

NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSEMBLIES

Version 6 January 2022

KNOCA is a European network that aims to provide resources and inspire those who commission, design, advocate and scrutinise climate assemblies to ensure the highest standards of practice. The network hosts events and produces a range of practical resources, alongside other knowledge development activities. We welcome individuals and organisations with experience or interest in either commissioning, running or analysing these processes and their outputs in Europe. Please reach out to us at info@knoca.eu to join the network and to share, discuss and inform best practice and new developments in climate assembly design, delivery and analysis

NOTE: The information on climate assemblies presented in this document is also available on our website and is constantly updated with the latest processes. See <https://knoca.eu/>. Please provide thoughts on the content of the document at info@knoca.eu.

Introduction

A number of climate assemblies have been organised across Europe at national, regional and local levels. These vary in design and ambition. KNOCA is currently focused primarily (but not exclusively) on national level assemblies. We have created short summaries of the following national assemblies:

- German Citizens' Assembly on Climate
- Jersey's Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change
- Denmark's Climate Assembly
- Finland's Citizens' Jury on Climate Action
- Scotland's Climate Assembly
- Climate Assembly UK (CAUK)
- The Citizens' Convention on Climate (CCC) in France
- The Irish Citizens' Assembly 2016-2018

German Citizens' Assembly on Climate (Bürgerrat klima)

Website. <https://buergerrat-klima.de/>

Purpose. To encourage more ambitious and effective climate policy to realise Germany's commitment to the Paris Agreement (limiting the global rise in temperature to 1.5 degrees) by presenting the results to politicians during the 2021 federal election campaign, government coalition negotiations and the formation of the parliament.

Commissioning. BürgerBegehren Klimaschutz (BBK, Citizens' Climate Protection Initiative) with Scientists for Future, Germany. Patron is the former German President Prof. Dr. Horst Köhler.

Task. The Bürgerrat Klima was tasked with making recommendations for how Germany can fulfill its contribution to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement (limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees, and if possible, to 1.5 degrees), with due consideration to social, economic, and environmental factors.

Commitment to respond. No formal link to the political process. The Assembly was timed to influence pre-election public debate, positioning of parties and coalition negotiations following federal elections.

Governance. Scientific Board of Advisors, Civil Society Advisory Board.

Delivery bodies. Ifok GmbH, the Institute for Participatory Design (IPG) and the nexus Institute for Cooperation Management and Interdisciplinary Research

Participant recruitment. 160 members recruited through civic lottery by phone, subsequent self-registration and further sortition procedures. Criteria: age, gender, level of education, place of residence (state), size of community, migration background and position on climate change. Hardware, software and training provided. Honorarium of €450.

Duration. Twelve meetings between April 26 and June 23, 2021: 8 mid-week evenings (3 hours), 4 Saturday meetings (8 hours).

Structure. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the entire assembly took place online with the participants logging on from home. In the first three sessions, the full assembly familiarised itself with the topic of climate change and the individual themes to be discussed: mobility, buildings and heating, energy production, food production (meat, milk). Members were randomly divided into 4 theme groups to develop guiding principles and recommend policy measures. Overarching topics such as instruments of transformation and socially-balanced CO₂ pricing were also considered. The assembly ended with plenary votes on recommendations.

Facilitation. Active table facilitation.

Technology. Zoom. Howspace platform to house information, exchange ideas and document results. Mural to develop recommendations. A studio with a stage setting, camera and sound was used whenever the entire assembly was addressed.

Evidence base. The Scientific Board selected four areas for the focus of deliberations: mobility, buildings and heating, energy production, food production.

Developing recommendations. Recommendations developed in workstreams in small groups. At various points, the workstreams presented proposals to the plenary to ensure constant exchange of ideas. The recommendations were evaluated by the Scientific Board of advisors and feedback was received from participants in other working groups, and, if necessary, were adjusted accordingly.

Decision-making. Plenary votes on recommendations.

Final report. A [summary of the recommendations](#) (in German) was released on June 24 2021 at a press conference – see an English commentary [here](#). The [final report](#) was published in Autumn 2021; the English version is available [here](#)

Communication. The commissioning organisation, BBK, was responsible for the communication. The website provides basic information and was updated following individual meetings. Parts of the meetings were live-streamed, some recordings are posted on Assembly YouTube Channel. To broaden engagement within civic society and to support the communication work, including contact with politicians, BBK established a 'support network' of 86 organizations, from a wide range of sectors. Lobbying and public relations activities are ongoing.

Oversight of official response. BBK, assisted by the participants and supporting NGOs. After the election in September, the Support Network ensured that the results of the Citizens' Climate Assembly were considered during the negotiations for a new governing coalition.

