

Database of Deliberative Mini-Publics



We are **XR UK Citizens' Assembly Working Group** (CAWG).

We promote and lobby for Extinction Rebellion's third demand.

Email: xr-CitizensAssembly@protonmail.com

Website: xrcitizensassembly.uk

Twitter: [@CitizensXr](https://twitter.com/CitizensXr)

Telegram: [T.ME/CITIZENSASSEMBLIES](https://t.me/CITIZENSASSEMBLIES)

About this document

This document presents a brief summary and key facts about deliberative mini-publics around the globe. Hundreds of deliberative democratic processes have taken place over the past few decades, so the focus here is on examples that are particularly relevant to the citizens' assembly on climate and ecological justice called for in XR UK's third demand. For a more comprehensive database, go to: <https://participedia.net>. The aim of this document is to provide a quick-reference tool for XR rebels who are preparing guides, flyers, talks, mock CAs, panels etc.

Anyone can feel free to add, amend or comment on the document. When you make any addition or change to one of the case studies, make sure you:

- Change the "last updated" field at the beginning of that entry to your name and the current date.
- If you are the main contact for that case study within XR, you can also add your contact details.

Bear in mind that this is a working document; it is therefore incomplete and it may contain inaccuracies. Please correct any you find or make comments! We particularly need to add more lessons learned (see "Successes/Failures" heading). Be careful when adding new examples: fact check anything that sounds unlikely and add plenty of references and links so that others can use these in publications, build on your research, and cross-check facts and figures. Be sure to fill in as many of the items in the "Quick Facts" section as possible. It's useful to have these relatively standardised across the examples.

Quick Facts headings:

Proposition/Question	The question posed to the assembly
Dates and Length	When did it take place? If several sessions - how frequent? And how long did each session last?
Format and activities	Any peculiarities about the format?
Commissioning body/initiated by	Was it commissioned by government? Did anyone campaign for the CA? Is there a mechanism to initiate new CAs?
Funding	How much did it cost and who was it funded by?
Coordinating group	Which organisation ran the assembly?
Oversight and other bodies	Was there an oversight body? Any other bodies?
Number of participants	Separate figures for different phases of CA if applicable
Selection process	How was the sortition (or other) process conducted? What database was used?
Stratification groups	What quotas were used (age, location, etc.)?
Payment for participants	Were the CA members paid? How much?
Submissions	What groups made submissions? Any innovative mechanisms?
Decision/recommendation type	How did the CA reach decisions?
Legislative power	What power did the CA have?

Outcome	What decisions did the CA reach and what impact did these have?
Public awareness	How was the wider public engaged and how high a profile did the CA have?
Successes and failures	Highlight any lessons learned from the CA
Further reading	Links to further information

CONTENTS

Australia	5
Citizens' Assembly on Australian Climate Change Policy (2010, abandoned)	5
South Australia (2016)	5
Belgium	7
G1000 (2011-12)	7
Eastern Belgium (2019 - ongoing)	9
Brussels Region of Belgium	10
Canada	12
British Columbia Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform (2003)	12
France	13
Convention citoyenne pour le climat (2019 - ongoing)	13
Hungary	18
Iceland	18
National Assemblies (2009 & 2010)	18
Ireland	19
Citizens' Assembly on Gay Marriage (2013)	19
Citizens' Assembly on Abortion (2016)	20
Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change (2017)	21
Citizens' Assembly on an Ageing Population (2017)	22
The Netherlands	23
The Burgerforum Kiesstelsel (2006)	23
Poland	24
Gdansk's Citizens' Assemblies (2016 - ongoing?)	24
Taiwan	26
vTaiwan - open consultation process (2014 - ongoing)	26
UK	27
Climate Change Summit UK (2007)	27
Citizens' Assembly Pilots (2015)	28
Citizens' Assembly on Brexit (2017)	28
The Citizens' Assembly for Northern Ireland (2018)	29
Citizens' Assembly on Social Care (2018)	30
Citizens' Assembly for Wales (Not yet started)	31
Future of Scotland Citizens' Assembly (Oct 2019 - ongoing)	32
Scottish Climate Citizens' Assembly (from November 2020)	35
Climate Assembly UK (January to April 2020)	37

Australia

Citizens' Assembly on Australian Climate Change Policy (2010, abandoned)

LAST UPDATED: Alex, May 2019

XR CAWG contact: alex.bradbury@yahoo.com

SUMMARY

Proposed CA on climate action failed to materialise In 2009 new government proposed CA to break parliamentary deadlock on climate change action however strong media criticism and election loss resulted in death of this initiative.

This academic article examines the context and reasons for the failure of the proposal: <https://3.basecamp.com/3559494/buckets/9655304/uploads/1805248807> [LINK NOT WORKING]

Main reasons for failure:

- Highly polarised discussion around climate change and particularly carbon pricing in Australian politics
- Low approval ratings of Labour Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who made the proposal
- Vehemently negative media reactions, some seeing the proposal as a cynical ploy on the part of the Labour Party, which was “incapable of taking a political position”.
- Became a symbol of Labour’s “failure of leadership” and was described as “biggest political miscalculation of the year”

QUICK FACTS

- **Further Information:** <https://participedia.net/en/cases/australian-citizens-assembly-climate-change>
- **Number of participants:** 15

South Australia (2016)

LAST UPDATED: Alex, May 2019

XR CAWG contact: alex.bradbury@yahoo.com

SUMMARY

Two Citizens' Jury processes in 2016 considered the question of how, and under what circumstances (if any), South Australia might pursue the opportunity to store and dispose of nuclear waste from other countries. The first, much smaller citizens' jury met over two weekends and was designed to set the agenda for the larger citizens jury, which met a couple of months later over three weekends and deliberated on the main proposition. The issue had arisen because of SA's challenged economy and the potential financial benefits of storing nuclear waste.

