cent ‘maybe’.

“Everyone still needs income to survive and support families.”

“So much can be achieved from the home environment, saving fuel travelling, saving time travelling to meetings local and overseas and gives a better work / life balance.”

“Realisation and despair that so much work can be done from home. While this might be convenient it also places people, especially women, under greater pressure. The expectation is that you can manage the household, look after children and do your job all at the same time. Working from home also increases social isolation and damages relationship interactions outside the home.”

The potential positive and negative effects of the pandemic on the future nature of work were speculated upon: “I think people want more flexibility, be it a continuation of home-working mixed with office, as well as undertaking more meaningful work”; “I suspect that there will be a greater fear for job insecurity as many people have been paid off and businesses closed”.

The pandemic had prompted broader re-evaluations, too, and some jurors hoped for changes in the future.

“I think many people have changed how they think about everything, not just work.”

“It highlights for me the importance of coming away from such an environmentally unfriendly business. It is prompting me to look into more environmentally friendly careers.”

“I wish that I had a proper job (not gig economy/delivery) as it would have provided me furlough. I now understand the value of proper employee benefits, and why food delivery apps should offer them.”

SPEAKERS ON WORK AND INDUSTRY

- **Joshua Emden**, IPPR
- **Isobel Mercer**, RSPB

Policy proposals for work and industry

- **Irina Bonavino**, Energy Institute Young Professionals Network
- **Colette Cohen**, OGTC
- **Martyn Link**, Wood
- **Ryan Morisson**, Friends of the Earth Scotland

“ I think many people have changed how they think about everything, not just work ”

WHAT JURORS WANT TO CHANGE ABOUT WORK AND INDUSTRY



"Meadow/ wildflowers - industry could use areas where they have unused space to plant wildflowers. This will introduce nature back into these areas."

"The use of single use plastic in shops, as I feel it's something that's immensely grown in the last 20 years. And since the plastic can't be recycled it goes straight to land fill. Sadly, PPE is something that also goes straight to landfill and I'm concerned of the impact this will have in the future."

”

“There needs to be an equal voice established between councils and the electorate and for that voice to have a fair and equal voice, this is of course who they are meant to represent. The ability to invest and regenerate the city centre more and allow for the businesses to return to the city centre, more jobs and more work for the various industries."



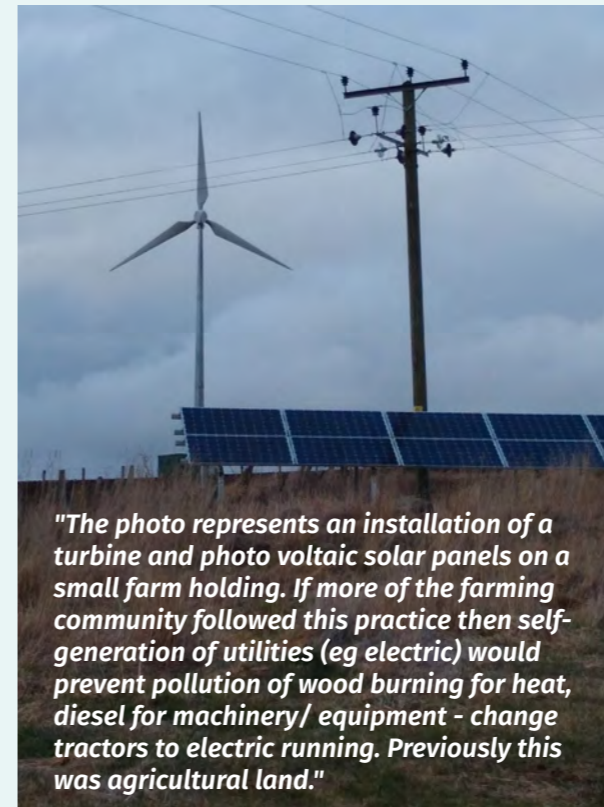
"Burning of waste at a yard near my home. We have been highlighting this for 18 months to local agencies including sepa. This is not good for the future."

