



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF Scotland

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Children's Climate Change Project **May 2008**

In co-operation with Children in Scotland, The Children's Parliament, and supported by Scottish Children's and Young People Commissioner and Scottish Government.

This year, Scotland will consider significant legislation on climate change and we believe that children, with arguably the biggest stake in what is decided, have an important role to play in this debate.

With that in mind, Children in Scotland and WWF Scotland have brought together a project with the Children's Parliament and support from Scottish Government and Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People to enable Scottish children, from across the country, to contribute to the debate about climate change and to have their views heard.

This project will provide access to latest information, create a space and provide facilitation to enable a group of children to discuss and debate their thinking on climate change. The project will give the children the opportunity to articulate their conclusions to a wider audience of adults, including key players in the climate change debate, politicians and the media. The conclusions will be fed into the debate on climate change and Scottish climate change legislation through 2008 and beyond.

The Project Programme

June 2008 – the residential weekend:

A whole **weekend of participative sessions** will be facilitated for twenty children by The Children's Parliament over a three day/two nights residential in June, out with the school environment and in creative spaces. A number of factors were considered to ensure the process is meaningful and effective.

The twenty Members of the Children's Parliament (MCPs) participating in the project will come from across Scotland with different backgrounds and experiences. They will come together in Fife for the weekend from the Western Isles, South Ayrshire, Fife and Edinburgh. These children, between the ages of nine and fourteen will also engage a further two hundred children in their own areas in the process.

Over the course of the residential, the children will be supported in having informed discussions and coming to their own conclusions. Expert facilitation will be provided (creative arts workers, environmental experts etc.). The children will focus on issues of everyday relevance to them considering their families, their local community and their school. They will produce a visual outcome which they will present at a public event in the Festival of Politics and could potentially be gifted to The Scottish Parliament.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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WWF Scotland is part of WWF-UK
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A company limited by guarantee registered
in England number 4016725
WWF-UK registered charity number 1081247
Printed on recycled paper

June/July 2008 - discussion with adults in positions of responsibility:

After the residential, the children will be supported to freely share their views, concerns and ideas with policy and decision makers. MCPs may choose to engage with, question and discuss their conclusions through 'big conversations' with adults in positions of responsibility in this area (such as the Cabinet Secretary, civil servants, NGO heads and party spokespeople) at this time.

August 2008 - Festival of Politics Event:

The children will present their final conclusions at an engaging and inspiring event from **12.15 – 1.30 pm** at the **Festival of Politics** in the **Scottish Parliament** on **Saturday 23rd August 2008**. This will be a public event (tickets will be on sale).

This event will be followed by an **early evening reception** (for invited guests only) which will be hosted by the children for key stakeholders to listen to and discuss their views and conclusions. The format of the event and the reception will be guided by the children involved, but the reception may bring together individuals from local and central government, industry, education, politics and media.

September/October 2008 - Parliamentary Event:

To enable as many MSPs as possible to access the views present at the Festival of Politics event, the Steering Group have proposed that a additional **Parliamentary event** will be organised for MSPs and Parliament staff during the autumn session in 2008. This should be prior to the introduction of the Climate Change (Scotland) Bill and therefore timely for the MSPs and Parliamentary staff who would like to attend.

November/December 2008 (tbc) - Submit their views to Parliament

The children will be supported to submit their views in written form to the Parliamentary Committee(s) leading the scrutiny of the Climate Change (Scotland) Bill. It is hoped that the relevant parliamentary committee(s), especially the lead Committee – the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee might invite representatives from the Children's Parliament groups to give oral evidence on the climate change bill.

This project is led by a small **Steering Group** with representation from Children in Scotland, WWF Scotland, the Children's Parliament and Scotland's Commission for Children and Young People.

For more information contact: Jessica Pepper, WWF Scotland on 01350 728200/07980 852562 or jpepper@wwfscotland.org.uk or Paula Evans, Children in Scotland on 0131 222 2435 or pevans@childreninscotland.org.uk

About the Children's Parliament:

The Children's Parliament provides sustainable and meaningful opportunities for children aged 9 to 14 years old to engage in local, national and international democratic processes. The Children's Parliament challenges the notion that only the most confident and articulate can understand or participate in our society. It enables children from all backgrounds and of all abilities to work together to share experiences that make active citizenship a reality.