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** Jury one - general examination of issues and witnesses to identify key topics. Jury two - "Under what circumstances, if any, could South Australia pursue the opportunity to store and dispose of nuclear waste from other countries?"
- **Dates and length:** Citizens' Jury One - 25/26 June and 9/10 July 2016. Citizens' Jury Two - 8/9 October, 29/30 October, 5/6 November 2016
- **Format and activities:**
- **Commissioning body/initiated by:** State government (South Australia)
- **Funding:** State government (South Australia)
- **Coordinating group:** newDemocracy Foundation
- **Oversight and other bodies:**
- **Number of participants:** Jury one - 54 jurors selected (4 reserves in case of illness). Jury two - first fifty joined by a further 300 according to same criteria.
- **Selection process:** Random selection process performed independently and at arm's length from Government by newDemocracy Foundation. Drew on Australia Post's database. Random sampling of 25,000. 1,121 registrations of interest received.
- **Stratification groups:** Based on these registrations 54 selected based on age, gender, location and whether they lease or own a property.
- **Payment for participants:**
- **Submissions:** The juries considered the recommendations of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission
- **Decision/recommendation type:**
- **Legislative power:**
- **Outcome:** Two-thirds majority rejected outright the commission's recommendation to store nuclear waste, questioning the strength of the economic case made and highlighting the lack of consent from indigenous communities. A one-third minority of the jury published its own report challenging the majority position and calling for further consideration of the storage proposal including more robust economic modelling.
- **Public awareness:** How was the wider public engaged and how high a profile did the CA have?
- **Was the CA successful?** The report(s) was/were impressive and came to a resolution. However, the CA was unusually polarised, which has been attributed to its large size, the highly contentious nature of the issue, the adversarial nature of the debate (and comitant rhetoric of expert witnesses),

the starting point of a clear recommendation by a royal commission, and the time pressure placed on participants. Regarding size, this meant there were more factions and strategic behaviour, with jurors engaging with outside groups and campaigning within the jury. There was a marked lack of trust in the CA - of the organisers, the commission and each other. In addition, the minority group (i.e. those in support of storage) suggested that the CA was not representative despite sortition on the basis that those with anti-nuclear views were more likely to sign up to the CA. On the other hand, the fact that the CA was divided was also, in itself, seen as a useful piece of information to government. See more analysis of the success (or lack thereof) of the CA here:

<https://www.themandarin.com.au/74956-citizens-jury-fuel-for-sa-government-decision-on-nuclear/>

- **Further reading:**

<https://nuclear.yoursay.sa.gov.au/the-program/citizens-jury>

Belgium

G1000 (2011-12)

LAST UPDATED: Alex, May 2019

XR CAWG contact: alex.bradbury@yahoo.com

SUMMARY

In 2011, Belgium broke the record for the longest time taken to form a new democratic government after an election - 541 days. During this period of crisis, innovative democratic tools were sought to break the impasse. Drawing on the example of processes in Congo (Kinshasa) in the early nineties, where citizens created a public space for discussion (National Sovereign Convention). The baton is taken on by radio personality Paul Hermant, who calls for a randomly selected “citizens’ panels”, underlining the power of simple and seemingly naive ideas in informing the political process. Van Reybrouck and Hermant meet with experts in citizen participation and formulate key questions relating to: the lack of innovation in democracy in contrast to all other sectors, the erosion of civil society, the need for more clearly formulated opinions at grass roots in order to inform decision-making. A manifesto is published in several national newspapers and receives over 10,000 signatures.

Process:

A three-stage process is proposed in order to “funnel” ideas: (i) mass online consultation to identify subjects for discussion; (ii) “citizen’s summit” with roundtables to discuss these subjects; (iii) smaller “citizens’ panel” to refine the propositions of the roundtable - more input from participants at panel on what issues to discuss, how to discuss them and which stakeholders to involve. It involved bilingual group discussions (with interpreters), and some

monolingual discussions (French or Flemish). The name “G1000” alludes to the G7 and G20 summits.

The G1000 was an exercise in filling the vacuum left by the lack of a government and looking at alternative democratic form. It did not focus on a specific issue or sector, but served, at least in part, to experiment with this form of deliberative democracy at a time of considerable political uncertainty and dwindling faith in traditional democratic institutions. In the words of the report linked below: “The G1000 was planned as a generous and hopeful gesture from the citizenry to a democratic system in crisis.”

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** social security, wealth distribution in times of crisis, and immigration
- **Dates and Length:** Phase 1: July 2011 to October 2011. Phase 2: One day - 11 November 2011. Phase 3: Three weekends from September 2012 to November 2012.
- **Format and activities:**
- **Commissioning body/initiated by:**
- **Funding: approx. €450,000** through anonymous crowdfunding (in order to avoid self-promotion) 3,018 gifts of 1 to 500 euros and 41 gifts of more than 500 euros. Once G1000 was integrated into the Foundation for Future Generations, it provided a balance sheet buffer, where funding was needed but pledges had not yet materialised.
- **Coordinating group:** Levuur?? a Leuven-based firm specialised in facilitation and participative dynamics. (The report says that they “coached” the process).
- **Oversight and other bodies:**
- **Number of participants:** Phase 1: 6000; Phase 2: 1000; Phase 3: 32
- **Selection process:** Phase 1: All citizens; Phase 2: “a mix of random selection and targeted recruitment”; Phase 3: random selection of 491 people who had taken part in G1000 and parallel non-selective local and online events.
- **Stratification groups:** Phase 3: Gender, language, region and age (in addition to an ex-post control of socio-economic backgrounds)
- **Payment for participants:**
- **Submissions:** Public vote based on suggestions made through mass online consultation (open to all citizens)
- **Decision/recommendation type:**
- **Legislative power:**
- **Outcome:** Recommendations were not taken on by government. However, this is unsurprising given that the G1000 was a grassroots, citizen-driven project with no obligation for government to consider its recommendations. In addition, the political crisis that triggered its inception was resolved before the G1000 ended. This said, the aim of the organisers was primarily to breathe life into the democratic system rather than to shape concrete policies, and it has been argued that G1000 had considerable impact here, both in terms of

media coverage and the fact that the format was replicated at local level and by The Netherlands. Furthermore, several major Belgian political parties incorporated proposals for increased public consultation (and in some cases explicitly for more deliberative democracy) in their campaign manifestos in 2014. In 2015, the socialist parties called for a reform of the Belgian upper house based on representation through sortition, which seemed to take the G1000 as inspiration.

