



GDA

Green Digital Accessibility

Assessing the accessibility of information about the climate crisis: A comparative analysis

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**GREEN
SCENT**
SMART CITIZEN EDUCATION
FOR A GREEN FUTURE

Background to this study

United Nations, Climate Action, 22 April 2022.

“Google teams up with the UN for verified climate information”

“

Now, when users search for “climate change” they will find authoritative information from the United Nations in 12 languages. In addition to organic search results, **Google is surfacing short and easy-to-understand information panels and visuals on the causes and effects of climate change, as well as individual actions that people can take to help tackle the climate crisis.**

Example of Google Panels on Climate Change

Climate change :

Overview

Effects

Causes

Actions

Actions

From [UN ActNow](#)

Everyone can help limit climate change. From the way we travel, to the electricity we use and the food we eat, we can make a difference. Start with these ten actions to help tackle the climate crisis.

Save energy at home



Much of our electricity and heat is powered by coal, oil and gas. Use less energy by lowering your heating and cooling, switching to LED light bulbs and energy-efficient electric appliances, washing your laundry with cold water or hanging things to dry instead of using a dryer.

[Learn more about saving energy at home at UN.org](#)

Walk, cycle or take public transport



The world's roads are clogged with vehicles, most of them burning diesel or petrol. Walking or riding a bike instead of driving will reduce greenhouse gas emissions – and help your health and fitness. For longer distances, consider taking a train or bus. And carpool whenever possible.

[Learn more about walking, cycling or taking public transport at UN.org](#)

Eat more vegetables



Eating more vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts and seeds, and less meat and dairy, can significantly lower your environmental impact. Producing plant-based foods generally results in fewer greenhouse gas emissions and requires less energy, land and water.

[Learn more about eating more vegetables at UN.org](#)

Definition

From [the United Nations](#)

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, but since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels (like coal, oil and gas), which produces heat-trapping gases.

People also search for



Global
warming



Environ...
issues



Biodive...



Sustain...

See more →

See results about

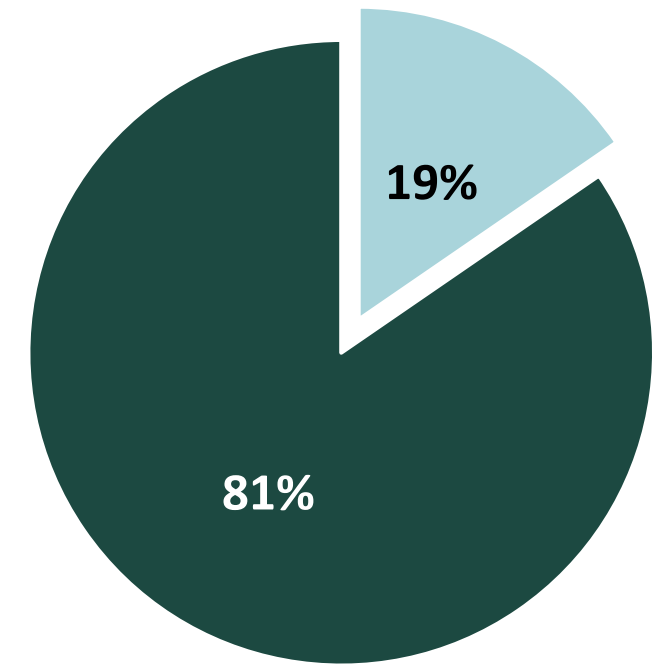


[Climate variability and change](#)

Climate variability includes all the variations in the climate ...

Current situation for people with disabilities

- Lack of regard of people with disabilities as an asset in adaptation planning for climate change.
- Currently only **37 out of 192 (19%)** of countries who signed the **Paris Agreement** directly refer to people with disabilities in their Nationally Determined Contributions.



Disability Rights in National Climate Policies: Status Report. Centre for Human Rights & Legal Pluralism & International Disability Alliance.

Research question

- How accessible is information about the climate crisis for people with cognitive disabilities and those who have difficulty reading?

Methodology

- Comparative analysis of two documents about sustainability adapted into Easy-to-Read language.

Texts

- Mayor of London (2018) [“London Environmental Strategy Executive Summary”](#) & [“London Environment Strategy: Executive Summary, Easy to Read Version 2018”](#)
- The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (2020) [“Discussion Document on a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill”](#) & [“Discussion Document on a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill in Easy Read Version”](#)

Are the texts accessible?

