**USE YOUR VOICE TO INFLUENCE POLITICIANS**

Passionate about getting young people’s voices heard on climate change and the environment? One of the most powerful things you can do is to contact your elected representatives and tell them what you think they should be doing on your behalf.

**Send them an email**

All MPs and councillors have a publicly available email address, so it’s quick and easy to get in touch with them that way (you can also write a letter if post is more your thing!).

The most important thing when writing to your MP or councillor is letting them know that you live in their constituency (so it’s their job to represent you) and sharing your experiences. If you need some ideas to get you started, you could use this template:

*Dear [name of MP/Councillor],*

*I’m writing to you as a constituent to ask what you are doing to make sure that young people’s voices are heard in decisions about climate change and the environment.*

*[Tell them about yourself – why is this an important issue for you?]*

*A recent report by Groundwork UK found that 4 in 5 of young people feel that their age group isn’t listened to when decisions about climate change and the environment are made, even though those decisions will affect us for the longest.*

*There are lots of opportunities to improve life for our community through tackling climate change: better public transport, more natural spaces, and new green jobs are just a few! It’s important to me that we make the most of these opportunities and make changes that reduce inequality rather than increasing it.*

*[What do you want your MP/councillor to do? You could ask them to meet with you or other young people in your local area or raise the issue in parliament/council. Perhaps there’s a particular issue in your local area that you want to mention.]*

*Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing your response.*

*Kind regards,*

*[Your name]*

*[Include your address (or just the postcode) so that they know you are a constituent.]*