Summary

"One Planet Abingdon" is part of the One-Planet framework, with a particular focus on policy changes for UK zero-carbon homes. This report delves into two key aims of One Planet Abingdon: Equity and Culture & Community.

The survey, "Climate Collapse: What would be a fair response?" aimed to gauge Abingdon residents' opinions on climate justice. It also worked to identify primary information sources on climate change and determine the changes individuals are willing to adopt to reduce their climate impact, and organise and sort them according to age group.

Climate justice involves four core considerations. It is essential to acknowledge that climate change affects different groups unequally. The wealthiest 10% contribute to 50% of greenhouse gas emissions and 10% are contributed by 50% of the poorest population. This necessitates fair distribution of responsibility. Consideration must also be given to historical responsibility, which recognizes that developed nations, historically high emitters, should account for their past contributions.

The recognition that vulnerable communities are disproportionately affected, often lacking resources and political influence is essential for an equitable solution and fair transition into carbon neutrality. While this is essential, the interconnectedness of the world and how global trade and cooperation are essential to address climate change's far-reaching consequences must be considered as well.

The report also investigates climate refugees, who once displaced due to climatic collapse, lack international legal protection. A fair transition, as outlined in the European Green Deal, emphasises a just shift to climate neutrality, ensuring no one is left behind, all including climate refugees. The European Green Deal recommendations include support for green industries, education, fair tax systems, and access to essential services and housing.

The shift to climate neutrality is supported by educating the populations. Knowledge sources thus play a vital role. While newspapers and subscription services may be inaccessible to some, social media and online platforms provide more accessible information. However, ensuring accurate and accessible online information is crucial for building a comprehensive understanding of the climate crisis. Social media users must therefore be cautious of dubious information spread over the internet.

Key findings of the survey

- Only 19/78 of the responses from the under 18 group did not use social media as a news source
- 21% of respondents under 18 felt they did not have enough knowledge about climate change to express an opinion, while approximately 10% of respondents from other age groups felt they were not informed enough
- Social Media, TV/Radio were the most popular information sources
- The predominant feeling of most respondents on climate change was a concern for future generations
- 82.2% of respondents supported migration from countries affected by climate change
- 85.3% of respondents were concerned that the existing climate change impacts will affect different groups in different and unfair ways.
- 77.3% of respondents expressed concern that the transition to net 0 will impact more on the less wealthy
- 68.1% respondents believed the transition to net 0 will impact on people of a younger age more
- 71.1% of respondents were willing to change their consumption of food and drink in the fair transition to net 0

In conclusion, this report underscores the importance of considering equity, historical responsibility, vulnerable communities, interconnectedness, and fair transitions in addressing climate change. Moreover, it emphasises the role of accessible and accurate information sources in shaping public perceptions and fostering informed action.

Introduction

One Planet Abingdon as an organisation:

One planet Abingdon is part of the One-planet framework, the current particular focus for the One-planet framework is policy change with respect to UK zero carbon homes (1) .

This report focuses on 2 of the 10 key aims of One planet Abingdon.

- Equity - Everyone having access to safe and fair places to live and work whilst supporting local trades
- Culture and community - using community action to improve sustainability and protect the planet

A Brief Introducton to Climate Justice: The 4 Key Considerations

Equity and fairness

This is the acknowledgement that the climate crisis is contributed to by differing degrees by different groups and individuals, and that different groups do not feel the effects of climate change equally. 50% of current Greenhouse Gas emissions are due to the world's 10% richest population (while 10% are due to the poorest 50% of the population) (3), this difference in the contribution to climate change should be accounted for when deciding which groups are responsible for funding and proposing climate change solutions.

Another factor which needs to be considered is that high income countries outsource their emissions to lower income countries as product manufacturing predominantly occurs in the global south, this is well exemplified by the US as including the carbon emission outsourcing in the emissions attributed to it, it was found that 20% of historical CO2 emissions were from the US (5).

Historical responsibility

From 1850 to 2011 79% of climate changing emissions came from the US and EU countries, with the UK being one of the worst emitters during the 19th and 20th century (2). In order to ensure fair distribution of the burden and benefit of climate change the historic emissions should be accounted for, especially considering these countries have benefited immensely from burning fossil fuels historically, and have the means to contribute to the fight against climate change.

Vulnerable communities

Another important tenet of Climate Justice is recognising how vulnerable communities are disproportionately affected by climate change. Societies with social and economic inequalities are more likely to pollute and/or degrade their environments (7). More vulnerable people tend to suffer the consequences of pollution more as they are unable to move away from industrial areas and lack the political influence required to prevent highly polluting industries from locating to the area, furthermore more vulnerable people may not have the ability to advocate for their community

(for example those below the poverty line who cannot afford to take time off work to campaign for their community). This has led to inequitable distribution of pollution sources hence unequal exposure to pollution.

Another example is the fact that the global south is disproportionately affected by extreme weather events as these countries are likely to be less resource rich (due to historic exploitation) and are less able to address catastrophes quickly or implement long term development strategies to prevent further damage. This will only worsen as extreme weather events become more frequent.

It also needs to be considered that oppressed groups are more affected as the effects of climate change on their communities are compounded by the injustices they face due to their identity. This disparity in the effect of climate change on different groups, and the differing ability of different groups to address it, should be accounted for when deciding how to tackle climate change and who should take the brunt of the burden. The proposed solutions to climate change should also avoid disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities, for example conservation projects which require local communities to be displaced.

Interconnectedness

The increase in interdependence and trade between countries (globalisation) means that the consequences of climate change in one country can have trickle down effects to other countries, for example increasing crop failures due to extreme weather event such as floods and drought in countries such as the US could result in food shortages in the UK (46% of our food is imported) (9). Furthermore this increased interconnectedness has resulted in more imports and exports worldwide, increasing the consumption of fossil fuel globally. Globalisation has also led to the clearance of land in the global South for industrial and agricultural usage (to meet the demand for global trade), this is best exemplified by the fact that 80% of the destruction of the Amazon is due to the expansion of the cattle-ranching industry (10).

Another key example of the interconnectedness of climate change is the problem of air pollution. Air pollution not only increases global warming but has direct impacts on people's health. The BMJ estimates the number of excess deaths due to air pollution to be excess 8.34 million (11) per year with 5.13million of those being attributed to fossil fuel use (11).

Thus international cooperation and collaboration is a core component for addressing the climate change problem.

Climate Refugees

Climate refugees are people who have had to relocate from their home countries due to climatic collapse or extreme weather events making their home uninhabitable, these refugees currently lack protection under international law. 376 million people have been displaced (15) so far and that is only expected to increase. It is estimated that 1.2 billion people could be displaced (15) .

This displacement can be due to numerous reasons, one of which is rising sea levels. Sea levels are rising due to the combined effect of addition of water from the melting of glaciers and the thermal expansion of the ocean. The global average sea level has increased by 21-24cm (12). This especially impacts island nations such as the maldives, or low lying nations such as Bangladesh.

Another contributor is extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. Their severity is only expected to increase 71% of 504 events and trends found to be made more likely or more severe by human caused climate change (14).

Climate justice is needed now more than ever, not only to make amends and repair the damage already done by our historic pollution and destruction of the environment but also to prevent more people from losing their homes as a result of our callous disregard for the environment.

Fair Transition

The European Green Deal provides a framework that projects Europe to be the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. This plan aims to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 (17), as compared to 1990 levels, and aims to plant 3 billion trees in the European Union by 2030. To move towards this goal, the Commission proposed the European Climate Law, which sets these targets. The targets are thus written into law.

Since this law applies to all Member States, it applies to all their citizens. This makes it necessary for there to be a fair transition into climate neutrality. A fair transition ensures that no one is left behind, especially households currently dependent, partially or fully on fossil fuels. The green transition allows for job opportunities to be created in industries like construction, sustainable transport, renewable energy, amongst many others

The recommendation for fair transition encourages member states to act in four policy areas

1. Active support to quality environment: notably designed to encourage accessibility for disadvantaged groups, encourage entrepreneurship, and job creation.
2. Equal access to quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong education: While expanding the job market, the development of information and skills needed in the labour market and introducing skill based education.
3. Fair tax-benefit and social protection systems: Aims to support households most affected by the green transition by shifting the tax burden away from labour and reducing the tax wedge for low and middle-income groups towards "other groups."
4. Access to affordable essential services and housing: Includes mobilising public and private financial support for renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. Investing in renovating buildings with a particular emphasis given to social housing, and prioritising vulnerable communities.

Sources of Knowledge

Most news outlets and newspapers report on climate change and the climate crisis. Social media websites like Instagram and TikTok also feature creators presenting short snippets of information on the climate crisis. The use of these sources varies by the age of the audience and their accessibility. The fair transition into climate neutrality is supported by the accessibility of knowledge on the climate crisis, therefore access to these sources of knowledge plays a significant role in the outlook of populations towards the climate crisis.

Newspapers and subscription services are often inaccessible to people in a lower economic stratum; their primary sources of information are thus social media and online newsfeeds that are easily accessible. The focus must shift towards creating accessible and accurate online information as a supplementary source to well-established newspapers. As evident from the results obtained from the survey, the use of news sources correlates with the ideas that have formed about the climate crisis.

The Survey Results for "Climate Collapse: What would be a fair response?"

There were a total of 163 responses to this survey

Break down with respect to perceived level of knowledge

Out of 163 responses 129 responded to the question (2) "Do you feel sufficiently informed to express an opinion on climate change?"

Of the 129 responses

- 104 answered "Yes"
- 22 answered "No
- 1 answered "Not sure"
- 1 answered "sometimes
- 1 answered "trying to be more informed"

Analysis these 129 responses

Question 1 "What sources of information do you rely on to form an opinion on the climate crisis?"

Information Source	Percentage of responses
Newspapers	20%
TV/Radio	44%
Social Media	60%
Other	8%

Table 1: Table displaying the percentage of responses relying on each information source from the 25 no / non-yes responses to question 2

Information Source	Percentage of responses
Newspapers	42.3%
TV/Radio	70.2%
Social Media	71.2%
Other	8.65%

Table 2: Table displaying the percentage of responses relying on each information source from the 104 yes responses to question 2

For both groups social media had the largest percentage of responses, for the latter group TV/Radio was also a popular source for information. This implies that the best platforms for disseminating information about the climate crisis is social media followed by TV/Radio coverage.

Question 8: "If you believe in a fair transition to net zero, would you be prepared to adjust your consumption and activity in any of these areas.: Food & drink, Housing, Cars, Other, transport, Leisure, Holidays/ tourism, Work/ careers, Size of family, Climate activism"

On average (mean) it was found that people who responded yes to question 2 were willing to adjust their consumption in 5 of the aforementioned categories, while those who answered no were only willing to adjust their consumption in 3 of the above categories. This indicates a correlation between level of perceived knowledge and willingness of people to adjust their consumption.

