What's Stopping Us Stopping Climate Change:

Transforming Surrey into a
Home of Thriving People and Nature.

WORKSHOP REPORT
17.09.2024

Surrey Climate Commission

INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABILITY
UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

Summary

Following on from the very successful event in September 2023 (see <u>here</u> for the highlights and full videos), the Surrey Climate Commission in partnership with the Institute for Sustainability at the University of Surrey, and Zero Carbon Guilford hosted a workshop on 12 June 2024 titled "What's Stopping Us Stopping Climate Change: Transforming Surrey Into a Home of Thriving People and Nature."

The event was part of a wider explorative **"What's Stopping Us" (WSU)** project which ultimately **aims to embed citizens in the design and delivery of transformative but workable solutions to help shift Surrey to become a well-being society.**

Using a tried and tested approach and materials developed by the renowned Doughnut Economics Action Lab, workshop participants collectively imagined what a truly sustainable Surrey looks like, and brainstormed solutions to make it happen.

This report provides a summary and analysis of the outputs of the workshop, lists recommendations for policy makers and community leaders and identifies next steps of the WSU project.

Contents

1. Workshop Methodology

1.1. Participant Recruitment

Recruitment for the Workshop was carried out by email, social media, and via Surrey Climate Commission and Zero Carbon Guildford's newsletters and websites. Emails were sent to attendees of the first event in the series, held in Leatherhead in September 2023, local councillors, local businesses, and to local community groups. Knowing that it would be hard to get participation from less well represented sectors of society, specific efforts were made to invite representatives of these groups, with the invitation stating *"We are looking to have a strong representation across all of Surrey residents, communities and businesses to ensure diversity of experiences, views and opinions. We particularly welcome underrepresented communities including ethnic minorities, disabled and LGBTQ"*. Registration was carried out online.

Registrants were asked to complete an anonymous, voluntary pre-attendance survey to understand the socio-demographic mix of participants and their opinions and attitudes towards climate change action and leadership. The findings of this survey are in section 3.1 of this report.

1.2. Workshop Activities

1.2.1. Workshop Overview

The schedule for the day is shown below.

Time	
10.00	Welcome to participants
10.20	Introduction to "The Doughnut"
10.35	"Step into the Doughnut" activity
11.15	Coffee
11.35	Introduction to the "Four Lenses" activity
11.45	(1) Initial perspectives
12:25	Lunch & Networking
13.15	(2) Deepening inquiry
13:50	(3) Drawing interconnections
14.30	Coffee & networking
15.00	(4) Identify opportunities
15.50	Concluding plenary
16.00	Close

Figure 1. Workshop Schedule

Welcome introductions were given by Richard Essex (Chair of Surrey Climate Commission), and Professor Amelia Hadfield (University of Surrey). These were followed by Surrey County Councillor Marisa Heath (Cabinet Member for Environment) who gave a brief overview of the challenges that Surrey County Council faces, and the importance of public participation.

Figure 2. Surrey County Councillor Marisa Heath.

The major part of the day was two participative activities: "Step into the Doughnut" and "The Four Lenses". These activities were based on guidance from the Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL[1]), and are both described in detail below. Participants were encouraged to network during the day. The day ended with a short closing talk by Richard Essex, during which participants were thanked, and requested to fill in an online feedback form.

1.2.2. Step into the Doughnut

Ben McCallan (Zero Carbon Guildford and Surrey County Council) introduced participants to the concept of Doughnut Economics. Doughnut Economics describes a 'safe and just living space for humanity' (see Fig. 3), where the needs of all humanity are met within the capabilities of the planet. This safe and just operating space

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[1] https://doughnuteconomics.org/

is in the 'sweet-spot' between the inner circle, which depicts the social foundation of human well-being that no-one should fall below, and the outer circle, which represents the ecological ceiling of planetary pressure that humanity should not go beyond. Above the social foundation, peoples' needs for life's essentials, such as food, water, healthcare, housing, gender equality and political voice are met. The ecological ceiling represents planetary boundaries, such as climate change, land conversion and biodiversity loss, which should not be transgressed for the Earth to remain in a stable state within which humanity can thrive.
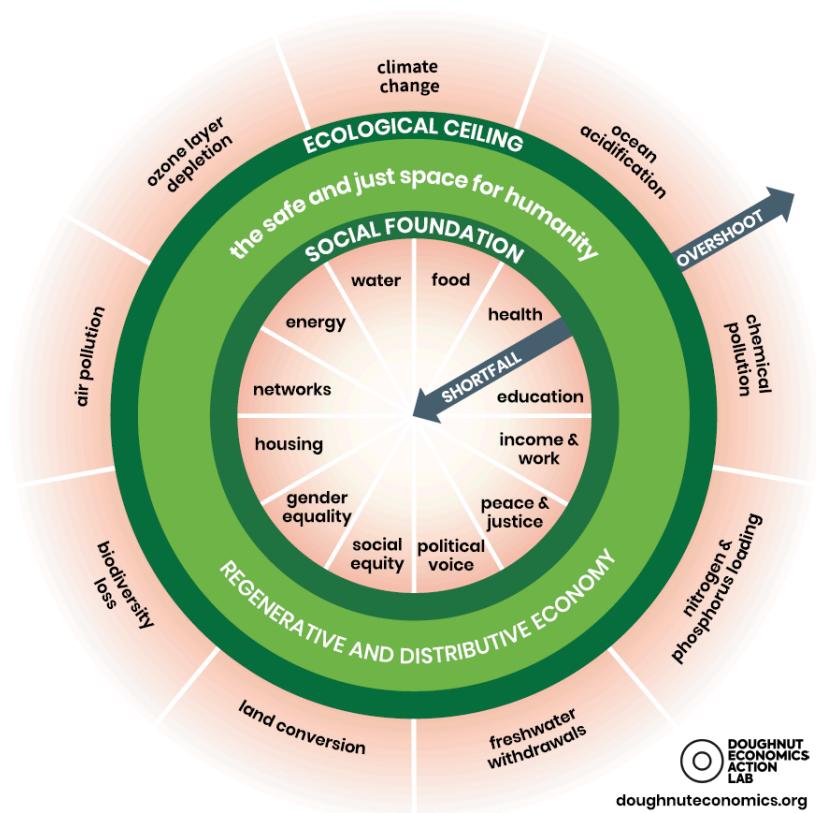

Figure 3. Doughnut Economics

For this exercise, ropes were laid out on the floor, and labelled to represent the social foundation and the ecological ceiling (see Fig. 4). The aim of the exercise was to encourage people to experience the concept of the doughnut through what they care about, connecting it with their lives, their communities and the natural world, in an interactive and experiential way. Participants were each asked to place two red sticky-notes indicating challenges in Surrey and two green sticky-notes that suggest possible solutions in the appropriate place in the Doughnut. An open discussion was held on a small number of the points raised.

