



# Engaging Young People in the Net Zero Transition Through Values, Strengths and 'Inner Development'

Roy Kareem, Future Generations Lead  
at Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE)



# [CONTENT WARNING]

THIS IS GOING TO GET WARM AND FUZZY



Why are we here this  
afternoon?

How do we 'engage' young  
people in this stuff?



# Roy Kareem – Future Generations Lead at CSE

- Star sign: Leo
- Melatonin level: Medium
- Core values: balance, joy, attention
- Strengths: Adaptability, Positivity, Ideation, Intellection, Input



# Centre for Sustainable Energy



# A brief history of climate action at CSE



# Background

- We began in a political climate very similar to now.
- We focused on energy from the start and then realised energy was inseparable from fuel poverty.
- Climate change has been on the agenda the whole time but it didn't win bids until the 2000s – unlike today!

Other interesting facts:

- CSE used to run a coop café, bookshop, energy company, insulation installer...

Ultimately the goal of what CSE did in the 1980s is almost identical to our current mission. Solve the twin problem of fuel poverty and climate change, use education and connection with people to make change – help people help themselves and their communities. And push for structural change based on our learnings.



**1970s**

**High fuel prices, cost of living crisis,  
environmental concerns...**

**Centre for Alternative Technology is founded.**




1979



Urban Centre for Appropriate Technology is founded.

Community education, retrofit, fuel poverty support.






“We were increasingly getting embroiled in **the social issues**, the fairness issues, the **questions of people suffering from fuel poverty**...

It was **putting together the environmental movement**, which was concerned with climate change and pollution and resource management, **and the social movement** which was concerned with inequity and fuel poverty, poor housing, lack of employment...

We put these two movements together and said **energy conservation provides a real momentum in both directions.**”

-Hugh Barton, speaking in 2010 about CSE in 1985





# Where are we today?

CSE's vision is a world where sustainability is second nature, carbon emissions have been cut to safe levels and fuel poverty has been replaced by energy justice.





# Where are we today?

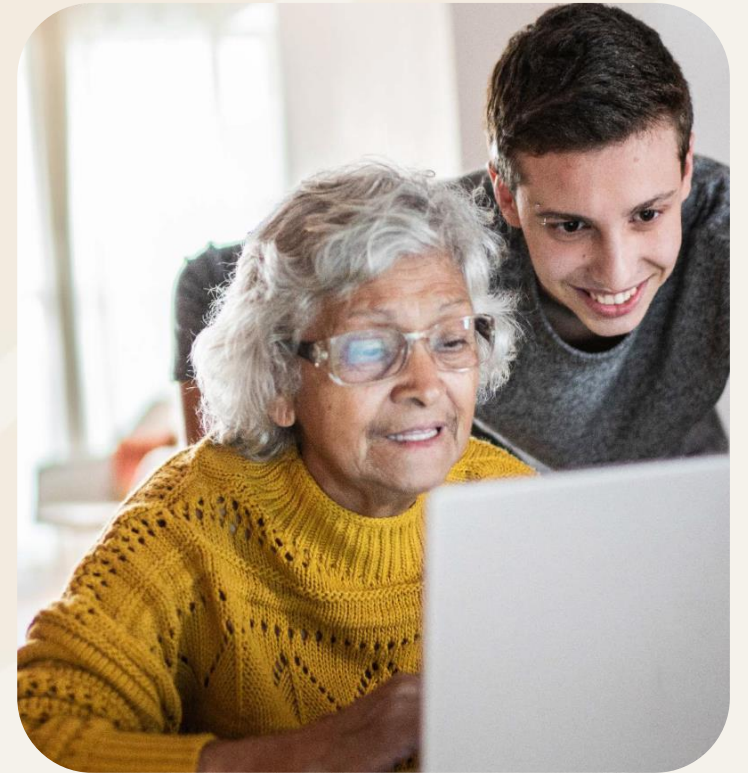
CSE high level objectives:

