



Manifesto

We are the **Nottingham Youth Climate Assembly**. We are part of an independent community-based initiative that believes everyone should get a say in building a happier, healthier and more sustainable world.

We are probably younger than many of you who are reading this, but we do not want to be thought of as the next generation, as future leaders, as those who will inherit the mess that is left behind (although we are all of those things). We are people who share this city with you and who have, like we all have, our own understandings and experiences of the world around us.

It is true that many of us are angry, frustrated, overwhelmed and anxious. But we are also ready - to listen, to argue, and to collaborate. To get to work.

We can see that the city in which we live is a city that understands the reality of what needs to be done. It's a city that we're glad we live in because of this. But it's a city, like every city, that needs all our voices and knowledge and ideas to come together and make it the best it can be. That it needs to be. Because we all know there is much to do if we are to achieve our goal of making Nottingham carbon neutral by 2028.

Every conversation we have, and every person we meet who is trying to change things for the better, helps us understand things a little more. They power our persistence, encourage our curiosity, prepare us for this work ahead. We are eager to help build on what has already been done, but with greater pace, imagination and energy.

We're not sure how to talk to you so that you will really listen. We don't want to have to shout, even though many of us are angry, because that doesn't seem to have worked. Perhaps we should act politely, even though we are furious, but that doesn't seem to have worked either.

We hope that you are waiting for us to speak, that you need us to speak, that without our voices you understand that there is something fundamentally missing. Sometimes we feel that rather than saying or writing about our feelings and thoughts we would rather dance them, cook them, walk them, play them. We want and need to bring joy, passion, and creativity to this task of saving the planet, because it will be at the core of everything we do. Today, next week, and for the rest of our lives.

But we also know the power and importance of words. So this is not a dance, a meal, a walk, a game.

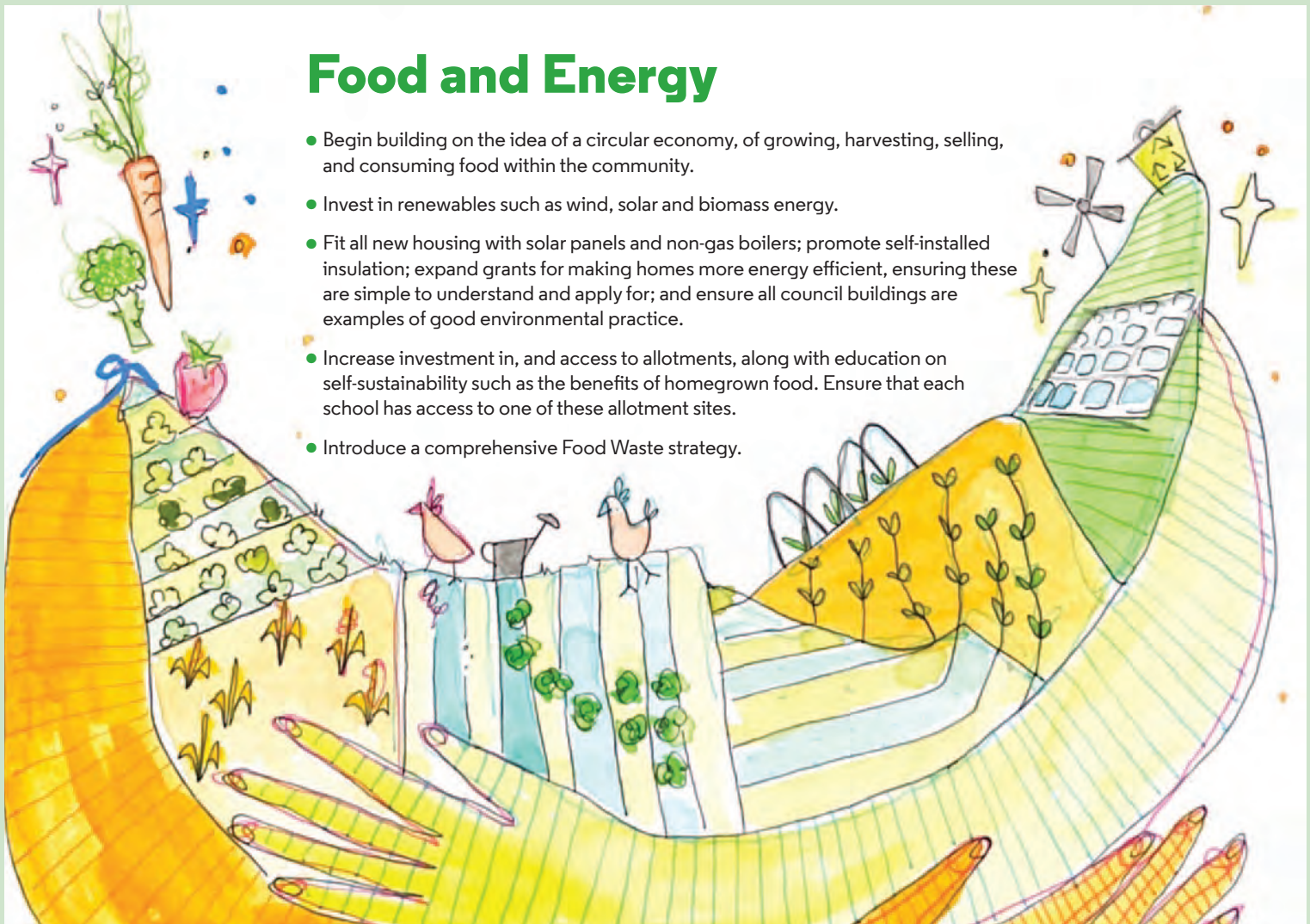
Our ideas are driven by a belief in community, in collaboration not competition; in the connections between environmental benefits, health and well-being; in a sense of responsibility, inclusivity, diversity, social justice and transparency. They are driven by a demand for radical and innovative action. We believe that if people can work together to re-imagine the way we live our lives, that Nottingham can - and will - become one of the most inspirational cities on the planet in confronting the challenge ahead.