Figure 4. Stepping into the Doughnut Activity at University of Surrey 12.06.24

1.2.3. Four Lenses

The Four Lenses exercise builds on the basic Doughnut principle to explore how the social and ecological issues of a place – in this case Surrey - can be addressed, while taking into account its global responsibilities. As explained by Professor Angela Druckman, this is done by 'unrolling' the Doughnut to form the Four Lenses framework shown in Fig. 6. Each of the four lenses asks a specific question focusing on local/global social/ecological issues, as shown in the figure, but it is only when the four lenses are considered together that progress can be made towards true sustainability.
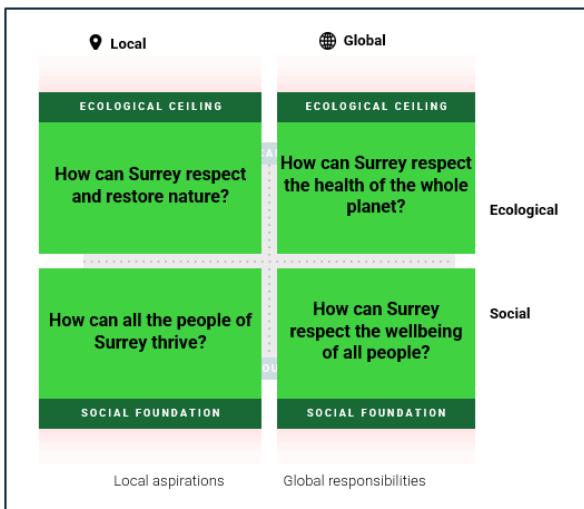

Figure 5. The Four Lenses

The Social Foundation comprises 12 dimensions, each represented by an icon on the Four Lenses template (not shown in Fig. 5). These are based on the SDGs and are:

- Food - access to sufficient, affordable, safe and nutritious food.
- Water - access to clean water for drinking, bathing, cooking, washing clothes and sanitation.
- Health - access to affordable, quality healthcare services from your first to your last day.
- Education - access to lifelong learning.
- Housing - affordable and safe housing to enable thriving communities.
- Energy - access to clean, affordable electricity.
- Income - from work that is safe, meaningful and fairly paid.
- Social equity - creating equality of opportunity, and reducing income inequality.
- Gender equality - ensuring that women and girls have equal access to education, health care, work and decision-making.
- Networks - access to networks of transport, communications, and community support.
- Political voice - ensuring people have voice in, and influence over, the decisions that affect their lives.
- Peace & justice - having personal security, government accountability, and access to justice.

The ecological ceiling is based on the 9 Planetary Boundaries, established by The Stockholm Resilience Centre in 2009. They can be thought of as: the harmful things we put into the local and global atmosphere (leading to climate change, ocean acidification, ozone layer depletion and air pollution); the harmful things we put into the rivers, lakes, oceans and soils (chemical pollution, nitrogen and phosphorus loading); and the land and rivers we extract from and convert for farming, industry and so on (land conversion and freshwater withdrawals). All of these lead to biodiversity loss.

Participants were allocated to tables of up to eight people, each with a trained facilitator. Participants were encouraged to use the "Think-Write-Share" strategy, which provides a structured approach to aid critical thinking and serves as a starting point for hearing all voices in a discussion. Four activities were carried out:

- Initial perspectives: Participants individually noted the challenges that cause ecological degradation and social issues in Surrey on red sticky-notes, and current changes that are already underway plus actions already taken on green sticky-notes. The group discussed each issue, and sticky-notes were placed one by one on a large printed template in the appropriate place.
- Deepening inquiry: The aim of this session was first to deepen the group's collective understanding of each of the lenses and look for gaps. This was done with the help of prompt questions by the facilitator, such as "What could regeneration look like in Surrey?" and "What is Surrey's hidden strength?". Then the group agreed what issues to focus on for the rest of the day, noting these on orange sticky-notes. Again, the facilitator provided prompts, such as "Which issues might we make real traction on?".

- Drawing interconnections: Most of the templates were by this stage covered by numerous sticky-notes and so clean templates were provided. Taking each issue that the group wished to focus on one at a time (i.e. the orange sticky-notes), participants mapped local and global interconnections between social and ecological issues. The aim of this was to show the complex pattern of Surrey's influence and impacts.
- Identify opportunities: In the activity, groups identified possibilities for new initiatives, projects, and policy changes, focusing on things that can be done in Surrey, bearing in mind the positive and negative implications this may have in the rest of the world. Facilitators encouraged groups to go beyond "What?" and "How?" questions (such as "install solar power") to consider "How can that be done?", "How can we work on that in the community?" and "Where do changes need to be made?".

1.3. Analysis of Data Collected

All sticky-notes were transcribed onto a Mural Board. Thematic analysis was then carried out manually using the Mural Board[2]. Some of this was done individually and some done during a meeting of facilitators and organisers, which enabled more in-depth discussion about the findings of the day.

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[2] www.mural.co.uk

2. Workshop findings

2.1. Profile of the participants

Workshop was attended by 57 participants representing various NGOs, private and public sector and academia (see Fig. 6).

ORGANISATION	PROFILE OF THE ORGANISATION
East Surrey Green Party	PUBLIC SECTOR
Active Surrey	PUBLIC SECTOR
Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network	NGO (REFUGEES)
Epsom and Ewell XR	NGO (CLIMATE ACTION)
University of Surrey	ACADEMIA
Surrey County Council	PUBLIC SECTOR
Weybridge Society	NGO (COMMUNITY)
Re-Betchworth	NGO (ENVIRONMENT)
Caterham Flood Action Group	NGO (ENVIRONMENT)
Woking Borough Council	PUBLIC SECTOR
Leatherhead Community Hub	NGO (COMMUNITY)
Surrey Coalition of Disabled People	NGO (DISABILITY)
Surrey Chambers of Commerce	PRIVATE SECTOR
Runnymede Borough Council	PUBLIC SECTOR
Epsom Common Assn	NGO (ENVIRONMENT)
Sussex and Surrey Coppice Group	NGO (ENVIRONMENT)
Surrey Hills National Landscape	PUBLIC SECTOR
Surrey Nature Partnership	PUBLIC SECTOR
Damn Cheek Productions CIC	NGO (ART)
ClimatEdPsych	NGO (WELLBEING)
Surrey Youth Cabinet	NGO (YOUTH)
Bonkers For The Planet	NGO (ENVIRONMENT)
Eco Power	PRIVATE SECTOR
Amò Food Design	PRIVATE SECTOR
Roots for the Future	NGO (ENVIRONMENT)
Merstham and Kingswood Village Community Association	NGO (FAITH)
St Katharine's Church	FAITH
Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum	NGO (MINORITIES)
Friends of the River Eden Ecosystem	NGO (ENVIRONMENT)
Transition Ashtead	NGO (COMMUNITY)
University for the Creative Arts	ACADEMIA
Waverley Borough Council	PUBLIC SECTOR
Green Westcott	NGO (ENVIRONMENT)

Mole Valley District Council	PUBLIC SECTOR
Raven Renewables	PRIVATE SECTOR
Zero hour	NGO (ENVIRONMENT)
South Downs National Park Authority	PUBLIC SECTOR
Circular Dorking and Rowing	NGO (SUSTAINABILITY)
Woking Environment Action	NGO (ENVIRONMENT)
Greenpeace Surrey	NGO (ENVIRONMENT)
Elmbridge Borough Council	PUBLIC SECTOR
Save Epsom Green Belt	NGO (ENVIRONMENT)
CPRE Surrey	NGO (COUNTRYSIDE)
AtkinsRealis	PUBLIC SECTOR CONTRACTOR
Zero Carbon Guildford	NGO (CLIMATE ACTION)
EcoChurch	NGO (FAITH)
Ringway Infrastructure Services	PUBLIC SECTOR CONTRACTOR
Sustainable Caterham	NGO (SUSTAINABILITY)
Switchfoot Accounting	PRIVATE SECTOR
Tandridge District Council	PUBLIC SECTOR
Ashford & St Peter's NHS Trust	PUBLIC SECTOR
Surrey Heath Borough Council	PUBLIC SECTOR
Talking Tree Climate Emergency Centre	NGO (CLIMATE ACTION)
Incredible Edible Spelthorne	NGO (FOOD)
Esher Residents Association	NGO (COMMUNITY)

Figure 6. Organisations represented at the workshop.

To understand better demographics and attitudes towards climate change, the participants were asked to complete a voluntary and anonymous survey. Below are the key findings based on 41 responses (which accounts for 72% of all participants).

Demographics:
- 70% aged 35-64 years, 46% aged 50-64
- 63% female, 37% male
- 95% completed college or hold university & postgraduate degree
- 93% white
- 51% live in urban area, 41% live in rural area
- 2% considered themselves disabled.