N. Ireland

Department of Agriculture, Environment &
Rural Affairs' website

London Mayor

London City Hall website

Research findings

	Tokens	Sentence length	Gunning Fog Index
London Mayor	6,657	34.6	20.1
ER version	1,499 (22%)	11.2	6.2
Northern Ireland	12,383	29.2	17.2
ER version	1,533 (12%)	17.4	8.1

Gunning Fog Index

Easy to read

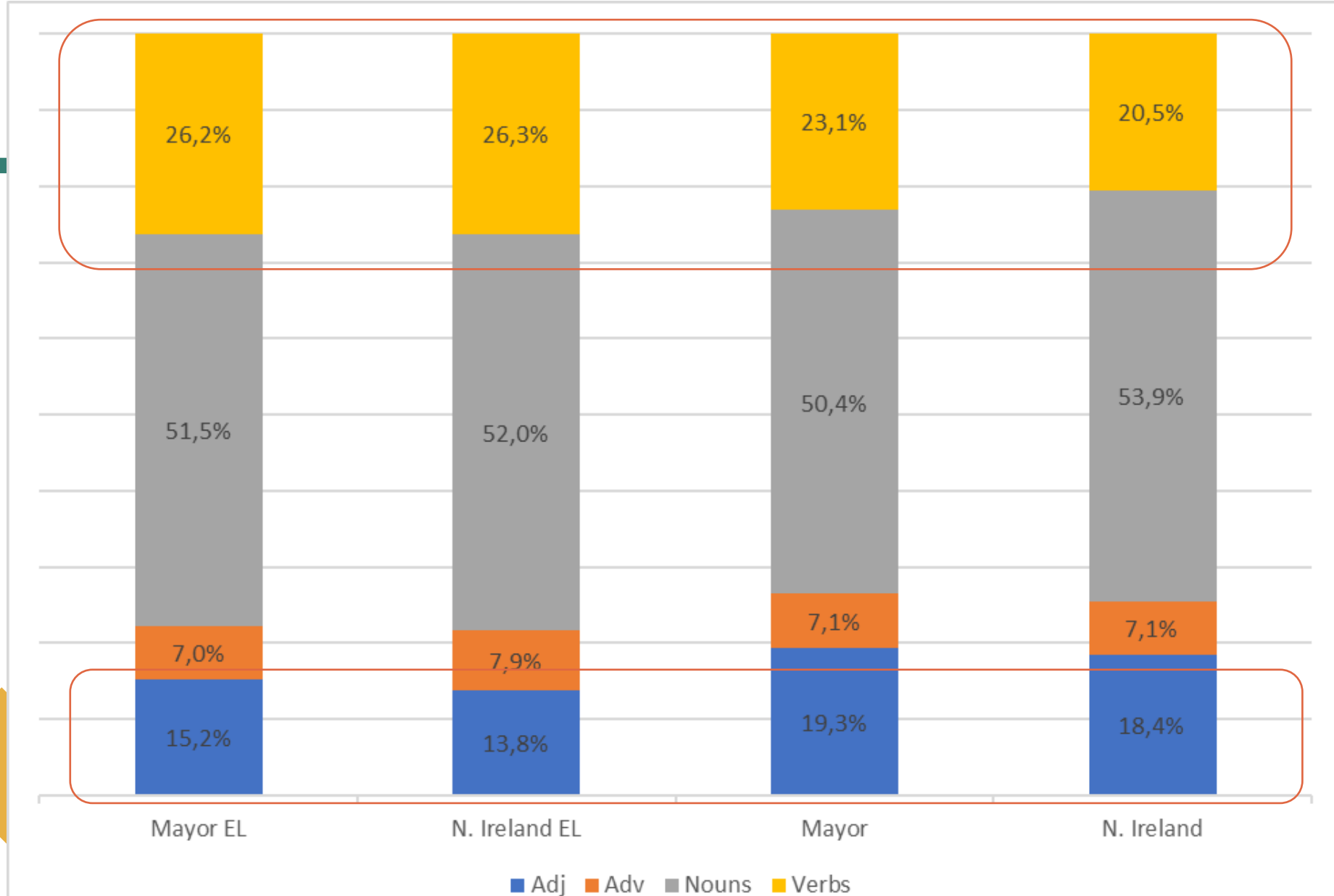
- 05: 5th grade
- 06: 6th grade
- 07: 7th grade
- 08: 8th grade
- 09: High school freshman
- 10: High school sophomore

- 12: High school senior
- 11: High school junior

Danger line

- 13: College freshman
- 14: College sophomore
- 15: College junior
- 16: College senior
- 17: College graduate

PoS distribution



Vocabulary and grammar

	London Mayor	N. Ireland
Easy vocabulary	✓	✓
Difficult words explained	✓	✓
Short sentences	✓	X
One line per sentence	✓	X
One idea per sentence	✓	X
Simple sentences	✓	X

Easy-to-Read examples



"Zero carbon means that dirty fuels like coal and oil will not be used to make electricity or drive our transport.

Burning dirty fuels like coal and oil pumps carbon dioxide into the air. This is what is making the world warmer."

London Mayor text

"'UK Net Zero' means that the UK will limit the amount of greenhouse gases being released ('emitted'), to a level no more than the amount of greenhouse gases that are removed from the atmosphere."

N. Ireland text

Conclusion

- Easy to find
- Not entirely easy to understand
- Limitations
- Recommendation: standardized glossary
- Design for one, extend to many (Centre for Inclusive Design)

Work Cited

- Centre for Inclusive Design (n.d) “[Easy English versus Plain English guide](#)”
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- The Writing Clinic (2006) “Clear Writing: How to Achieve and Measure Readability.” *Poscripts*. 2006. Web. 29 Nov. 2022 <[http://notorc.blogspot.com/2006/09/devils-in -details-measuring.html](http://notorc.blogspot.com/2006/09/devils-in-details-measuring.html)>.



Moltes gràcies!

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