- **Public awareness:** A survey conducted in 2013 showed that about 50% of the Belgian population had heard of the G1000. While distribution was unequal linguistically (more Flemish speakers were aware of the initiative), there was no great variation according to level of education - unusual for this kind of public event.
- **Successes/failures:**
- **Further reading:**
 - <http://www.g1000.org/en/>
 - Article in French “What did the G1000 actually achieve”:
https://www.levif.be/actualite/belgique/a-quoi-a-servi-concretement-la-plateforme-citoyenne-g1000/article-normal-755217.html?cookie_check=1558274517
 - Detailed academic article from 2017 analysing all aspects of the G1000 including its impacts (in French):
<https://www.cairn.info/revue-courrier-hebdomadaire-du-crisp-2017-19.htm#>

Eastern Belgium (2019 - ongoing)

LAST UPDATED: Kathie, Feb 2020

XR CAWG contact: kathieconn110@gmail.com

SUMMARY

Permanent Citizens’ Assembly. The first of its kind worldwide - with considerable clout. However, bear in mind that the region has a population of just 75,000. Partly inspired by G1000:

https://www.aachener-nachrichten.de/nrw-region/belgien/ostbelgien-moechte-geschichte-schreiben_aid-37655999

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** Various (permanent institution)
- **Dates and Length:** First CA planned end of 2019/beginning of 2020
- **Format and activities:** Two levels: 1. **A permanent Citizens’ Council** in Eupen of 24 men and women randomly selected to remain in office for 18 months after which the mandate holders (one third every 6 months) are replaced by new ones. 2. **Citizens’ Assemblies** of 20-50 members, also randomly selected. The panels will deal with 1-3 topics which can be

proposed by the government, the parliament, 2 assembly members or ordinary citizens with 100 signatures. The citizens' assemblies meet on 3 weekends and can consult experts and interest groups of their own choice.

- **Commissioning body/initiated by:** the government of the German speaking community (**DG**), championed by Prime Minister Oliver Paasch
- **Funding:** Estimated at €140,000 per year. Annual budget to be approved by parliament.
- **Coordinating group:**
- **Oversight and other bodies:** Government-appointed permanent secretary and citizens' council which assists the CA, the legislature and the government (not an oversight body).
- **Number of participants:** 25-50 in the CAs, 24 in the "citizens' council"
- **Selection process:** Random selection. All citizens over 16 with residence in the region.
- **Stratification groups:** Age, sex, education, geographical origin, socio-economic background for the 'citizens' council.' Depending on the topic, assemblies must include relevant citizens. E.g: border topic - citizens who work in Germany or the Netherlands must be included, and farmers must be represented when it comes to agriculture. Belgian nationality is not essential, Germans or Turks can also be included.
- **Payment for participants:** EUR 37.50 per session, double for a duration of more than 4 hours.
- **Submissions:**
- **Decisions/recommendation type:** CA adopts - if possible by consensus - a series of recommendations but at least with a four-fifths majority.
- **Legislative power:** CA participants discuss their recommendations with parliamentarians and the government - on an equal footing. The decisions are not binding but the government and government bodies must publicly justify themselves if the Citizens' Council recommendations are not implemented.
- **Outcome:** Various
- **Public awareness:**
- **Success/failures:**
- **Further reading:**
 - [Permanent citizen involvement in the German-speaking community](#)
 - [German-speaking Community of Belgium becomes world's first region with permanent citizen participation drafted by lot](#)
 - [The Ostbelgien Model: Belgium's German-speaking community set up a Citizens' Assembly & Council, alongside the old power structures](#)

Brussels Region of Belgium

LAST UPDATED: Kathie 10th February 2020

XR CAWG contact: kathieconn110@gmail.com

SUMMARY

Following in the footsteps of the German speaking community **DG**, the Regional Parliament has established a permanent 'deliberative committee composed of both members of the Regional Parliament and randomly selected citizens.

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** Various (permanent institution)
- **Dates and Length:**
- **Format:** Deliberative Committee, which is a joint Parliamentary and citizens committee.
- **Activities:** Belgian Regions oversee urban development and housing, environment, water and nature conservation, economy and employment policy, transport, public works, energy policy, local authorities and subsidiary authorities, external relations as well as scientific research.
- **Commissioning body/initiated by:** Parliament of the Region of Brussels in Belgium and the The French speaking Parliament in Brussels (officially called the French-speaking Community Commission or **Cocof**)
- **Funding:**
- **Coordinating group:**
- **Oversight and other bodies:**
- **Number of participants:** Committee composed of 15 parliamentarians and 45 citizens in the Brussels regional parliament and 12 parliamentarians and 36 citizens in the **Cocof**.
- Brussels Regional Parliament - 15 members (including Dutch and French speakers) and 12 members in the Cocof (only French speakers).
-
- **Selection process: Citizens:** Random selection, by letter, from the whole population. All citizens over 16. **Parliamentarians:** Members of the parliamentary committee that covers the topic under deliberation.
- **Stratification groups:** Age, gender, official languages of the Brussels-Capital Region, geographical distribution, level of education.
- **Payment for participants:** Yes, but not yet specified.
- **Submissions:**
- **Decisions/recommendation type:**
- **Legislative power:** Under Belgian law, non elected citizens are not allowed to vote in parliament. The recommendations will be voted on separately.
- **Outcome:** Various
- **Public awareness:**
- **Success/failures:** An evaluation committee of researchers, deliberative democracy practitioners as well as Parliamentary staff, will monitor the deliberative committees. An evaluation will be presented after a period of 2 years. Although
- **Further reading:**

Canada

British Columbia Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform (2003)

LAST UPDATED: Alex, May 2019

XR CAWG contact: alex.bradbury@yahoo.com

SUMMARY

In 2003, the government of British Columbia commissioned the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform. The Assembly, which comprised 160 members, including at least one woman and one man from each of the province's electoral districts and two First Nations representatives, was tasked with investigating changes to British Columbia's first-past-the-post electoral system. It met approximately every other weekend from January to October 2004, with members undergoing a comprehensive learning process including reviewing electoral systems and their effects around the world. Ultimately, 93% of participants supported changing to a single transferable vote system. Based on the assembly's recommendation, the government called a referendum on the matter. While the yes vote received widespread support across the province, it fell just short of the 60% threshold necessary to implement it.