Attitudes:

- 48% feel hopeful or somewhat hopeful about the future, while 26% feel unhopeful or somewhat unhopeful
- 64% don't agree or somewhat disagree that they have a say in what the national government does
- 53% agree or somewhat agree that they have a say in what the local government does with 25% saying they disagree or somewhat disagree with this statement
- 80% are very worried about climate change
- 88% consider themselves knowledgeable about solutions to climate change

The participants also selected top 5 obstacles in fighting climate change.
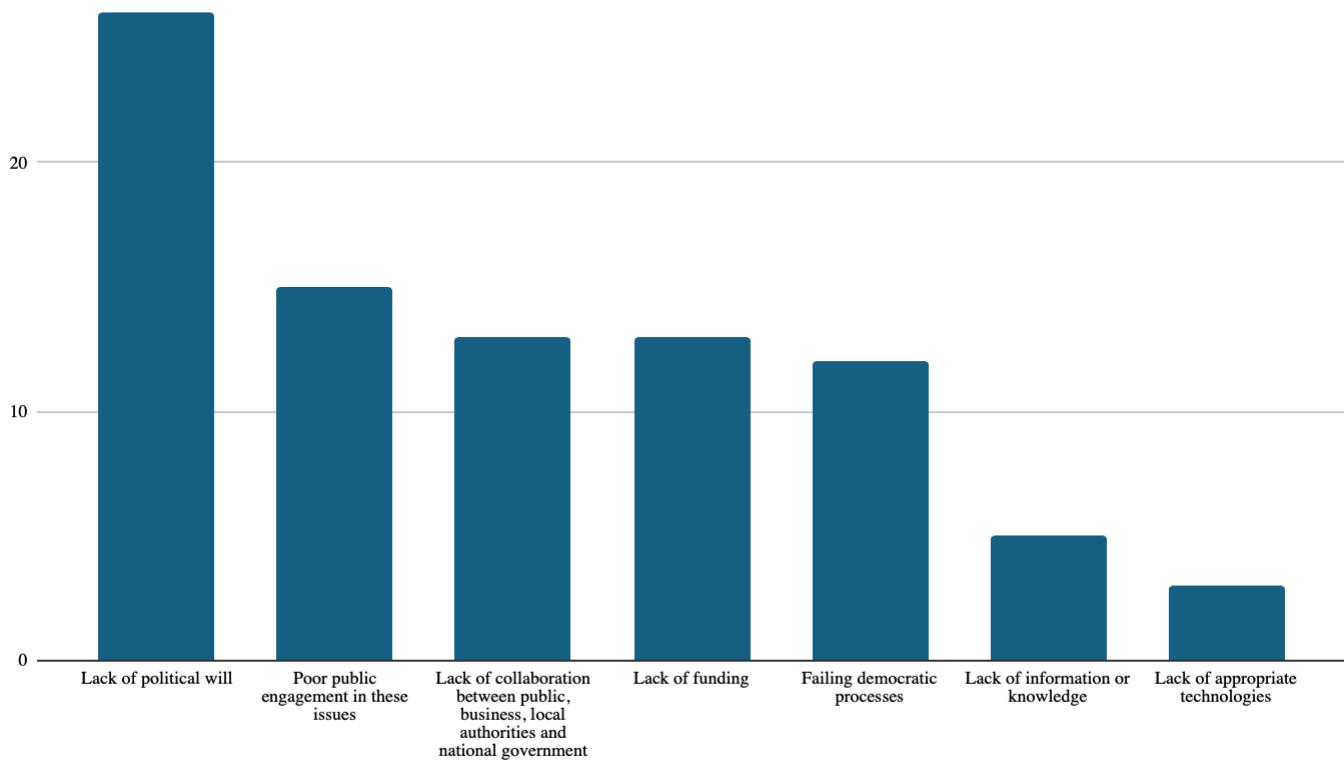
Figure 7. Top 5 obstacles to fighting climate change.

Some participants also added comments about corruption, lack of urgency, and distorted media as reasons for slow climate action.

This shows that the participants of the workshop were generally white, well educated, mid-aged and mostly female. While this strongly indicates a need to run similar workshops with marginalised groups to get their perspective on topics discussed during the June workshop, it is important to bear in mind that participants were

representing various NGOs, private and public sector and academia. Thus it is hoped that many of the participants represented views from a much wider audience.

2.2. Emerging themes

2.2.1. Initial Perspectives

The first task workshop participants were given was to explore the challenges working with the Four Lenses framework. Below table presents key categories that were discussed, the number of post-it notes referring to each category and the themes that emerged from analysis of these post-it notes.

It does not come as a surprise that local issues, both social and ecological, were of greatest interest to the participants and much of the time given for this task was spent on conversations focused on what's closest.. Several global issues were not discussed at all, specifically when it comes to ecological lenses. Interestingly climate change came up in conversations mostly in relation to other problems rather than a single issue. It might be that the participants, who overwhelmingly stated their knowledge in the area of climate is beyond average, understand well the connections between climate change and many other challenges.

When it comes to ecological ceiling most of the discussions referred to pollution, specifically air pollution and plastic. However, the topic of water pollution by sewage discharge and unsustainable farming methods was also discussed. This issue dominated quite a lot of electoral debate that was happening at the time of the workshop.

Issues of governance dominated the discussions related to social lenses. It was by far a topic that generated the most of the post-it notes both when it comes to local as well as global dimension.

	Category	No of post-its	EMERGING THEMES	
			Local	Global
	Pollution	27	>> Concerns relating to rivers and drinking water quality because of sewage discharge, farming (run-off), pesticides. >> Fires (bonfires, fireplaces) causing air pollution. >> Problems from transport (mostly car) emissions affecting health and causing (premature) deaths.	>> Forever chemicals, microplastics, hormones, drugs, herbicides (and pesticides), chemical fertilisers all having negative impacts on humans and non-humans. >> Many risks from plastics including litter pollution.

E C O L O G I C A L	Biodiversity Loss	11	>> Concern about ecological collapse, loss of pollinators, soil, forests, peat bogs and lack of wildlife corridors caused by tree clearing, overdevelopment and BigAg.	*not discussed*
	Land Use	5	>> Problems with under Brownfield and over Greenfield development and lack of local food growing.	>> Soil degradation.
	Climate Change	3	*not discussed per se, but in relation to other issues*	>> Risks because of gulfstream collapse and excess carbon in the atmosphere changing the climatic balance.
	Ocean Acidification	1	*not discussed*	>> Loss of coral reefs and valuable habitats.
C E I L I N G	Freshwater Withdrawals	1	*not discussed*	>> Water overuse mainly for housing and agriculture causing problems (incl. shortages and conflict).
	Flooding	4	>> Flooding seen as an unresolved issue, increasingly endangering residents. >> Surrey CC as LLFA have a statutory duty to manage the flood risk but their inaction puts residents at risk of foul flooding.	*not discussed*

S O C I A L F O U N D A T I O N	Governance	112	>> Lack of cooperation (between political parties at all levels of government) and regulation (across sustainability, fast food, fashion, gambling, social media, bad landlords etc.). >> Lack of joined up thinking (particularly transport and healthy free school meals legislation not progressing to house of lords). >> Perverse incentives and competing priorities (for example in transport). >> Ineffective communication, disinformation, misinformation, confusion and lack of trusted sources of Information. >> Powerful global corporations lobbying and corrupting governments and politicians. >> Sustainability not on job descriptions or in corporate legislation. >> Life sustaining systems - nature and environment - considered less important than commercial gains. >> Economic measures define a nation's success rather than the wellbeing and happiness of the people. >> Lack of systemic support for farmers.	>> Disinformation, scams and fraud. >> Lobbying and corruption, powerful vested interests incl. anti-environment lobby influencing politics. >> Corporations being listened to over people and nature. >> Lack of transparency, regulation and political will (incl. to adequately address climate change). Politics seen as elitist and divisive. >> Geopolitics still involves lots of wars and energy security is not taken seriously. >> System failures: slave labour (e.g. mining cobalt for batteries), lack of transparency, perverse incentives (fuel, pensions, plastics, consumerism), unsustainable food system. >> Global introduction of laws prohibiting protest, specifically in climate and environment space. >> Failure to tackle risks from AI at the incumbent phase.
	Equality and Diversity	23	>> Two tier systems (education/health) and increasing wealth gap. >> Lack of cheaper sustainable options. >> Lack of awareness of and support for minorities (incl. disabled).	>> Climate change disproportionately affects the poorest and most vulnerable and systemic barriers/influences increase this. Need to fix this to address climate change.

