Levenshulme findings

Workshop 1

**Group agreements**

To listen

To not dominate conversation

To realise there are introverts and extroverts

Appreciate difference in opinion

Respect opposing points of view

Scientific objectivity remains central to conversation

Don’t bamboozle with jargon

If we don’t understand something, feel comfortable to ask

Respect people in general

No shouting

Speak with and listen with intention

**Expectations**

To learn

To influence

To influence from a scientific lens

Listen to local voices for local challenges

Look at what other groups have done, also abroad

Come up with people based ideas that the people at the top wouldn’t think of

How do we get innovative funding?

Dissemination of information

**What climate change makes us think of**

Impending doom

We still have time, but not much

Simple solutions (but the ecosystem is complex)

Hot air from governments

Don’t see the benefits of government spending

Government retrofitting tiny amount of houses

Buck being passed to individuals

Young people are the drivers of change

Education, the government could do a lot more

Things we need to do will hurt

New ways of growing as a country that are fairer

Can be difficult to conceptualise, but can be made tangible, eg parks

**What about climate emergency?**

Lots of countries are declaring climate emergencies, but they’re not treating it as an emergency (like the pandemic)

Money not being allocated

Government works in silos, they solve problems by moving them elsewhere, eg recycling to foreign countries

Issues passed to other countries

**What about people around you?**

Huge variations in perceptions

Links to education, class, income

The middle classes have more time and capacity for this

Everyone recognises the issue, but not everyone has the capacity to change their lifestyle

It’s the poorer people that suffer the most impacts

Green spaces/parks rely on education and planning to ensure they play an effective role in tackling climate change

**Climate Psychology – the emotional impact of climate change**

**Caroline Hickman – Climate Psychology Alliance**

The people with the emotional responses like fear, anxiety, guilt, feeling overwhelmed, anger, depression, etc are the healthy ones.

There is too much escapist thinking, like aliens will save us! This can be represented by technology that doesn’t exist yet, moving to other planets or actual aliens

Gus Speth says the top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy

We need a complete spiritual and cultural transformation

Scientists aren’t very good at this I’m afraid.

So what are the opportunities?

The Climate Psychology Alliance has loads of free resources <https://www.climatepsychologyalliance.org/>

Loads on ‘Solastalgia’ and ‘eco grief’

Paul Hoggett says: We are witnessing unprecedented things

70% of 18-24 year olds are distressed about this.

Its almost like it’s the adults who need to grow up

The huge disconnect between ourselves and the natural world can be seen in the way people are looking forward to getting flights abroad after lockdown

So how to respond to all this effectively?

Remember failure teaches us emotional resilience

Transform that eco-anxiety into positive actions

“Things are going to get better and worse at the same time”

“Are we really doing all we can do? It’s ok to fail, but not to try…?”