- No one suffers a cold home
- Everyone empowered to take action on energy and support net zero
- Every building zero carbon and liveable
- Places shaped for sustainable energy
- A greener, smarter, fairer energy system that works for everyone



# Teams at CSE

- Home Energy Services
- Research and Analysis
- Local and Community Empowerment
- Development
- Finance and Operations





# Roy Kareem – Future Generations

- Bright Green Future
- Bristol Mission Net Zero
- Bristol's Youth Climate Action
- Energy Matters





Making it personal

....or starting from the inside out



# Strengths



# Values



Making it more than  
personal/bigger than self



# UN's Sustainable Development Goals





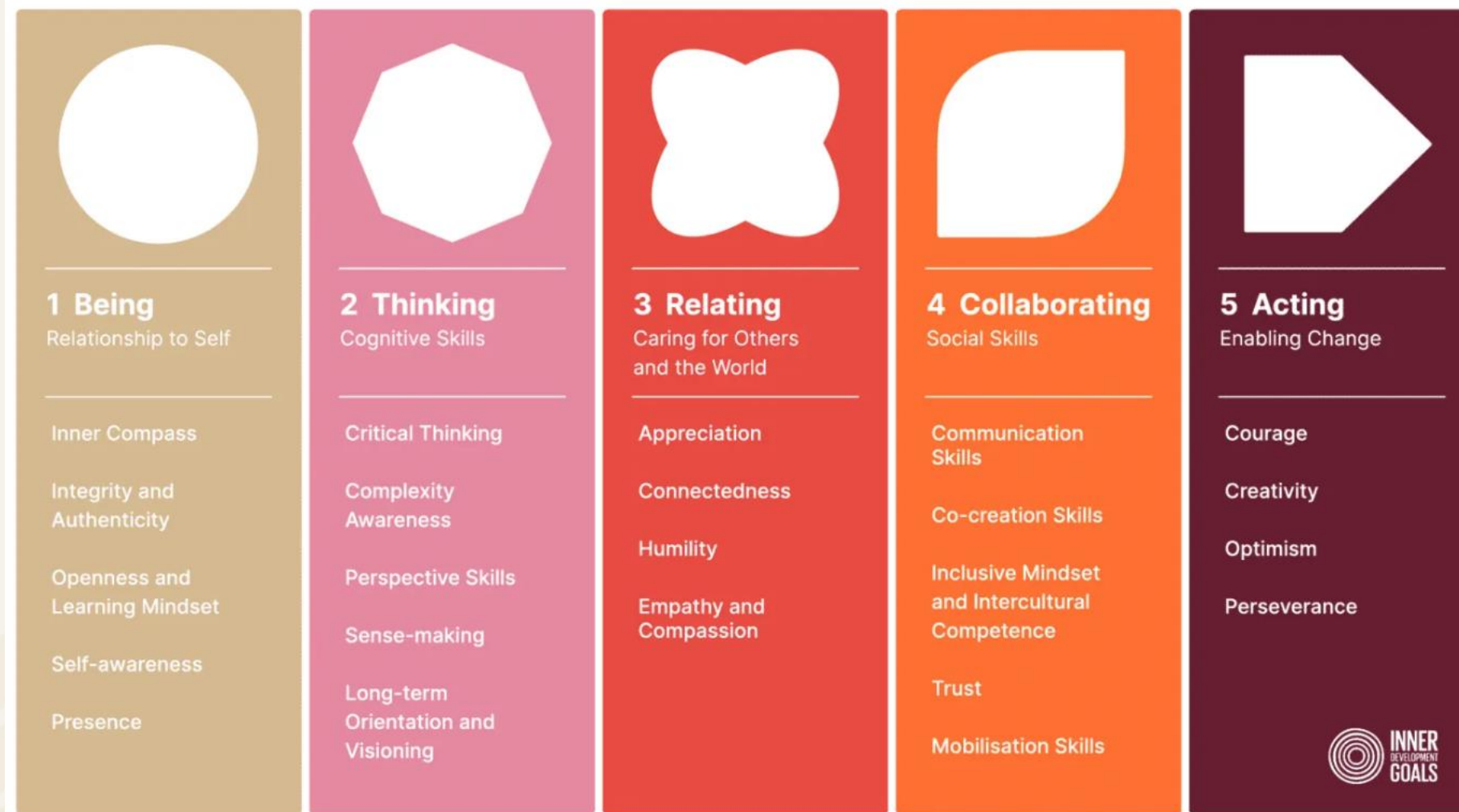
# Inner Development Goals

## Transformational Skills for Sustainable Development

The initiators of the IDG Initiative were motivated by a belief that there is a **blind spot** in our efforts to create a sustainable global society. We have **accumulated much knowledge** about the climate crisis, poverty, public health, and other social ills communicated in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, we seem to have an **underdeveloped capacity to deal with