Transport	22	>> Over Reliance on car and individual car journeys, lack of reliable and affordable public transport and limited infrastructure for alternatives (cycling/walking), too many roads causing congestion and pollution.	*not discussed*
Food	20	>> Food is often too cheap, lacking nutrition with high amounts of waste and excessive food miles. >> Farming in crisis (climate change, imports). >> Too much meat consumption, obesity and lack of access to healthy/affordable/organic options. >> Need more local small holdings and community farming.	>> Fast/processed food and waste. >> Unsustainable and dangerous global food distribution system and overfishing.
Cost of living	18	>> General poverty, lack of time and expensive cost of living (homes, transport, food, childcare) limits people's ability to act sustainably and think about climate change.	>> Poverty and insecurity, lack of time and resources lead to poor choices.
Education	16	>> Narrow curriculum lacking awareness of the environment, our interconnectedness/dependence on nature, benefits of community and sustainable options. >> Lack of widespread training towards green transition.	>> Education links to everything, but there's little holistic thinking in it, esp. regarding future proofing. >> Lack of systems thinking education - for example that environment loss adversely affects all other problems.
Funding	15	>> Lack of funding, or difficulty accessing it (e.g. eligibility) for home retrofits. >> General impression that sustainability is a high cost in some areas (e.g. NHS).	>> Lack of funding for Net Zero transition.
Political Voice	13	>> Lots of people feel unheard, disenfranchised and disconnected from politics, resulting in lack of engagement, voting and anti-social behaviour.	>> People in power are not representative of the communities they were chosen to represent. >> Declining trust, widespread apathy.

Culture & Values	12	>> Culture based on overconsumption and valuing the individual more than the collective. >> Disconnect between people and nature.	>> Disconnecting with self, others and nature highlights people's centred view of culture and lack of action/awareness around population pressures.
Health	10	>> Inequalities, air pollution, and mental health issues incl. lack of support, isolation/loneliness (esp. the elderly) and eco/climate anxiety.	>> Antibiotic resistance, microplastics and access to clean water are all major issues.
Housing	10	>> Problems with affordable and poorly insulated/energy efficient homes and dated housing which is hard to retrofit. >> Developers are not building more sustainable housing incl. green spaces for water retention and flood relief and biodiversity.	*not discussed*
Energy	5	>> Overdependence on fossil fuels, lack of renewables uptake and inefficient energy use. >>Poor communication of one stop shops for energy advice.	>> High energy demands impact all aspects of the doughnut (planetary and social).
Enhance Wellbeing	4	>> Lack of consideration for green space access (incl. social prescribing and development) and impacts of (potential) 40C days. >> Lack of widespread awareness that community enhances wellbeing.	*not discussed*
Income and Work	2	>> Lack of local jobs/opportunities incl. for asylum seekers/migrants (also housing).	>> Lack of living wage regulations
Other	13	*Isolated issues or difficult to interpret messages*	

Figure 8. Challenges grouped into themes.

2.2.2. Change already under way

Workshop participants also discussed what initiatives were already happening that address the challenges covered earlier. These conversations provided a lot of very much needed optimism and inspiration for the next parts of the workshop focused on ideas and solutions.

There were over 300 mentions of various organisations and initiatives driven by the public sector, academia, community groups, business and NGOs. For the purposes of this report, some interesting initiatives responding to challenges most talked about are listed below and a summary of various Surrey based organisations mentioned by the participants is provided in Figure 9:

- Governance: 15 min cities, B-corp movement, climate emergency declarations, Local Nature Recovery Strategy, planning regulations, citizen assemblies, ESG legislation, Net Zero targets, volunteer days, Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, Biodiversity Net Gain legislation, legislation against misinformation, Green Actions, Earth Shop Prize, Food Miles, WSU workshop.
- Biodiversity/Ecology: increased access to green spaces, hedge planting, rewilding, regenerative farming, peatland restoration, tree planting, public water monitoring, green prescribing.
- Transport: hybrid working, car-sharing, Active Travel initiatives, Cycle to Work scheme, EV incentives, Local Traffic Networks, 20mph initiatives, bus subsidies, public ownership of public transport, car clubs.
- Food: community fridge, community gardens, community farms, farmer's markets, Food Banks, local food growing, organic farming, Right to Grow.
- Overconsumption: circular economy, repair cafes, Library of Things, Swap shops, reselling apps, charity shops, old craft skills training, net zero shops.
- Education: eco schools, carbon literacy training, forest schools, Surrey Digital Content Library, sustainability embedded in all courses at the University of Surrey, farm visits, green skills funding.

Driven by	Group	Link
	4Bs Biodiversity Park	https://www.biodiversitypark.uk/4bs-whatsapp-nature-group.html
	Circular Dorking	https://circulardorking.org.uk/
	Flood Action	https://thefloodhub.co.uk/community/
	Green Elmbridge	https://www.greenelmbridge.org.uk/
	Next Door Nature	https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/nextdoor-nature
	River Mole Watch	https://www.rivermoleriverwatch.org.uk/
	Surrey Climate Commission	https://www.surreyclimate.org.uk/
	Surrey Coalition Tech Angels	https://surreycoalition.org.uk/areas-of-work/technology/tech-to-community-connect/
	Surrey Hills Society Project	https://surreyhills.org/society-receives-lottery-funding/
	Surrey Youth Democracy	n/a
	Zero Carbon Guildford	https://www.zerocarbonguildford.org/
Community	HEAT	https://www.heatsurrey.co.uk/

Academia	Institute for Sustainability	https://www.surrey.ac.uk/institute-sustainability
Local authorities	Action Surrey	https://www.actionsurrey.org/
	Solar Together	https://solartogether.co.uk/surrey/home

Figure 9. Selected groups and organisations in Surrey.

2.2.3. Deepening Inquiry & Identifying possibilities

In the second part of the workshop each group of participants was encouraged to identify the top 3 or so issues which they felt were most important for Surrey to focus on. To help them with the task they considered questions like:

- What issues do we think will have the most impact for Surrey?
- Which issues would support those most under-represented?
- Which issues feel like we can make real traction on and influence?
- Which issues are currently under-resourced / under-served?
- Which issues can we get community engagement and action on to support?

