Shake up the Systems – Key Actions for Change

Activity Recap:

- You will have 45 minutes in total for this breakout session
- The aim of this session is to think in detail about some of the crucial step changes needed for systems change for a fair climate future.
- Sustainability First have provided some example scenarios for you to use in your group, or you can use a scenario suggested by a member of your group. We recommend you spend no more than a few minutes deciding which scenario to focus on.

Step 1: Identify the step change you'd like to work through *(10 minutes)*
What is the situation today? How would the system have changed in your vision for the future?

Scenario: Community Opportunities for All - Empowering sustainable living

Current problems:

- Time poor/time more of a driving factor than cost sometimes (Solution: make it easy)
- Groups who are disproportionately impacted by harm may face especial barriers to having their voice heard (socially, geographically, skills, language) - (Solutions: Empowerment of different communities as often best placed to know the solutions e.g. funding)
- Identifying what can influence meaningfully in local areas
- Current climate of community – some places have more of a sense of community than others
- Funding – who pays
- Messages are all blurred and confusing e.g. opt for vegan options but xy kills bees – can't win – minefield
- Unequal access to green spaces
- Private rented – heating and water systems may be a barrier/costs if owner occupier of change

Step 2: What radical and practical actions are needed (short, medium, and long-term) – to get from the situation today to your vision for the future? *(20 minutes)*

What are the different areas in which action needs to happen? Think about the systems in which this step change is embedded, drawing on insights from the panel discussions over the past two days. Systems change takes place across different yet interconnected, nested levels of change (e.g. individual, community, ecological). Cutting across these are different flows and types of systems change (e.g. social, technical, political, financial).

What are the barriers and enablers of actions you've identified?

Practical

- Easy access to recycling facilities, affordable public transport/safe cycle highways
- Access to products that have no packaging and sustainable services
- Information – informed choices
- Centralised policy plus flexibility for grass roots policies? - Centralised/localised funding linked to that?
- Young person led initiatives (sustainable citizenship) - how can amplify their voice and initiatives
- Creating right behaviours to start with, rather than changing after established
- Sharing best practice community initiatives
- Free access to blue and green spaces
- Community allotments
- Planning policy encourages rooftop gardens/greening of building decision making
- Changes to building regulations – focus on solutions with lowest operating costs/green costs not lowest upfront costs

Radical

- Decisions can't progress unless consultations are truly 'representative', especially of groups impacted by the decisions
- Ring-fenced funding which rewards cross-sectoral/department action at local authority/community level
- Food/products sustainability label like fair trade e.g. like traffic light system for foods/services e.g. carbon footprints – streamlined across all products, so can see which of the apples are more local/biodiversity impacts? Ensure it's simple, easy to understand.
- Access to vertical gardens/vertical allotments/community gardens
- Policy for Phase out Unfairness – enough is enough, discourage companies who make profit while negatively impacting the environment or people so that the only choices available are from sustainable businesses

Step 3: How do the different levels and flows of change interact in the actions you've identified? *(10 minutes)*
What actions could be taken to link different levels and flows of change?

- Education – establish rather than change habits
- Transport
- Shopping
- Citizen/consumer behaviour change – shape habits
- Opening up green and blue spaces to the public

Step 4: Who needs to be involved to make this change happen? *(5 minutes)*
Think about who this change would affect, which actors would need to be involved, and what barriers might exist for actors to enable this change.

- Local authorities
- Local residents' associations
- Schools – information/organise things with parents
- Utilities
- Local businesses/national business
- Faith communities and existing community groups/local NGOs
- Local media – online, NextDoor, Facebook, radio
- National government