Impact. Positive response from political parties and individual politicians during the election campaign. The coalition treaty reflects many recommendations but leaves open many relevant issues addressed by the Assembly. Lobbying and public relations activities led by BBK continue.

Evaluation. No official evaluation was commissioned. A post-hoc evaluation will be organised based on inputs from the various observers and organizers of the process.

Budget. €1.9m for the work of the delivery bodies. The budget is covered by donations and funding from foundations, including, the Schöpflin Foundation, Open Society Foundations, GLS Treuhand and the German Postcode Lottery Foundation. This does not include communication undertaken by BBK and other NGOs during and after the assembly process, for which fundraising is ongoing.

Further resources. [Video](#) of KNOCA's learning call on the German Citizens' Assembly on Climate

Jersey's Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change

Website. <https://www.climateconversation.je/citizens-assembly/>

Purpose. In 2019, the States Assembly in Jersey declared a climate emergency and proposed a “people-powered approach”, recognising the value in a whole-island response. The Minister for the Environment presented the Carbon Neutral Strategy, which was formally adopted by the States Assembly on 26 February 2020. A key aspect of the long-term climate action plan was convening a citizens' assembly on climate change to explore key issues related to climate change and to discuss and make recommendations on “the nature and pace of Jersey's transition to carbon neutrality”.

Commissioning. States Assembly.

Task. “How should we work together to become carbon neutral?” The mandate provides that the citizens' assembly should consider: (a) the implications and trade-offs of a range of scenarios for achieving carbon neutrality; (b) when and how a full transition to zero (or almost zero) emissions in key sectors might be achieved.

Commitment to respond. Jersey's Carbon Neutral Strategy commits the Government's Council of Ministers to: debate the recommendations in the States Assembly; consider the recommendations in Jersey's long-term climate action plan; and to publish a response to the recommendations stating which recommendations are accepted and how they will be implemented. Where recommendations are not accepted and implemented, the Government must provide a clear and reasoned justification.

Governance. Chair Convenor, Expert Advisory Panel. Policy team from government administration

Delivery bodies. Involve, New Citizenship (design and facilitation), Sortition Foundation (recruitment)

Participant recruitment. The Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change comprised 45 citizens selected by civic lottery. In the first stage, an invitation to register an interest in taking part in the assembly was sent to 9,000 randomly selected households. Anyone aged 16 or over, who lived at the address and who was eligible to vote could apply. In the second stage, criteria of age, gender, country of birth, tenure and views on climate change were applied for final random selection of assembly members.

Duration. 15 virtual meetings between March and May 2021. Each of the sessions lasted around two and a half hours.

Structure. The assembly was organised in four blocks:

Block 1 – An introduction to the climate change issues facing Jersey and our emissions

Block 2 – The contribution of transport to Jersey's emissions

Block 3 – The impact of heating, cooling, cooking on Jersey's emissions

Block 4 – Agree recommendations, including preferred policy changes

The assembly was not broken into thematic groups – the whole assembly considered both transport and energy use in turn. The assembly also considered sustainable finance and offsets.

Facilitation. Active table facilitation

Technology. Virtual assembly meetings held via Zoom. Technical assistance and equipment, where required, was provided by a support team. A Google resource area hosted background documents, materials, and outputs from the sessions.

Evidence base. Video presentations followed by Q&A sessions with speakers. Background factsheets containing additional information. The expert advisory group and policy team decided to focus the assembly on the topics of transport and domestic energy use, because they are recognised as two significant domestic contributors to climate change. They also provided suggestions for which speakers the assembly would hear from, and reviewed the information provided to members.

Developing recommendations. Recommendations on transport and domestic energy use were developed following the same process. Having considered evidence from speakers and from the broader "Climate Conversation" (see "Communication" below), members brainstormed ideas. These were collated by facilitators into seven themes that were agreed by members. Members broke into groups for each theme to develop recommendations. As the recommendations were refined, the groups were given opportunities to review and contribute to the other themes. The seven recommendations from the transport and domestic energy use themes were placed on the virtual resource site, so they could be reviewed between sessions. The whole assembly worked on high level recommendations on sustainable finance.

Decision-making. Members voted to rank the seven recommendations from the transport and domestic energy use themes, in order of priority. Members also voted on the date Jersey should be carbon neutral from 5 choices between 2030 and 2050 and agreed on emissions reductions for transport, domestic energy, and total on-Island emissions (versus offsetting).

Final report. The [final report](#) was presented to the States Assembly on 1st June 2021 by the Minister for the Environment. The report was written by civil servants capturing the recommendations and explaining assembly design and process.