JURORS' HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF WORK AND INDUSTRY

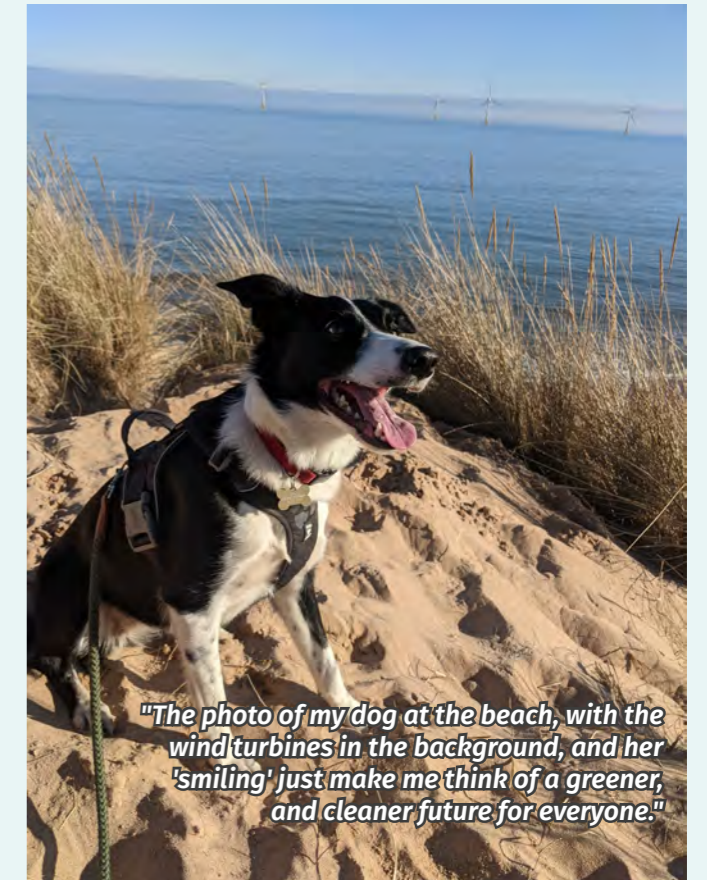
“I think that the farming industry needs to look at being able to adapt and be more understanding to the needs and benefits for all, they need the support from governing bodies "



"Our offshore wind farm which is really positive source of energy for the future."



"The photo represents an installation of a turbine and photo voltaic solar panels on a small farm holding. If more of the farming community followed this practice then self-generation of utilities (eg electric) would prevent pollution of wood burning for heat, diesel for machinery/ equipment - change tractors to electric running. Previously this was agricultural land."



"The photo of my dog at the beach, with the wind turbines in the background, and her 'smiling' just make me think of a greener, and cleaner future for everyone."

