

NORDIC YOUTH ON THE TRANSITION TO A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

"We need to act now. Because every day that goes by without real action is a failure. And every year that goes by without real action is a complete disaster."

GRETA THUNBERG

Addressing the conference participants on the 10th of April 2019.

The conference **Youth Leading a Sustainable Lifestyle** was arranged on the 10th of April 2019 in Reykjavik as a part of the Icelandic Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers. The main messages from the participating Nordic youth on the transition to a sustainable society is presented in this document.

POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY

Nordic youth stress the importance of recognizing that politicians carry the main responsibility in solving the climate crisis. The youth urge politicians to take ownership of this responsibility and to ambitiously work to reduce carbon emissions. However, to bring forth real change, businesses and individuals also have the responsibility to take action. The youth is ready to own up to this, by taking individual action and making the necessary changes to the way they live. But the burden of climate change should not rest on the youth, it should be carried and solved by those in power today.

CONCRETE ACTION

Nordic youth urge politicians to take concrete action to fight climate change by reducing carbon emissions.

The Nordic youth are pointing to concrete actions that could include: taxation of carbon emissions according to the polluter pays principle; regulations for sustainable production, recycling, sustainability reporting etc.; and incentives for a sharing- and circular economy. Moreover, the politicians must make sure that it is easy for the individual consumer to make climate friendly choices.

YOUTH INCLUSION

Nordic youth stresses importance of involving them in the decision-making process. This is important not only because it is their future which is at stake, but because there is a lot to learn from the youth who already have kickstarted the transformation process towards a more sustainable society.



"We have to finally start taking concrete actions in order to fight climate change. So far, the politicians in the Nordic countries have not done enough in order to reduce our carbon footprint. Instead of just individual actions, we need political decisions in order to lower our emissions."

MATIAS MÄKIRANTA (17), FINLAND

– Member of the Finnish Youth Agenda 2030-group



"Our lifestyle is a luxury that we cannot afford any longer. Life on this planet depends on everyone making a change. If everyone does their part it will be a small step for mankind, but a giant leap for the planet."

RAGNHEIÐUR KRISTÍN FINNBOGADÓTTIR (28), ICELAND

– Youth representative in the Nordic Expert Group for Sustainable Development

"The Nordic countries need to address the nexus between climate change, biodiversity and cultural equality and enable for youth to participate and influence decision-making processes on creating climate neutral societies. The Nordic countries also need to ensure that no individuals, indigenous peoples or ethnic minority groups are left behind and/or negatively affected by such efforts."

ADRIAN FORSGREN (25), SWEDEN

– Member of the Arctic Youth Network