Communication. In the six-week period in the run up to the start of the Citizens' Assembly, the Government of Jersey ran a public conversation on climate change – the '[Climate Conversation](#)' – in

which members of the public were encouraged to provide their views and ideas on action that Jersey should take in response to the climate emergency. The summary of all the ideas submitted was provided to the members of the Citizens' Assembly and discussed when the recommendations were considered. The 'Climate Conversation' was accompanied by publicity on mainstream and social media to stimulate interest and public debate in the Assembly and its recommendations. The Chair Convenor was particularly active. The organisers were careful not to identify members of the Citizens' Assembly in the publicity.

Oversight of official response. The chair convenor continues to advocate for the Assembly and its recommendations.

Impact. Too early to say. Positive impact on members who were originally highly cynical of the process.

Evaluation. No independent evaluation commissioned.

Budget. £250K.

Denmark's Climate Assembly (Borgerting på klimaområdet)

Websites. <https://kefm.dk/klima-og-vejr/borgertinget-> and [Citizen Assembly on the climate area – The Danish Board of Technology \(tekno.dk\)](#)

Purpose. To inform the process of transition in Denmark and specifically the annual Climate Action Plan process. The Assembly was organised in two phases to contribute to two planning cycles and to experiment with different approaches.

Commissioning. Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities.

Specific task. To contribute and provide recommendations to the political process of climate transition, with particular focus on topics relevant to the citizens (as chosen by participants).

Commitment to respond. Commitment from relevant Minister and parliamentary committee to respond.

Governance. Planning group consisting of facilitators from Danish Board of Technology (DBT), a lead civil servant and 5 members randomly selected from the Assembly. Ministry appointed a professional panel of experts to ensure quality and professional balance in the content and evidence provided

Delivery bodies. DBT (design and facilitation). National Agency on Statistics (recruitment).

Participant recruitment. For first phase, 99 citizens were selected according to socio-demographic criteria (age, gender, education, geography), with 99 substitutes. Several members dropped out when process moved from face-to-face to online; 83 started the first phase and 59 completed. For second phase, again 99 citizens were selected, with one third from the first phase; 83 started the second phase; 68 completed. Members paid per diem for attendance of meetings. Members lacking computer equipment were lent equipment and ad hoc ICT training provided.

Duration. Phase 1 ran from 24 October 2020 to 21 March 2021, comprising full weekends at start and end (whole assembly) with three evening meetings in between (in groups), plus adhoc editing meetings when requested. Phase 2 ran from 23 October to 15 December 2021, comprising face-to-face weekend meetings at the start and end of the process, with five online evening meetings in between, and a final evening for voting.

Structure. For **first phase**, during the first weekend, members learnt about climate change and Danish policy, voted on pre-set questions on topical issues (e.g. green taxation, building in landscapes, bio-resources and agriculture) and proposed and voted on subjects to continue working on. Members randomly allocated into 5 themed groups for evening sessions to generate recommendations on: financing and taxes; agriculture and bioresources; transportation; behaviour, public participation and public education; technology and landscape. Members provided feedback on each other's draft recommendations. DBT and two external experts provided feedback on the draft recommendations before the final meeting. Final editing and voting on the recommendations took place in the final weekend. The **second phase** was even more bottom-up, with members selecting topics without expert input. Evening meetings arranged around these issues, including aspects of behaviour change, education, consumption, energy price crisis and energy transition, with presentations from experts and brainstorming ideas. Final weekend focused on writing and editing text. Further evening for voting.

Facilitation. Members largely managed their own group dynamics. If required, lead facilitators intervened to break deadlocks (rare).

Evidence base. Expert presentations at the start of the first weekend in phase one and for each thematic group for both phases. Further input was provided when requested by members or suggested by the planning group. 48 experts in total in phase one.

Developing recommendations. Recommendations were drafted through consensus by members in themed sub-groups. Opportunities for feedback and editing by members of other groups were provided. Two external experts, with experience in energy modelling and public administration, and DBT provided feedback before the members prepared their final recommendations.

Decision-making. Members voted on each of the thematic chapters and on each recommendation.

Final report. [A report](#) containing 19 thematic chapters with 117 recommendations from the first phase of the assembly was delivered to the Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities and the Danish Parliament's Committee on Climate, Energy and Utilities on 29 April 2021. Each section contains observations, assessment and then recommendations of the assembly members, describing the motivation behind the recommendations. The report for the second phase will be delivered on 23 January 2022.

Communication. The Assembly website provides details of organisation, presentations, written briefings and results, as well as videos of witness presentations. All sessions were open for researchers to observe. Limited media interest.

Oversight of official response. The phased structure of the Assembly means that members can comment on earlier official responses. The potential for the Assembly to continue into 2022 is under discussion.