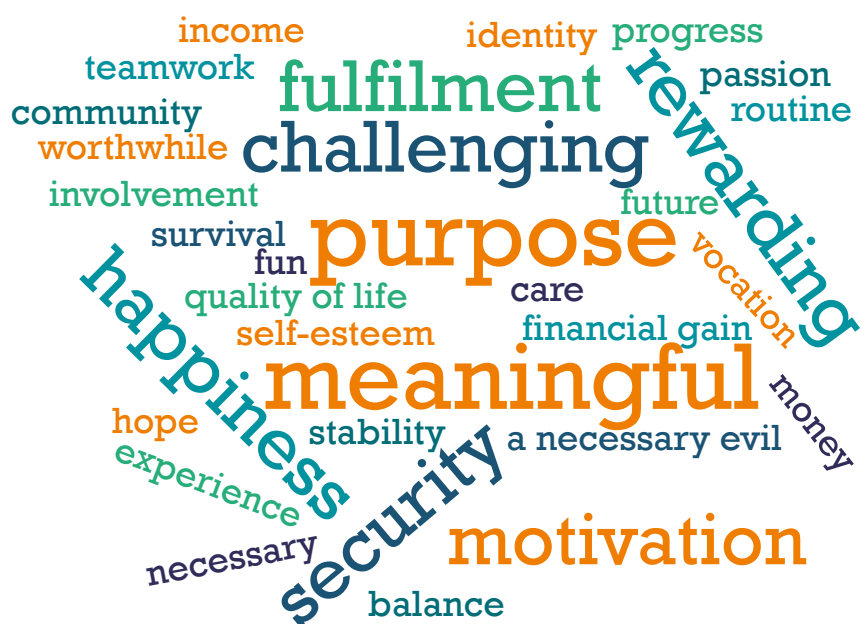
Source: Jurors' photos

6. EVALUATION

Members of the Aberdeenshire Climate and Fairness Panel were asked to complete a brief survey in the week following the final session. The full response to this survey is detailed in appendix D. Below is a summary of the feedback from the 18 jurors who completed the survey. This summary focusses on the respondents' views on the impact of taking part on them; the full evaluation also includes their thoughts on how our approach to delivering citizens' juries could be improved.

The jurors enjoyed the experience of being part of the citizens' jury and valued the opportunity to learn as well as contribute, as part of a community, to a meaningful response to the climate and nature crises.

FIGURE 6.1: 'THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCE' WORD MAP



Source: IPPR analysis of juror responses

The jurors' feedback picked up on many of the themes of their recommendations, emphasising the importance of community action and the value of involving communities in decision-making processes.

“There is a lot communities can do to help towards the future.”

“If a small group of strangers can come together and discuss this topic and make suggestions and ideas to improve our future, imagine what a whole community can achieve.”

Jurors reported an increase in confidence in talking about the climate and nature crises; for one this was at least partly because they “never had any thoughts on this previously.” For many, this had led them to wanting to get out and share what they had learnt more widely.

“I want to tell everyone about what we discussed and what I learnt, I’m more aware of things I’m using in everyday life.”

“We should try to infect others with that positive thinking. Green thinking chain reaction.”

“My biggest aim is to teach my children, and to spread as much knowledge as possible in my family and friends.”

New awareness of the links between land use and diet had a big impact on the jurors’ opinions and led several to make changes in their own lives: “the climate impact of diet: specifically meat and dairy, but fishing too”; “I have... changed my diet from less meat produce to more plant-based”. It increased one juror’s determination to “change the way I live and hopefully influence others”.

Through their contributions to the citizens’ jury, they felt they “might in a small way be part of the solution”. Many had a strong desire to get involved in community projects:

“Connect with our local community council with a view to create a local voluntary community group, willing to engage in a nature restoring initiative.”

Despite this enthusiasm for action, many were concerned their commitment to do more would not be matched by decision-makers: “My concern is the clock is ticking and there appears to be a lack of accountability from senior levels of local and national government departments”. One juror was disheartened by recent decisions by the UK government on North Sea oil contracts and the lack of priority given to climate within local plans.

As emphasised within their conclusions, jurors saw “there is appetite for change and ways to make it beneficial to people”. One juror’s final thought is a call for action:

“It’s over to the decision-makers to take this forward and invest, educate and train for the now and future...”

“

My biggest aim is to teach my children, and to spread as much knowledge as possible in my family and friends

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APPENDIX A: ADVISORY BOARD

The board guide the process by ensuring information presented to jurors reflects local concerns and opportunities and is presented in as balanced a way as possible. They also helped to identify and invite speakers.

A cross-section of regional decision-makers and those with a stake in the area's response to the climate and nature emergencies were invited to join the advisory board.

ABERDEENSHIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Cllr Phillip Bell, Aberdeen City Council

Colette Cohen OBE, CEO, OGTC & Just Transition Commissioner

Ian Francis, area manager NE Scotland & Shetland, RSPB Scotland

Charlotte Hartley, trustee 2050 Climate Group, Just Transition commissioner & Environmental Justice commissioner

Annette Hastings, director, SurF: Scotland's Regeneration Forum

Martyn Link, chief strategy officer, Wood

Douglas Peedle, head of policy, Scottish Wildlife Trust

Pete Smith, vice principal finance and resource, North East Scotland College

Cllr Iain Taylor, chair Sustainability Committee, Aberdeenshire Council

Megan Virrels, CEO Royal Bank of Scotland Social & Community Capital

APPENDIX B: SPEAKERS

THE CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCIES: AN INTRODUCTION

- **Dr Cat Scott**, academic fellow, University of Leeds
 - What are the climate and nature emergencies? A basic introduction to the science
 - How are the emergencies linked?
 - What happens if we do not act?
- **Gwen Buck**, policy advisor, Green Alliance
 - What do we know has to change to address the climate and nature emergencies?
 - Why are we aiming for 'net zero'?
 - What are the barriers to action?
 - What is already being done to tackle emissions and restore nature?

THE CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCIES

- **Dr Tavis Potts**, interim director, Centre for Energy Transition, University of Aberdeen: "The need for a fair transition for energy and the communities of the North East"

WELLBEING AND FAIRNESS

- **Stephen Frost**, co-deputy head of the Environmental Justice Commission, IPPR: "What does 'fairness' mean in the context of the climate and nature emergencies?"
 - Ways to define it
 - How it is thought about in terms of the nature and climate emergencies
 - What questions do we ask when thinking about 'fairness'
 - Links to social justice
 - Different perspective on fairness through videos of Kirsten Leggatt of the 2050 Climate Group addressing the UK Climate Assembly, Wanjira Mathai speaking on Earth Day 2020 and Sir David Attenborough interviewed on BBC Sounds.
- **Dr Katy Roelich**, University of Leeds: "Developing a vision for the future: Wellbeing and a better life for all"

FAIRLY SHARING THE COSTS

- **Bianca Letti**, senior analyst, Climate Change Committee
 - What is the affordability of the net zero transition?
 - What are the costs of inaction?
 - What is the pace of change required?
- **Adrienne Buller**, senior research fellow, Common Wealth
 - How should we approach 'fairly sharing the costs' of action on the climate and nature emergencies?

- What is the role of investors (including pension funds) in supporting environmental action?
- What are the challenges and opportunities for local government in supporting the transition?

HOW WE MAKE DECISIONS AND HOW CHANGE HAPPENS IN ABERDEENSHIRE

- **Cllr Iain Taylor**, Aberdeenshire Council
 - How are decisions made on the climate and nature emergencies locally?
 - How do different scales of government (local, regional and national) interact to make decisions?
 - What are some of the existing key commitments to addressing these emergencies locally?
 - What are the main barriers to action?
- **Greg Welsh**, project coordinator, Bonnymuir Green Community Trust
- **Martin Auld and Ian Talboys**, Ury Riverside Park SCIO
 - What role can communities play in leading action to restore nature and tackle the climate emergency?
 - What support do they need to take this role?
 - What have we learned from our experience taking action in the region?

NATURE ON LAND AND SEA

- **Prof Pete Smith**, University of Aberdeen: “Changing the way we use the land to tackle climate change in a fair and just way”
 - What are the impact of dietary choices on greenhouse gas emissions and land use?
 - What is the need to change how we use the land to hit Scotland’s 2045 net-zero target?
 - What are the ideas put forward for achieving this change?
 - What are the key ‘fairness’ issues associated with how we use the land?
- **Dr Sue Lawrence**, NatureScot and Climate Ready Aberdeenshire
 - What are the key habitats and natural assets locally?
 - What are the challenges and threats to nature?
 - What are the options the jury should consider for restoring nature and improving access to nature in Aberdeenshire?
- **Policy proposals on nature on land and sea**
 - **Jo Pike**, chief executive, Scottish Wildlife Trust
 - **Michael Clarke**, Nature Friendly Farming Network
 - **Alex Stuart**, coordinator, North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership

WORK AND INDUSTRY

- **Joshua Emden**, research fellow, IPPR
 - What is the scale of the change required to work and industry in Scotland?
 - What are the challenges and opportunities for north east Scotland’s energy sector?
 - How can the transition from oil and gas be made to be fair to the workers in these industries?