Seven clear themes emerged from these discussions: nature & climate, housing, transport, behavioural change, education, inequality and community & governance.
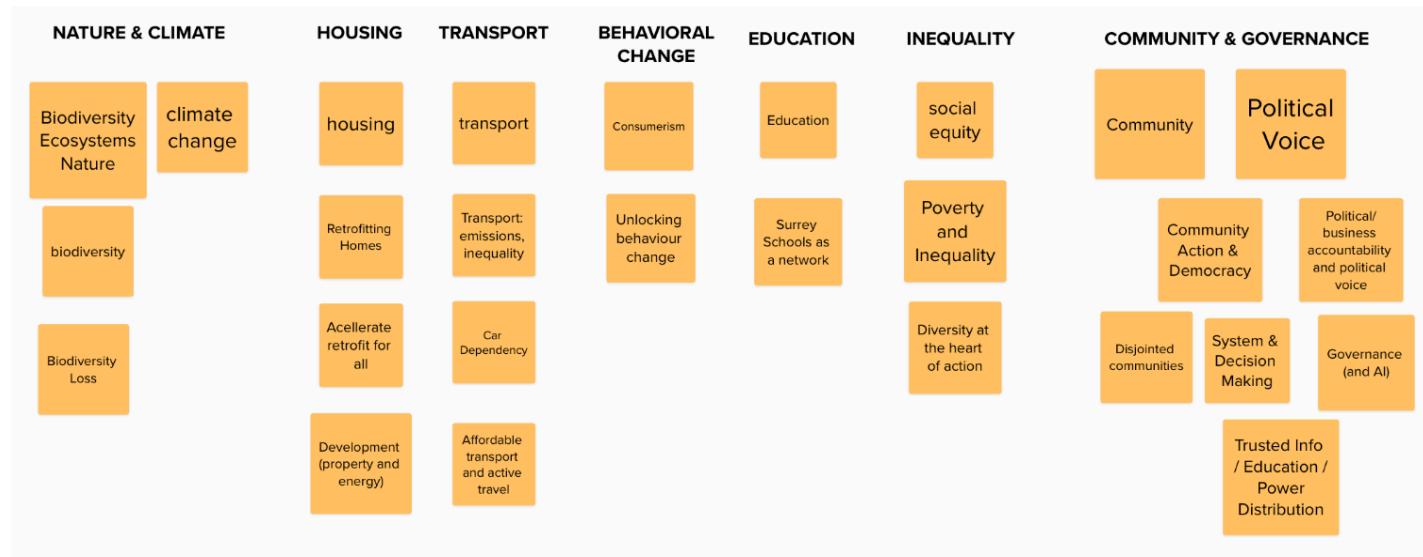
Figure 10. Digitally transcribed orange post-it notes with solutions grouped into themes.

The fact that a lot of groups decided to focus their discussions on themes of community and governance is interesting but not surprising in the light of responses received from the questionnaire distributed at the beginning of the workshop. Respondents to the questionnaire identified lack of political will as the main obstacle to climate

action, the majority felt that they have very little impact on what the national government does and only slightly more than 50% felt they have influence over the local government doings. These results indicate that participants see governance and power distribution as an important challenge.

In the final part of the workshop participants brainstormed solutions to the key challenges they identified in Part 2. The table below provides a summary of those solutions.

THEME	KEY MESSAGES	SOLUTIONS/ IDEAS
Nature & Climate	>> Raise awareness of our inseparable bond with nature and reliance on a stable climate through campaigns, support of existing organisations. >> Communicate positive visions.	>> Coordinated campaign to engage schools and young people in nature (a night under the sky for school children, butterfly farm visit, etc. >> Enable campaigns (plaques about endangered species in the county, free garden biodiversity kits for wildlife corridors). >> Encourage councils to adopt Right to Grow. Extend this to Tree Planting/Tiny Forests/Community Orchards. >> Surrey Rewilding Network to help re-wild Surrey, foster nature connectedness and provide land corridors. >> Move the messaging from doom to can do. >> Roll out Surrey Talks Climate training to better communicate climate related issues to the public. >> Funded climate change hubs in communities. >> Net zero village trial.

| Transport | >> Aim to achieve a (long term) integrated public transport plan that encompasses consistent policies, commitment and funding.

>> Supported by financial incentives/disincentives and information, this will achieve improved walking and cycling infrastructure, plus improved public transport. | >> Stop privatisation.

>> Invest in community transport & public transport.

>> Integrated approach.

>> Co-production of active travel options & plans (LCWIP).

>> Community Infrastructure Levy.

>> Public transport.

>> Non-car options.

>> Targeted transport (eg school buses, business shuttles).

>> Integrated transport planning.

>> Priority lanes and cycle lanes.

>> Connectivity for walking & cycling.

>> Shared bikes.

>> Make shopping trolleys fashionable.

>> Social prescribing.

>> New communications around sustainable transport (based on GP surgeries; schools etc).

>> Create 'How To' guides for Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and Business Improvement Districts. |
| Housing | >> Need for more regulation, funding and easy to access information. | >> Introduce (building) regulations compatible with climate & biodiversity goals.

>> Increase funding for sustainable solutions (solar, heat pumps, insulation, water collection).

>> Introduce systemic retrofit strategy.

>> Create a one stop shop - a platform |

		where people can find information about sustainable measures that they can implement and funding available to them (national and local).
Education	>> There is an urgent need to train and educate wider audiences. >> Schools are "trusted messengers" and can be an important part of campaigns about nature, climate and citizen engagement.	>> Key audiences to be trained in sustainability (estate agents, lawyers, etc) through roll out of existing training specifically in areas like carbon literacy, retrofit, relation to nature. >> Leverage schools as trusted 'outreach' agents. >> Nationally driven green curriculum. >> Develop links between schools and wider communities.

Community	>> Catalyse the power of communities through trusted networks, in order to drive change.	>> Share best practice.
		>> Promote engagement in local democracy.
	>> People want to be empowered to tackle local issues (from recipients to participants, from individuals to community members/leaders/champions).	>> Connect communities to enable a wide range of solutions - increase and harness the voice and power of communities.
		>> Taking Doughnut workshops to where people are, to be as inclusive as possible.
	>> Need for more connection and collaboration and expectation that technology can help enable it.	>> Engaging with them at their level, on problems they care about, developing solutions they can buy into.
		>>Providing funding and making available spaces (empty buildings etc.) to make hubs/groups easier to set up.
		>> Providing platforms where knowledge, case studies, best practice and other resources can be shared and people can chat?
		>> Encourage local councils to publish lists of all community groups (e.g. Spelthorne does, Runnymede doesn't).
		>> Better integration with existing public/private services, be that persuading companies to list surplus products (food/timber/plants) they would otherwise throw away, or having GPs prescribe natural remedies (like being in nature) and signpost people to local community groups to help with mental health.
		>> Use a wide range of creative approaches, including art to foster community/engagement.
		>> Don't just rely on technology which can exclude certain demographics, increase dependence and be addictive, fragile and expensive.

Behavioural Change	>> Encourage circular systems and feedback loops to reduce consumption and eliminate waste. >> Design and introduce sustainable changes WITH people. >> Improve access to local, reliable and sustainable services and ethical products.	>> Analyse Surrey material flows to track/reduce carbon footprint and map opportunities for circular economy material reuse/sharing and strategy improvements. >> Create a circular economy strategy and roadmap. >> Provide help setting up repair cafes and libraries of things. >>Trusted local organisations to communicate and influence change (Talking Tree, Zero Guildford, Library of Things, Blue Heart Scheme). >> Promote good news stories, positive examples to create/drive social and cultural norms. >> Help businesses develop and promote sustainable and affordable products and services. >> Pressure business boards and commerce chambers to "do the right thing".
Governance	>> People want to be included in decisions through citizen assemblies, parish collaboration, and community forums. >> Need to collaborate, build consensus and be responsible for local action. >> Need for transparency and systems thinking embedded in decisions. >> Need to have high protection through legal framework (planning policies, retrofit and building standards, pollution protections, business regulation).	>> Systemic thinking in all decision making and policy development. >> Removing silos and promoting collaboration between governments, departments, sectors of society. >> Undertake creation of a citizen led strategy of Surrey with set targets >> Co-design solutions with residents and businesses. >> Design and trial participatory governance that can deliver the strategy. >> Move away from the idea of economic growth as the key driver, for example support and reward only sustainable businesses, support town regeneration.

Figure 11. Solutions summary

2.3. Post-workshop feedback

At the end of the workshop and in the follow up communication the participants were asked to fill in an online feedback survey to which 35 responses were submitted. The participants were asked to write down 3 words that described how they felt. The image below shows the words that were mentioned, highlighting the ones that were used the most: inspired, engaged, optimistic. These are all very positive and action orientated emotions that the WSU project team aims to leverage moving on.


Figure 12. Word cloud of emotions participants mentioned feeling after the workshop.

Included in the feedback survey were several questions about facilitation, such as, to what extent participants felt included in discussions, able to put their opinions forward, and how well the workshop tasks were communicated. The answers were overwhelmingly positive which is a great testament to workshop facilitators, all of whom volunteered their time for free.

