



**SOLUTIONS
FOR THE
PLANET**

IMPACT REPORT 2022-23

CEO'S WELCOME

Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

It is my pleasure to introduce the Solutions for the Planet Impact Report 2022-23, a testament to our collective dedication to creating a sustainable and inclusive world. As the CEO of Solutions for the Planet, I am immensely proud to reflect on the strides we have made toward our mission this year.

Solutions for the Planet is not just a social enterprise; it is a driving force behind a vision where sustainable practices are ingrained, where every young person is equipped with skills that benefit both people and the planet, and where innovation and diversity are integral to every business and workplace.

At the heart of our approach is the belief in building partnerships. We forge collaborations to promote sustainability, STEM careers, and the power of young people's voices to shape the here and now. Our core values propel us to encourage collaboration at both local, national, and international levels, creating opportunities for young voices not only to be heard but to be acted upon.

As we move towards our tenth anniversary delivering our award-winning Big Ideas Programme in September 2023, we hit a huge milestone of engaging over 30,000 young minds from more than 50 schools and involved more than 500 mentors from our esteemed Business Partners.

The S4TP Youth Insights service underscores our commitment to giving young people a voice within business organisations. By working with panels of young minds from across the UK, we help shape the future direction and strategy of businesses. It's a unique opportunity for businesses to benefit from fresh perspectives while nurturing the leaders of tomorrow. We look forward to extending this work in 2024.

As we present this Impact Report, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved—partners, volunteers, mentors, teachers, the Solutions team and, most importantly, the young minds who continue to inspire us. Together, we are not just envisioning change; we are the change. Thank you for being part of our journey and for your continued support.

With warm regards,



Jen Baughan, CEO, Solutions for the Planet

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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

SUSTAINABILITY

INNOVATION

COLLABORATION

INTEGRITY



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 30,000 young people from more than 50 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.

YOUNG PEOPLE: OUR PROMISES

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.

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.

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.

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.

5 Promote sustainability

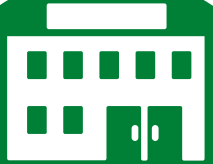
We promise to stimulate sustainability discussions within your business, increase awareness of sustainability challenges and motivate you to take action.

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: KEY STATS



28
SCHOOLS



45
TEACHERS
TRAINED



570
TEAMS



141
BIG IDEAS
SUBMITTED



3,659
STUDENTS

33% had Free School Meals (an indicator of areas of social deprivation). The National Average in Jan 2022 was 22.5%.

"The Big Ideas Programme is my favourite part of the academic calendar"

Teacher, Outwood Academy Freeston

"The Big Ideas Programme gives students a fantastic opportunity to develop outside of the classroom. It is an empowering programme that gives young people a voice and encourages them to step outside of their comfort zone and think big"

Teacher, Oaks Park High School

"The Big Ideas turned students who did not care about their environment into leaders of our future"

Teacher, Gladesmore Community School

"[The Big Ideas Programme] helped our students to develop key skills of resilience, being reflective and independent in their learning"

Teacher, Woodbrook Vale School

- 85% of teachers feel more confident discussing STEM-focused career options with students
- 85% of teachers think that The Big Ideas Programme has supported students across the curriculum
- 100% of teachers think that The Big Ideas Programme helped their students become more environmentally responsible and understand more about sustainability
- 85% of teachers think that The Big Ideas Programme has encouraged students to think differently about their future career options

THE BIG IDEAS PROGRAMME AND ITS IMPACT

BUSINESS PARTNERS: KEY STATS



- 75% of mentors are more positive about their employer as a result of their mentoring experience
- 87% of mentors believe the Big Ideas Programme builds their organisation's reputation on sustainability among the local community
- 87% of mentors believe that mentoring young people has helped them in their professional life

OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS



"The enthusiasm from the S4TP team is infectious in every room they walk into. I love being part of the programme"

Mentor, Tarmac

"[The Big Ideas Programme is successful because of] the time and space for young people to creatively think in a fun but collaborative way. It also enables young people to meet and build relationships with people outside of their normal day to day school life."

Mentor, Northern Gas Networks

"The Big Ideas Programme is inspiring, refreshing and empowering!"