Impact. Official response to first report from the Minister of Climate, Energy and Utilities on 25 June 2021. Following parliamentary question, government committed to treating the Assembly as an additional "climate partnership" (a formal relationship with major sectors) which requires a full report on the status of the recommendations. Ministers considering whether to make the Assembly a permanent element of the Danish climate planning process. Some evidence that scepticism and distrust towards Assembly amongst politicians has lessened.

Evaluation. University researchers, working independently, followed the process. Participants' evaluation of the first phase published.

Budget. Originally 150K Danish Kroner (€20.2K) for DBT to create programme and facilitation with other functions taken on by Ministry. DBT budget increased to 550K Kroner (€74K) to manage the whole process. DBT willing to cross-subsidise the Assembly to ensure quality and proof of concept.

Finland's Citizens' Jury on Climate Actions

Website. <https://sites.utu.fi/kansalaisraati/>

Purpose. To contribute the informed views of citizens on the fairness and impact of potential, controversial measures to be included in the new medium-term Climate Change Policy Plan that are perceived to be particularly relevant to citizens (e.g. emission reduction measures concerning housing, mobility and food).

Commissioning. Ministry of the Environment and the Climate Policy Round Table.

Task. Assess the fairness and impact of 14 potential measures to be included in the medium-term Climate Change Policy Plan.

Commitment to respond. The Jury's statement was presented to the Climate Policy Round Table in May. Otherwise, no official response, but expectation that Jury considerations will be included in climate plan.

Governance. Academics from the University of Turku associated with PALO (Participation in Long-Term Decision Making) and FACTOR (Facing Systemic Change Together) research projects.

Delivery bodies. As above.

Participant recruitment. Members recruited through two-stage civic lottery. First, 8,000 invitations were sent to randomly selected Finnish citizens (N.B. delays due to problems with postal services). From a pool of 174 volunteers, 50 Jury members were selected randomly using following criteria: age, gender, place of residence and level of education. Of those selected, 37 citizens confirmed participation, and 33 took part from the beginning to the end. Paid honorarium of €150.

Duration. The jury met 3 times on 22, 24 and 25 April 2021.

Structure. Consultations and surveys commissioned by Ministry isolated the most controversial climate policy issues that directly affect consumers. Jury asked to consider 14 related policy proposals and produce a statement commenting on each action. The jurors were introduced to the each topic

and formulated questions for the experts. The jurors then deliberated in 5 small groups, engaging in an iterative process of drafting text for a declaration on the fairness and impact of each climate action, which was then passed on to next group to review and redraft. Experts commented on draft statements as part of review process. The whole Jury discussed and voted on controversial parts of the statement where consensus was not achieved. Finally, the jury voted to adopt the statement. Structure of the Jury influenced by the Citizens' Initiative Review format.

Facilitation. Small groups facilitated by two moderators to ensure fairness in participation, completion of tasks and to take notes of discussion. Joint sessions with the whole Jury were guided and recorded by three moderators.

Technology. Zoom, Googledocs.

Evidence base. Evidence provided by representatives of the Ministry of Environment and researchers from universities and research institutes.

Developing recommendations. Jurors drafted recommendations in small groups with active support from note-takers. Recommendations were reviewed, discussed, and redrafted by other groups. Feedback was provided by experts. The statement was agreed in plenary and adopted by majority vote.

Decision-making. Where unanimity was not achieved for particular recommendations, votes were held with simple majority voting. A vote was held on the final full statement – 30 voted for the statement, two cast a blank vote and one was absent. Individual members had the opportunity to express their dissenting opinion on the statement which are available on the project website and published in Annex 1 of the final report.

Final report. A [statement](#) authored by the Jury members was published on 25 April. The statement presents the Jury's assessment of impact and fairness of the proposed measures and proposals for new and supplementary measures. A [final report](#), written by researchers leading the project, was published in August 2021.

Communication. Background material provided to the Jury is available on the website. Recordings of the presentations by experts were available on the website for two weeks. Some media interest, especially from motoring organisations, but not as much as expected as the news cycle was dominated by a government crisis.

Oversight of official response. Members have no role in oversight.

Impact. The extent to which the Jury's statement informed the preparation of Finland's Climate Change Policy Plan is unclear.

Evaluation. University researchers conducted a survey of participants at the end of the Jury; the results were published in the final report.

Budget. €20K from Ministry of the Environment. Subsidised by PALO and FACTOR research projects.

Further resources. Video of KNOCA's learning call on Finland's Citizens' Jury on Climate Actions

Scotland's Climate Assembly

Website. <https://www.climateassembly.scot/>

Purpose. To inform government decision-making on the climate crisis in line with Scotland's Climate Change Act (2019).