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** How votes determine who gets elected to sit in the provincial Legislature.
- **Dates and length:** 2003-4; 11 months
- **Format and activities:**
- **Commissioning body/initiated by:** Government of British Columbia
- **Funding:** Government of British Columbia
- **Coordinating group:**
- **Oversight and other bodies:**
- **Number of participants:** 161; one man and one woman from each of B.C.'s 79 constituencies, two Aboriginal members and a chairperson.
- **Selection process:**
- **Stratification groups:** gender, constituency, age and ethnicity
- **Payment for participants:**
- **Submissions:**
- **Decision/recommendation type:** Ballot vote
- **Legislative power:**
- **Outcome:** Referendum on new electoral system which did not pass.
- **Public awareness:**
- **Successes and failures:**
- **Submissions:** Yes; members of the public

- **Further reading:** <https://citizensassembly.arts.ubc.ca/public.htm>; Also see these two excellent blog pieces by Perry Walker from Talkshop, in which he highlights lessons for the design of the CA called for by XR: <http://www.talkshopuk.org/lessons-from-citizens-assembly-in-british-columbia-1/>; <http://www.talkshopuk.org/lessons-from-citizens-assembly-in-british-columbia-2/>

France

Convention citoyenne pour le climat (2019 - ongoing)

LAST UPDATED: Kathie, August 2020

XR CAWG contact: [**kathieconn110@gmail.com**](mailto:kathieconn110@gmail.com)

SUMMARY

Context: The French citizens' assembly on climate change known as the Convention citoyenne pour le climat or the Convention citoyenne pour la transition écologique was launched by the French government following the Grand Débat. The latter was a mass public consultation process launched by Emmanuel Macron that took place from January to April 2019 and generated 2 million online contributions, 10,000 local meetings, 16,000 complaint books and a series of citizen assemblies (the latter were criticized as being somewhat rushed). The Grand Débat, in turn, came about in response to the Gilets Jaunes (Yellow Vests) protests - a mass protest movement in response to Macron's fuel price hike.

The assembly bodies seem not to be wholly independent of government [needs more research] but it is relatively extensive compared to other initiatives (about 21 days in total costing up to 4 million euros) and has a fair amount of policy clout - the CA can call for a decree, a referendum or a bill - and gov has to give reasons for anything it doesn't implement. When announcing the CA, the Minister for Ecology and Just Transition Francois de Rugy said: "It should not be a catalogue of measures, but concrete proposals. This is not another Advisory Council; it is not about making a catalogue of proposals which government and Parliament can pick and choose from." While the invitation letter outlined the topics of the CA, de Rugy underlined that "As long as the *Convention* remains within its remit, namely reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, and as long as it upholds its budgetary responsibilities [...] there will be no taboos." (See original quote in French [here](#).)

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** “How do we reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030 (compared to 1990), while maintaining social justice?” [40% by 2030 is in line with French gov policy]
- **Dates and Length:** Six 2.5-day weekends between October 2019 and January 2020; and a conclusions day. Held at French Economic, Social and Environmental Council (Cese) in Paris.
N.B. This was extended initially at the request of the citizen representatives when they understood the enormity of the topic and as a result of Covid-19 the last session was online.
- **Format and activities:** Speed- dating type sessions with stakeholders and solution based experts
- Any peculiarities about the format?
- **Commissioning body/initiated by:** The French Economic, Social and Environmental Council (Cese), which is a government advisory body. [see this [webpage](#) for info on bodies]
- **Funding:** 4 million euros. French gov. This rose to 5 million euros
- **Coordinating group:**
- **Oversight and other bodies:** In addition to Cese there are two separate bodies created for the CA:
 - The “comité de gouvernance” AKA “comité d’organisation” is co-chaired by Thierry Pech from Macron-aligned political thinktank Terra Nova and Laurence Tubiana ex-climate negotiator and co-architect of Paris Agreement. It brings together people from ecology, participatory democracy and economic and social issues, two representatives appointed by the Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition, and representatives of the Citizens' Convention itself who will be appointed at a later date.
 - The “[collège des garants](#)” - which sounds like an oversight panel - and comprises three people: Anne Frago, democracy expert (I think high-ranking civil servant), nominated by president of the National Assembly; Michèle Kadi, also high-ranking civil servant (I think), nominated by president of the senate; Cyril Dion, environmental activist and filmmaker (wrote and co-produced eco megahit “Tomorrow”), nominated by Cese.
- **Expert panel:** 3 experts in deliberative democracy; 3 experts in economic and social policy; 3 experts in climate change. Several experts are also in the Cese (see coordinating group). Some of the experts are named [here](#). [This article](#) says the experts on climate change come from the *Haut conseil pour le Climat*, which is a governmental body whose members are nominated by decree.
- **Number of participants:** 150
- **Selection process:** 250,000 people are being called on the phone between 26 August and end of Sep. The selection process is being run by market research firm Harris Interactive. The telephone numbers were selected randomly under the supervision of a bailiff from all numbers assigned by operators. 85% are mobiles and 15% landlines. Telephone numbers were

used in order to include those who had become disillusioned with politics.

People can decide to opt in or out. If they opt in, they respond to a series of questions which takes 10 to 25 minutes; following this they must sign a participation agreement within 5 days (they receive this by email).