So let's go ...



Food and Energy

- Begin building on the idea of a circular economy, of growing, harvesting, selling, and consuming food within the community.
- Invest in renewables such as wind, solar and biomass energy.
- Fit all new housing with solar panels and non-gas boilers; promote self-installed insulation; expand grants for making homes more energy efficient, ensuring these are simple to understand and apply for; and ensure all council buildings are examples of good environmental practice.
- Increase investment in, and access to allotments, along with education on self-sustainability such as the benefits of homegrown food. Ensure that each school has access to one of these allotment sites.
- Introduce a comprehensive Food Waste strategy.



Nature

- Update building regulations to include environmental requirements such as green (living) roofs.
- Encourage the creation of wild areas in the city, from roadside grass verges to larger areas, and promote an annual No Mow May.
- Develop a network of Community Nature Champions to work with communities to explore local solutions and ideas, and mobilise communities to utilise gardens and allotments to make meaningful changes to the environment (we all want hedgehog streets!)
- Reduce (with an aim to eliminating) the city council's use of pesticides and ban the use of astroturf.
- Encourage and support the development of SUDS (sustainable urban drainage systems).



Transport

- Ensure that walkability is at the heart of planning decisions, so that all necessary amenities can be reached within a 15 minute active journey (one that doesn't produce carbon emissions).
- Provide subsidies for businesses to deliver products in electric vehicles or cargo bikes.
- Develop safe cycling routes across the city and view the bicycle as an essential part of the transport system.
- Make transport accessible to people with special needs and young children, with reserved seats or Bus Mentors to help people feel safe.
- Ensure that all schools provide clear and comprehensive information about public transport (bus and tram routes, fares and timetables) encouraging students to access this rather than travelling by car.

Shopping and Consumption

- Create an independently audited Green Guide of businesses in Nottingham, to help consumers make informed decisions and to encourage businesses to be greener, with a real focus on the cutting down of packaging.
- Enforce transparency from companies on the environmental cost of their products (such as emission ratings on clothes, air miles for food etc.)
- Promote and encourage local buying, and support small and independent businesses.
- Support and promote those involved in encouraging the re-use, repair, and revaluing of products so that they remain in circulation rather than being discarded (from mobile phones to motorcycle boots).
- Encourage businesses (both local and national) to form partnerships and reduce waste by finding value in each other's excess produce.

Furthermore we would like the Council to create a **Youth Climate Committee** to ensure that the views and experiences of our generation become an integral part of the conversation and that the work being currently done is much better communicated. We see this as a vital and common sense mechanism that will be of real value to the work the Council is engaged in. It is also imperative that the issue of Climate Action is woven throughout the school curriculum, just as it is woven into every aspect of our lives.

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