Commissioning. Scottish Government.

Task. "How should Scotland change to tackle the climate emergency in an effective and fair way?" [Note that the question was decided by the Stewarding Group through a facilitated deliberation process.]

Commitment to respond. The Scottish Government was legally required to respond to the final report within six months.

Governance. Secretariat (seconded civil servants), two independent Conveners, Stewarding Group (stakeholders and participation experts), Evidence Group.

Delivery bodies. Involve and Democratic Society (design and facilitation leads), Sortition Foundation (recruitment).

Participant recruitment. 105 members selected randomly using a postal civic lottery, applying the following criteria: age, gender, household income, ethnicity, geography, rurality, disability, and attitude towards climate change. All residents over 16 were eligible. 7 replacements were added before the second weekend and 102 citizens completed the final weekend. Members paid an honorarium and where necessary given hardware/software and training to support online engagement.

Duration. Seven weekends between November 2020 and March 2021. The seventh weekend was added after Assembly members requested additional time for learning and deliberations. The assembly was designed to take place online.

Structure. In weekends 1 and 2, the whole assembly learned about the science and ethics of climate change, Scotland's contribution to climate change and adaptation, and considered future scenarios. In weekends 3, 4 and 5, the members divided randomly into 3 workstreams – Diet and Lifestyle; Homes and Communities; Work and Travel. In workstreams, members received evidence from and questioned experts and advocates, considered key challenges, and drafted recommendations. During weekends 6 and 7, the full assembly shared and reviewed the workstream recommendations, drafted and agreed a collective Statement of Ambition, developed supporting declarations for each recommendation, and voted on recommendations. The Assembly will reconvene for a weekend in February 2022 to consider the Government's response to their report.

Facilitation. Small group facilitation to ensure fairness in participation and completion of tasks.

Technology. Zoom, Jamboard, GoogleDocs (mainly used by table facilitators), SurveyMonkey (voting).

Evidence base. The Evidence Group oversaw the learning journey for the Assembly, ensuring that the Assembly was presented with diverse views on climate change, the degree of change necessary

to tackle the climate emergency, and alternative approaches to achieving that change. Over 100 expert speakers provided evidence through video, question and answer sessions and in breakout room discussions. The Evidence Group undertook a technical review of initial proposals from the workstreams and final review of draft recommendations.

Developing recommendations. Members drafted recommendations in their workstreams through an iterative process of discussion, consolidation and review and consideration of fairness propositions. Those recommendations prioritised through this process were discussed, reviewed, and redrafted by the full assembly to ensure consistency. The whole assembly drafted a Statement of Ambition and high-level goals.

Decision-making. Members voted asynchronously on high level goals between Weekends 6 and 7 and on each recommendation (agree, disagree, abstain) after Weekend 7.

Final report. The [final report](#) was tabled in the Scottish Parliament on 23 June 2021 by the Secretariat, following the Interim Report on 24th March 2021.

Communication. The Assembly website provides extensive details of organisation, presentations, written briefings and results. All presentations and question-and-answer sessions were made available on the website immediately after the session. Observers and media had access to the materials as they were shown to the Assembly and the option to join a one-hour session immediately after each Assembly weekend to hear about the weekend from speakers and organisers and ask questions on content and process. A pre-engagement exercise in October 2020 allowed the public to make suggestions on an online platform on what the Assembly should discuss, who should speak and how Scotland can reach net-zero targets. The Children's Parliament ran an integrated programme with over 100 children in ten schools across Scotland, with comments from young people integrated into the final report. Some media coverage of assembly during the process and the publication of the reports.

Oversight of official response. Assembly is reconvening in February 2022 to review the government response to its recommendations. Secretariat actively promoting recommendations of the Assembly amongst public bodies and other stakeholders.

Impact. The Scottish Government [published its response](#) on 16 December 2021, which addressed all 81 recommendations made by the Assembly.

Evaluation. An extensive evaluation led by university and government researchers included in budget of Assembly. [Research data briefings](#) for weekends 1, 4 and 7 are published on the assembly website. Final research report to be published in 2022.

Budget. The full cost of the Assembly was covered by Scottish Government. An indicative budget of £1.4 million was set; full details of final spend are yet to be released.

Further resources. [Video](#) of KNOCA's learning call on Scotland's Climate Assembly

Climate Assembly UK (CAUK)

Website. <https://www.climateassembly.uk/>

Purpose. To inform parliamentary scrutiny of government policy.

Commissioning. Six parliamentary select committees: Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS); Environmental Audit; Housing, Communities and Local Government, Science and Technology; Transport; and Treasury.

Task. How the UK can meet the Government's legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. The commissioning select committees set several more specific questions related to particular policy areas.