- **Stratification groups:** Gender (52% women; 48% men - in line with French population; age (six separate age brackets including 16 and 17 year olds); education level (including 28% without formal qualifications or no higher than *brevet* (roughly equivalent to GCSEs); socio-professional groups (looks like oversampling for those living in poverty, selected by specialist organisations); region - with four participants from overseas territories; whether urban/peri-urban/rural and with representation from deprived areas (“zones prioritaires”). No prior opinion check on participants to ensure the views of the population on climate change were represented
- **Payment for participants:** 86 euros a day + loss of revenue compensation (based on number of hours + €10.03) + transport costs + childcare allowance.
- **Learning phase:** Participants have some flexibility in attending the hearings they want to.
- **Submissions:** Public submissions received
An online external platform 'Contribuez' was set up to gather the contributions from the public and from stakeholder organisations. It was managed by Open Source Politics and it used an open source software called Decidim. It can be accessed by anyone and only requires an email address to register. Three contributions summaries were produced by Open Source Politics during the Convention. These summaries were reviewed and validated by the Governance Committee, and are accessible to anyone online.
- **Decision/recommendation type:**
- **Legislative power:** The CA can make recommendations and state whether they wish these to be passed into law as a decree, presented to parliament as a bill or put to a referendum. Gov must respond publicly to the recommendations and give reasons for any it does not follow.
- **Outcome:**
Of the 150 citizen recommendations voted on only one was defeated - to reduce the working week from 35 to 28 hours. Impact of Covid-19, lock-down and resulting concern about the economic situation.
Three referendums: two constitutional changes and one to introduce the crime of ecocide in the French penal code have been called for.
Macron has accepted to go forward with 146 of the 149 proposals, holding off on ‘3 Jokers’ as he put it.
 - 1) He wants to "postpone the debate" on the limitation to 110 km / h on motorways .
 - 2) He rejected the 4% tax on dividends, which he said could “discourage investment”.
 - 3) The proposal to modify the preamble of the Constitution was rejected by the executive.

See:

<https://www.20minutes.fr/planete/environnement/2810271-20200629-conventi>

[on-citoyenne-climat-annonces-emmanuel-macron](#)

<https://propositions.conventioncitoyennepourleclimat.fr/>

- **Public awareness:**

Difficult to ascertain the extent,

There was a clear intention from the Governance Committee to invite the media to the Convention. The different media outlets had access to both the plenary and group sessions. A specific section on the Convention's website is dedicated to the press.

The interest by the media for the Convention shifted noticeably during the third session in November 2019, when Nicolas Hulot, Former Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition attended the Convention following his invitation by the 150 citizens. On Friday 10th January, the Questions and Answers session between President Macron and the 150 citizens led to a large increase in media coverage.

- **Successes and failures:**

Engagement: Citizen representative became very highly engaged, organizing online meetings outside of the sessions, extending knowledge base and consulting with people in their community

The expansion of the original mandate. The citizens insisted on going beyond the roadmap given at the start of the works, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030, by tackling other subjects such as biodiversity or public health related to food.

Ongoing: The citizen representatives have set up "150", the name of the association which now brings together the members of the convention. They continue the work by participating in working meetings at the Ministry of Ecological Transition etc

Critique: Interesting comments on the shortcomings of the mandate and outcomes from Pierre Calame, author of *Petit traité d'œconomie*, Paris: ECLM, 2018; of *Métamorphoses de la responsabilité et contrat social*, Paris: ECLM, 2020; and of *Sauvons la démocratie !*, Paris: ECLM 2012:-

The mandate. It asked the Convention not to dwell on matters of substance. These were dealt with quickly, at the beginning, when the Convention members had not yet had time to reflect and become informed. As of November 2019, the Convention members split into five predefined thematic groups – work, food, housing, travel and production – making it impossible to return to substantive issues. This introduced another bias that can be summarised as follows: 'You, the citizens, are experts in daily life. Forget about the grand economic, political, legal or philosophical debates, let's talk about what you can understand.' This also concentrated the thinking on the visible consumption of fossil energy, whereas 'grey energy', which is incorporated into the goods and services we import, now accounts for more than 40% of our carbon footprint.

Focus on individual rather than systemic change:-
the final outcome: ... 150 proposals debated, 149 adopted, often by a large majority. ... These measures are exclusively 'obligations of means', all of them defined at the national level. The text of the proposals contains 119 times words indicating prohibition and 303 times words indicating obligations, all of which fall mainly on the citizens. Detractors of the Convention are then at liberty to denounce a 'punitive ecology'. The aim is not to bring about an overall change in the economic system, it does not address the responsibility of citizens, companies, banks, local and regional authorities, and states, it does not in any way affect the legal conditions for the exercise of responsibility and it hopes to bring about a change in behaviour by means of injunctions ranging from requiring a percentage of vegetarian meals in school canteens to putting speed limits on motorways and banning advertising for energy-guzzling cars. In the thirty years since the need to preserve the climate has been recognised, however, this multiplication of obligations of means has proved ineffective, as have successive international agreements, which have never set any obligation of results for states.

- **Further reading:**

Coordinating body's (Cese) webpage on CA (in French):

<https://www.lecese.fr/convention-citoyenne-tirage-au-sort-criteres-selection%2020>

Official French Government webpage on the assembly (in French):

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/convention-citoyenne-pour-le-climat-150-participants-tires-au-sort>

Detailed critique of the Grand Débat (the mass consultation that gave rise to the CA), in English, written end of April 2019:

<https://carnegieeurope.eu/2019/04/26/is-macron-s-grand-d-bat-democratic-dawn-for-france-pub-79010>

Article in Le Point, end of August 2019, about the sortition process (in French):

https://www.lepoint.fr/politique/convention-citoyenne-pour-le-climat-les-couloirs-d-un-centre-d-appel-29-08-2019-2332249_20.php

XR Newsletter: Jan 2020

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ed5LPTDhmpLo6Dz-nM_xuzHK-zeKrnY0uTLvAWV20H8/edit

Involve: blog from an observer at the Convention: Claire Mellior Wilson

<https://www.involve.org.uk/resources/blog/opinion/convention-citoyenne-pour-le-climat-what-can-we-learn-french-citizens>

Hungary

In the Belgian G1000 literature there is mention that it inspired similar initiatives in Hungary.
Need for more research!

