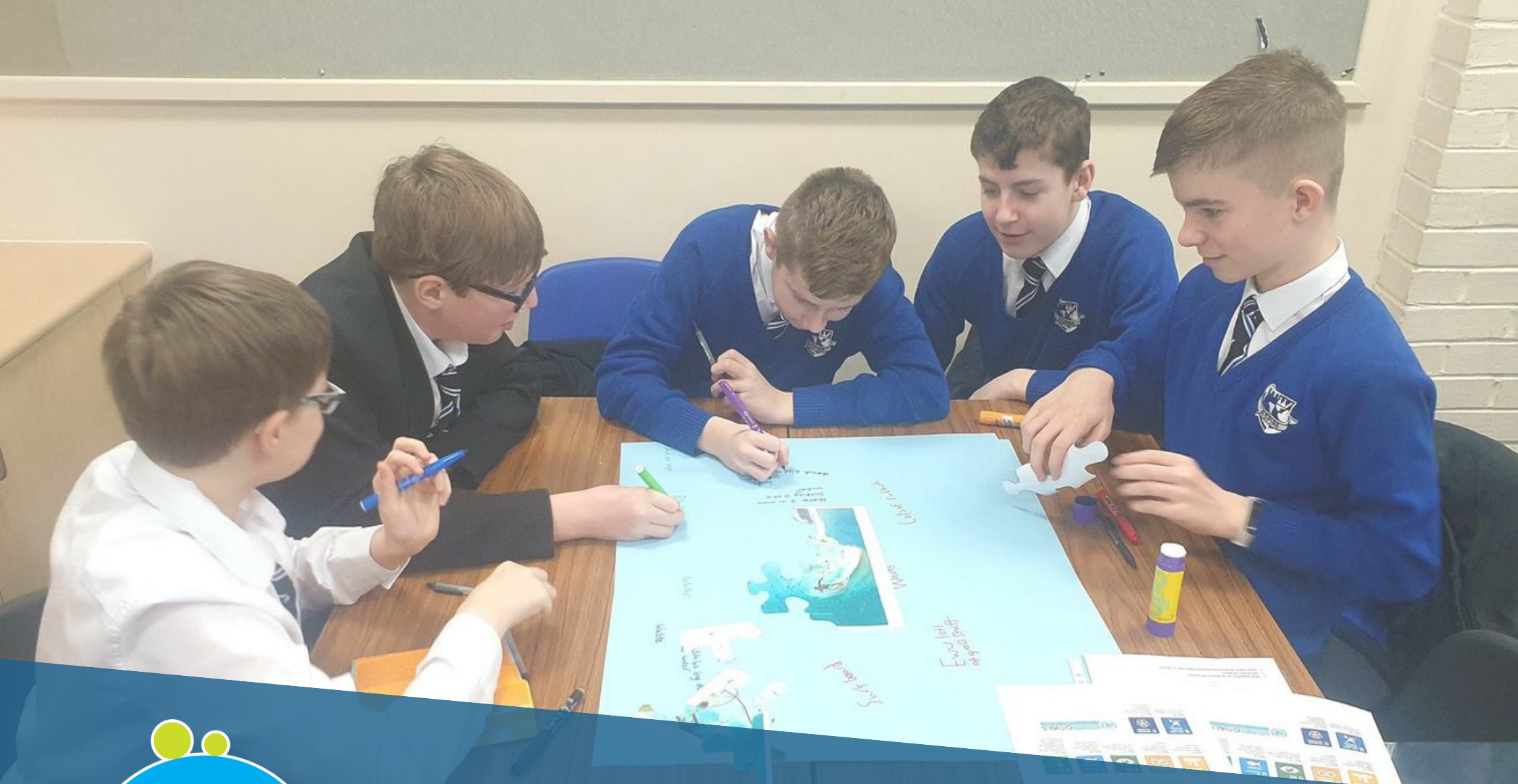




IMPACT REPORT 2020-21

The 2020-21 programme year was unlike any other in our history.

Following the rapid shift to a hybrid model in response to the pandemic, we found ourselves navigating uncharted territory, delivering the programme 100% virtually. While we had anticipated some challenges with this transition, we could not have fully foreseen the complexities that lay ahead—not least the ever-changing landscape that schools had to navigate as they moved in and out of lockdowns.