- What can we learn from this transition that is relevant to other sectors in Scotland?
- **Isobel Mercer**, senior policy officer, RSPB
 - The role of nature-based industries in fairly decarbonising Scotland's economy
 - How can action for nature support the green recovery from Covid-19?
- **Policy proposals on a fair and green transition for work and industry**
 - **Irina Bonavino**, Energy Institute Young Professionals Network
 - **Colette Cohen**, CEO, OGTC and Just Transition commissioner
 - **Martyn Link**, chief strategy officer, Wood
 - **Ryan Morrison**, just transition campaigner, Friends of the Earth Scotland

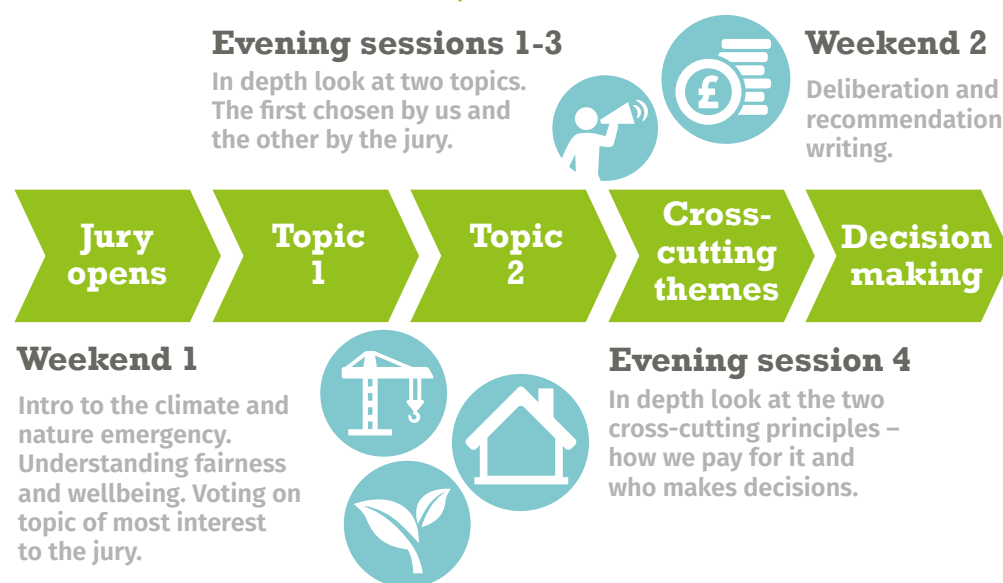
APPENDIX C: PROCESS DETAILS

23 residents were recruited from across Aberdeenshire, with 22 completing the full process. Together they are representative of the area in terms of age, ethnicity, gender, locale (rural/urban), qualification level, and attitude to climate change. IPPR worked with the Sortition Foundation in the recruitment of jurors. Jurors were paid £310 for attending all sessions.

The panel met online for eight sessions, on weekends and evenings from February to March 2021, with some light work in between sessions (less than one hour per session). There was also up to 30 minutes of optional, informal discussion at the end of each session to talk through extra questions and ideas.

This totalled around 20 hours of deliberation across eight sessions over six weeks.

FIGURE A1: OVERVIEW OF THE CITIZENS' JURY PROCESS



Source: Authors' analysis

The jurors were provided with an introduction to the climate and nature emergencies, internationally and locally. Due to Aberdeenshire's varied landscape and rich heritage in both farming and fishing, IPPR selected 'nature on land and sea' as a topic to explore in detail with the panel. The second topic was put to a vote. 'Work and industry' was chosen as the second topic for discussion. The options not chosen were 'our homes' and 'travel'.

Sessions were open to guests to attend, such as the advisory board and the commissioners of the Environmental Justice Commission; observers only viewed the plenary sessions, not the breakout discussions.

