



WORKSHOP PLAN THE PLANET



SUPPORTED BY PEACEPLUS, A PROGRAMME MANAGED BY THE SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY (SEUPB)



PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Co-funded by the
European Union | UK Government

Riadas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland | Northern Ireland
Executive

Introduction

These workshop plans are designed to support youth workers (or anyone working with children and young people) across Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales in delivering engaging, meaningful sessions that connect young people with the Voices for Impact digital platform.

Each workshop uses participative and youth-centred methodologies to explore one of the Voices for Impact six thematic areas aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through these activities, young people are encouraged to reflect on their lived experiences, discuss the issues that matter to them, and contribute their views in a way that supports real change.

These workshops also uphold the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child by supporting Article 12 - every child's right to express their views freely and have those views taken seriously in matters that affect them.

The six thematic areas are:

1. *Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being)*
2. *Learning, Skills and Work (SDG 4: Quality Education)*
3. *Safer Society (SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)*
4. *Fairer Society (SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities)*
5. *The Planet (SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production)*
6. *Digital Access (SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)*

Each workshop is structured as a 60-minute session and concludes with participants completing the relevant survey on the Voices for Impact website (www.voicesforimpact.ai) ensuring that young people can share their views in an informed, confident, and engaged manner.

Two workshop plans are provided for each thematic area, giving you flexibility to choose the session best suited to your group's age, background, interests, and level of awareness. An additional resource pack is also included, offering a range of icebreakers, energisers, and games that can be used to tailor the session to your group's needs. Please note timings are only suggestions and adjust to suit your group and context.

Workshop: Planet - Plan A

Learning Objectives

- Explore the environmental issues affecting your community and the wider world.
- Understand how a healthy planet supports healthy communities and daily life.
- Identify simple actions young people can take to help protect the environment.

Materials Needed

- Flip chart pages / paper
- Pen / markers

Workshop plan

5 min Ice-breaker

Select one suitable for the group or from the list provided.

5 min Introduction

- Ask young people to share their name & something that comes into their head when they think of the planet.
- Share that Voices for Impact is an online platform where young people like you can share your opinions on things like school, friends, and the environment, so leaders can make better decisions for young people.
- What makes it unique is that you do this digitally and quickly.
- Across NI, ROI, Scotland and Wales lots of young people are using this to help us gather collective data, to enable us to impact and influence decision making.
- Share the learning objectives for the session.
- If appropriate, discuss and establish ground rules for sharing and listening respectfully.

15 min Word meaning

- Have various words on flip chart set around the room
- Ask the young people to move around each page in pairs or small groups
- In their group they must note down what their understanding of the words are
- After each group has had an opportunity to do this, move around each page one at a time reflecting back what young people noted down.
- Then share the meanings below:
- Recycling: Turning old or used materials into new things so they don't go to waste.
- Sustainable consumption: Using only what we need in a way that doesn't harm the planet.
- Wildlife: All the animals and plants that live freely in nature.
- Climate change: Long-term changes in the Earth's weather caused mostly by human activities.
- Carbon footprint: The amount of pollution we create through our everyday actions.
- Environmental education: Learning how nature works and how we can help protect the planet.
- Climate anxiety: Feeling worried, scared, or overwhelmed about climate change and what it means for the future of the planet

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10 min Move around

- Explain we are going to read out short statements about the environment.
- After each one, move to the side of the room that matches how you feel
- Areas are: Yes, No, Unsure
- Statements are:

1. Climate change affects people in our community.
2. The environment impacts my daily life.
3. I notice pollution where I live.
4. Everyone has a role in protecting nature.
5. I think my generation cares deeply about the planet.
6. Environmental problems feel too big for young people to change.

10 min One realistic action

- Pull back into the circle
- Ask each participant to choose one small, realistic action they can take to help the environment, something they feel confident they can actually do in their everyday life.
- Give them a moment to think and then share their action with the group, explaining why they chose it and how they'll make it happen.
- Thank them for their contribution and taking part in the workshop overall.

