Collecting visions:

What would a clean, renewable energy system look like and what do we need to do to get there?

Background:
We asked young people from primary and secondary schools to share their vision of what they think a clean, renewable energy system would look like. This is a living document of collective visions which we will continue to add to with the ideas of young people from the solar schools programme.

Primary Schools

Solar Energy
- To put solar farms in deserts
- To put solar farms in meadows
- To have more solar panels everywhere
- To use transparent solar panels and use them instead of windows on houses
- Not burning fossil fuels - instead of fires maybe we'd have heat from green energy and solar panels
- Solar panels for all the schools in Ireland and beyond
- To give grants to people to be able to fit solar panels onto buildings
- To put solar panels on all houses
- For people to use more solar panels
- To put solar panels on cars with batteries to help the cars
- Instead of tiles on a roof there should be solar panels
- Solar energy is the answer to climate change - we need to spread the word that solar works

Wind energy
- Putting large wind turbines out at sea to collect energy
- If farmers had room to put Windmills in their fields - and the government could give them grants for creating clean energy
- There should be more wind turbines

Hydro energy
- To use more hydro energy

Geothermal energy
- To use geothermal energy from the ground - a long term clean solution

Transport
- If electric cars were cheaper - more people could afford to use them
- Our vision was where we'd be using electric cars and windmills and where everyone recycled properly

- Full car parks for electric cars to charge up
- We need to get people to buy electric cars
- To support electric cars - to continue with some grants and make them cheaper to buy

Other ideas for a more sustainable world
- Clean energy to be safe for people and animals
- If there was more workshops like this and education about renewable energy that would help
- The Government will invest money through grants to make energy accessible to everyone
- To harvest rainwater
- To put a turbine on a ship with a hole at the bottom and it could spin across the water and collect the rubbish from the sea and collect energy at the same time and this would also clean the water
- If there was a way to convert slurry into electricity we could provide to the community.
- People could stop littering - because fish are being killed by all the plastic
- Litter police - fines for littering
- There should be more streams going through towns

Secondary Schools

Solar Energy
- There's a lengthy process for solar panels - costs are high! It would be good to have cheaper options for solar energy and a system for making it accessible for more people - it's currently a huge upfront cost.
- Newly built schools should be built with solar panels
- Should be a grant for schools who cannot afford solar panels
- To make solar panels more affordable so more people can access them
- Newly built houses should have solar panels built into them - we need new guidance
- If there was a competition - if a school planted X number of trees they'd get a grant for solar panels for their school

Wind energy
- Schools, businesses, households should be using energy from the waves, wind, solar
- Wind farms out at sea - good because they don't take away land from housing etc. floating - so as not to affect sea life
- Far more reliance on the resources we have in Ireland - wind and solar

Hydro energy
- We should be using the ocean more for energy since we live on an island - use local energy resources
- To use hydropower

Transport
- Better charging network for EV's around Ireland
- A lot more public transport and reducing the amount of palm oil used - finding alternatives
- Lithium batteries - not good would be useful to find alternatives

Other ideas for a more sustainable world
- To curb deforestation - plant more trees
- To transition towards wood burning for home heating - moving away from oil etc. Collecting wood from fallen trees etc.
- To cut big business' emissions because this would have a bigger impact than individuals cutting theirs
- To find a balance between big companies/ individuals making changes - to focus on big cities (highly populated areas)
- If there was community owned energy in our area this would be an effective way to bring people into a sustainable future
- What land we have, should be preserved - even though we have access to fossil fuels we shouldn't use them ie: bogs
- Development of passive houses as baseline