

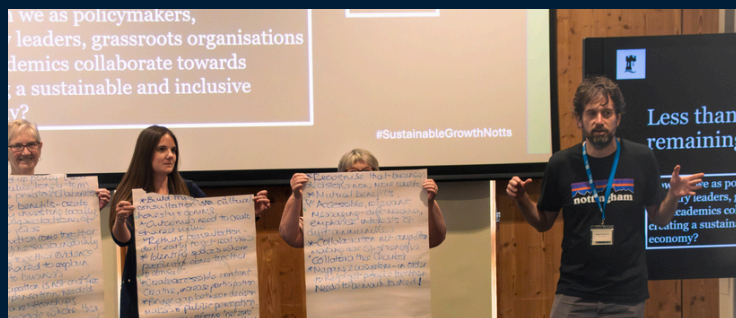


Creating a fairer, greener, and more inclusive future

University of Nottingham's Sustainable Growth Assembly report

Background

Building on the recommendations of the University's Policy Commission Report, the Institute for Policy and Engagement led two events that signified an important step in supporting a positive narrative in the transition to a low carbon future. This report reflects the key findings from the Sustainable Growth Assembly and the subsequent public views gathered at the Green Hustle Festival.



Sustainable Growth Assembly

On the 15 May 2025, the Institute for Policy and Engagement hosted an assembly in collaboration with Green Hustle, Nottingham Climate Assembly, and Resolve Notts. Building on the University's [Delivering a Just Transition report](#), the Nottingham focused assembly brought together local policymakers, industry leaders, community groups, and academics to discuss just transition and supporting community agency.

The Assembly included provocations, breakout sessions and deliberations centred around how different stakeholders can collaborate towards creating a sustainable and inclusive economy, whilst also engaging and empowering communities in shaping a thriving future. The key findings and provocations were captured by a live illustrator Rikki Marr.



Key findings:

- There is a growing need to reframe 'net zero' in ways that communicate relatable benefits, shared values, and mutual gains.
- It is important to ensure that a just transition is rooted in community voices, needs, and priorities.
- Recognising public storytelling and lived experience is vital tools for meaningful engagement is essential.
- Fostering inclusive growth includes identifying and creating spaces where people can gather, be consulted, and be met where they are.
- Listening to, supporting, and empowering underrepresented groups should serve as a foundation for inclusive change.
- It is essential to co-produce solutions through transparent, cross-sector collaboration that is sustained over time.
- Meaningful engagement includes making content creative, accessible, and reflective of the diverse interests within different communities.
- It is crucial to develop innovative funding models that encourage long-term collaboration between public and private sectors, with a focus on alignment and shared impact rather than competition.
- Investing locally generates new opportunities, future-facing jobs, and a green economy that raises aspirations and benefits the wider community.
- Rebuilding trust across levels of society requires consistent communication, genuine consultation, and a deeply embedded culture of honesty and accountability.

Transforming dialogue into clear solutions and actions



To initiate the process of translating the ideas generated during the assembly into meaningful action, the live illustration capturing the key insights and themes was showcased to the public during the Green Hustle Festival on Saturday 31 May 2025.



In the spirit of co-creation that defined both events, festival attendees of all ages were encouraged to contribute their own perspectives, sketches, and suggestions about creating a greener and more inclusive future to our own live illustration.



Next steps and future opportunities

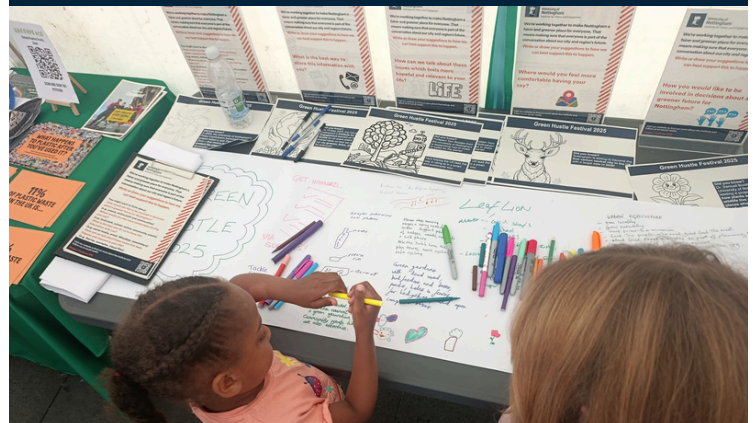
These events reflected a growing recognition that tackling the climate crisis requires more than technical solutions, it demands collective imagination, local leadership, and sustained collaboration rooted in trust and community. Collaborative efforts across sectors will be essential in ensuring that Nottingham's transition to net zero is not only effective, but equitable and inclusive.

Based on the Sustainable Growth Assembly findings, we asked the public:

- How would you like to be involved in decisions about a greener future for Nottingham?
- Where would you feel more comfortable having your say?
- How can we talk about these issues in a way which feels more hopeful and relevant to your life?
- What is the best way to share this information with you?

Here are some of their suggestions:

- Information should be shared in local community groups.
- I'd like to get involved by surveys in local parks or online. Email is easiest... Community events like this are also effective.
- Make finding out about sustainability fun rather than scary! Workshops, games, festivals...
- The public should be involved with online polls and community events.
- Get people talking about the options in front of us - change is happening, so how do we want to shape that? Let's grab the reins and make it positive. And let's talk about the real changes and hard decisions.
- Facilitate children's participation.
- Please stop mowing verges and using weedkiller. Support planting of hedges, woods, wetlands and wild places. Ask the Dutch how they plan towns, more cycling, safe cycling.
- Share information in Left Lion, local shops, schools, buses, social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn), local churches, social spaces, and temples.



With thanks to our partners:

