

## The Institute of Cornish Studies' Cornwall Climate Assembly *1st December 2021*

What do participants feel Cornwall's  
climate priorities should be, and how  
should we get there?

This event brought together  
members of the public, University  
of Exeter researchers, and representatives  
from organisations working in Cornwall.

**Four interlinked themes emerged:**  
processes, communication, practical  
solutions, and gateway connections to  
nature.



### **PROCESSES**

We agreed that finding climate change  
solutions is not about prioritising  
particular issues. Instead, we need to  
put systems and processes in place  
in order to help our communities to  
adapt.. This includes working on how  
we communicate what we need back  
up to all levels of government, so they  
can fund initiatives adequately, and  
enable behavioural change. Using the  
UN Sustainability Goals is one such  
way to help communities to think  
about strategies for adaptation.

### **COMMUNICATION**

We need to be better at cross-  
generational ideas sharing, especially  
around topics like local food, food  
waste, the circular economy, and  
waterways pollution (what goes down  
the drain has a big impact on our  
rivers and sea).



Understanding the role that museums can play as a source of data and information sharing. Being alive to what we can learn from the past. We can also be more strategic about the role of the arts and creative sector in hosting community conversations, using their extensive networks. Intergenerational learning. We need systems in place to help us utilise the enthusiasm and energy of all age groups, including younger people in conversation and solutions.



## **PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS**

There are many practical solutions, but we also need to hear more about them. They range from retrofitting homes to make them more carbon efficient (combatting fuel poverty) and support biodiversity (such as swift bricks) and remembering that climate justice is also about social justice. This also includes cross-sector ways of reducing food waste. Using increased council tax on homes that are not a permanent residence to help fund local initiatives. Understanding the barriers to public transport use, and what can be put in place to tackle them. This could include £1 bus fares for journeys of less than 3 miles.

## **TOURISM**

How can we encourage our visitors to engage in these messages? Museums and the creative sector have a big role in these conversations, as can offerings such as ranger-led walks and local storytelling, as well as infrastructure (including buses and cycling routes) that can help to minimise car use. Getting this right can build and enhance Cornwall's reputation as an environmental leader.



## **CONNECTIONS TO NATURE**

Feeling that the environment matters and caring about it is really important for encouraging people to adopt more environmentally sensitive behaviours as individuals or in our communities. Some activities act as gateway drugs to greater environmental understanding. They also enthuse people and encourage them to connect to the natural environment in additional ways. Some examples include community litter picks, which encourage people to engage with their local environment.