Commitment to respond. Parliamentary select committees committed to use recommendations and findings to inform future inquiries and scrutiny activities.

Governance. Regular meetings were held between the delivery team and officials in parliament. The Advisory Board and Academic Panel oversaw the assembly content.

Delivery bodies. Involve (lead design and facilitation), four Expert Leads, Sortition Foundation (recruitment), mySociety (website). The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) supported with stakeholder engagement. Select committee officials supported political engagement and led on communications. The Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit provided support on communications outreach (not part of the contract).

Participant recruitment. 110 members were selected randomly using a civic lottery applying the following criteria: age, gender, ethnicity, education, geography, urban/rural, attitude to climate change. 108 members took part in the assembly. The members were paid an honorarium of £150 per weekend, given training when the assembly went online, and paid for necessary support to attend, e.g. costs for childcare, carers.

Duration. 25 January to 17 May 2020. The assembly was originally designed to run for four weekend sessions between January and March 2020, but due to Covid-19 restrictions, the last weekend was moved online and spread over 3 shorter online sessions during May and June 2020.

Structure. In the first weekend, the assembly learned about the science and ethics of climate change and developed a series of guiding principles. In weekends 2 and 3, the assembly was split into three themed workstreams: how we travel; in the home; what we buy, land use, food and farming. During the online sessions the whole assembly considered where electricity comes from, greenhouse gas removal and the impact of Covid-19.

Facilitation. Small group facilitation to ensure fairness in participation and completion of tasks.

Evidence base. Full assembly heard evidence on climate science, net zero target, overarching ethical questions about path to net zero. The Expert Leads created alternative scenarios for what net zero UK could look like (futures) and how UK can get there (policy options). Expert witnesses provided evidence through live presentations or videos (when online), and were available for questioning.

Developing recommendations. The members considered the future scenarios created by the Expert Leads and compared these against the guiding principles they had developed. Some additional recommendations were added by the participants.

Decision-making. Members considered and voted on a list of policy options proposed by the expert leads. Only the members who worked on specific workstreams voted on the recommendations in those areas. Where the whole assembly worked together on recommendations, all members of CAUK voted on them.

Final report. The 556-page [final report](#), written by the lead delivery body and published on 10 September 2020, presents a statement from assembly members and more than 50 recommendations and the level of support for each of the policy options. This is complemented with verbatim quotes to understand the reasons why members supported or opposed measures. A [summary report](#) of 31-pages was also published. An [interim report](#) was published on 23 June 2020 on Covid-19 recovery and path to net zero ahead of government announcements.

Communication. The CAUK website provides extensive details of organisation, presentations, written briefings and results. All presentations and question-and-answer sessions were streamed live and are available on website (including transcriptions). Observers and media were able to attend CAUK sessions but could not interact with the participants. The Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) organised a series of briefings for different stakeholders during the process and following release of report. There was a strong social media presence, including dedicated Twitter and Instagram accounts.

Oversight of official response. Members have no role in oversight. The delivery organisation, Involve, secured additional funding to help ensure assembly's impact.

Impact. The Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee launched an inquiry into CAUK's recommendations. Its report, [Climate Assembly UK: Where are we now?](#), published in July 2021, is critical of the lack of government response to the assembly's recommendations. The government provided a [limited response](#) to the Committee. Other committees have launched inquiries on aspects of government policy informed by the recommendations of CAUK. All six of the commissioning committee chairs wrote a [letter](#) to the Prime Minister and opposition leader to urge them to consider the assembly's recommendations. Secondary impacts include the integration of recommendations into the [Sixth Carbon Budget of the Climate Change Committee](#). Evidence of impact on assembly members, includes behaviour change. There was fairly extensive media coverage on the first weekend, especially around the attendance of Sir David Attenborough, and on day of the release of the report. A documentary film was shown on BBC on 30 November 2021.

Evaluation. The official [Evaluation of Climate Assembly UK](#), undertaken by academic researchers, was published in July 2021, assessing the deliberative quality of the assembly and the relationship between CAUK and parliament, climate policy, the media, and the public.

Budget. Total budget £520,000. £120,000 from the House of Commons, and £200,000 each from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the European Climate Foundation's UK programme. An extra £40,000 was provided by the two foundations to mitigate impact of Covid-19.

Resources. [Video](#) of KNOCA's learning call on the UK and French Climate Assemblies. A [report](#) by CAST reviews the design and deliberations of CAUK and members' wider perceptions of climate change, comparing findings with the French Convention Citoyenne pour le Climat (CCC). The team leading the official evaluation have published an [article](#) on lessons from CAUK. A [documentary](#) on members of CAUK has been aired on BBC. *We invite you to consult our [Bibliography on Climate Assemblies](#) for further resources.*

France Citizens' Convention on the Climate (La Convention Citoyenne pour Le Climat)

Website. Convention: <https://www.conventioncitoyennepourleclimat.fr/>

Purpose. To submit laws, regulations and referendums on climate action to the President and Parliament.

