

GUILDHE CLIMATE CRISIS REPORT

CASE STUDY: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

York St John University: researchers inspire climate change awareness through school storytelling project

'Suitcase Stories' is a Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) funded public engagement project using storytelling to explore climate adaptation with young people.

When we talk about climate change and its impacts, we often focus – rightly – on how to prevent it. However just as important, given that the consequences of climate change are already affecting many communities, is learning how to adapt to it. Young people can expect to see dramatic upheavals in their lifetime in terms of food and water supply, health, the economy, migration, and work.

It is vital that everybody is involved in responding to the climate crisis, so that the solutions developed are democratic and equitable. The more knowledge we have, the more we are able to combat eco-anxiety in a resilient and compassionate manner. This was the thinking behind '**Suitcase Stories**', funded by NERC as part of the 'Creative Climate Connections' programme.



In 2022, young people in Batley and Leeds worked with storytellers and researchers from York St John University, a climate journalist and (via remote technology) young people from Nigeria. The young people used what they learnt to create short stories that could pack into suitcases and communicated how people are already experiencing the effects of climate change and what we can learn from how they are adapting.

The project team are now working with Students Organising for Sustainability UK, to evaluate and share their approach more broadly across the education sector.

[Read the full GuildHE Report: Tackling the Climate Crisis: A View From Smaller and Specialist Universities and Colleges](#)