our increasingly complex** environment and challenges. We have a vision of what needs to happen but progress towards this **vision has been disappointing** as technical solutions and public policy, which comprise the majority of approaches today, are **insufficient on their own**.



# Inner Development Goals





# In practice:

- At CSE
  - Bright Green Future
  - Bristol Mission Net Zero
  - Energy Matters
  - Build Green Futures
- Outside of CSE
  - Black and Green Ambassadors
  - Health Ambassadors (Public Health Research Partnership)
  - Resilience Through Nature
  - One on one personal coaching



# Bright Green Future

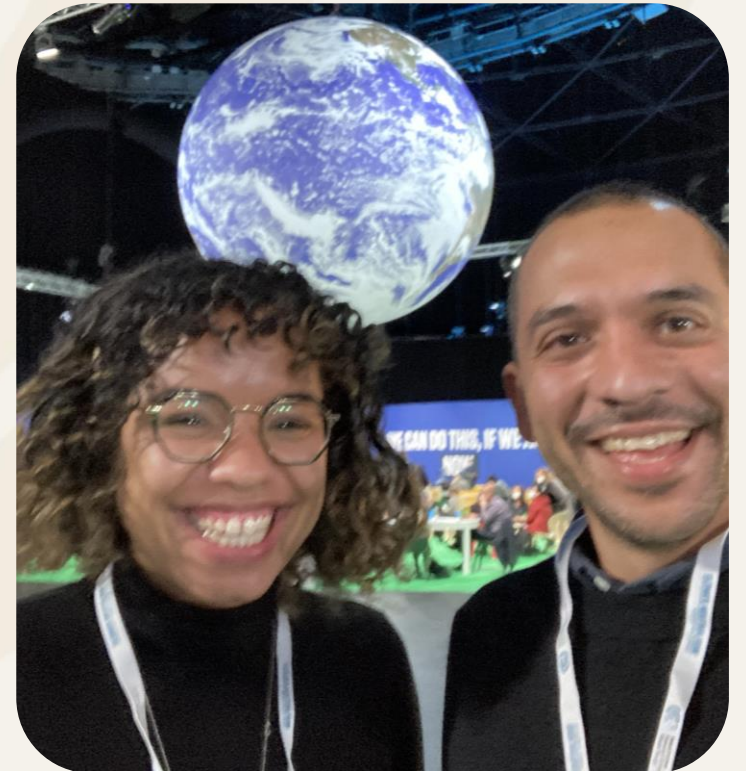
- Environmental leadership programme for 16-19 year olds from across UK
- Running since 2016
- Over 400 students have graduated from the programme
- Self reported high levels of impact of future education or career choices into areas related to those with positive environmental impact





# Black and Green Ambassadors

- Partnership between Ujima FM and Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership
- In new version, ran between 2020 and 2023
- Research, radio, outreach



# Resilience Through Nature



Resilience Through Nature