Breakdown of results with respect to the age of respondents

Out of 78 responses received from the under 18 age group, only 19 do not use social media as a news source. Overall, out of 163 responses, 108 reported using social media as a news source. Out of the 71 respondents that reported newspapers that they read, The Guardian was the major source (45) followed by The Times (22), and a few others. This number differed to people reporting newspapers as sources of information because a few respondents stated a news source regardless of their admittance of using a newspaper as a news source. A notable finding is that young people (aged 18-24) obtained their news from newspapers, highlighting an income disparity.

105 respondents reported TV/Radio as their source of information, along with other sources- more responses however were received in the subsequent question that asked to specify the sources with 103 respondents using BBC News, 40 respondents using BBC Radio 4, 37 respondents using Channel 4, and 27 using Sky News.

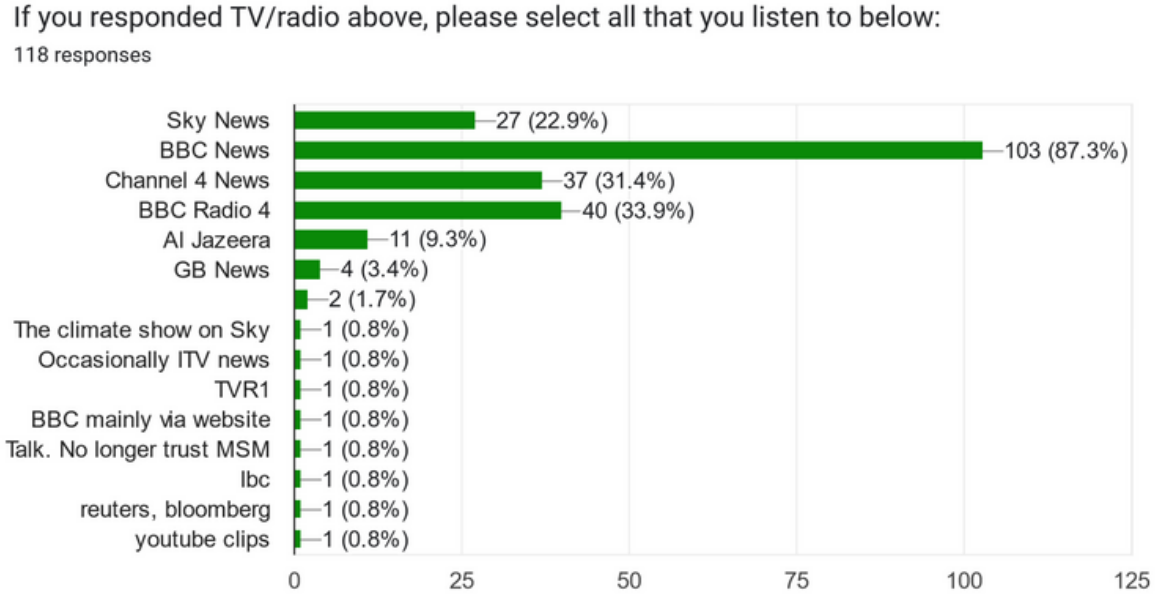


Figure 1: Bar chart of the TV/Radio stations people use for information on the climate crisis

An interesting point that stands out is the use of social media as a news source by both young and older sections of the population. The widespread use of social media may result in the rapid spread of unverified and often exaggerated claims related to climate change. While this is a useful tool, it must be used with caution. Misinformation on climate change, ranging from inaccurate statistics to sensationalised stories, can distort public opinions and ideas and can also hinder informed decision-making. The scientific nature of climate issues makes it particularly vulnerable to oversimplification and misrepresentation on social media. Certain groups on social media may also use sources and stories that cater to a specific ideology and do not present the truth.

An important parameter thus, to see whether news is being interpreted accurately is perceived knowledge.

*Note that the respondents asked for their age was limited hence upon being sorted by age, there were some responses that were not listed with age.

Answer	Number of responses*	Under 18 (78)	18-34 (9)	34-54 (14)	54-75+ (16)
Yes	92	58	8	12	13
No	22	17	1	2	2
Not Sure	1	1	0	0	0
Sometimes	1	0	1	0	0
Trying to be more informed	1	0	0	0	1

As evident from the table, 21% of respondents under 18 felt that they did not have enough knowledge about climate change to express an opinion. However this number drops to 11% in the 18-34 age group, and to 14% in 34-54, to 11% in the 54-75+ age group. While this data set is too small to create trends, at first glance it appears that respondents under the age of 18 feel as though they are not sufficiently informed about climate change to express an opinion. This makes for them to question the news that they are presented with. Therefore while they are prominent users of social media, once presented with something they are more likely to fact check, or work to expand their knowledge.

Overview of whole data set

Question 1

The below chart clearly indicates that the predominant sources of information on the climate crisis are TV/Radio and Social Media, with Social media being the most used source. This trend may be due to the high percentage of respondents being under the age of 24 (approximately 70%), younger people tend to be more inclined to use social media. Another reason for this trend could be the accessibility of Social Media (and the radio) as it doesn't require a paid subscription (unlike newspapers), in addition to a large number of UK households having a television (almost 97%) (19) .

This indicates that the best platforms for disseminating information are Social Media, TV/Radio.

