

Environmental Youth Summit – The Heat is On!

Youth Summiteers Policies - What would you change?

‘TD Joe O’Brien replied to us and told us about a scheme that provides grant aid for the horticulture sector funded by the Department of Agriculture in Ireland. This scheme is run by the government, and it usually grants aid to emerging technologies that are for commercial horticultural production, including vertical farming. Last year, over €6 million euro was given to this scheme. If I were a politician for a day, I would give this money to a vertical farming company so they could set up a large-scale vertical farm in Dublin!’

"Implement a plan to convert abandoned buildings into large scale vertical farms to maximise space, encourage biodiversity and reduce food mile."

‘If I was a politician for the day, I would create a climate education scheme that would be implemented in schools and communities to make the population of our nation understand the impacts and devastating effects the lack of education surrounding climate change has on our environment. The information would be clear and concise as well as interactive so that it is actually fun to retain the information and start taking action!!’

‘Let environmental experts have the legislative power to make laws that regulate pollution on the planet.’

‘A policy that makes pollinator-harming pesticides/ insecticides illegal in both an individual and company setting’.

‘By 2025 all households must run off 80% green energy’.

‘If I were a politician for a day and could create a policy that related to my action project, I would require coffee shops and suppliers to put graphic warning labels on their single-use coffee cups, alerting customers of their environmental impact (much like those on cigarette packets). I think this would dismantle the trend of carrying around/taking pictures of coffee cups for aesthetic reasons and would prompt a lot more people to switch to reusables.’

'I would ban Plastic bottles and make Free running water accessible in every town and city for people to use refillable bottles :) They do this in Paris and it's honestly amazing, I don't get why everyone isn't doing it! ESPECIALLY Scotland as we have the best fresh tap water ever!'

"Implement a nationwide funding and development scheme to expand Ireland's recycling capabilities, improve recycling infrastructure and increase efficiency." This would mean we could recycle many more types of waste here in Ireland rather than exporting the waste to other countries to be incinerated or recycled. This would increase the percentage of Irish waste that gets reused or recycled rather than going to landfill.

'A policy we would love to see introduced is the implementation of formal education, surrounding sustainability, climate change and its effects on Earth, renewable forms of energy, and the importance of the preservation of our environment, for all young children, in both primary and secondly levels of education. Formal education will promote open conversations about changing our lifestyle to protect the future of our environment, as young people will soon be responsible for the future of our planet.'