

Here is a **summary report of the discussions** held by young people at each round table:

## **1<sup>st</sup> ROUND TABLE 3.7.2025 / 11 participants**

### **Table 1: Understanding the European Green Deal**

**Topic:** *Obstacles to the success of the Green Deal and ways to overcome them*

Participants identified several key **obstacles**:

- **Lack of awareness** among citizens, especially youth, about what the Green Deal entails.
- **Economic interests and lobbying** by major industries slowing down policy implementation.
- **Unequal commitment** by EU member states due to differing national priorities and levels of development.
- **Greenwashing** and mistrust in political institutions.

**Proposed solutions** included:

- Integrating **environmental education** into school curricula and youth programs.
- Enforcing **stricter accountability** for companies and governments regarding emissions and sustainability goals.
- Increasing **transparency** and simplifying language in Green Deal communications.
- Supporting **local green initiatives** with EU funding to encourage community-level change.

### **Table 2: Green Policies & Youth Participation**

**Topic:** *How young people can shape environmental policies in Europe*

Key points raised:

- Young people often feel **excluded** from policy-making and decision-making processes.
- A **lack of accessible platforms** for youth input and feedback on green policies.
- The **gap between youth-led activism** and institutional recognition.

Suggested actions:

- Establishing **youth councils or advisory boards** at national and EU levels dedicated to environmental policies.
- Including young people in **policy consultation phases** and giving voting rights in local environmental decisions.
- Funding and supporting **youth-led green initiatives** through structured programs.
- Promoting **youth representation** in EU-level climate summits and negotiations.

### Table 3: Green Technologies & Innovation

**Topic:** *How digital tools and social media can promote the Green Deal*

The group discussed the **power of technology and media** to amplify climate action:

- Social media can raise awareness, mobilize youth, and spread **positive environmental narratives**.
- Digital platforms can host **interactive campaigns**, challenges, and webinars to educate and engage people.
- Technology can help track and visualize data on pollution, emissions, and energy use.

Recommendations:

- Create **youth-friendly digital campaigns** that translate complex policy into engaging content (memes, videos, reels).
- Use **apps and gamified tools** that reward sustainable behavior (e.g., public transport use, recycling).
- Collaborate with **influencers and digital creators** to reach wider audiences.
- Promote **open-source platforms** for youth innovation in green tech and local sustainability challenges.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ROUND TABLE 4.7.2025 / 11 participants

### Table 1: Defining European Values in Sustainability

**Topic:** *How do European values like solidarity and cooperation support sustainability?*

Participants agreed that **European values are the foundation for collective climate action**, highlighting:

- **Solidarity** as essential in ensuring no country or region is left behind in the green transition.
- **Cooperation between member states** enables shared resources, knowledge, and technologies.
- **Equity and inclusion** were emphasized as values that ensure the green transition is fair for all citizens, especially vulnerable groups.

Youth proposed:

- More **cross-border youth initiatives** focused on environmental challenges.
- Strengthening **joint EU programs** that support community-level sustainability efforts.
- Embedding **climate solidarity** in future EU treaties and national strategies.

### Table 2: Global Responsibility & Local Action

**Topic:** *What local actions can young people take to promote sustainability in their schools or communities?*

The group discussed the **power of youth-led grassroots initiatives**. Common local actions included:

- Starting or joining **eco-clubs** in schools or youth centers.
- Organizing **clean-up campaigns**, tree planting, and local food markets.
- Advocating for **sustainable practices** in school cafeterias, such as plant-based meals and reducing plastic.

They stressed:

- The need for **support from schools and municipalities** to enable long-term youth action.
- The importance of **peer-to-peer education** on sustainability.
- That **local impact contributes to global change**, reinforcing the role of active citizenship.

### Table 3: Cultural Perspectives on Sustainability

**Topic:** *How can the EU encourage all member states to adopt stronger sustainability policies?*

Participants recognized that **different cultural, historical, and economic backgrounds** influence national approaches to sustainability.

Challenges mentioned:

- **Varying levels of public awareness and political will** across member states.
- **Economic constraints** in some countries make sustainability seem like a lower priority.