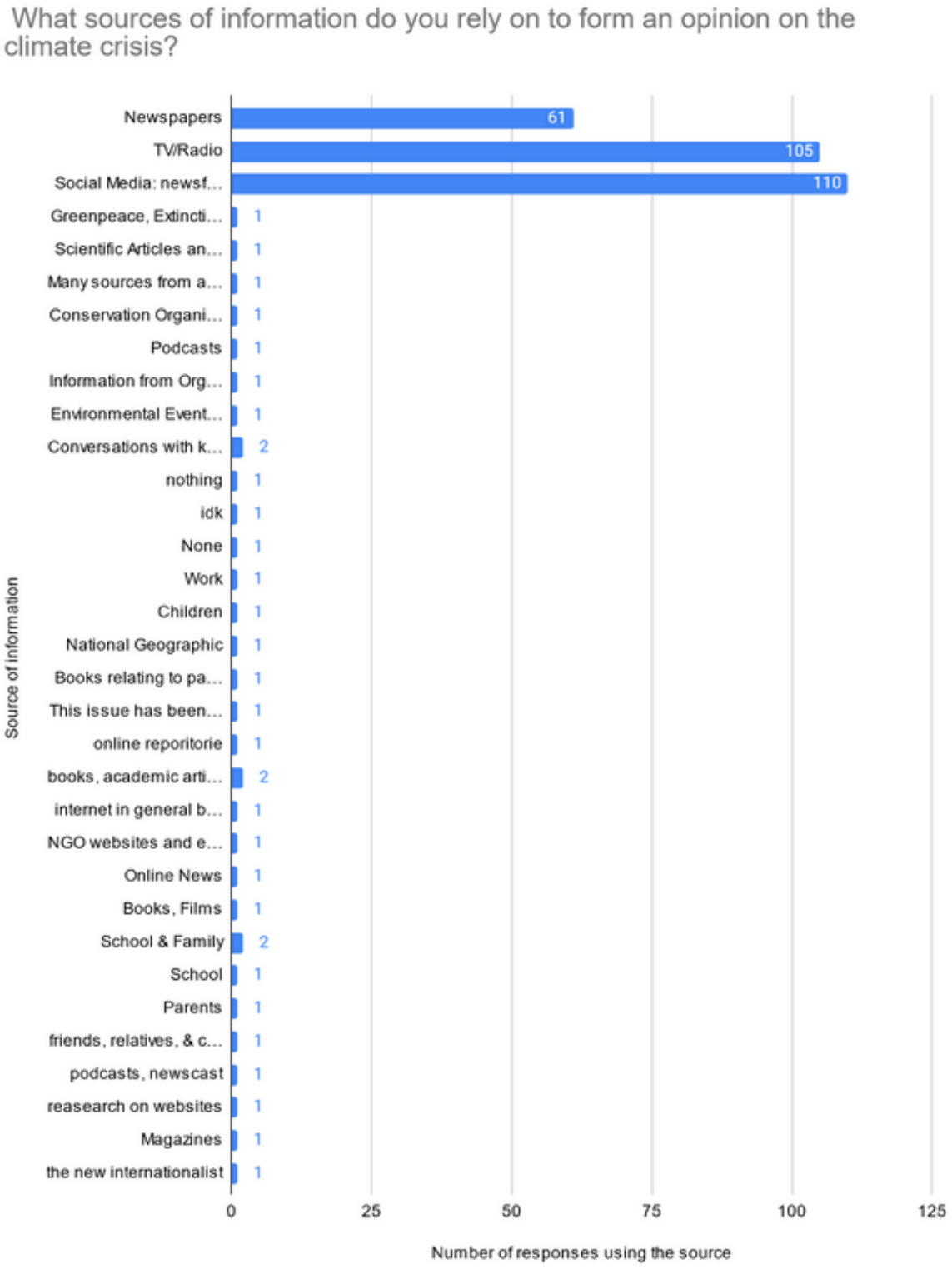


Figure 2: Bar Chart showing the responses to question 1 for the entire data set

Newspapers as a source were still a significant proportion of the responses.