Commissioning. President Macron.

Task. To define measures for France to achieve a cut in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990, in a spirit of social justice.

Commitment to respond. President Macron committed to ensuring the Convention's proposals are submitted "without filter" to a referendum, a vote in parliament, or direct regulatory application.

Governance. A Governance Committee comprising 15 representatives of government, think tanks, unions, business and experts in climate science, policy, and democracy. The Committee was joined for each meeting by two citizens randomly drawn from the Convention. Three independent Guarantors tasked with ensuring the Convention's independence and good working conditions.

Delivery bodies. Missions Publiques, Res Publica (facilitators). Expert Support Group provided technical advice. Legislative Committee provided legislative transcription support.

Participant recruitment. Quota sampling was undertaken from a pool of 300,000 randomly generated phone numbers, using the following selection criteria: age, gender, education level, geographic origin, settlement (urban versus rural) and employment. A pool of 190 citizens selected with the aim of ensuring at least 150 citizens attended sessions. 104 citizens participated in all sessions. Members received the same compensation as for jury service (around €84 per day).

Duration. Originally scheduled for six two-and-a-half-day weekend sessions from October 2019 to February 2020. However, a national public transport strike and then Covid-19 delayed sessions and the members requested a seventh session. Two interim sessions were held online; and the final session, with social distancing measures, was held in June 2020. Additional weekend session organised online in February 2021 to review government and parliamentary response.

Structure. Combined plenary sessions and thematic sessions in smaller groups. During the first weekend, the Convention heard from experts on the science of climate change. Members were then randomly assigned to 5 thematic groups defined by the Governance Committee: housing (*Se loger*), labor and production (*Travailler et produire*), transport (*Se déplacer*), food (*Se nourrir*), and consumption (*Consommer*). Each thematic group heard from and questioned experts, deliberated and developed recommendations in small groups. A transversal workstream on finance and governance was created for two sessions but was suspended due to tensions generated amongst other members of the Convention. During the final weekend, the Convention voted on proposals, in plenary.

Facilitation. Self-organised within workstreams, lightly overseen by facilitators.

Evidence base. Expert witnesses presented to the plenary and thematic groups. The Governance Committee mostly selected the expert witnesses. The Expert Support Group was not established until third session). Members could request additional witnesses.

Developing recommendations. Recommendations were developed within small groups within thematic workstreams, and in plenary for cross-cutting issues (e.g., finance and governance). The Expert Support Group worked closely with members to develop recommendations. The Legislative Committee redrafted proposals to ensure legal appropriateness, but Convention members had the final say. During two dedicated sessions, proposals could be reviewed by members working on other themes. Final proposals required support from 20 citizens to be considered by the full assembly.

Decision-making. Simple majority voting. 149 draft laws, regulations and three referendums were agreed.

Final report. The 460-page [report](#) containing 149 measures was adopted on 21 June 2020. A [summary of proposals in English](#) is available. An interim communication was issued on Covid-19 and climate change in which members shared a third of the proposals ahead of the votes as they identified them as key for the national recovery plan.

Communication. The Convention's website provides details of organisation and results. Some plenary sessions and group hearings were broadcast on YouTube or podcasts. Observers and media were able to attend sessions. There was a strong social media presence, including dedicated Twitter and Instagram accounts as well as [live commentary on the sessions](#) by a Twitch influencer. Access was granted to several film crews and led to several films/reportages broadcasted on TV channels. There was extensive media coverage of the Convention, especially the official reception of the report by Macron, its proposed measures, and the ongoing debates about the presidential and parliamentary response. Some members were involved in government workshops to discuss implementation of their measures.

Oversight of official response. An additional session of the Convention was organised online in February 2021 to review government and parliamentary response; the Convention published its [verdict](#) on 2 March 2021. Les 150, L'Association des Citoyens de la Convention Climat, a non-profit organisation established by members, continues to monitor progress of measures.

Impact. In an official address held at the Elysée Palace a week after the final session, President Macron committed to supporting 146 of the 149 proposed measures. The [Climate and Resilience Bill](#) adopted by parliament in 2021 translates a number of the measures (many in a modified state) into law. The referendum proposal (to modify article 1 of the Constitution) was blocked by the French parliament. The Convention stimulated broad public debate on climate transition as well as what Macron meant by an “unfiltered” response to the proposals. Knowledge of the Convention is high amongst the broader population. Several mayors have committed to implement relevant measures. Several members of the Convention have become high profile figures on social and traditional media, some even ran in regional and local elections.

