Cities and Museums Fostering Climate Education and Empowerment

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Devolved policy-making

• 200 citizens contributed in 2009

• ‘What’s your dream Manchester’

• Zero carbon by 2050

• 700 citizens contributed in 2016

• First step to climate empowerment
Empowering and educating

• No ‘one size fits all’

• Ecoschools: 4-18 year olds

• UpRising Environmental Leaders: 18–25 year olds

• Carbon Literacy
Museums as sites for climate empowerment

- Reach large numbers of people (460,000 a year at Manchester Museum)
- Trusted institutions
- Collections span human and environmental history
- Sites for long-term thinking, and to find out what other people value and care about
‘Climate Control’, 2016

• Focussed more on INSPIRATION AND EMPOWERMENT than information

• ‘We cant change our past but we can change our future’

• Provided lots of opportunities for people to say what is important to them, and actions they do or might take
Climate Control by numbers

- 98,000 visitors in 4 months
- 73% of people care that the climate is changing
- 21,850 ‘carbon footprint’ stickers added
- 69,380 votes on personal actions
Conclusions

• Civic institutions such as museums can be important sites to inform, inspire and enable people to participate in climate change action

• Policy: can be a first step to empowerment

• Enable: create opportunities for new initiatives and partnerships

• City-to-city collaboration is key