

FOUNDATION YOUTH FOR SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

RAIL TO THE COP

In 2021, Youth for Sustainable Travel, mainly focused on the campaign Rail to the COP. The idea was to bring youth activists, policy makers and members of the rail industry together and come up with more ideas for more sustainable travel. Therefore, YfST co-organised a Climate Train, running from Amsterdam to Glasgow for COP26.

1st Quarter

In the first quarter of 2021, the team worked on the basis for the campaign. This included the design of an overall mission for the campaign, the start of fundraising and first applications for funds and a Memorandum of Understanding with our main partner ProRail to set common goals and responsibilities. Additionally, the volunteers set up the different teams which should focus on certain parts of the campaign. The teams were adapted to the changing situations throughout the year. Next to the weekly team meetings, the board of YfST set up a strategy meeting session to plan the bigger picture of the campaign and not focus on small parts. This led to a broader search for possible partnerships. This is an overview of all the partners:

- ProRail
- Eurostar
- NS
- Avanti West Coast

This is an overview of all the supporters:

- EWS Schönaue
- CER
- European Rail Infrastructure Managers
- UIC
- StayGrounded
- Strategiemakers
- Infrabel
- GetLink
- SNCF

2nd Quarter

In the second quarter, the team focused on concrete tasks and took the campaign to the next level by onboarding new team members, starting to work on the program for the train and fixing the train with ProRail and Eurostar. The team was able to find funding for the campaign and to secure the project with partners. Due to the Ongoing COVID-19

pandemic, the team worked with different scenarios to be able to adapt the campaign to possible cancellations.

The campaign was officially launched on May 1st. This was the start of the communication and mobilisation campaign.

3rd Quarter

In the 3rd quarter, the team established a backbone / interlink group which was responsible for the overall project management and to keep an overview about the different activities. The whole team mainly worked on the application and selection process and defined goals, which people should be on the Climate Train. More volunteers joined the team and started working on the growing amount of tasks. In August, the team started a crowdfunding campaign to support youth activists with their travel expenses and allow more people to join COP26 in Glasgow.

The application website was launched and the first participants were selected. Additionally, the team started to plan the station events in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Brussels.

The YfST board organised a working weekend in Hamburg with team members coming from Berlin, Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Lund. This meeting kicked off a new working group on participant support focusing on all problems which might come up during the application and booking process and during or after the train ride.

4th Quarter

The Climate Train is scheduled to leave on October 30th. All the working groups finalised their tasks: The program team focused on the onboard program, invited speakers and planned sessions. The program can be found attached. The participant support team was able to refund travel expenses for everyone who asked for reimbursements. Several emails were sent out to all the participants to answer possible questions and inform about the concrete planning.

On October 30th, the train started in Amsterdam and brought 500 people to GLasgow. The whole team worked on communication, press, program, participant support and the station events.

In November and December, the team worked on the last reimbursements.

At COP26 in Glasgow several volunteers of our group had dialogues about racism within the climate movement and in spaces like UNFCCC's COP. We therefore committed, as a collective of volunteers related to YFST, to get educated and educate ourselves on racism and acts of antiracism.

TIME TO EXPLANE

While ExPlane continued its outreach in the Netherlands, the joining of new team members facilitated outreach in other countries such as the UK, Sweden, Denmark and France. Partnerships with other organizations such as Stay Grounded, erasmusbytrain, the FlyingLess network of academics based in the US, zomer zonder vliegen, and Klimatstudenterna were established and intensified. ExPlane members helped organize and participate in several networking events around the topics of flying less in academia,

such as with FlyingLess and Greener Academia. Furthermore, participation at the UniC International Student Summit on Climate hosted online by the University of Laval increased ExPlane's visibility beyond Europe. In the context of its partnership with StayGrounded, ExPlane co-developed material for so-called multiplier trainings on climate justice and aviation to be held in 2022.