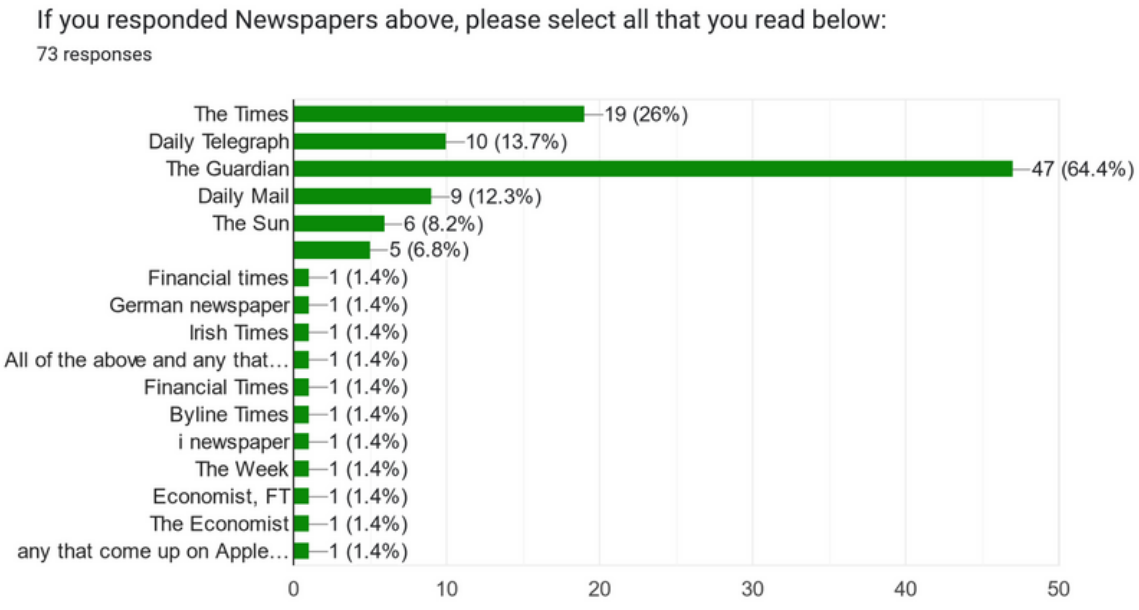


Figure 3: Bar chart of the Newspapers read by respondents

The Guardian was the most popular Newspaper by a significant margin. The Guardian also does not require readers to pay for a subscription which may be the reason it is so popular, furthermore The Guardian is a left wing paper which frequently reports on issues related to the climate crisis so it is expected that a large proportion of the people responding to a climate justice survey would read The Guardian.

Question 2 "Do you feel sufficiently informed to express an opinion on climate change?"

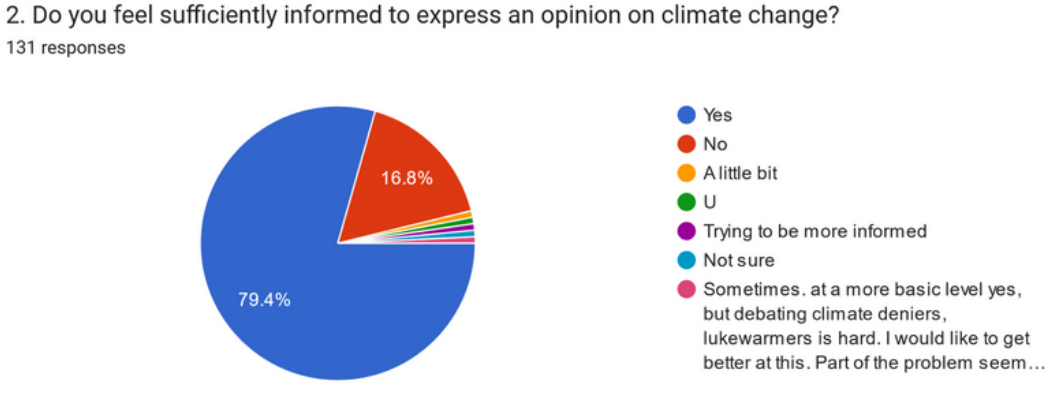


Figure 4 - Pie chart displaying the proportion of respondents who feel informed about climate change.

Almost 80% of respondents answered yes to this question. Some respondents expressed a desire to increase their knowledge.

Question 3 "How do you feel about climate change/collapse"