I felt included in discussions.
35 responses
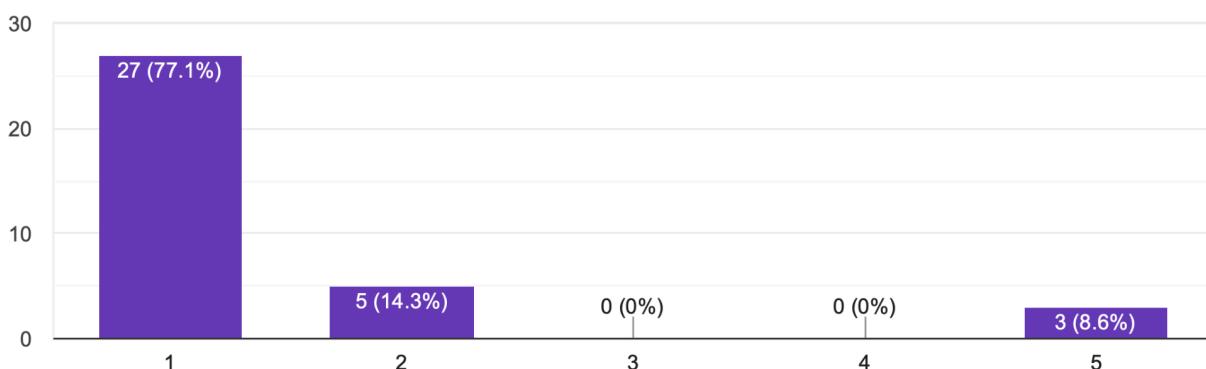
Description of the graphs: 1-strongly agree, 2-somewhat agree, 3-neither agree nor disagree, 4-somewhat disagree, 5-strongly disagree

I was able to put my opinions forward.
35 responses

- 1: 25 (71.4%)
- 2: 5 (14.3%)
- 3: 1 (2.9%)
- 4: 0 (0%)
- 5: 4 (11.4%)

The tasks were well communicated.
35 responses

- 1: 17 (48.6%)
- 2: 14 (40%)
- 3: 2 (5.7%)
- 4: 2 (5.7%)
- 5: 0 (0%)

Description of the graphs: 1-strongly agree, 2-somewhat agree, 3-neither agree nor disagree, 4-somewhat disagree, 5-strongly disagree

Figure 13. Selected responses to the feedback survey.

The final 2 questions aimed to understand participant's views on the DEAL framework itself. Despite expressing feelings of being overwhelmed, most participants felt that DEAL provides tools for dealing with big problems and said they wanted to have similar workshops organised in their communities.

It's a good approach to deal with big problems.
35 responses

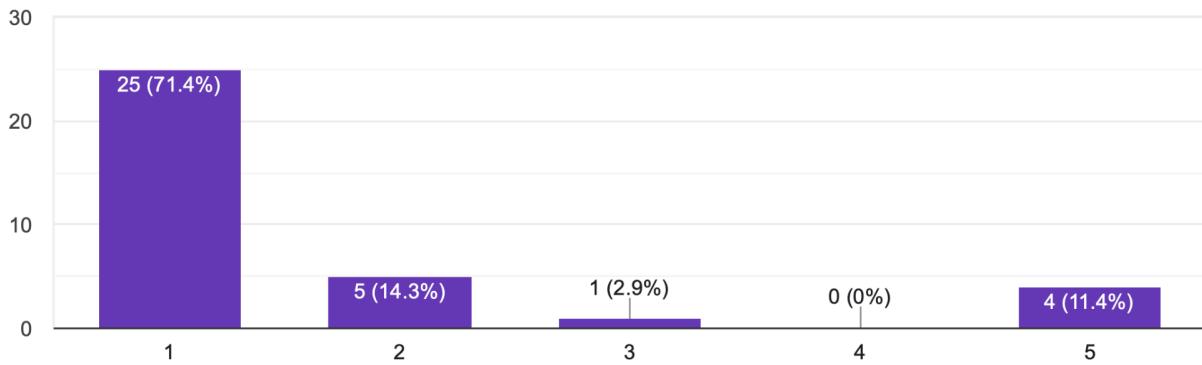## I would like similar workshop to happen in my local area.
35 responses
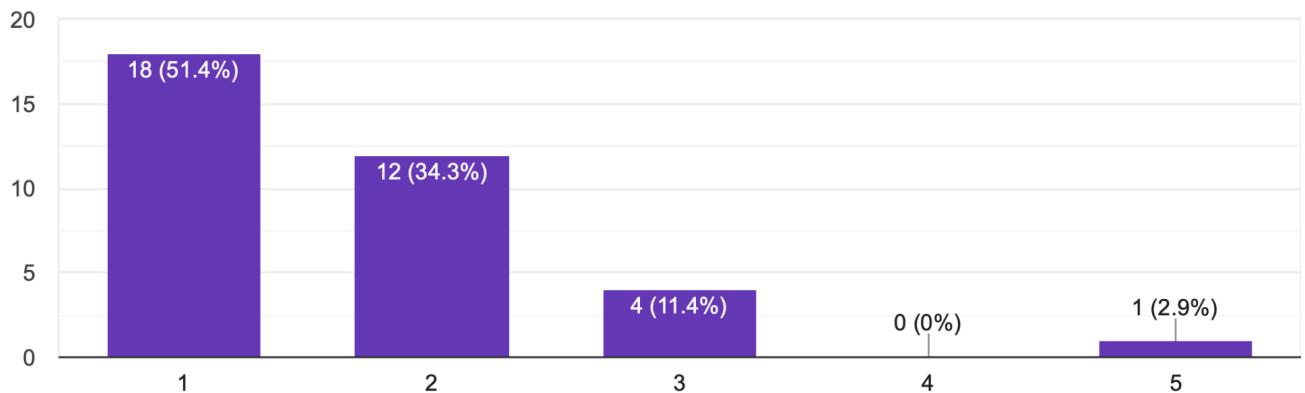
Description of the graphs:
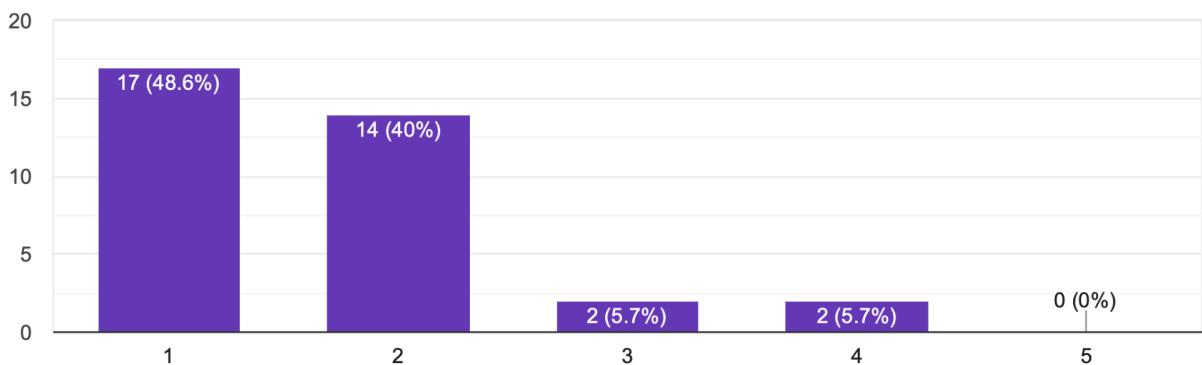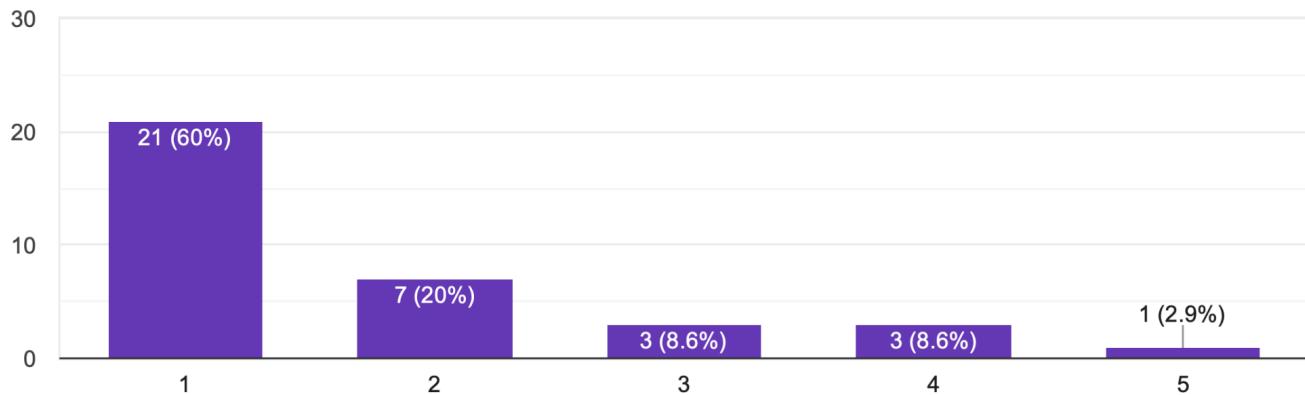1-strongly agree, 2-somewhat agree, 3-neither agree nor disagree, 4-somewhat disagree, 5-strongly disagree