The unpredictability of the school environment meant that teachers and students had to constantly adapt, often facing disruptions that made sustained engagement incredibly difficult. Despite these challenges, the commitment and resilience of our participating schools, business mentors, and partners were nothing short of extraordinary.

A total of 13 schools participated, with just under 2,000 students taking part and submitting an impressive 92 Big Ideas. Our network of 112 virtual mentors from our business partners played a vital role in supporting students through this process, offering guidance and expertise despite the limitations of a remote environment. We embraced digital tools and virtual collaboration platforms, ensuring that students could still engage meaningfully with the programme and develop their Big Ideas.

This year highlighted the strength of our community and the shared commitment to making a positive impact. We are incredibly proud of every young person who took part, every teacher who championed the programme despite mounting pressures, and every mentor and business partner who continued to provide invaluable support.

Looking ahead, the lessons learned from this unprecedented year will shape the future of our programme. We now have a deeper understanding of the flexibility and accessibility that virtual engagement can provide, and we are committed to integrating these insights into a more resilient and inclusive programme in the years to come.

On behalf of Solutions for the Planet, I extend my deepest gratitude to all who contributed to making this year a success despite the odds. Your perseverance and passion continue to inspire us, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to empowering young people to create sustainable solutions for a better future.

With warm regards,



Jen Baughan, CEO, Solutions for the Planet

CEO'S WELCOME



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“Solutions for the Planet's core values reflect our deeply held belief that we can support positive change through our programmes, whilst remaining true to ourselves, and these are promoted through all of the programmes we offer”

Mark Wood

Non-Executive Director Chair, Solutions for the Planet

OUR CORE VALUES



OUR APPROACH

Solutions for the Planet is a social enterprise, that works to create a world where sustainable practices are commonplace; every young person is equipped with essential skills that benefit people and planet; and social creativity, innovation and diversity is built into every business and workplace.

We build partnerships to promote sustainability, STEM careers (science, technology, engineering and maths) and employability skills.

We are driven by our core values and encourage collaboration, both locally and internationally, between young people, schools and businesses to create opportunities for young voices to not only be heard, but acted upon.

Our mission is to bring young people and businesses together to share knowledge and skills and shape a more sustainable world.

We achieve this by inspiring new ways of thinking and behaving through partnerships between young people, teachers and businesses, as we know this mix of knowledge, skills and passion creates a sustainable present and future.

Big Ideas Programme

Our flagship programme, the award-winning Big Ideas Programme, has already involved over 23,000 young people from more than 70 schools, and over 500 mentors from our Business Partners. It lasts a whole school year, starting with a Big Ideas Day and culminating in a competition with the National Final usually held at the Palace of Westminster.

S4TP Youth Insights

This service offers businesses the opportunity to work with panels of young people from around the UK, giving those young people a voice within the business organisation, and helping shape its future direction and strategy.

Our work supports the Government-adopted Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Career Guidance and the Sustainable Development Goals.

We are committed to delivering on the following promises to the young people who take part in any of our programmes.

1 Encourage creativity

We promise to run student-centred programmes that give the opportunity to think outside the box and empower young people to solve real-life issues.

2 Promote sustainability

We promise to stimulate sustainability solutions, increase awareness of sustainability challenges and motivate young people to take action.

3 Widen options

We promise to introduce young people to a wide variety of jobs and career pathways and introduce them to mentors from locally-based companies.

4 Encourage STEM careers

We promise to ensure our programmes are accessible to as many as possible, with a focus on developing wider STEM skills

5 Develop employability skills

We promise to help young people to develop their skills, giving them confidence in their abilities and empowering them to be active thinkers and doers.

BUSINESS PARTNERS: OUR PROMISES

We are committed to delivering on the following promises to our business partners across all our programmes.

1 Develop your employees

We promise to help your employees improve their mentoring, communication, collaboration and leadership skills.

2 Upskilling your future talent pipeline

We promise to help develop the employability and STEM skills of local young people, as the future generation of your potential employees and customers.

3 Raise your recruitment potential

We promise to educate schools, teachers, parents and young people about the range of career opportunities in your company and the variety of routes to employment available.

5 Promote sustainability

We promise to stimulate sustainability discussions within your business, increase awareness of sustainability challenges and motivate you to take action.