Evaluation. 35 accredited researchers were given access to the Convention.

Budget. The original budget was €4.5 million. Final total costs were €5.4 million.

Further resources. [Video](#) of KNOCA's learning call on the UK and French Climate Assemblies. A group of researchers published a [study](#) that compares the opinions of the randomly drawn citizens with those of the general population, while polling institute Elabe [assessed](#) (in FR only) the support for the proposals among the French population. The climate-focused think tank IDDRI published an [analysis](#) of these proposals. Public Senat TV channel produced a 30-minutes [reportage](#) (in FR only) presenting

the work of the CCC, while LCP TV co-produced a [50mn documentary](#) on the “afterlife” of participants once the Convention had ended. Arte broadcasted a [documentary film](#) (with EN subs) capturing behind-the-scene moments and testimonies from participants. *We invite you to consult our [Bibliography on Climate Assemblies](#) for further resources.*

Ireland’s Citizens Assembly

Website. <https://2016-2018.citizensassembly.ie/en/>

Purpose. To inform government policy on climate change following consideration of recommendations by both Houses of Parliament (the Oireachtas)

Commissioning. The coalition government committed to a citizens’ assembly as part of its partnership programme. The Citizens’ Assembly’s terms of reference were agreed by the Houses of the Oireachtas in July 2016. Climate change was one of 5 areas considered by the Assembly.

Task. How the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change.

Commitment to respond. Parliament committed to consider the recommendations of the assembly through a joint committee of both Houses and to bring its conclusions to the Houses for debate.

Governance. Independent Chair (retired supreme judge), Secretariat (seconded civil servants), Steering Group (the Chair and a representative group of Assembly Members elected by the wider Assembly), and Expert Advisory Group.

Delivery bodies. The Secretariat and Chair led the process. The Expert Advisory Group designed the process and selected witnesses with oversight from the Steering Group. RED C Research and Marketing Ltd were commissioned to recruit members and Roomaxx Ltd to provide facilitation and note-taking.

Participant recruitment. 99 members, along with 99 “substitute” members, were recruited through random door-to-door contact. There were 53 replacements during the lifetime of the 18-month assembly. Members were recruited using the following criteria: gender, age, location, and social class. Members were not paid an honorarium.

Duration. The assembly worked on the topic of climate change over 2 weekends between 30 September and 5 November 2017. In total, the assembly met over 12 weekends between 15 October 2016 and 15 April 2018 on a range of other topics, including the constitutional status of abortion.

Structure. The Assembly heard presentations from experts and civil society and advocacy groups about the science of climate change and its impacts, and about the largest sources of emissions in Ireland: the energy sector, agriculture, and transport. The members participated in question-and-answer sessions and took part in round table discussions to consider evidence. During the second weekend, the members agreed the wording of the ballot paper (drafted by the Expert Advisory Group). [Note: the assembly did not break into sub-groups to consider particular topics]

Facilitation. Small table facilitation to ensure fairness in participation and completion of tasks.

Evidence base. Prior to the start of the assembly, members were provided with background information documents. Presentations from experts and civil society and advocacy groups and summaries of 1,185 written submissions from members of the public. The members contributed to the selection of evidence: at the end of the preceding topic on the impact of an ageing population, the assembly was asked to consider what content they wanted to be included for the climate change weekends.

Developing recommendations. Ideas were generated through round table discussions and then collated into proposals on a draft ballot paper, which was refined in an interactive process between the members and the Expert Advisory Group.

Decision-making. Decisions were made by majority voting; the assembly members voted by secret ballot on 13 recommendations. The 13 recommendations received support of 80-100%.

Final report. A [report](#) presenting the 13 recommendations and more detailed explanations was presented to Parliament on 18 April 2018.

Communication. The Citizens' Assembly website provides extensive details of organisation, presentations, written briefings and results. All presentations and question-and-answer sessions were streamed live. Observers and media were able to attend assembly sessions. The media coverage of the assembly tended to focus on the more high-profile issue of abortion.

Oversight of official response. Members had no oversight role. Chair advocated for Assembly recommendations.

Impact. The report of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action (JOCCA) generally supported the Citizens' Assembly's recommendations, with the exception of its proposal to introduce a tax on greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. Its deliberations led to the declaration of a climate emergency by the Dáil (Lower House). The JOCCA report heavily influenced the cross-government Climate Action Plan published in June 2019 and the subsequent Climate Action Bill 2020.

Evaluation. Evaluation led by university researchers.

Budget. The total budget for the Citizens' Assembly was €1,505,960.90. The specific cost of its work on climate change has not been calculated.