APPENDIX D: EVALUATION

PARTICIPATION

The citizens' jury was comprised of 22 residents from Aberdeenshire. Over the course of the eight sessions the average attendance per session was close to 21 jurors. Most jurors (18, 82 per cent) attended every session.

Between the formal sessions, the jurors who could not attend a meeting participated virtually – this included watching recordings of the sessions, completing homework and sharing reflections with IPPR staff.

EXPERIENCE AND IMPACT ON THE JURORS

The jurors were invited to complete a short evaluation survey after the final deliberations. 18 jurors (82 per cent) completed this survey. Results are presented as a percentage of total responses.

Below is a summary of the survey responses.

1. Enjoyment

Jurors were asked to score their experience based on a rating of one ('not at all') to 10 ('enjoyed every part of it').

The average response was 9.3 out of 10. The lowest score given was a seven.

2. Describe the experience

Jurors were asked what three words they would use to describe the experience.

The top responses were 'educational', 'enjoyable', 'informative', 'interesting' and 'thought-provoking'.

3. Quality of the process

Jurors were asked to rate their level of agreement with statements related to the quality of the process. The below presents the level of agreement for each statement.

Statement	Responses
The purpose of the panel was clear to me	89% agreed or strongly agreed (16 of 18 respondents)
The process was impartial	83% agreed or strongly agreed (15 of 18 respondents)
The evidence presented was balanced	89% agreed or strongly agreed (10 of 14)
The evidence was accessible to me	89% agreed or strongly agreed (16 of 18 respondents)
There were enough opportunities for me to share my views	83% agreed or strongly agreed (15 of 18 respondents)
I felt comfortable sharing my views	89% agreed or strongly agreed (16 of 18 respondents)
The panel was representative of the local area	83% agreed or strongly agreed (15 of 18 respondents)

Based on the difference between their positive comments and response to these statements, one juror appears to have read the scale for this question the wrong way around. At the time of writing this had not been confirmed and responses are presented as submitted.

COMMENTARY

The jurors were positive about the quality of the process with one stating: “I think what’s been achieved ... sums it up for me”. Most reflected that there was “every opportunity to share views” and the decision-making was “very democratic”.

One juror felt that although “some material was biased ... it is important to hear people’s point of view.” They were also concerned whether the jury could be considered representative as those involved “wanted money” and “were personally invested”.

1. Amount of time

The jurors were asked whether enough time was provided for the following: “learning and hearing from speakers”, “discussion and deliberation” and “decision-making”.

Most jurors were happy with the amount of time provided for learning (83 per cent, 15 of 18 responses), discussion (78 per cent, 14 of 18 responses). Jurors were least sure about decision-making – 67 per cent (12 of 18 responses) said there was enough time for this.

Jurors were asked to consider whether there was a specific activity they felt more time could have been given to. On the whole jurors reflected that the process was “balanced but every subject was one that could be discussed deeper”.

Suggested areas to spend more time on in the future included slightly more time to prepare questions for speakers and “digest overwhelming information”, longer in discussions as “sometimes not everyone had time to say their bit” and, in the final session, “more time to read on voting”.

2. Support

17 jurors felt they had received enough support and information before the first meeting to take part effectively, with one respondent saying maybe.

All jurors felt supported in using the technology on which the meetings were hosted.

3. Improving the process

Suggestions on improvements to the process centred on providing more time. One juror’s reason for this was simply: “I really enjoyed my time” and another wanted longer in breakout sessions as they “felt we could have talked for ever on subjects!”. One juror felt that that a bit more time to consider responses would make the process more inclusive:

“Taking into consideration that every person is different with regards to the time required to reflect and consequently engage or contribute.”

Others suggested “more time to prioritise votes” and decision-making. One requested “less spread-out sessions”. One juror suggested smaller breakout groups to “allow more time for everyone to speak”.

Two jurors felt that material sent out in advance, including questions to support independent research and the agendas, would have been worth considering. One wondered if we could have tried to “get a more neutral expert (explains pros and cons)”.