Climate Train On-Board Program: Session Overview

Direction of Travel

Block 1: Amsterdam Centraal – Brussels Midi	Block 2: Brussels Midi – London St. Pancras
	Coach 1: Press & First Class
	Coach 2: Press & First Class
	Coach 3: Press & First Class
	Coach 4: Let's Get on Track #2
	Rail has a key role to play in achieving climate goals and should be the backbone of low-carbon transport policies. It is the only realistic alternative to short-haul aviation and long road journeys in the short term, with the potential to save millions of tonnes of CO2. By and large, the infrastructure already exists. However, to accelerate the modal shift, there are still multiple challenges and obstacles on the way. Rail needs to become more attractive and affordable. Investment is required to address bottlenecks and rolling stock shortages. It should be easier to offer and travel on cross-border journeys. This workshop will discuss the key changes that need to happen in the next 10-15 years to enable rail to compete with low-cost airlines and other more polluting options.
	Coach 5: Aviation: Fair Taxes and a Just Transition
	Aviation is in many ways the pinnacle of global climate, social and economic injustice. At a time when we need a fair and fast transition away from fossil fuels – the aviation industry plans to double air traffic by 2040, massively increasing emissions from a sector which mostly benefits a privileged few. It plans to drive this growth with government subsidies, widespread airport expansion and incentives for biofuels, while continuing to benefit from unfair tax breaks that encourage unnecessary flights and make climate-friendly travel choices harder. Join us on the Rail to COP to discuss how various organisations and movements (including those working WITHIN the sector) can collaborate to call for fair taxes on flights that discourage frequent flying, take action against aviation industry greenwash, dangerous expansion plans and ensure a fair transition for workers.
	Coach 6: Sailing Outside the Box
	At the start of the climate summit in Glasgow, reducing emissions in the maritime sector has never been higher on the agenda. It is an industry with emissions comparable to a large industrial country like Germany. To be able to sail truly emission-free, we need to think "outside the box". A difficult task for a traditionally conservative industry that thinks mainly in the box (the container). During this session: Captain Jorne Langelaan, founder of EcoClipper, takes you into the world of sail cargo.
	Coach 7: Stop Talking, Start Doing #2
	Same as in Block 1.
	Coach 8: Bar & Relax
Coach 9: Bar & Relax	Coach 9: Bar & Relax
Coach 10: Stop Talking, Start Doing #1	Coach 10: Ask Me Anything
Improving railways is extremely difficult. The technology has made huge progress, but there has not been any radical shift in over 150 years. By comparison, there has been more profound change in the business models and surrounding business ecosystems of the air and tech sectors. In order for rail to compete, we need more market disruptors and a more diverse set of business models. The challenge therefore is to discuss and propose processes and idea generation models so the railway and mobility industry can encourage and implement more unique business models.	This coach will feature a number of facilitated 30 min conversations. Join one of the experts and ask and challenge them on anything. Or start your own conversation, there will be space for spontaneous ideas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How might we reduce prices for train tickets? - How might we make 100 climate neutral cities by 2030? - How might we help musicians to tour sustainably? - How might we find synergies between the climate movement and sustainable mobility?
Coach 11: Transformative Investment	Coach 11: Fair and Sustainable Travel for all
