

**How do you hope the planet to be in 2040?  
Messages from Staff and Students**

I hope that in 2040 every decision we make as individuals, communities and countries first asks "what action is best for the planet; its plants, animals and people?".

I hope that we will have solved the problem of Sex and Gender Based Violence Against Women and that universities will be safe spaces for all students.

A breathable and stress-free environment for all living systems on the planet.

By 2040, I hope for better, more economical public transport infrastructure in the UK. I hope developed countries would be quick to help poorer nations affected by climate change and think of a mechanism to prevent disasters from destroying homes and livelihoods. I hope that countries like the Maldives and Seychelles still exist. I hope that my children would not have to choose between buying food or heating their homes. I hope by 2040 there would be reasons to be hopeful and optimistic about the planet.

I wonder if the fens in East Anglia will be under water by 2040. There are lovely fen raft spiders in some of the fens there and I would hate for us to lose them due changing climates. I hope so many of the insects spiders we both know about and are yet to discover survive while the planet changes.

I'd like to see a planet with a healthy, vibrant and biodiverse ocean.

I wish that all the animal diversity I had seen as a child in the Carpathian mountains would return. I wish that people in the UK can experience huge crickets, bees and meadows that I remember. I wish in 2040 it would be possible again in Poland to watch wild boars digging up your garden in the evening, a Moose on a morning stroll, wild deer, and Cranes making nests on special posts you put up next to your house.

Pollution killed my memory of the mountains. I remember picking up a Crayfish from the lake of Zywiec at 8 years old and it just...fell out of its shell. I never saw one after that. Fish had strange boils on them and catching anything on a rod was less frequent. Even in the cleanest land of the lakes, Mazury, I caught 2-metre fish before 2007. When we came to visit three years ago, I caught nothing.

I wish people were different. Before, in Mazury, people treated each other like fellow sailor brothers, and laughed and joked on boats that were barely afloat. Now, they were eyeing you dangerously so you didn't scratch their new yacht. The flame of songs of Shanty, the joys of helping others, the brotherhood connection extinguished in a moment by what we considered important. Money. God, do I hate money.

I hope in 2040 that things can return. That we can learn to find joy in those magical, little things. In the blossoms of flowers, the leap of a salmon, plunging into crystal clear water, breathing in the clean mountain air. Also, that we can share those things and connect through them. Talk for hours of the colours of a bird's wing or last evening's sunset.

I want to share with you my favourite painting, "Morpho". When I was in the Mayan jungle there was a story by the natives told, that butterflies are souls of fallen warriors. However, the Morpho is an evil spirit, that once you follow, you will be led to the jungle to be forever lost. However, as I saw this piece of iridescent sky appear in the deep darkness of the undergrowth I felt nothing else but free. All my worries, depression, pain, began to fade. Hence, to be Lost is to Transform.



A clean environment, with clean air, clean water, free from marine plastics, using renewable energy and sustainable transport, adapting to climate change and sea level rise, and living with nature.

Listen to “Sound of the Sea (video)”

In 2040, all the cars are electric or using hydrogen. All the electricity are generated by non fossil fuel. Oil and gas will be the past. There will be no food shortage. And we can find a way to avoid economic crises. The technology is so powerful which can solve the problem of climate change. People are able to land on the Mars.

By 2040 I would like to see people eating a more sustainable diet and living a more environmentally sustainable lifestyle be that through choice or forced change implemented at the governmental level. It is time to cut down the amount of meat we eat and the amount of travel and to establish new sources of energy that do not deplete natural resources. I would expect to see big strides in these areas by 2040 and hope for the world to be cleaner and healthier place for all.

In 2040 I would want our planet to have most of its energy generated by renewable sources. Climate would be stable. We would have achieved our targets of being a carbon 0 planet.

I would like a planet that survives to humans.

No fossil fuel will be extracted from our planet. All energy comes from renewable sources in 2040.

Hello, people from the future! I hope people planted millions and millions of trees, I hope sustainable energy is real, I hope it is true for every country on our beautiful planet! I hope all the plastic we use is recyclable. I believe individual human consciousness is the key solution! Our little and big choices when combined is a huge power. I hope the wealthiest nations help other countries in saving our planet for future generations!

I want to have an atmosphere free from fossil fuels emissions of toxic gases and all transportation systems use biofuels. An environment built out of degradation and preserved afforestation.

Everybody in the planet will realise their role in enabling its sustainable future. To harness and manage sustainable forms of energy means that we can enable the recovery of the ecosystems that we have ruthlessly exploited. As someone who has researched the fate, toxicity and impact of chemical pollutants across all environmental media I want to believe that progressive planet management will make these problems of the past but the lessons learned will enable us to devise future solutions to new challenges.

I also want to believe that the directorship and management of universities will enable them to become real beacons for education, training and research. That at their core will be knowledge exchange making use of regional resources and people to address challenges that start local and become global. That at our heart will be the values of equality, diversity and inclusion.

