

COP26 STUDENT
AMBASSADORS

University of Leeds

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**PLACE-BASED
CLIMATE ACTION
NETWORK**

COP26 Student Ambassadors Assemble!

- **Team established January 2021** in collaboration with the University of Leeds' COP26 Task Force, a cross-faculty initiative connected to the Priestley International Centre for Climate.
- **Initial focus** was week of activities in April: Connecting Voices for Climate Action
- **73 members**, mostly but not exclusively Masters students
- **Diverse group from across the University** (Business School, Biological Sciences, Politics and International Studies, Earth and Environment, School of Design, Sustainability, School of Electronics and Electrical Engineering, Media and Communications ...)

Key influencer: Harriet Thew, COP26 Fellow

Postgraduate researcher and graduate teaching associate at the University of Leeds. Harriet has many years' experience in youth participation in previous COPs.

By working with young people and policymakers, Harriet's Fellowship will investigate how young people can drive forward a just transition towards Net Zero and contribute to a green recovery.



Ambassador Activities (external)

- Supporting the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Youth Climate Assembly by fact-checking their manifesto
- Supporting a virtual youth conference held by UoL COP 26 Task Force, Yorks & Humber Youth Works Unit, British Youth Council, Leeds City Council and SAIIA Youth (South African Institute of International Affairs)
- Instagram takeover during the CVCA week (17-24 April 2021)
- Beta-testing a new UoL MOOC on Climate Solutions for 18-year-olds
- Summer school on climate and politics for 16-18 year olds in West Yorkshire

Ambassador Activities (internal)

- Team designed for students to collaborate with each other and identify/discuss own priorities, share hopes, fears and interests
- Several action meetings held (until April and exams)
- Training session organised with Hope for the Future (on lobbying)
- Interest developed in buddying with the SA students from the youth summit
- Signposting to resources (UNICEF Youth Advocacy Guide), competitions (Vlogs), films (Act Now, BBC climate change stories), policy opportunities (Youth Statement for COY, author group for student-led COP26 Universities Network briefing)

Future Opportunities

- University of Leeds COP26 Task Force has approached the student ambassadors about engaging people in Leeds with COP. Suggestions so far have included:
 - Another Instagram takeover
 - Live streaming COP side events and discussing them
 - Linking up with other students at COP and sending in questions to ask panellists
 - Filming and sharing videos from COP-related protests
 - Virtual meetings with COP attendees to provide debriefs on the negotiations.