Iceland

National Assemblies (2009 & 2010)

LAST UPDATED: Alex, May 2019

XR CAWG contact: alex.bradbury@yahoo.com

2010–13 Icelandic constitutional reform

SUMMARY

The assembly was appointed by a resolution of Althingi, the Icelandic parliament, on 24 March 2011.

Also listen to Helene Landemore in the Real Democracy Now podcast, episode 1.2:

<https://realdemocracynow.com.au/1-2/>

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** To review the Constitution of the Republic of Iceland

Ireland

SUMMARY

The government resolved to create the citizen assembly organisation, rather than choosing an already established organisation to conduct it. This includes a steering group (assisted with planning and operational issues associated with the work programme) and an expert advisory group (assisted the work of the Assembly in terms of preparing information and advice). The Citizens' Assembly involved the same 99 people deliberating on a range of different topics. They also accepted submission from the general public on each issue, prior to the assembly. In each citizens' assembly, members were involved in developing the recommendations on which the whole assembly would be asked to vote. Find out more details about the The Citizens' Assembly [here](#) and in this [lecture](#) by Mary Laffoy, the supreme court justice and chairperson. [David Farrell](#) comments that interest groups and advocates were dealt with in a different way in the Irish CA than the Canadian or Dutch ones; they were told "you'll get your time to speak, but don't interfere with the process." Farrell also points out that regarding the abortion referendum, the Irish public knew the wording of ... before they voted because it had been suggested by the CA. So we knew the exact wording of the legislation we were voting on rather than voting for something abstract and sorting the details later.

NOTE FROM ALEX 01/09/19: There were two separate "batches" of CAs in Ireland. This section could do with reorganising to reflect that.

Citizens' Assembly on Gay Marriage (2013)

LAST UPDATED: Alex, May 2019

XR CAWG contact: alex.bradbury@yahoo.com

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** Amending the Constitution to provide for same-sex marriage
- **Dates and length:** 2013, one weekend
- **Format and activities:**
- **Commissioning body/initiated by:** Constitutional Convention (a separate predecessor to The Citizens' Assembly) [Or was this the coordinating group?]
- **Funding:** Irish government
- **Coordinating group:**
- **Oversight and other bodies:**
- **Number of participants:** 100; 66 randomly-selected citizens, 33 politicians from both Houses of the Oireachtas and the Northern Ireland Assembly and an independent chair.
- **Selection process:** Legislation was passed so that the electorate register to be used.
- **Stratification groups:**
- **Payment for participants:**
- **Submissions:** Yes; members of the public.

- **Decision/recommendation type:** Majority ballot vote
- **Legislative power:**No; the government committed to respond formally to each recommendation and debate it in parliament.
- **Outcome:** referendum to enshrine the right to gay marriage which did pass.
- **Public awareness:**
- **Successes and failures:**
- **Further reading::**
<http://www.constitutionalconvention.ie/AttachmentDownload.ashx?mid=c90ab08b-ec-e2-e211-a5a0-005056a32ee4>

Citizens' Assembly on Abortion (2016)

LAST UPDATED: Alex, May 2019

XR CAWG contact: alex.bradbury@yahoo.com

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** To consider the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution (which enshrined a defacto ban on abortion in Ireland)
- **Dates and length:** 2016, Five weekends
- **Format and activities:**
- **Commissioning body/initiated by:**The Citizens' Assembly (established by Irish parliament) [Isn't this the name of the assembly itself?]
- **Funding:** Irish government
- **Coordinating group:**
- **Oversight and other bodies:**
- **Number of participants:** 100; one supreme court judge and 99 randomly selected citizens.
- **Selection process:** Legislation was passed so that the electoral register could be used. The selection was conducted by polling company, Red C.
- **Stratification groups:** gender, age, location, and social class
- **Payment for participants:**
- **Submissions:** Yes; public, representative groups and citizen organisations
- **Decision/recommendation type:** Majority ballot
- **Legislative power:** No; the government committed to respond formally to each recommendation and debate it in parliament.
- **Outcome:** referendum to remove the Eighth Amendment from the Constitution which did pass.
- **Public awareness:**
- **Successes and failures:**
- **Further reading:** <https://www.citizensassembly.ie/en/>

Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change (2017)

LAST UPDATED: Alex, July 2019

XR CAWG contact: alex.bradbury@yahoo.com

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** How The State Can Make Ireland A Leader In Tackling Climate Change
- **Dates and length:** Two weekends in 2017
- **Format and activities:**
- **Commissioning body/initiated by:** The Citizens' Assembly (established by Irish parliament) [Isn't this the name of the assembly itself?]
- **Funding:** Irish government
- **Coordinating group:**
- **Oversight and other bodies:**
- **Number of participants:** 100; one supreme court judge and 99 randomly selected citizens.
- **Selection process:** Legislation was passed so that the electoral register could be used. The selection was conducted by polling company, Red C.
- **Stratification groups:** gender, age, location, and social class
- **Payment for participants:**
- **Submissions:** Public, representative groups and citizen organisations
- **Decision/recommendation type:** Majority ballot vote on 13 questions
- **Legislative power:** No; the government committed to respond formally to each recommendation and debate it in parliament.
- **Outcome:** Supported by Green party, but doesn't seem to be much other political support.