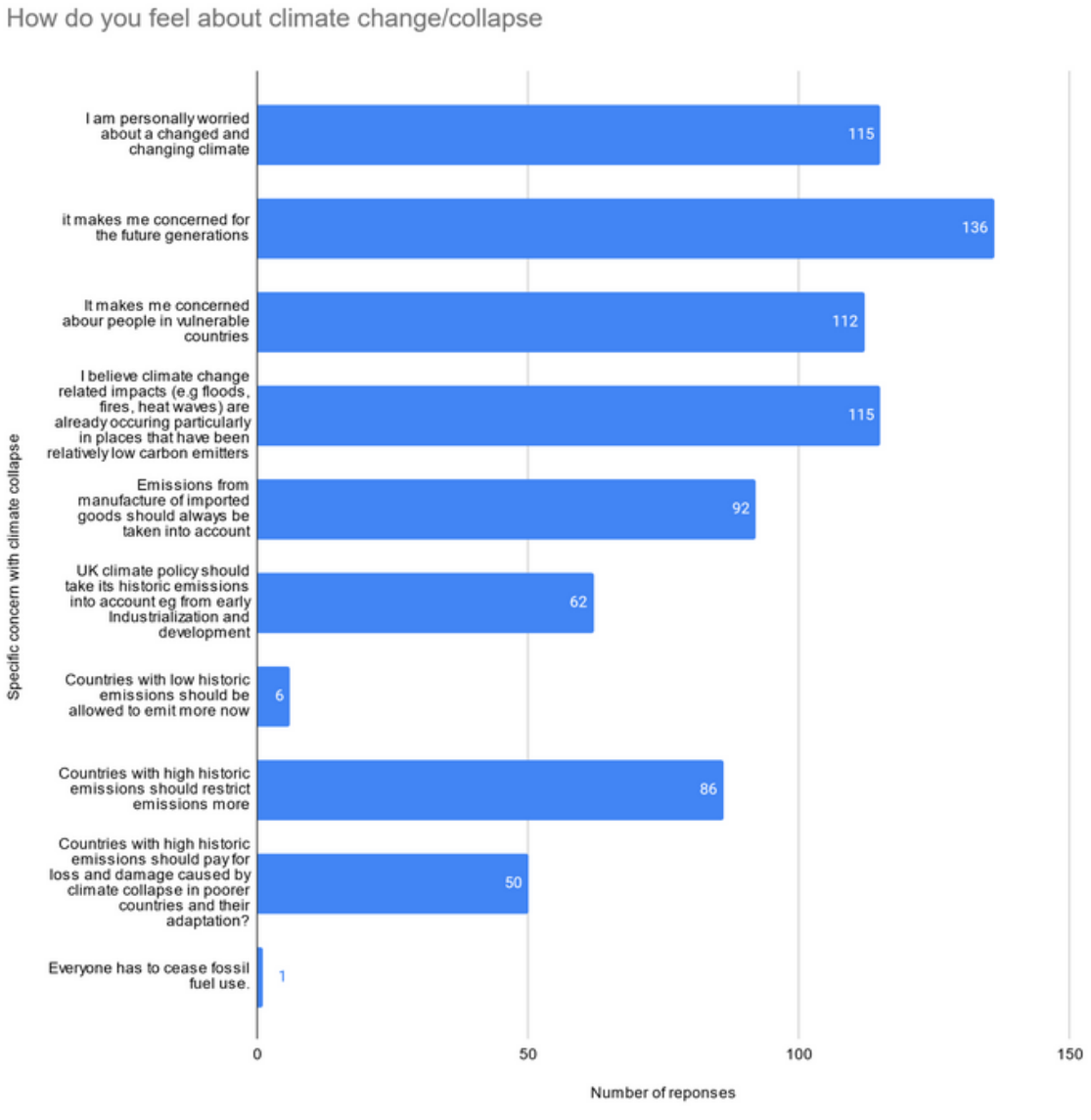


Figure 5 - Bar chart of the responses to the question 3 of the survey

The predominant feeling among respondents was concern for future generations, closely followed by the fact that climate change impacts are already occurring in areas which have been relatively low carbon emitters. Very few respondents think that countries with low historic emissions should be allowed to emit more and only 1 respondent answered that everyone has to cease fossil fuel use.

Question 4 "Do you believe that migration from countries affected by climate change should be supported"

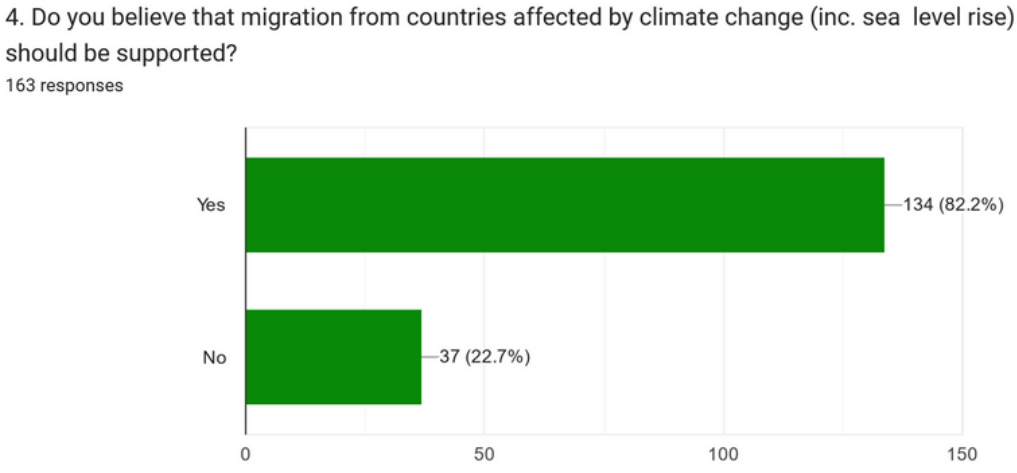


Figure 6: Bar chart displaying whether respondents believed migration should have been supported.

A large proportion of respondents did support migration from countries affected by climate change(82.2%).

Question 5: "In the UK do you think that the existing impacts of a changing climate will affect groups in different and unfair ways"

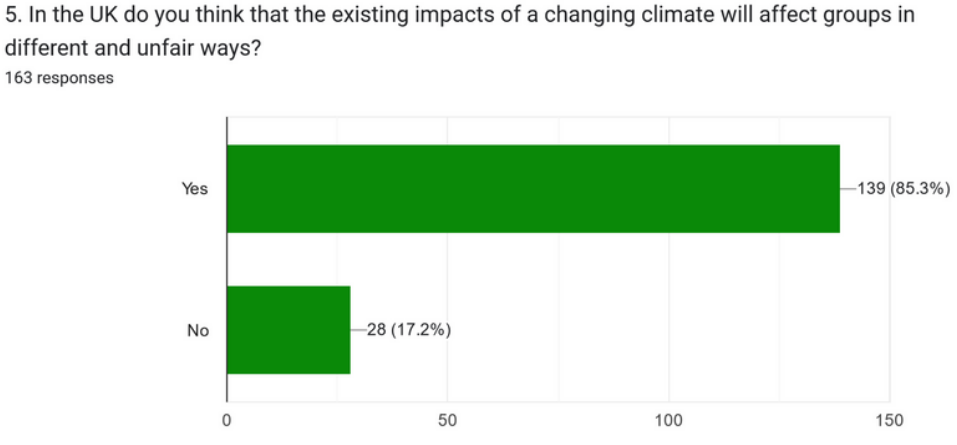


Figure 7 Bar chart displaying whether respondents believed that existing climate change impacts affect different groups in the UK differently

The majority of respondents (85.3%) acknowledged a difference in the effect of climate change on different groups. The respondents were then asked to expand on their above opinions.