Large investments will be necessary to expand rail and transform mobility. But transformative, long-term investments can be a risky bet. Even when change badly needs to happen, businesses can hesitate to make the first move. A growing stream in economics calls for governments to take on a more mission-orientated approach and to make those first high-risk high-reward investments. Businesses can in turn invest on a safer ground. According to this theory, how could the mobility sector be placed on a virtuous trajectory of public and private investment towards a carbon free future?	I will have the participants reflect on the state of Earth since the industrial revolution. That half of all the world's animals have disappeared in only the last 50 years and biodiversity loss is accelerating while we are using more of the earth than it can recover. I will explain why these impacts are disproportionately felt by Most Affected People and Areas (MAPAs), and the crucial role that Indigenous Peoples play in preserving 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity. We will reflect on how western consumption patterns contribute to fossil fuel use, deforestation, and resource depletion and drive the climate and biodiversity crisis. What does innovation and development really mean? Who benefits from it? And how can we put MAPAs central in the next wave of green innovation?
Coach 12: Transforming Society #1	Coach 12: Climate Reality
<u>Active Hope: Facing the mess we're in without going crazy</u> An interactive workshop to strengthen your capacity to face the climate crisis. How can your heart and actions be part of the great turning towards a new society? Based on ecophilosopher Joanna Macy's 'The Work that Reconnects' this workshop combines psychology, spirituality and systems thinking.	<u>Climate knowledge meets team building</u> Reading the entire IPCC report to feel legitimized to talk about climate change? Alternatively, you can also take part in an interactive and collaborative 2-hours workshop that allows you to grasp the complex mechanisms of our climate system! In this session you will not only deepen and share your climate knowledge with your team members, but you will also get to know quite a powerful tool: The Climate Fresk. Participate on the way to Glasgow, become a facilitator yourself during COP26 and spread awareness back home! Get ready to be part of the dialogue! Get fresked!
<u>Climate Litigation: Where Next?</u> In May, a Dutch court passed a landmark ruling in the case Milieudefensie v Royal Dutch Shell. This is the first judgment in which a multinational corporation is held responsible for its contribution to climate change. The case has left many wondering what will be next for climate litigation. During this session, we will share our top tips on how to sue a big polluter and put them into practice by jointly building a future court case. We will assess which company could be next and develop a strategy around all key aspects of a successful court case.	<u>COP 26</u> The COP26 in Glasgow will be a crucial moment in the struggle to bring the climate crisis under control. But how does a COP work? What will be the crucial discussions at COP26? And how can we lobby and raise awareness for fair and sustainable travel? In this session we will have a crash course on the COP process and opportunity to ask questions to negotiation and UNFCCC experts. With this knowledge, we want to create a collective vision for what should happen at the COP and how we can influence the process for the better. Our goal is to arrive in Glasgow well prepared, with all the optimism and energy we need to make a difference.
Coach 13: Lets Get on Track #1	Coach 13: Ask Me Anything About Rail
Rail has a key role to play in achieving climate goals and should be the backbone of low-carbon transport policies. It is the only realistic alternative to short-haul aviation and long road journeys in the short term, with the potential to save millions of tonnes of CO2. By and large, the infrastructure already exists. However, to accelerate the modal shift, there are still multiple challenges and obstacles on the way. Rail needs to become more attractive and affordable. Investment is required to address bottlenecks and rolling stock shortages. It should be easier to offer and travel on cross-border journeys. This workshop will discuss the key changes that need to happen in the next 10-15 years to enable rail to compete with low-cost airlines and other more polluting options.	This coach will feature a number of facilitated 30 min conversations. Join one of the experts and ask and challenge them on anything. Or start your own conversation, there will be space for spontaneous ideas. Similar to "Ask Me Anything" in Coach 10 but with a focus on rail. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How might we improve ticketing? - How might we implement Eurolink? - How might we improve high speed rail in Europe? - How might we improve sustainability of rail infrastructure?
Coach 14: Press & First Class	Coach 14: Press & First Class
Coach 15: Press & First Class	Coach 15: Press & First Class
Coach 16: Press & First Class	Coach 16: Press & First Class