6 Community engagement

We promise to give businesses the opportunity to engage directly with local young people, support education, develop future talent and contribute to long-term economic growth.

7 Employee engagement

We promise to help you engage with your employees through promoting volunteering and showcasing the positive impact your mentors are having.

8 Help you win more work

Increasingly tenders require commitments to provide initiatives that contribute social value and our programmes are excellent demonstrations of this.

4 Increasing diversity in your future workforce

We promise to ensure that access to all our programmes is inclusive and targeted in areas of most need.

9 Enhance your brand reputation

Taking part in one of our programmes fosters a positive public image and builds brand loyalty among young people and their parents.

10 Expand your networks

We work with a huge variety of partners and offer multiple opportunities for networking with others taking part in our programmes.

THE BIG IDEAS PROGRAMME AND ITS IMPACT

SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS



13
SCHOOLS

23% had Free School Meals (an indicator of areas of social deprivation). The National Average in Jan 2022 was 22.5%.



432
TEAMS



96
BIG IDEAS
SUBMITTED



1,932
STUDENTS



This year was our first fully virtual Big Ideas Programme and we launched [Big Ideas 'Out of the Box'](#) so that teachers could run a Big Ideas Day in schools without us being there.

"As always, our students have been so inspiring and have worked so hard. They are so lucky to have taken part in such a positive project and to have heard from so many inspiring professionals about the ways they are creating solutions for the planet and their hopes for the future."

Teacher, Big Ideas Programme 2021

"This year has challenged us in the most brilliant way to strive for greatness. Watching all the student's passion for their project and seeing how much research and work has gone into it has been truly inspiring. Working with my small groups has made us all realise that we are destined for greatness"

Teacher, Big Ideas Programme 2021

"What a fantastic day! It was such an honour to be part of it all and I was so proud of our students who, along with all the other teams, were truly inspiring. As we were watching today, we were discussing how the creativity of the young far exceeds that of most adults and why programmes like this are so important."

Teacher, Big Ideas Programme 2021

- **85% of teachers** felt that The Big Ideas Programme contributed to the academic learning of the young people involved.
- **71% of teachers** felt that The Big Ideas Programme contributed to the personal development of the young people involved.
- **71% of teachers** felt that the students have benefitted from the involvement of employers and mentors in the programme

THE BIG IDEAS PROGRAMME AND ITS IMPACT

BUSINESS PARTNERS AND MENTORS



"This was my first year mentoring for S4TP and it has been such a rewarding experience! S4TP can be a life changing programme for young people, and I would encourage all schools to get involved as it offers a valuable chance for students to develop their skills and nurture their big ideas to help our planet"

Mentor, Big Ideas Programme 2021

"What an amazing event to be a part of. The engagement and accountability of the students was unbelievable and some of the ideas blew my mind! "

Mentor, Big Ideas Programme 2021

- 94% of mentors would recommend mentoring young people through this programme to friends and colleagues
- 57% of mentors believe that mentoring young people has helped them in their professional life
- 52% of mentors believe that the Big Ideas Programme builds their organisation's reputation on sustainability among the local community

"The young people along with the ideas themselves literally give me hope for the future, I always come away from these events inspired and hopeful....being involved is like having food for the soul "

Business Partner Representative, 2021

"Listening to their ideas and how they will be pushing their idea forward was really a breath of fresh air. It is so nice to see and hear the passion and drive these students have about STEM "

Mentor, Big Ideas Programme 2021

OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS



"All the entries were inspiring and the students were smart, bold and innovative; their efforts and professionalism was evident in the presentations. These are the ideas that will not only shape our future but help us live more sustainably."

Mentor, Big Ideas Programme 2021

THE BIG IDEAS PROGRAMME AND ITS IMPACT

THE COMPETITION

The National Final of our first ever fully virtual Big Ideas Programme, took place on Wednesday 23rd June – and it was INCREDIBLE! 13 amazing teams of young people presented their Big Ideas and showed us all, once again, how vital their voices are. We were delighted to be joined by a selection of our nearly 70 business partner employee mentors from this year's programme who collectively volunteered 100s of hours of support! Amongst the audience there were also teachers, parents, MPs and other special guests, our exceptional judges, inspiring keynote speakers, and a panel of sustainability and entrepreneurial experts.