One juror suggested:

“Next juries should have access to the previous panels, to have a chance to see what other cities struggle with. That will help to find out many different common problems quicker, and then after there is more time to think what else is worth to think about.”

4. One thing learned

The jurors were asked: “what one thing have you learned as part of the panel that you would like others in Aberdeenshire to know?”

The responses to this varied but centred on increased knowledge of local challenges and opportunities, the role of community action, the changes needed to diet and approaches to restoring the land, particularly peatland. For example:

“The local effects of climate crisis.”

“There is a lot communities can do to help towards the future.”

“The importance of recovering peatland, as it is a carbon sink and stopping to use peat-based soils for plant and vegetable gardening, as well as stopping to use peat as fuel.”

“That Aberdeen City and Shire has vast amounts of renewable energy sources that could be used to help tackle the climate crisis and become a world leader in renewable energy.”

“The climate impact of diet: specifically meat and dairy, but fishing too.”

One juror felt that within so much “interesting and important information to share with other people” the “huge impact technology have in all sectors, to change our future life in Aberdeenshire for better is a most interesting part for me.”

5. Quality of speakers

Jurors were asked to rate “how helpful were the speakers in developing your knowledge of the steps needed to address the climate and nature emergencies in a way that is fair everyone?” on a scale of one to five.

The average score for speakers was 4.8 with the lowest score given being a four.

6. Changing opinions

When asked whether their opinions changed during the process ten jurors said yes, four said maybe and four said they hadn't.

For those whose opinions changed they highlighted that this came early on in the process, including “at the beginning of the session on the first weekend”. For one juror this was because they “never had any thoughts on this previously”.

Speakers were important to changing jurors' opinions, including “the high number... who highlighted that local involvement is required to increase” and “statistics have also been very emotive”.

Some jurors “have been aware of the need for change for a while” and one felt that “the only opinion which changed was the need for more urgent action”.

One highlighted a range of ways they had changed their views during the process:

“I slowly changing my mind about many things including how I eat and how I travel and many others. Trying to live smarter and better

for myself and local/global environment is a key to success. Once we understand this, we should have to take impact to other people living around us. Then we should try to infect others with that positive thinking. Green thinking chain reaction.”

7. Sharing knowledge and personal confidence

Jurors were asked whether “being part of this process made you more confident in sharing your knowledge and opinions about the climate and nature emergencies?”. 16 jurors said it had and two said maybe.

8. Impact on the jurors

Most jurors felt that the process had an impact on them. When asked to rate the “extent you think being part of the panel has had an impact on you?” on a scale of one to five, the average score was 4.3 and the lowest score was three.

The jurors were asked how they would describe this impact and their responses touched on a wide range of topics, including a much greater awareness of the climate and nature crises, knowledge of the potential solutions and the desire to share what they had learned.

“I feel I have the knowledge on the nature and climate crisis that I could educate someone else.”

“I want to tell everyone about what we discussed and what I learnt, I’m more aware of things I’m using in everyday life.”

Jurors also emphasised how it would inform their own actions.

“Makes me more determined to change the way I live and hopefully influence others.”

“Made me feel even more passionate about climate change and restoring nature back to health.... I am more aware of the urgency of the situation and am even more determined to act in making further positive changes to my way of living.”

For one juror being involved meant: “feeling as though I might in a small way be part of the solution”.

9. Likelihood of taking personal action

Jurors were asked whether “being part of this process made you more likely to take action on the climate and nature emergencies?”. Sixteen jurors said yes, two said maybe.

For several jurors it was their diets that would change with several having already made changes as a result of the experience: “I have also changed my diet from less meat produce to more plant based”; “I have stopped eating red meat and cow’s milk”.

Many shared a desire to get involved in community projects and to share their knowledge.

“My biggest aim is to teach my children, and to spread as much knowledge as possible in my family and friends.”

“Take part in community projects for green space.”

“Spreading the word – trying to get more people involved in decision-making and direct action albeit on a local level.”