WELCOME ON BOARD THE CLIMATE TRAIN TO COP26

The Climate Train is a symbol of partnership between rail operators and infrastructure providers across Europe. As we travel together to COP26 today, we commit to optimising the role that rail can play in helping to meet climate change targets.

Together, we will make it easier and simpler to travel further by high-speed rail – through new routes, new timetables, and new tools to improve the check-in and travel experience.

Thank you for joining us today on our journey to create a more sustainable future.



ProRail

EUROSTAR™



**AVANTI
WEST COAST**



With support from:



railtothecop.com

[#climatetrain](https://twitter.com/climatetrain)

[#climatetraintoCOP26](https://twitter.com/climatetraintoCOP26)

THE PLAN FOR TODAY

While you are on board, we invite you to sit back, relax and enjoy the experience. We are hosting a number of workshops and menu tastings on the journey between Amsterdam and London – just ask a member of the team if you need further details.



The train's timetable

- **08:45** Depart Amsterdam Centraal
- **09:28** Depart Rotterdam Centraal
- **11:04** Depart Brussels Midi/Zuid
- **12:09** Arrive in St Pancras International
- **Wellbeing walk** to London Euston
- **13:27** Depart London Euston
- **18:00** Arrive in Glasgow Central

YOUTH FOR SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

Welcome on board on behalf of **Youth for Sustainable Travel (YFST)**.

YFST is a European not-for-profit aiming to promote sustainable travel and raising awareness about issues in the travel industry. The organisation is registered and based in the Netherlands. In 2019 Youth for Sustainable Travel organized their first campaign, Sail to the COP.



We're the initiators of the Rail to the COP campaign. A campaign which promotes and facilitates the transition towards a sustainable travel future. By co-organising this Climate Train we're aiming to connect people en route to the international climate conference, COP26. Rail to the COP creates a space for dialogue between industry leaders, activists, youth and policy makers onboard the Climate Train, as well as in events before, during and after the COP.

We amplify and connect diverse voices for a just and sustainable travel future.

THE GREENER WAY TO GO

At Eurostar, it's in our nature to care for the environment. We've been encouraging people to switch from planes to trains for over 25 years. And we'll never stop promoting the role of rail in tackling climate change.



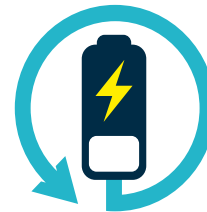
Your carbon footprint from flying to London would be the same as making at least **7 Eurostar journeys.***



*Based on 2019 CO2e emissions. More info at [eurostar.com](https://www.eurostar.com)



We use **100% wind power** to run our trains in the Netherlands...



...and we're committed to switching entirely to **renewable energy** in the UK, France and Belgium.



We reduced paper ticketing by **50%** between 2017 and 2019.



Our staff lovingly care for **nine beehives**, which produce honey for our menus.

KIND TO THE PLANET . GOOD ON THE PALATE .



Working with our culinary director, Michelin-starred chef **Raymond Blanc OBE**, Eurostar is committed to ensuring that every meal served on board is made with sustainability in mind.

In recognition of these efforts, we've been awarded the highest three-star rating from the Sustainable Restaurant Association.

Take a look at how we're making sure our dishes both taste good and do good.

Our recipe for sustainable success

- Our meals use fresh, in-season and locally sourced fruit and veg.
- We only serve meat that's free range, naturally fed and easily traceable.
- We use Fairtrade or organic ingredients that are free from genetically modified products.
- We work with farmers and suppliers committed to high environmental standards.
- We never serve white veal, foie gras or any fish on the Marine Conservation Society's list of 'Fish to Avoid'.
- We don't use air-freighted products or frozen fruit and veg, unless there's absolutely no alternative.

PRORAIL: GOING, GROWING, GREEN

‘You are on the most important train that has ever run. On this train, we will discuss how the railways can play a greater role in the transition to a climate-neutral economy. The urgency to take steps in this direction is greater than ever.

Today, we have young people, politicians, specialists and policymakers on board. That makes this the place to start thinking together about making the European transport sector more sustainable, so that the European climate targets come a step closer.

It is high time that the train really becomes part of the climate policy. Let’s talk about it during the journey and in Glasgow.’

John Voppen,
CEO ProRail

About ProRail

As the Dutch rail infrastructure manager, ProRail facilitates the daily transport of one million passengers and more than 100,000 tonnes of goods by train over 7,000 kilometres of track. We encourage more passenger and freight transport by rail, as one of the most sustainable forms of mobility. We work in a sustainable way and are constantly looking for innovative improvements.