My hope for the future: a cool green planet free from adverse weather conditions such as hurricanes, floods and droughts. Pledges:

1. Reduction of carbon dioxide emissions (from whatever source) by at least 95% to ensure global reduction of temperatures increase to below 0.6 degrees Celsius.
2. Infrastructure for developing and sustaining renewable energy sources (solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, etc) to be managed in a manner which shall not contribute to any negative emissions and heating. Failure to consider this aspect will lead to further pledges going to the new Millennium (2200) looking to reduce global temperatures from the same options we are preferring today.
3. Increase forest cover to ensure natural circulation of useful gases in the air and adequate natural regulation of dangerous gases.
4. Change lifestyle behaviour eg. Reduce Aeroplane travel to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

2040, Young forests are growing on once depleted land and former grouse shooting estates and are now stretching along the glens and connect habitats. Although there is still heavy rainfall, flooding events have become rare. We have finally begun to understand the importance of riparian vegetation and forested catchments in flood prevention. The water is clear and freshwater-pearl mussels are spreading south again. For ten years now, lynx and wolves have been roaming the Highlands again and nothing has accelerated the restoration of ecosystems more than their comeback.

Not everyone is happy about rewilding Scotland. However, animals, plants, rivers, lochs and other habitats are now protected and have their own rights. It has long become illegal to harm nature, to pollute rivers, to litter, to cut-down ancient trees or to drain bogs.

Although the world still keeps getting warmer, we have finally realised to work with nature to combat climate change. We have realised our dependence on healthy ecosystems. We started living within an eco-system rather than our ego-system.

I hope that the UK and Scotland are Carbon Negative, that our University has a Department of Carbon Storage and we are selling our technology for Carbon locking into our Oceans and Seas worldwide

In 2040, I hope that our air and water is much cleaner than today as a result of decisions we are taking now about reducing our carbon emissions. My hope is that a new economy will emerge that is guided by clean energy and technologies so that our society remains prosperous and caring. I am confident that wind, solar, and hydrogen energy sources will fuel our world preserving our environment for generations to come. We talk a lot today about a "just transition" to net zero emissions. I hope that no citizen is left behind as we move to renewable sources of energy more and more. May we also have the interests of the most vulnerable and marginalised in our society as we try to make major changes to how we live and work in a sustainable way.

I hope that in 2040 we, as a society, would have done everything we can to help protect the environment and halt the drastic effects of climate change. I hope that world leaders from more developed countries who have caused this crisis, do everything in their power to help the people in poorer countries who are paying the price of this consequence the most. I wish that in 2040, children everywhere growing up will be able to have the same childhood that I, and previous generations had before, and not worry about sea levels rising or different extreme weather changes.

I am most hopeful about changes in regards to food agriculture. Developing sustainable ways to produce and consume food is vital in creating a safer environment. Currently amazing individuals have created underground farms using 100% renewable energy and not having to use soil which release carbon, but also rooftop gardens that uses rainwater to help growth of plants and other sustainable methods to reduce climate change. Hopefully more of this is done in the future to combat climate change effectively.

I fear that the planet will remain in crisis. The biggest risk to climate change is the human race. We need to educate people all over the world to have less children, especially those who are poor and can not even feed their children! War torn countries! Countries suffering from draughts.

The rich can and will probably make meaningful changes, because they can. How many households will be able to afford to insulate their homes? Replace their gas boilers with better alternatives, change their diesel and petrol cars!

We need to slow down the human population. Recycle everything, use all natural sources to generate energy (wind, solar, rain / flood water capture), all can be utilized and used to generate energy.

Food waste is horrific. That should be stopped.

The solution to climate change is Education.




Firstly, I wish to share a dream. In the photo I shared I am standing in a spot that once was covered by the glacier Franz Josef in New Zealand. Today it is melting every minute. I hope that in 2040 I can visit New Zealand again and experience what is left of the glacier. Unfortunately at this pace, there will be nothing left in 2040. This is truth of so many of the glaciers around the world, that are disappearing with incredible speed.

I visited this spot during the first lockdown (Covid-19) of New Zealand in May 2020. At this time the world was standing still, and natural phenomenon's were observed all around the globe. Air clearing in the cities, birds and animals returning to old natural habitats. Fish appearing closer to the coast and nature taking a long breath as it seemed to have wanted for so long. It was mesmerising. This for me was a clear sign that it is possible to turn the world around.

However, drastic measures have to be taken. I believe that consumerism is one of the absolutely worst actors of global warming and climate change. Institutions, governments and global industry has to change their policies, but this does not take away the responsibility from the individual.

A minimalist lifestyle is essential to stop mass-production, consumerism, low quality standards and generally the assumption that the planet is a buffet table. It is not! We need to give to the planet the same amount that we take. Balance is the key-word. For every tree that is taken, we plant a new. Reuse-recycle-reinvent.

There was a time they called us the 'lost-generation' (generation Z), born with computers and phones and opportunities. I say we strive to become the 'generation of change'. That we challenge the status quo. I hope that whoever reads this in 2040 will be able to nod and say 'they succeeded!'.  


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My hope for the @aberdeenuni #UoAClimateCapsule is that by 2040, ten years on from the @SustDev Sustainable Development Goals timeline, the interlocking human, societal, and environmental challenges we face have been comprehensively and equitably tackled. #SDGs.

Our pledge for the @aberdeenuni #UoAClimateCapsule is to support our partners and innovative farmers to deliver a food supply system by 2040 where #NetZero #ZeroWaste crops such as #hemp are grown to produce healthy food and sustainable materials #LeadingIdeas @rowett\_abdn



Road to  
COP26