One juror has plans to develop a new community group and work with the local school:

“Connect with our local school to support the integration of environmental studies and climate change and to support any environmental projects of the school. Also connect with our local community council with a view to create a local voluntary community group, willing to engage in a nature restoring initiative.”

Another juror felt they were now clear on the wide range of ways that they could do things differently:

“There is many action what we can introduce to our life immediately. To stop using plastic bags when we are shopping, to stop buying new things, to stop using our petrol/diesel cars when that is not necessary. To try to replace our cars for electric as soon as possible. To using bicycles for our daily transportation is also very easy to implement. And at the end we need to put much more focus of what, and how are we eating everyday.”

10. Optimistic about the future

Jurors were asked whether the process had made them more or less optimistic about the future. 11 jurors (61 per cent of responses) said they were more optimistic, six felt no different (33 per cent) and one felt less optimistic (6 per cent).

Those with lower scores cited the scale of the challenge and the lack of visible leadership.

“I’m hopeful of change just not sure it can be done.”

“Have no faith in industry and governments implementing the things that will affect profits.”

“My concern is the clock is ticking and there appears to be a lack of accountability from senior levels of local and national government departments.”

One was particularly concerned about decisions made by government during the time period of the jury and the extent climate is on the agenda for local councils:

“It was so disheartening to hear that the government commissioned fossil fuel extraction with further contracts to the oil and gas industry, at such a crucial time, showing that they have done absolutely no forward thinking. Speaking to the chair of our local community council, I was made aware that [neither] climate change, nor any targets, are on their agenda and nothing has been communicated to them from Aberdeenshire Council, either. It does feel very much like the council nor the government are doing enough and what little they do is not enough.”

This was balanced for one juror with their knowledge of the action that was taking place: “Knowing the full extent of the crisis can be disheartening, but knowing that decisions are being made, and efforts to gather the public opinion, makes me have hope for the future”. One felt more optimistic because they “now have the confidence that the government are trying to make changes”.

Taking part in the panel and coming to an agreement on the action required was a key reason for optimism:

“If a small amount of strangers can come together and discuss this topic and make suggestions and ideas to improve our future, imagine what a whole community can achieve.”

“By talking to 21 other people across the region from all ages and walks of life who share my concerns and that we were able to come to a consensus.”

The hope that decisions makers would listen and act on their conclusions was key for one juror: “Our reports will be presented at government level, nationally and locally.” Another reflected: “Discussions are taking place about the need to change the way we live and work to a more renewable, sustainable and environmentally way of life. Decisions and actions need to come next.”

Three jurors provided similar conclusions on why they now felt more optimistic:

“There is appetite for change and ways to make it beneficial to people.”

“We can do this with everybody’s support.”

“I feel more optimistic for sure. Having knowledge about problems and threats is only way to try live smarter and better.”

11. Final thoughts

At the end of the survey, jurors were provided with space to share any thoughts not covered elsewhere. This was largely used as an opportunity to thank the team involved in convening the panel and highlight their enjoyment of the process.

“I am so pleased to have been invited to be part of that process. I have thoroughly enjoyed it and got a lot out of it. All of the IPPR team were brilliant, no contribution we made was too small or silly or dismissed. Thank you!”

“I’m going to miss my weekly meetings and would like to join again in future if it arose, as I’m sure there is still a lot I have to learn.”

“...enjoyed being involved and kept me sane in lockdown.”

Some jurors were keen to share how much they valued their engagement with the wider panel and wanted to maintain contact with them:

“The selection of the panel was excellent and it was evident during the process that the panel members shared a lot of the same concerns.”

“It would be great if the panel members could somehow stay in touch and keep the momentum up, maybe even instigating some local action together. I would certainly be up for that.”

Two jurors signed off with a message of hope and call for action:

“It’s over to the decision-makers to take this forward and invest, educate and train for the now and future. Sustainable employment and affordability must be at the forefront of their thinking to encourage change.”

“...hope to see you in a better world in the future.”

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