For more information, visit
prorail.nl/toekomst/duurzaamheid



WELCOME TO NS: BLUE AND YELLOW MAKES GREEN

As an alternative to cars and aircraft, trains make a vital contribution to the necessary reduction of carbon emissions. NS is highly aware of its role as a front runner in sustainability.

Our domestic trains have been running on 100% wind energy since 2017, and we have reduced our energy consumption by around a third over the past 15 years. Our partners are working hard to achieve similar sustainability targets.

As a result, an international train journey produces around 80% less carbon emissions than an aircraft to the same destination. This is not where it ends. We want to be a zero-emission business within a decade.

NS aspires to become the most sustainable mobility provider, even compared with electric cars. NS welcomes the European Green Deal and the Fit for 55 package. There is a crucial role for rail in realising the targets set out in these major initiatives.

[ns.nl/en/about-ns/sustainability](https://www.ns.nl/en/about-ns/sustainability)



HS1: THE GREEN GATEWAY TO EUROPE

At HS1 Ltd, our aim is to be the world's leading high-speed rail experience, providing the most sustainable option for transport across the UK and Europe. Independent research commissioned in 2019 revealed that HS1 removes 6,000 cars and lorries from UK roads, and 60,000 short-haul flights every year.



We recently launched a new and ambitious sustainability strategy including a bold pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030.

During our workshop at Investment COP in partnership with the World Climate Summit, we will call for an annual modal shift of an additional 4.9 million passengers (based on air travel patterns in normal times and potential for new routes) to high-speed rail.

This would prevent a potential further 450,000 tonnes of CO2 from entering our atmosphere per year and grow the £66m of environmental benefits already generated each year as a result of people choosing to take the train rather than fly.

If you are interested in attending our workshop or would like to collaborate with us to help fill our railway for the good of the planet, please email greengateway@highspeed1.co.uk