Mentor, Tarmac

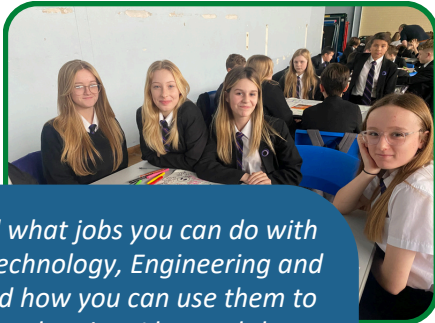
THE BIG IDEAS PROGRAMME AND ITS IMPACT

YOUNG PEOPLE



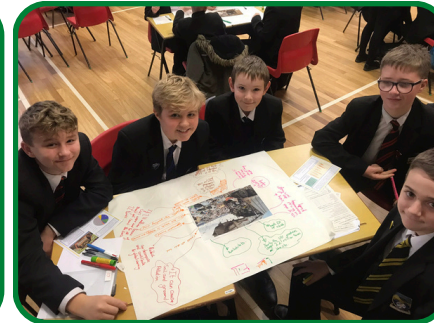
"I learned what jobs you can do with Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and how you can use them to help your planning. I learned that STEM helps in every single career and it helps in your everyday life"

BIP 2023 Student
Outwood Academy Freeston



"I learned that I can make a difference and I can be the reason the planet gets better"

BIP 2023 Student



"I massively improved my oratory skills, which will really help me in the future and with future interviews"

BIP 2023 Student
Bishop Young CofE Academy



"I learned about different ways we can try to positively impact our planet by working as a team and using our creative skills"

BIP 2023 Student



"I learned that working as a team is important because we can transfer these skills into real life use, like looking for a job or playing football".

BIP 2023 Student
Bishop Young CofE Academy



THE BIG IDEAS PROGRAMME AND ITS IMPACT

THE COMPETITION

We were delighted to once again be able to host our Regional Finals at seven universities across England. The Big Ideas Competition 2023 National Final took place at the Palace of Westminster on 5th July and it was a day to remember! We were joined by 50 students from 12 schools, plus representatives from our brilliant Business Partners, judges, teachers and MPs to listen to our National Finalists take to the stage one last time and present their amazing Big Ideas.

2023 WINNERS AND THEIR BIG IDEAS



First Place went to **SoftSleeps** from **Oaks Park High School**. SoftSleeps' Big Idea was a service that created sleeping bags out of recycled plastic waste to support the homeless. They were entered into the National Final as a Wild Card Entry!



In second place was **Hydrobus** from **Plashet School**. Hydrobus' Big Idea was a bus using hydroelectricity generated from mini power plants operated by the team and local communities.



Third place went to **Red Ribbon** from **Gladesmore Community School**. Red Ribbon's Big Idea was an organisation raising awareness on gender and LGBTQ+ issues, facilitating support groups and manufacturing organic and affordable period products.



THE BIG IDEAS PROGRAMME AND ITS IMPACT

THE NATIONAL FINAL IN PHOTOS



S4TP YOUTH INSIGHTS AND ITS IMPACT

THE YOUNG INNOVATORS COUNCIL: KEY STATS



24
SCHOOLS,
COLLEGES AND
OTHER SETTINGS



36
YOUNG PEOPLE



430
HOURS



6
SESSIONS

OUR BUSINESS PARTNER:



"My favourite thing about being part of the YIC this year has been hearing what ideas other people have and how creative and innovative some people can be. Also sharing what I think about certain things - it really improved my confidence when people heard what I had to say and actually thought it to be meaningful"

YIC member, 1st year 2023

"I would say the biggest thing that I have learnt is that I've developed debate and discursive skills in groups of people, which is really good because it simulates future work and study environments that I haven't yet experienced, where there'd be many different people with different thoughts"

YIC member, 1st year 2023

The Young Innovators Council (YIC) gives young people the opportunity to share their perspectives on Northern Gas Networks' (NGN) projects and plans, and NGN ensures that these thoughts and opinions are put at the heart of the business' decision making.

