

# Sustainability

*Theme Workshop 18. January 2024*

## Meeting Minutes:

### Theme Exploration 1

How can we improve the environmental health of cities?

Do you think nature areas in cities are important, why/why not?

#### Theme Exploration 1 - Discussion Summary:

- It is important to have good public transport but in some cities it could be better.
- We want to have access to green areas but there can be tension between planning green areas and planning areas where houses are to be built because many places also lack building land. People don't necessarily agree on where green areas should be and where to build.
- It is an important environmental issue that there is good public transport in cities – if it is not good, people are not going to use it often.
- Sometimes the nature or green areas are not being taken good care of, which often includes trash everywhere which is not good. You could do a campaign on social media and encourage people to take better care of the areas, and it's also important to educate people about the importance of taking good care of the green spaces and not throwing trash everywhere. Education and awareness are important to improve this.
- Public transportation systems often need to be improved if it is not sufficiently good already.
- After a long day at work or school, it is very important to be able to go out and visit green areas, it is refreshing. These areas provide cities with oxygen, which is good for those who live in the cities.

## Theme Exploration 2

What changes would you like to see made to the public transportation system?

What do you think young people can do to make the fashion industry more sustainable?

### Theme Exploration 2 - Discussion Summary:

- We should buy clothing of better quality to make it last longer or buy used clothes.
- We should not make this the sole responsibility of those who buy clothes from fast fashion companies – it should affect the owners of the companies rather than the buyers of the clothes.
- Fast fashion is bad for everyone. These clothes are bought because they are cheap – not thinking about the processes or how the clothes are made; – bad work conditions, cheap labor, unhealthy materials that are being used in the production.
- We should recycle more and buy used clothes. Some people have prejudices towards used clothes and have decided that they are not good enough or cool enough. Used clothes are also good and high quality and people need to start to understand that.
- More electric buses should be used in cities because they are more environmentally friendly than those that use petrol or oil. They should also be cheap or free for children and young people. This could increase the number of people using public transport.
- Recycling clothes is important, as is buying used clothes. An example from Sweden was presented where recycled clothes and items are being marketed as something very nice to buy and use, the initiative seems to be successful.
- It is important to be aware of this and talk about it with family and friends and give them good advice on how to be environmentally friendly.
- Some stores are worse than others and we should try to buy less from those stores.
- We should support environmentally friendly companies and organizations that advocate environmentally friendly solutions and lifestyles.

## Theme Exploration 3

What changes would you like to see made to the recycling system?

What can be done to minimize trash in public spaces?

### Theme Exploration 3 - Discussion Summary:

- We need more discussions to make it clear to people that we need to do better when it comes to recycling and throwing away trash. Making sure that we reuse things rather than throwing them away all over the place.
- We should recycle more, and it is interesting how in Iceland the plastics must be washed before they are sorted – you should not put pizza boxes in recycling because of all the oil etc.
- There needs to be more places to dispose of and sort of rubbish than there are today - more bins and more possibilities for sorting, for example, in public areas.
- It is important that recycling is convenient – it must not be too complicated, and it must not be a lot of trouble because then people will not comply.
- Young people need to get better as they are throwing away too much trash – they need to be better informed about how bad it is to have so much rubbish in the environment.
- We need to have more bins and make sure they are visible – it is better to throw the trash in to the bins rather than on the street – we all need to be on the same team in this regard.
- It needs to be easy to recycle, so that people work hard at recycling – we talked about how it is in different cities – it is not the same everywhere and some places have more bins than others.