Figure 14. Selected responses to the feedback survey

Participants were also given space to share their own thoughts. Examples include:

"I really enjoyed the workshop, learned a lot, and felt more informed. (...) The 3rd section was a little unclear and challenging to achieve. It would have been good to know the scope of what we can achieve - e.g. how much power do we have? Social championing / legislation? It made it challenging to think of viable solutions."

"Would love these more regularly, or a similar sort of styled event to share ideas and goals and see how different members of the community and organisations can work together."

"Really interesting mix of people and interesting to discuss issues with people outside of the sustainability bubble. (...) Breaking down silos to share progress is incredibly important. I did hear some "Daily Mail style disinformation" from a delegate and without days like today you cannot gently challenge & educate."

"Generally great but left wanting something more tangible. Main points: - slightly preaching to the converted maybe and reinventing the wheel - possibly not as representative as it could have been but accept difficult to reach "hard to reach" groups - still all very theoretical and didn't really reflect my reality at least of what's really stopping me from stopping climate change - was a lot of positive spin of what could be done - there was a lot of energy in the room in the morning but I felt this dissipated in the afternoon (...) I left feeling like it was a bit of a talking shop and the sense of urgency from last September had gone."

"It was an excellent day. The people running it really made you feel welcome and involved. I very much like the Doughnut model - had never done that process before. It did seem quite complicated - with all the different dimensions. The facilitator on our table said that she had never facilitated before. She did quite well, but one or two things were lacking (...) Facilitation is going to be an important skill, so a possible area of training needs to be considered. Can also find skilled volunteer facilitators in the community."

"I loved the idea of creating the Doughnut which was a great way to get across the issues. One little niggle was that I felt there was one opportunity missed. There did not seem to be many businesses in the workshop. This would have been a good move to ensure a good balanced all encompassing debate. With 7 BIDS, over 57 B Corps, various Chambers of Commerce and no number of business organisations in Surrey, it would have been great if some of them could have joined us."

"(...) the Donut was a perfect exercise to highlight this gap between the well off and those struggling to make ends meet, however I am unsure that some attendees really grasped the social divide, they have an opinion and expect everyone should share it, regardless of the impact on finances… that's not a debate. NET zero as it stands will force more people into poverty and consequently be a difficult pill to swallow. I repeated one word on the day and reiterate it now… balance. I believe there is much we can do to protect our environment BUT corporations and Government (National and local) should be taking the first steps, rather than the public being expected to pay for bad decisions historically. "

Based on the received feedback, there are a few considerations for the future events:

a) Sustainability
- Ensure the writing tools are made from recycled materials or are repurposed/reused
- Ensure that there are food options that suit a variety of dietary needs
- Limit the amount of single use plastic and encourage reuse
- Offer car-sharing options for participants.

b) Workshop planning
- Plan an activity that requires physical movement, particularly in the afternoon sessions to keep the energy levels high
- Consider adjustments to the design of the workshop to ensure there's enough time for group discussions, and sharing between the groups.

c) Facilitation
- Ensure facilitators have a deep understanding of the DEAL framework and are well trained in facilitation.

d) Ensure diversity of the participants
- "Meet people where they are"
- Increase outreach efforts
- Increase promotion of the event
- Ensure accessibility (reimbursement for travel costs, provision of transport, provision of childcare).

3. Conclusion and next steps

The workshop provided a lot of insights that can be used by academia, local community leaders and local authorities to inform policy making, products and services design, outreach and engagement strategies and research.

There were 3 key messages that stood out:

- Strong call for public participation in the design and implementation of the local strategies. There was excitement around participatory democracy concepts like citizen assemblies, community forums, co-design workshops and their role in finding solutions to "wicked problems". The deliberative nature of the workshop itself proved how powerful such an approach can be - the participants left feeling hopeful, inspired and engaged (see Figure 12) and produced many ideas and solutions in a relatively short time. They also expressed a desire to run similar workshops in their communities.
- Increased collaboration and strategic alignment across various sectors and organisations. Participants acknowledged that there is a great variety of valuable initiatives however the overwhelming feeling was that they are very often isolated, disconnected and not promoted. There was an agreement that a more strategically aligned collaboration is needed within and across various sectors.
- Need for national and local governments to develop smart regulatory solutions that support sustainable development and to provide increased funding. Communities, charities and sustainable businesses cannot solve the multiple crises we are facing and public bodies have to use their legislative powers to protect the environment, support citizens and communities, and direct investment into sustainable solutions.

A response to these findings could be co-creating a comprehensive Portrait of Surrey with wide participation of communities from all sectors.

Portrait of a Place is a key part of the Doughnut Economics framework. It is a holistic visual representation that captures the social and ecological dynamics of a particular city, region, or country, providing a snapshot of how well a place is balancing the needs of its people with the health of the planet, mapping this balance against the Doughnut framework.

A Portrait of a Place shows how far a community, city, or country is from either falling below the social foundation or overshooting the ecological ceiling. It integrates complex data and insights from various sectors—social, environmental, economic, and political—to provide a comprehensive view of local challenges and opportunities.

The "What's Stopping Us Stopping Climate Change: Transforming Surrey Into a Home of Thriving People and Nature" workshop has produced a form of Community Portrait of Surrey, however it is not a comprehensive piece of work. The homogenic profile of participants is not a reflection of Surrey residents, there were also many key

stakeholders missing (representatives of farming communities, ethnic minorities, health specialists, young people, businesses, etc.). To produce a wholesome portrait of a place, many more similar workshops should be held and most importantly Data Portrait of Surrey needs to be created with support from the Surrey County Council.