Solutions proposed:

- Creating **flexible policy frameworks** that allow countries to adopt sustainability measures in culturally sensitive ways.
- Using **EU-wide incentives and funding** to motivate national action (e.g., Green Transition Funds).
- Promoting **intercultural exchanges** and youth dialogues to build mutual understanding and shared purpose.
- Highlighting **success stories** from diverse EU countries to show that sustainable development is adaptable and beneficial everywhere.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> ROUND TABLE 5.7.2025 / 11 participants

#### Table 1: Understanding Environmental Justice

**Topic:** *Can you think of examples where climate change has caused social inequalities?*

Participants explored **how climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable communities**, highlighting several examples:

- **Floods and heatwaves** impacting low-income areas more severely due to poor infrastructure and limited access to emergency services.
- **Air pollution** being more common in densely populated, lower-income urban neighborhoods.
- Rural communities facing **loss of livelihoods** due to droughts or changing weather patterns in agriculture.

Key takeaways:

- Climate change is **not just an environmental issue**, but also a **social justice concern**.
- Inequalities are **worsened** when climate responses (like carbon taxes) are not designed to consider social impact.
- Youth stressed the importance of **addressing environmental issues through an intersectional lens**, considering age, income, ethnicity, and location.

#### Table 2: The Role of Youth in Social & Environmental Justice

**Topic:** *How can young people support environmental justice in their communities?*

The group emphasized the **transformative power of youth advocacy**, suggesting:

- **Raising awareness** through workshops, social media campaigns, and school projects that link environmental and social justice.
- **Collaborating with marginalized groups** to co-create solutions that reflect their lived realities.
- Becoming involved in **decision-making spaces**, such as youth councils, to push for equitable climate policies.

Ideas for local action:

- Organizing **community-based environmental audits** to highlight areas with poor access to green resources.
- Partnering with local organizations to **amplify underrepresented voices** in climate conversations.

- Advocating for **inclusive public policies** that ensure everyone benefits from green investments.

### **Table 3: Climate Refugees & Fair Solutions**

**Topic:** *How can Europe ensure fair access to green spaces, clean air, and clean water for everyone?*

Discussions centered around **environmental justice as a human right**, with an emphasis on equity and access. Key challenges included:

- **Urban planning** that neglects lower-income areas, resulting in fewer parks, higher pollution, and reduced quality of life.
- **Limited access** to clean water in certain rural or industrial areas.
- The lack of support and protection for **climate migrants** or displaced communities.

Proposed solutions:

- Creating **EU-level guidelines** to ensure fair environmental standards across all regions.
- Investing in **green infrastructure** in underserved neighborhoods.
- Ensuring policies consider the needs of **migrants and marginalized communities**, including access to housing, healthcare, and nature.
- Promoting **public transportation and air quality monitoring** in poorer areas to reduce health risks.

Participants called for **climate justice to be integrated into all environmental strategies**, so no one is left behind in the green transition.

## 4<sup>th</sup> ROUND TABLE 6.7.2025 / 11 participants

### Table 1: What Does It Mean to Be a Sustainable Citizen?

**Topic:** *What are the responsibilities of a sustainable citizen?*

Participants agreed that being a sustainable citizen means actively **making choices that benefit both people and the planet**. Key responsibilities identified were:

- **Conscious consumption** – choosing eco-friendly products, reducing waste, and avoiding fast fashion and single-use plastics.
- **Political engagement** – voting for policies and leaders that prioritize sustainability.
- **Community involvement** – supporting local green initiatives and setting an example for others.

They emphasized that sustainable citizenship isn't about being perfect, but about:

- Being **aware of one's impact**,
- Willing to **learn and adapt**, and
- Acting in **solidarity with global and local efforts** toward sustainability.

### Table 2: Community Action & Civic Engagement

**Topic:** *How can young people work together to create more sustainable communities?*

This table focused on the **power of collective action**. Participants shared that:

- **Youth collaboration** can lead to impactful changes, especially at the community level.
- Actions like **organizing local repair cafés, clean-up actions, sustainability fairs, and swap events** can raise awareness and reduce waste.
- Building **peer-to-peer networks** and creating youth-led projects increases visibility and influence.

Suggestions included:

- Forming **green teams** in schools and neighborhoods to lead initiatives.
- Engaging with local authorities and participating in **municipal decision-making processes**.
- Using digital tools to **coordinate efforts and advocate** for sustainable change at a larger scale.