The advice I would you give to new YIC members is it's such a great opportunity to learn more about such an important part of our lives. You gain so much knowledge and it's such a unique and important experience"

YIC member, 1st year 2021

"The biggest impacts of the YIC are sense checking, honesty and integrity. In a very difficult situation across the energy sector, I think it's important companies such as ourselves never discount the knowledge and insight young people from the YIC give us"

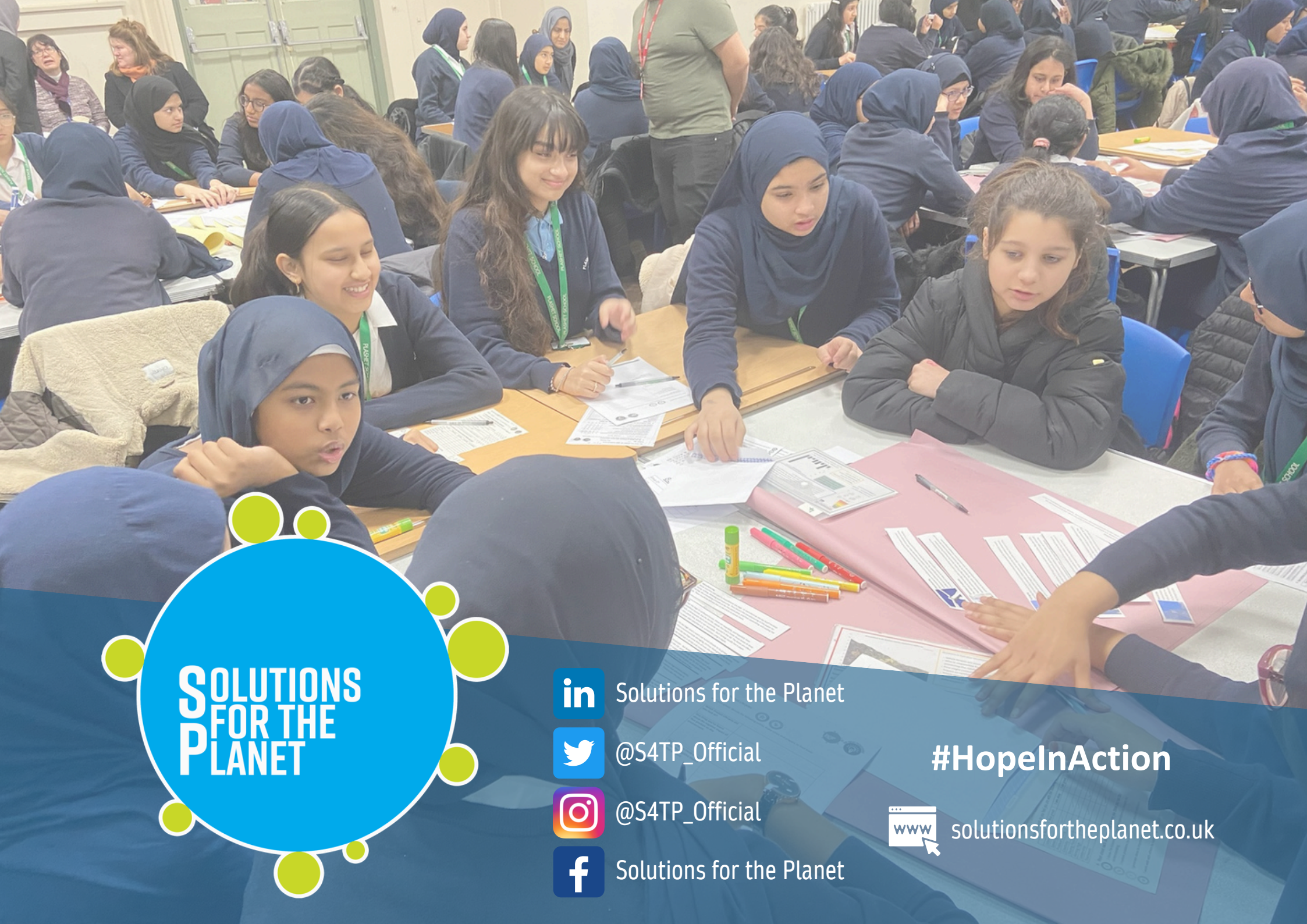
YIC facilitator for NGN, 1st year 2022

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022 - 2023

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

OUR IMPACT IN 2023

OUR COMMITMENTS FOR 2024



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