Such a holistic strategic document has multitude functions and can be used for:

- Strategic Planning and Policy Development
    - Local Governments: Policymakers can use the portrait to identify areas where their community is falling short on social needs (e.g., housing, education, healthcare) or overshooting environmental boundaries (e.g., carbon emissions, water use). It helps them design targeted policies that address these issues, such as improving public transport, investing in renewable energy, or implementing social programs to reduce inequality.
    - Guiding Infrastructure Development: The portrait can inform how a place plans its infrastructure—whether it's prioritising green spaces, sustainable housing, or circular economy practices—to ensure development is in line with ecological limits and social goals.
- Community Engagement and Empowerment
    - Raising Awareness: The portrait makes complex social and environmental data more accessible to the public. Communities can understand where they stand in terms of both social justice and environmental impact, fostering greater civic participation.
    - Encouraging Collective Action: By visualising local challenges, the portrait can serve as a rallying point for community groups, activists, and citizens to collectively push for change—whether that's reducing waste, promoting green energy, or advocating for better social services.
    - Business strategy: Businesses can use the portrait to align their strategies with the needs of the place they operate in. For example, a company might realise they can contribute to reducing carbon emissions or improving labour conditions, creating a stronger local economy that benefits both society and the environment.
    - Driving Innovation: The portrait helps identify opportunities for sustainable innovation based on local needs, such as creating products or services that support renewable energy, reduce resource consumption, or meet unmet social needs.
- Monitoring Progress and Accountability:
    - Tracking Performance: The portrait can serve as a baseline for tracking progress over time, showing whether a place is moving closer to living within the Doughnut's safe and just space. This can be used by policy makers, citizens, NGOs, and researchers to monitor the impact of policies and initiatives.
    - Ensuring Accountability: By making the data publicly available, a portrait of a place holds decision-makers accountable. Communities can use it to push for transparency and ensure that

policies or business practices are actually contributing to long-term sustainability and social well-being.

- Encouraging Systems Thinking:
  - Holistic Understanding of Challenges: The portrait connects social and environmental factors, helping stakeholders see the bigger picture. This promotes a systems-thinking approach, where solutions to one problem also address others.
  - Breaking Silos: Governments and communities often work in silos, addressing social, economic, or environmental issues separately. The portrait encourages cross-sector collaboration, helping to break down barriers and promote integrated solutions.
- Educational and Advocacy Tool:
  - Educating Stakeholders: Schools, universities, and NGOs can use the portrait to educate people about the interconnected nature of social and environmental challenges, as well as the importance of finding local solutions that work within global ecological limits.
  - Advocacy for Change: Advocacy groups can leverage the portrait to make the case for sustainable practices or social policies, showing how addressing certain issues (like housing or pollution) can lead to a more just and sustainable future.
- Inspiration for Other Cities or Regions:
  - Scaling and Sharing Best Practices: Cities or regions that have successfully moved towards the Doughnut's safe and just space can share their portraits as examples of how others can follow suit. It serves as a model for peer learning and collaborative problem-solving across regions or nations.

There are multiple localities that have already created the portrait and are implementing the Doughnut Economics model with the city of Amsterdam being the most advanced on this journey and using the portrait as a strategic document[3]. Local and regional governments in the United Kingdom that have publicly started working with the concepts and tools of Doughnut Economics include West Midlands Combined Authority, Bath and North East Somerset[4], Cornwall[5] and Worthing.

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[3] https://www.kateraworth.com/2020/04/08/amsterdam-city-doughnut/

[4] https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/bath-and-north-east-somerset-local-plan-2022-2042-launch-document/scope-and-content-local-plan

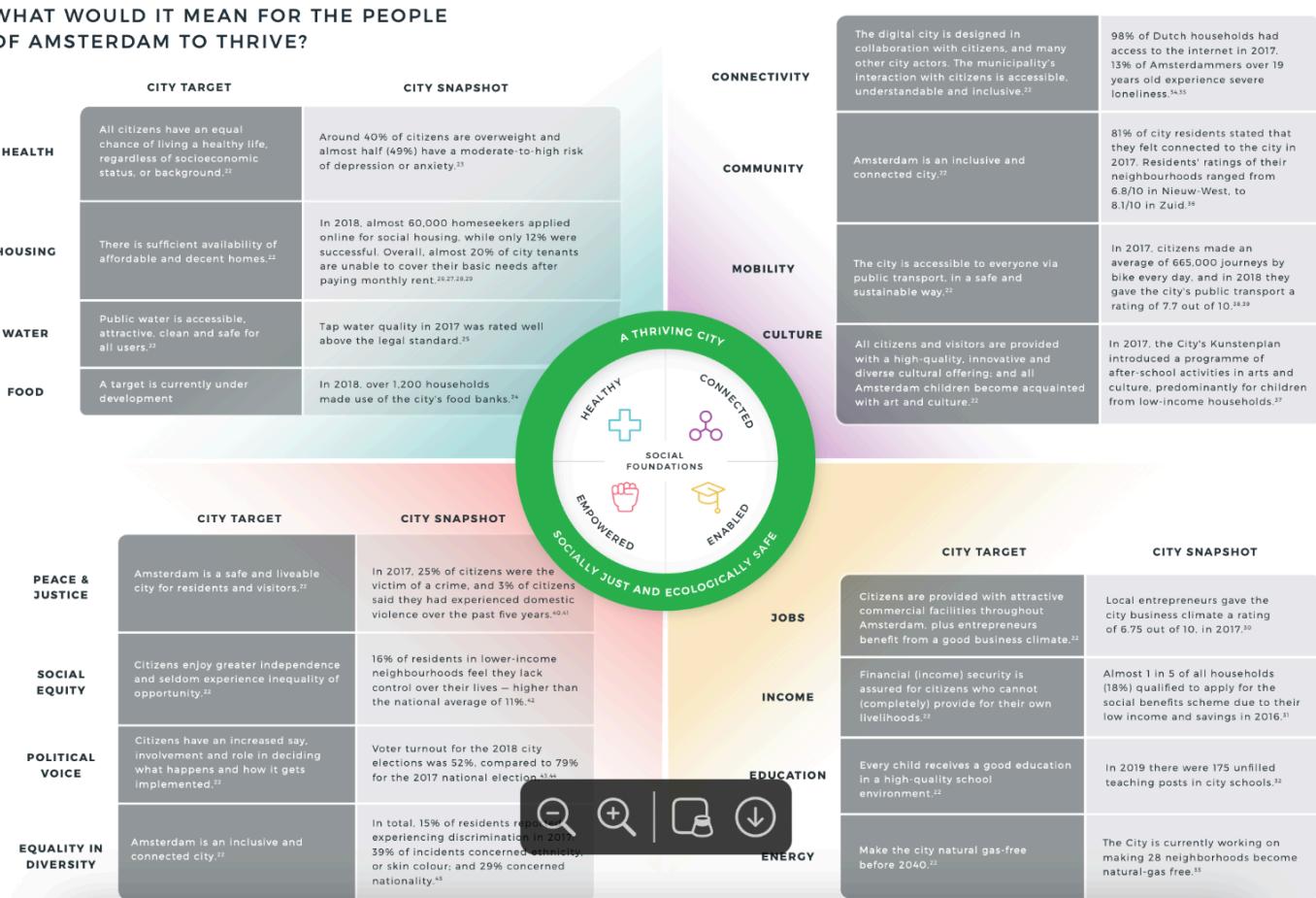[5] https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/cornwall-plan

Figure 15. Social-local lenses of the Amsterdam portrait.

C40 - a global network of over 100 cities implementing sustainable development goals - has created a detailed guide with practical tools to help regions and cities create the portrait.[6] The Doughnut Economics Action Lab provides support, tools and access to a global network of places that are testing the Doughnut framework[7]. There is a lot of knowledge and best practices available to help inform the process of design and implementation of the portrait.

The next steps Surrey Climate Commission envisions in order to create comprehensive Portrait of Surrey would include:

- Gaining buy in for the concept of creation of the portrait from all key sectors of society.
- Setting up a Steering Group that will be responsible for the project.
- Securing funding.
- Building relationships with DEAL and selected localities implementing Doughnut Framework.

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[6] https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/Doughnut-economics-Cities-and-regions-guide?language=en_US
[7] https://doughnuteconomics.org/themes/cities-regions

- Co-Creating a detailed framework of the design process in collaboration with communities, local authorities, business sector and academia.

The Surrey Climate Commission will also create a tab dedicated to the project on Surrey Climate e-Forum[8] for workshop participants and anyone in the community willing to engage with the project. The tab will include access to this report, useful documents and updates and will enable discussion and sharing of opinions and ideas.

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[8] https://surreyclimate.forumcommunity.co.uk/