2021 WINNERS AND THEIR BIG IDEAS



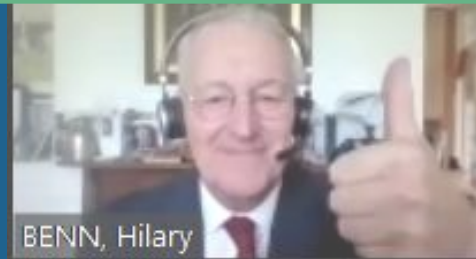
First Place went to **Waste Warriors from North Durham Academy**. Their Big Ideas was a community garden where food is grown from food that would otherwise be thrown away, and then the food that is grown is given back to those that donated the waste in the first place.



In second place was **Planet Helpers from Heath Park School**. Their Big Idea was dog toys (mostly for puppies) created out of paper mache, using used/scrap paper collected from schools.



Third place went to **W.A.S.P. from Colton Hills Community School**. Their Big Ideas was a Window Applicable Solar Panel – an adhesive solar panel – scalable to any size window.



BENN, Hilary



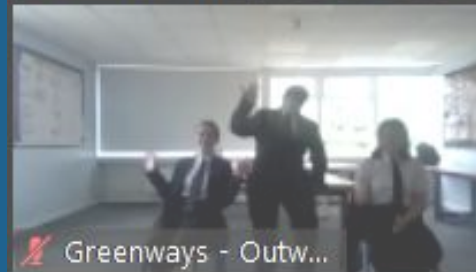
Jen - Solutions for ...



Kate Dearden



Carolina Karlstrom



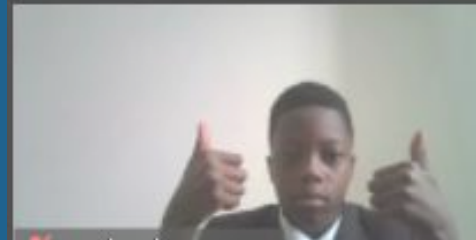
Greenways - Outw...



Stratford School



Green Life - Oaks ...



S4TP YOUTH INSIGHTS AND ITS IMPACT

OVERVIEW

Northern Gas Networks (NGN) Young Innovators Council 2021, is made up of 29 young people aged 14–18 who are based across the footprint of NGN. The group's membership is reflective of the demographic make-up of Northern Gas Networks' area of coverage, based on census data in respect of gender, ethnicity, geographic spread, and disability.

A variety of engagement mechanisms were used to inform and engage the Young Innovators Council, which have been tailored to meet the needs of young people, allowing different and broad perspectives to be heard.

The sessions involved written, online and offline opportunities for participants to express their views. This helps people with different accessibility needs to make an equal contribution. By using different techniques, it is believed that we enabled sustained engagement over the period of the Council.

S4TP also recognise that young people prefer to engage in less formal settings and in activities that are more dynamic and high energy. The session format was particularly effective as it allowed a level of flexibility for young people to explore subjects that were of interest to them. Having this level of flexibility meant that young people were more interested and therefore offered more insight and had higher levels of engagement.

Subject areas covered by Young Innovators Council

The Young Innovators Council is quite a large group and therefore many of the sessions included small group work in breakout rooms which were facilitated by S4TP and NGN staff. Both an initial training session and subsequent facilitator run throughs were held throughout the process. The young people on the Young Innovators Council expressed their appreciation of both external and internal NGN witnesses giving information during the session. This ensured that the Council received useful and a balanced input of information. Both S4TP and NGN sourced the witnesses and S4TP provided a written witness brief and held a witness briefing call prior to sessions.

Topics covered included education and skills, CO safety, NGN's hydrogen house & NGN's sustainability strategy.

Claire Fitton, S4TP Youth Insights Manager



S4TP YOUTH INSIGHTS AND ITS IMPACT

VISIT TO NGN'S HYDROGEN HOUSE

On Monday 25th October 2021, members of the Northern Gas Networks (NGN) Young Innovators Council visited NGN's Hydrogen House. The young people were joined by representatives of BP and Gateshead Council with the focus of a discussion around 'Driving the conversation on green skills growth'. BBC Look North attended and interviewed the young people on their thoughts on climate change which was broadcast during the COP26 coverage.





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