### Table 3: Ethics & Decision-Making in Sustainability

**Topic:** *What role do schools and education play in shaping sustainable citizens?*

Participants highlighted the **crucial role of education in shaping values and behaviors**:

- Schools can serve as hubs for **learning about environmental issues**, ethical responsibility, and social impact.
- Formal education should include **critical thinking, environmental literacy, and systems thinking** as part of the curriculum.
- Non-formal learning spaces (like youth organizations and NGOs) were also recognized as important for **experiential learning** and community-based sustainability projects.

Proposals included:

- Integrating **sustainability topics** across subjects, not just in science.
- Promoting **student-led initiatives** in schools and creating real opportunities to make sustainable choices (e.g. green school policies).
- Training teachers to **model sustainable behavior** and facilitate ethical discussions on environmental justice, climate anxiety, and global responsibility.



## 5<sup>th</sup> ROUND TABLE 7.7.2025 / 11 participants

### Table 1: The Green Economy & Future Jobs

**Topic:** *What role do businesses and brands play in promoting a greener economy?*

Young participants recognized that businesses and brands have **major influence** in shaping consumer behavior and advancing the green transition. Key points included:

- Companies should be **leaders, not followers**, in sustainable innovation — investing in green technologies, circular economy models, and ethical supply chains.
- Greenwashing remains a serious concern; **transparency and accountability** are essential to gain consumer trust.
- Young people called for **stronger regulations and incentives** for sustainable business practices across Europe.

**Connection to previous roundtables:**

- Ties to **Roundtable 1, Table 3 (Green Tech & Innovation)** – Digital tools can expose unsustainable practices and support responsible business behavior.
- Reflects the **values of solidarity and cooperation** discussed in **Roundtable 2** – brands and businesses must act in the interest of both people and planet.

### Table 2: Ethical Consumption & Everyday Choices

**Topic:** *What does it mean to be an ethical consumer, and how can we make responsible choices?*

The group discussed that ethical consumers:

- **Consider the impact** of their purchases on the environment, workers, and communities.
- Favor **local, fair trade, eco-certified**, and low-waste products.
- Aim to reduce consumption overall — **reuse, repair, and rethink needs**.

Challenges include:

- **Limited access** to sustainable options (due to price or availability).
- **Misinformation** and confusing labels.
- **Pressure to conform** to fast fashion or trend-based consumerism.

Suggested solutions:

- Increasing **consumer education** through schools and campaigns.
- Encouraging **community-based solutions** like clothes swaps, zero-waste shops, and second-hand economies.

- Supporting **policies that regulate green claims and promote product transparency**.

#### Connection to previous roundtables:

- Deepens themes from **Roundtable 4 (Sustainable Citizenship)** — making informed personal choices is a key civic responsibility.
- Echoes **Roundtable 3, Table 1 (Environmental Justice)** — not everyone has the same access to ethical options; equity must be part of ethical consumption.

### Table 3: Challenges & Solutions for a Green Economy

**Topic:** *What are the biggest barriers to transitioning to a fully green economy?*

Participants identified several **systemic and practical challenges**:

- **Resistance from traditional industries**, particularly fossil fuels and mass production sectors.
- **Economic inequalities** — not all countries or people can afford to go green at the same pace.
- Lack of **political will or long-term vision** among decision-makers.

Solutions proposed:

- Making **green jobs and upskilling opportunities accessible to all**, especially youth.
- Creating **fair transition strategies** that support workers moving out of polluting industries.
- Using **EU-wide policies and funding** to support green innovation, especially in economically weaker regions.

#### Connection to previous roundtables:

- Links with **Roundtable 1, Table 1 (Obstacles to the Green Deal)** — both discuss uneven progress and the need for cooperation.
- Echoes **Roundtable 2, Table 3 (Cultural Perspectives on Sustainability)** — different contexts require different approaches but shared goals.

### Final Reflection: Bridging the Roundtables

Participants across all sessions consistently emphasized:

- The need for **education, transparency, and accessibility**.

- That **youth must be included in shaping the systems**—from policies and schools to markets and industries.
- That **individual and collective actions must go hand in hand**: from ethical shopping and civic engagement to green entrepreneurship and policymaking.

This roundtable closed the circle by tying **daily consumer habits and job market expectations** to the broader system change needed for a just and sustainable Europe.