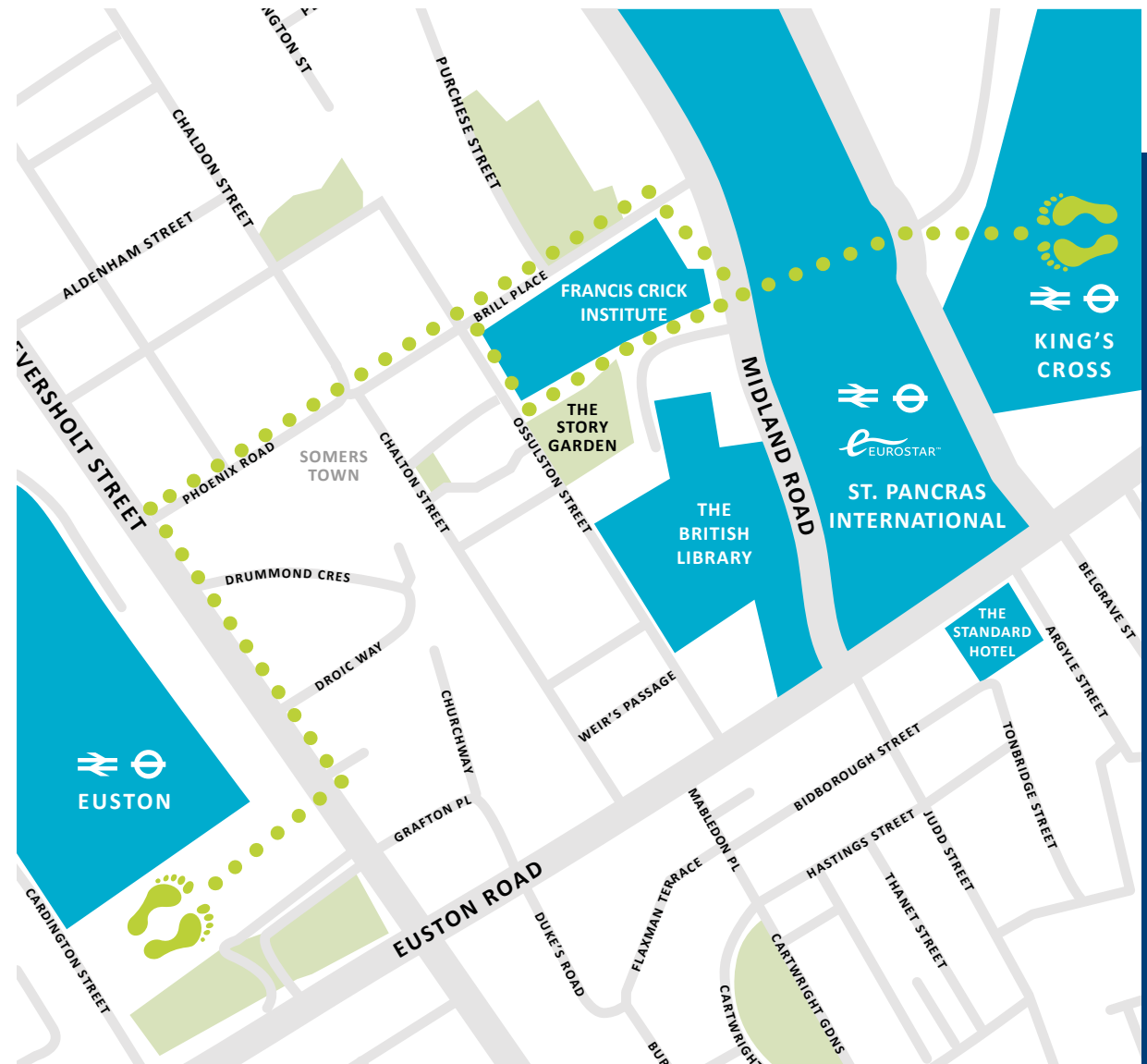
ONWARD TRAVEL TO LONDON EUSTON – THE WELLBEING WALK

When we arrive, join us on the 10-minute Wellbeing Walk from London St. Pancras to London Euston station to connect with your service to Glasgow – an alternative walking route with 50% less pollution than taking the Euston Road.

The route was created by Urban Partners: a voluntary business partnership made up of organisations in the Euston, King's Cross and St. Pancras area.

Members commit funds, expertise and time to deliver initiatives that benefit our local neighbourhoods for those working, living and studying in the area and the many people who visit.

urbanpartners.london



WELCOME TO AVANTI WEST COAST

Our planet means the world to us, and we're extremely proud to be running your London-Glasgow leg of the Climate Train.

You'll be gliding at speeds of up to 125 mph, tilting round corners on electrified tracks, as our journey takes us past both rural and urban landscapes onboard one of our iconic Pendolino trains.



Our services connect towns, cities and communities via the West Coast Main Line across England, Scotland and Wales.

Avanti West Coast is a joint venture between FirstGroup and Trenitalia, and together we've committed to delivering a cleaner, greener railway which drives train travel forward for the benefit of our planet, our people, our customers and our communities.

We are in the process of submitting our science-based targets for validation and in the next few years we will be replacing our diesel only trains with a combination of electric trains and bi-mode trains. We expect to reduce our absolute carbon emissions from our train operations by 60% by 2030.