Recommendations: The Assembly made the following 13 recommendations by majority vote:

1. 98%: climate change is at the centre of policy-making, as a matter of urgency a **new or existing independent body should be resourced appropriately**
2. 100%: **take a leadership role in addressing climate change** through mitigation measures, including, for example, retrofitting public buildings, having low carbon public vehicles, renewable generation on public buildings and through adaptation measures including, for example, increasing the resilience of public land and infrastructure.
3. 80%: willing to pay **higher taxes on carbon-intensive activities.**
4. 96%: **a comprehensive assessment of the vulnerability of all critical infrastructure**
5. 99%: **enable, through legislation, the selling back into the grid of electricity**
6. 100%: State should act to ensure the greatest possible levels of community ownership in all future renewable energy projects by **encouraging communities to develop their own projects** and by requiring that developer-led projects make share offers to communities to encourage greater local involvement and ownership.

7. 97%: **end all subsidies for peat extraction**
 8. 93%: **the number of bus lanes, cycle lanes and park and ride facilities should be greatly increased** in the next five years
 9. 96%: immediately take many steps to **support the transition to electric vehicles.**
 10. 92%: **expansion of public transport spending** over new road infrastructure spending at a ratio of no less than 2-to-1 to facilitate the broader availability and uptake of public transport options with attention to rural areas.
 11. 89%: **tax greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.**
 12. 93%: introduce a standard form of mandatory measurement and **reporting of food waste** at every level of the food distribution and supply chain, with the objective of reducing food waste in the future.
 13. 99%: review, and revise supports for land use diversification with attention to supports for **planting forests and encouraging organic farming.**
- **Further reading::**
<https://www.citizensassembly.ie/en/How-the-State-can-make-Ireland-a-leader-in-tackling-climate-change/How-the-State-can-make-Ireland-a-leader-in-tackling-climate-change.html>

Citizens' Assembly on an Ageing Population (2017)

LAST UPDATED: Alex, May 2019

XR CAWG contact: alex.bradbury@yahoo.com

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition:** How we best respond to challenges and opportunities of an ageing population
- **Dates and length:** Two weekends in 2017
- **Format and activities:**
- **Commissioning body/initiated by:** The Citizens' Assembly (established by Irish parliament) [Isn't this the name of the assembly itself?]
- **Funding:** Irish government
- **Coordinating group:**
- **Oversight and other bodies:**
- **Number of participants:** 100; one supreme court judge and 99 randomly selected citizens.
- **Selection process:** Legislation was passed so that the electoral register could be used. The selection was conducted by polling company, Red C.
- **Stratification groups:** gender, age, location, and social class
- **Payment for participants:**
- **Submissions:** Yes; public, representative groups and citizen organisations
- **Decision/recommendation type:** Majority ballot

- **Legislative power:** No; the government committed to respond formally to each recommendation and debate it in parliament.
- **Outcome:**
- **Public awareness:**
- **Successes and failures:**
- **Further reading:**
<https://www.citizensassembly.ie/en/How-we-best-respond-to-challenges-and-opportunities-of-an-ageing-population/>

The Netherlands

The Burgerforum Kiesstelsel (2006)

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** The members of the citizens' forum had the task of investigating what they considered the most suitable electoral system for the House of Representatives.
- **Dates and Length:**
- **Format and activities:** The investigation had to result in a substantiated report.
- **Commissioning body/initiated by:** [Commissioned by minister Pechtold](#) for voor Administrative Renewal and Kingdom Relations, on recommendation by the National Convention which had been created to address the question of whether important elements of the current state system were still sufficient.
- **Funding:**
- **Coordinating group:**
- **Oversight and other bodies:**
- **Number of participants:** 140 randomly-selected Dutch citizens
- **Selection process:** A random selection of 100,000 candidates from the Municipal Administration database. Several events were organised that prospective candidates could attend to find out more about the process - nearly 3,000 attended out of which 1,700 said they were interested in participating in the forum. After that 140 people were chosen, with equal number of men and women and the number of people from the different provinces made up according to the number of inhabitants
- **Stratification groups:** male/female, geographical location
- **Payment for participants:**
- **Submissions:**
- **Decision/recommendation type:**
- **Legislative power:** None, this was an experiment recommended by the National Convention.

- **Outcome:** In April 2008, the [Balkenende IV](#) government announced that there was no reason to take on the advice from the Civic Forum.
- **Public awareness:**
- **Successes and failures:**
- **Further reading:**
[Burgerforum kiesstelsel](#)

Also, there was a Dutch 'G1000' in Amersfoort, 22 March 2014

A project inspired by the G1000 in Belgium. However, it involved both randomly selected citizens and publicly elected officials - similar to the Irish Constitutional Convention of 2012-14.

Poland

Gdansk's Citizens' Assemblies (2016 - ongoing?)

LAST UPDATED: Alex, May 2019

XR CAWG contact: alex.bradbury@yahoo.com

SUMMARY

The city of Gdansk in Poland had a series of CAs on different issues: How to

1. Improve flood defenses
2. Improve air quality
3. Encourage active civic participation
4. Gender equality (men, women and LGBTQ+)

The initial assembly on flood defenses arose after major flooding caused millions of euros of damage and killed two. Experts warn that due to climate change extreme rainfall is set to increase in the city.

"The group should be large enough to reflect the city, but small enough to have one conversation." according to one of the organisers. "Proposals that received support from more than 80% of the people participating were enacted. Other Polish cities, including Warsaw and Lublin, have taken action to start their own assemblies. In Gdansk, each assembly has cost approximately 30,000 Euro." I can not find any official information, only news articles. Assembly members received €140 for five Saturdays. To promote transparency, the final stage of the random selection was done by a live die roll. The educational phase took three days and they tried to create a good atmosphere between people. The mayor came to the start of each assembly and informed the assembly that their decision would be binding.

When it came to dealing with climate-related floods, one solution proposed by the CA was to keep a lake half full to absorb excess overflow. In 2017 the city flooded again, but thanks in part to the resolutions passed by the CA, the city reacted more quickly.