The key points have been summarised below

- Majority of respondents acknowledged that lower income people will be disproportionately affected by climate change. Respondents highlighted that lower income people are less likely to be able to afford to protect against extreme weather events or to relocate from areas vulnerable to extreme weather events.
- Respondents noted that green policies that use financial disincentives to curb carbon emitting or environmentally damaging behaviour (e.g rising fuel prices) will disproportionately affect lower income people

- There were concerns that people living in areas already prone to natural disasters will experience more extreme weather events generally, which will only be exacerbated by climate change.
- Respondents added that coastal areas were also highlighted to be more affected by climate issues such as rising sea levels.
- Respondents also noted that already vulnerable populations such as those with health conditions and homeless people are more likely to be affected by rising air pollution levels (risk of health complications), and rising temperatures (especially for the homeless as they lack shelter from more extreme conditions)
- It was also highlighted that differing regions in the UK may be exposed to different levels of air pollution since different industries have differing levels of air pollution so not all groups are affected in the same manner.
- Respondents showed concern for the effect of climate change on young people.
- One respondent answered that the effect would only differ if government policy and aid distribution is poor, and that ideally a response to climate change shouldnt result in different groups being affected unfairly.

Question 6 "Are you concerned that the transition to a net zero economy/society will impact more on the less wealthy?"

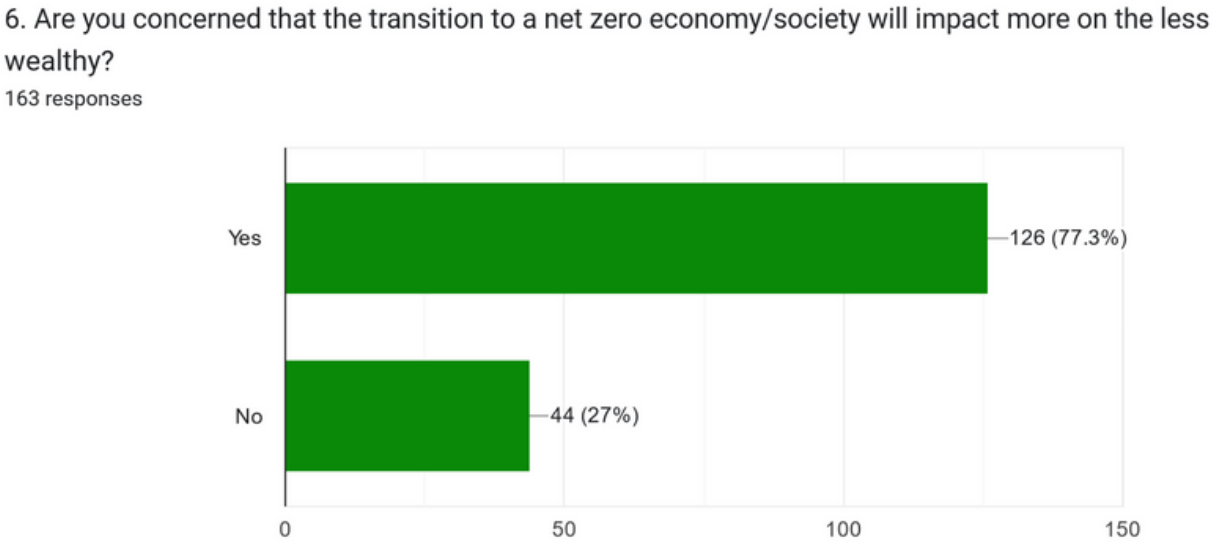


Figure 8 Bar chart displaying whether respondents believed the transition to net 0 will impact more on the less wealthy

A large proportion of respondents (77.3%) answered yes to this question.

Question 7 "Do you think that the transition to a net 0 economy/society will impact more on younger age groups?"

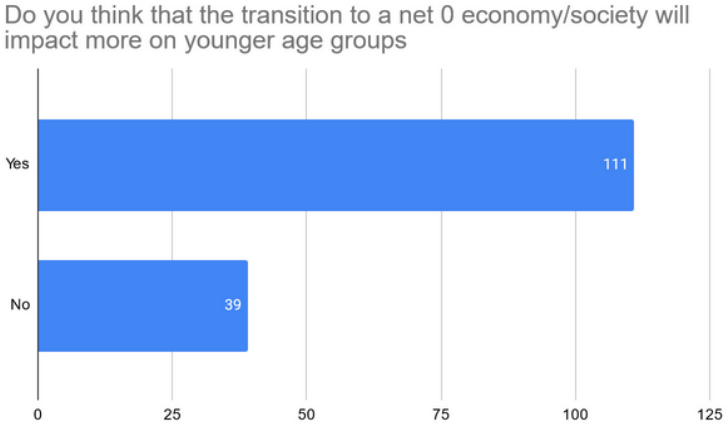


Figure 9 Bar chart displaying whether respondents believed the transition to net 0 will impact more on younger age groups

A high proportion of respondents answered yes to this question. This could be attributed to the fact that approximately 70% of the respondents were under age 24.

Question 8: "If you believe in a fair transition to net zero, would you be prepared to adjust your consumption activity in any of these areas?"