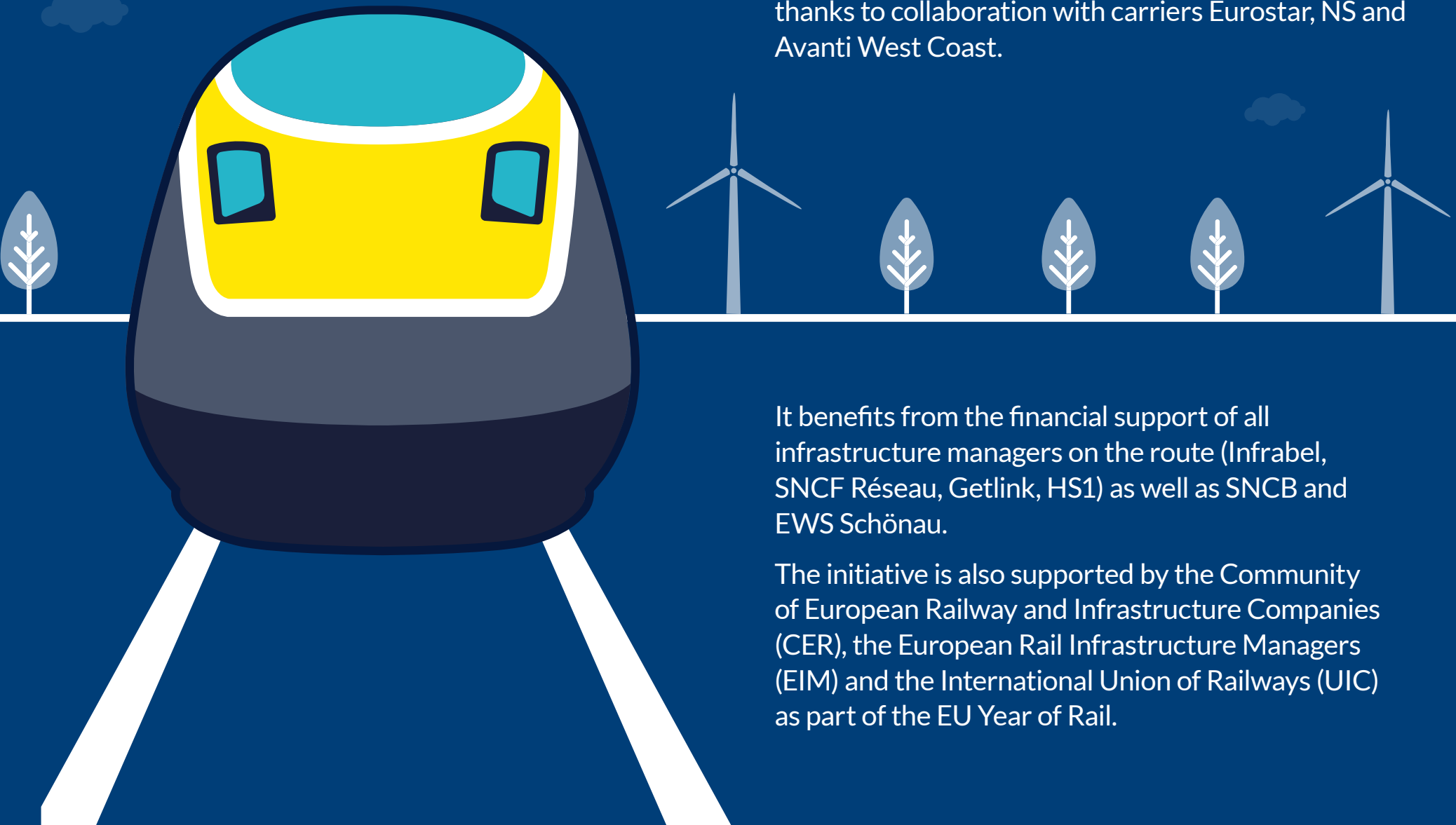
Now it's time to sit back, relax and take in the breath-taking scenery.

Enjoy the view,
Avanti West Coast

[avantiwestcoast.co.uk/cop26](https://www.avantiwestcoast.co.uk/cop26)

ABOUT THE CLIMATE TRAIN

The Climate Train concept was initiated by not-for-profit organisation Youth for Sustainable Travel and Dutch rail infrastructure manager ProRail, and became a reality thanks to collaboration with carriers Eurostar, NS and Avanti West Coast.



It benefits from the financial support of all infrastructure managers on the route (Infrabel, SNCF Réseau, Getlink, HS1) as well as SNCB and EWS Schönau.

The initiative is also supported by the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER), the European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM) and the International Union of Railways (UIC) as part of the EU Year of Rail.

A FEW THANK YOUS

The workshops on board have been brought to you by Strategiemakers, with thanks to our hosts from:



SIEMENS



CLIMATE GROUP



ACTION 4 JUSTICE