10 min Survey

- Move into the full group
- Guide participants through the Safer Society survey on Voices for Impact website
- Support those who need help reading or understanding questions
- Encourage honest responses based on their own experiences
- Hand out tablets / laptops to get young people to complete; or if young people have their own device share the website or a QR code to the survey.

5 min Reflection and Close

- Reflection: One word describing how they feel or what they are thinking at the end of the sessions.
- Explain how their contributions will contribute towards collecting data on a local and national level, to help make more informed decisions on issues that impact young people.
- Thank participants and share that they can see the collective results through the website.

Workshop: Planet - Plan B

Learning Objectives

- Explore the environmental issues affecting your community and the wider world.
- Understand how a healthy planet supports healthy communities and daily life.
- Identify simple actions young people can take to help protect the environment.

Materials Needed

- Flip chart paper / paper
- Markers / pens

Workshop plan

5 min Ice-breaker

Select one suitable for the group or from the list provided.

5 min Introduction

- Ask young people to share their name & something that comes into their head when they think of the planet.
- Share that Voices for Impact is an online platform where young people like you can share your opinions on things like school, friends, and the environment, so leaders can make better decisions for young people.
- What makes it unique is that you do this digitally and quickly.
- Across NI, ROI, Scotland and Wales lots of young people are using this to help us gather collective data, to enable us to impact and influence decision making.
- Share the learning objectives for the session.
- If appropriate, discuss and establish ground rules for sharing and listening respectfully.

15 min Debate

- Ask everyone to stand and explain we are going to have a debate on several areas relating to the planet
- We will call out a statement and based on what you think you select a corner: agree, disagree, don't know or don't care.
- After each person has picked a corner, ask for explanations and open up discussion through additional questions.
- At the end of the exercise, if required, do a check in.

- **Use any of the following statements**

1. What happens to the planet is important.
2. Climate change is real.
3. We should all recycle.
4. I am worried about the climate.
5. Everyone has a responsibility to protect the environment.
6. Climate change affects some people more than others.
7. Young people can make a big difference to the planet.
8. Governments should do more to fight climate change.
9. Big companies cause most of the environmental damage.
10. Changing small habits (like recycling or walking more) can help the planet.
11. Technology will solve most of our climate problems.
12. The climate crisis makes me feel powerless.
13. Protecting nature is more important than economic growth.
14. People should pay more for products that harm the environment.
15. Schools should teach more about climate and the environment.
16. It's already too late to stop climate change.

15 min Local Vs. Global impact

- Divide the group into 2, with a leader going with each group.
 - Get them to divide the page in two, and write local and global on either side
 - Explain we're going to look at different environmental issues. For each one, think about how it affects people here in our local community, and how it affects people around the world.
 - Think about: Who is affected? How daily life is impacted? Differences between wealthier and poorer communities? Short-term vs long-term effects.
 - You can use the issues below or select others, relevant to your group / areas:
1. Extreme weather (flooding, storms, heatwaves)
 2. Wildfires
 3. Drought & water shortage
 4. Air & water pollution (due to noise, light, plastic, chemical, from transport)
 5. Food waste
 6. Fast fashion waste
 7. Deforestation
 8. Over population
 9. Melting ice caps
 10. Air and water pollution
 11. Lack of access to parks and green spaces
 12. Loss of wildlife and nature protection

5 min One realistic action

- Pull back into the circle
- Ask each participant to choose one small, realistic action they can take to help the environment, something they feel confident they can actually do in their everyday life.
- Give them a moment to think and then share their action with the group, explaining why they chose it and how they'll make it happen.
- Thank them for their contribution and taking part in the workshop overall.

10 min Survey

- Move into the full group
- Guide participants through the Safer Society survey on Voices for Impact website
- Support those who need help reading or understanding questions
- Encourage honest responses based on their own experiences
- Hand out tablets / laptops to get young people to complete; or if young people have their own device share the website or a QR code to the survey.

5 min Reflection and Close

- Reflection: One word describing how they feel or what they are thinking at the end of the sessions.
- Explain how their contributions will contribute towards collecting data on a local and national level, to help make more informed decisions on issues that impact young people.
- Thank participants and share that they can see the collective results through the website.