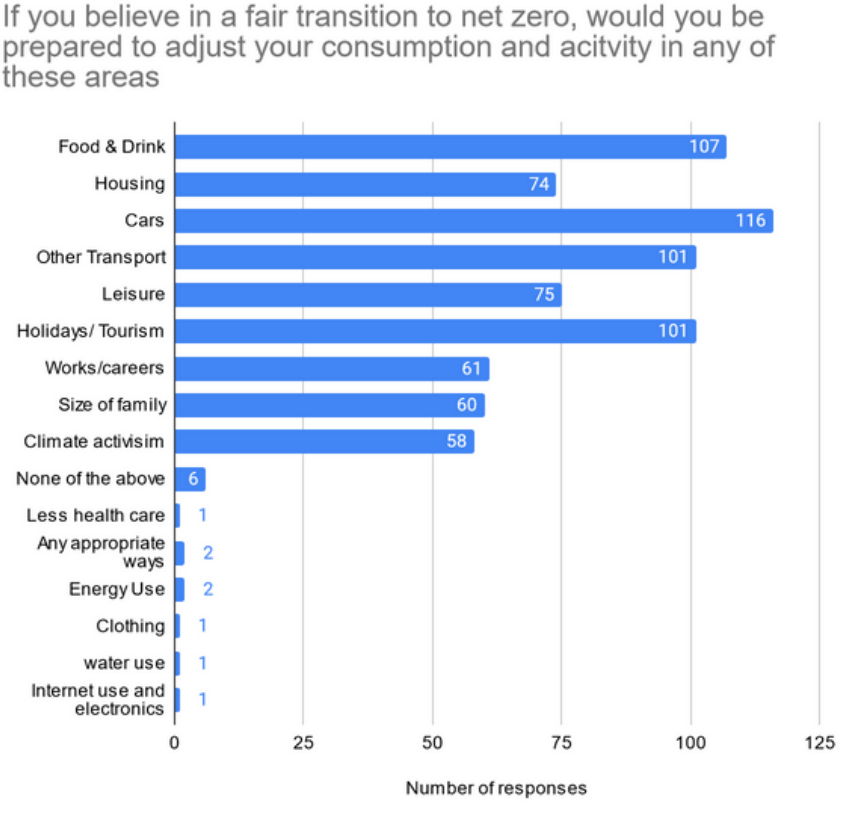


Figure 10 Bar Chart displaying which areas respondents are willing to adjust their consumption in.

The most popular area was cars, this may be due to the large proportion of young respondents who most likely do not rely on cars as heavily as older respondents. This may also be due to the accessibility of public transport in

Oxfordshire. The second most popular areas were Food & Drink and Holidays/Tourism, this may be due to the ease at which one can adjust their consumption in these categories, for example not travelling abroad is an easy change to make. The low number of people willing to change their internet and energy usage may be due to the high proportion of young people answering the survey (who are more dependent on the internet), and due to the fact that both of these were not default answers to the question.

It should be noted that a small number of respondents expressed that they felt changing their consumption in any of these areas would not contribute to helping the climate crisis, and a small number of respondents displayed an unwillingness to change their consumption in any of the above areas.



Conclusions

This survey allowed for the quantitative analysis of the largest concerns/ most popular opinions on climate change (question 3), and also highlighted specific concerns that respondents had with the differing impact of climate change across the UK. The survey also gauged people's perceived level of knowledge on the climate crisis and which areas respondents are more willing to adjust their consumption in which could aid in future policy suggestions. This survey was also very accessible as both paper and digital copies were available and it avoided using unfamiliar terms which may have alienated some respondents

Limitations

Question 2

The default answers on the survey to the question "Do you feel sufficiently informed to express an opinion on climate change?" were "yes" or "no" or "other", these answers most likely do not reflect people's true opinion as people are more likely to lie in between the answers "yes" and "no", for example some may feel mostly informed but wish to learn more. Perhaps introducing a sliding scale from "yes" to "no" would improve this question. This question does indicate people's perception of their knowledge level but does not inform on their true level of knowledge. This is because different respondents will have different interpretations of what level of knowledge is "sufficient to form an opinion", however the objective level of knowledge respondents have about the climate crisis is not easily quantifiable with a survey.

Question 3

Question 3 did not not have an option for people whose feelings did not align with any of the statements in the question, which may not have represented all of the respondents feelings on climate change. Also the statement "Everyone has to cease fossil fuel use" was slightly ambiguous as it did not specify a timescale over which fossil fuel use was ceasing, so it was up to respondents interpretation. In future this instead could be listed as a separate question investigating what timescale people think is appropriate for the ceasing of fossil fuel utilisation.

Question 4

Question four read as "Do you believe that migration from countries affected by climate change (inc. sea level rise) should be supported?". This question is ambiguous in its definition of support, leading to varying responses that may not fit the theme of the question. If included, a definition of "support" either as a response in the affected regions, or to migration into regions less affected, would improve the quality of responses received.

Question 8

Question 8 was limited by the fact it did not also explore the amount of adjustment in the specified areas people are willing to make. Respondents also noted some uncertainty in how to answer, specifically in the case where people have already adjusted their behaviour in that area. This survey did not collect data on the income of the respondents, or whether respondents were based in urban or rural areas; both of these factors may have significant bearing over people's willingness to adjust their consumption in the specified areas. It is recommended the influence of the aforementioned factors, and level of adjustment people are willing to make is further investigated.

Question 9

Question 9 was not presented to all the respondents, therefore skewing some of the dataset. Because of this, some of the further figures relating to perceived knowledge and source of information did not include the responses not

linked to an age group. There was also a question that appeared on certain responses but not on others- this was ignored in analysis. Upon analysis of the majority of responses pertaining to age, the survey appears to have primarily been answered by young people (the majority of respondents were below the age of 24 while 26.2% of the population of Abingdon20 are below 24.) This allows the survey to be a fair representation of the views of the younger population, but it could benefit from expansion to older citizens of Abingdon, in order to represent the views of the Abingdon population as a whole.

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