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** range of issues including flood mitigation, air pollution, civic engagement and the treatment of LGBT people.
- **Dates and length:** Four CAs in just over a year, from July 2006
- **Format and activities:**
- **Commissioned/initiated by:** The 500,000-strong population of Gdansk can either request a citizens' assembly with 1,000 signatures or demand one with 5,000 signatures.
- **Funding:** City council - €30,000 per CA approx.
- **Coordinating group:** Marcin Gerwin?? (Or was it led by someone else?)
- **Oversight and other bodies:**
- **Number of participants:** 56-60 people living in Gdansk. The make-up of the CA changed periodically.
- **Selection process:** sortition, televised live die roll
- **Facilitation method:** Groups of 3 or 4. Algorithm used so that people can speak to each other before their ideas brought back to plenary. Format based on 'World Cafe' method.
- **Stratification groups:** Age, sex, education-level, and district
- **Payment for participants:**
- **Submissions:**
- **Decision/recommendation type:** Ballot vote
- **Legislative power:** Decisions receiving more than 80% support were automatically enacted into law.
- **Outcome:**
- **Public awareness:**
- **Successes and failures:**
- **Further reading:**

<https://www.resilience.org/stories/2017-11-22/solutions-how-the-roles-are-making-democracy-work-again-in-gdansk/> (excellent article, with some useful arguments and wording)

<https://www.occupy.com/article/rebel-cities-19-gdansk-s-murdered-mayor-was-leading-polish-charge-against-fascism#sthash.oNTpVLk1.6rAKe4IH.dpbs> (also excellent - detailed description of background of CAs as tribute to murdered Gdansk mayor who supported them)

A useful talk by Marcin Gerwin can be found [here](#).

Taiwan

vTaiwan - open consultation process (2014 - ongoing)

LAST UPDATED: Alex, May 2019

XR CAWG contact: alex.bradbury@yahoo.com

SUMMARY

vTaiwan (virtual Taiwan) is not directly relevant to the CACEJ, as this doesn't involve sortition or other CA aspects. However, this a radically transparent and innovative public consultation process that was developed by a protest movement (Sunflower Movement), and later adopted by the Taiwanese Government.

The process was designed as a neutral platform to engage experts and relevant members of the public in large-scale deliberation on specific topics. The process itself is designed to facilitate constructive conversation and consensus-building between diverse opinion groups. It does this by creating several stages, including an initial 'objective' stage for crowdsourcing facts and evidence, and a 'reflective' stage using mass deliberation tool Pol.is, which encourages the formation of 'rough consensus'. Finally, key stakeholders are invited to a live-streamed, face-to-face meeting to draw up specific recommendations.

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:**
- **Dates and Length:**
- **Format and activities:**
- **Commissioning body/initiated by:**
- **Funding:**
- **Coordinating group:**
- **Oversight and other bodies:**
- **Number of participants:**
- **Selection process:**
- **Stratification groups:**
- **Payment for participants:**
- **Submissions:**
- **Decision/recommendation type:**
- **Legislative power:**
- **Outcome:** A crowdsourced bill successfully passed through parliament on Closely Held Company Law; the resolution of a disagreement between civil society activists on the topic of internet alcohol sales; and the ratification of several items on ridesharing (Uber) regulations.
- **Public awareness:**
- **Successes and failures:**
- **Further reading:**
<https://www.gothamgazette.com/opinion/7711-taiwan-s-radical-participatory-democracy-training-is-coming-to-new-york>

UK

Climate Change Summit UK (2007)

LAST UPDATED: Alex, May 2019

XR CAWG contact: alex.bradbury@yahoo.com

This was more about finding how a deliberative process would influence people's attitudes and behaviour with regard to climate change. While it was used in the context of consultations on the climate change bill (which became the Climate Change Act 2008), crucially, it didn't have any legal power – as Rich Willson explains in [this](#) blog post. Talking about this and similar events around that time, he says “When run well they had a powerful sense of occasion; leaving the participants with a real belief that they were affecting politics. Trouble was, they weren't.”

- **Proposition/Question:**
- **Dates and Length:**
- **Format and activities:** Regional workshops; provision of information packs; request to adopt pro-environmental behaviours; finally, the summit itself.
- **Commissioning body/initiated by:** Defra
- **Funding:**
- **Coordinating group:** Opinion Leader Research
- **Oversight and other bodies:**
- **Number of participants:** 150 citizens who were demographically representative. (Alex: I can't find if they were actually randomly selected or not.)
- **Selection process:**
- **Stratification groups:**
- **Payment:**
- **Submissions:**
- **Decision/recommendation type:**
- **Legislative power:** None
- **Outcome:** People's attitudes, willingness to act, sense of responsibility etc. significantly increased as a result of the process (unsurprisingly). The results of the process were used as part of “stakeholder engagement” in a study on pro-environmental behaviours.
- **Public awareness:**
- **Successes and failures:**
- **Further reading:**
<https://www.gothamgazette.com/opinion/7711-taiwan-s-radical-participatory-democracy-training-is-coming-to-new-york>

Citizens' Assembly Pilots (2015)

LAST UPDATED: Alex, May 2019

XR CAWG contact: alex.bradbury@yahoo.com

Two [pilot citizens' assemblies](#) took place in parts of the UK in 2015 on the topic of devolution.

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** English devolution
- **Number of participants:** South (Southampton): 23 randomly selected citizens + 6 politicians + appointed Chair; North (Sheffield): 32 randomly selected citizens + appointed Chair

Citizens' Assembly on Brexit (2017)

SUMMARY

“A deliberative mini-public such as the Citizens' Assembly does not claim to capture the views of a nationally representative sample in the way that an opinion survey does. Rather, it seeks deep insights into the considered thinking of a broad cross-section of society... To ensure that we could be confident that any changes in attitudes among Assembly Members were caused by participation rather than external events (such as media reporting of Brexit issues) we recruited a control group alongside the Assembly Members themselves.”

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** Consider UK's post-Brexit policies for trade and migration
- **Dates and length:** Two weekends in September 2017
- **Format and activities:**
- **Commissioning body/initiated by:** no government acknowledgement/support-academic exercise
- **Funding:** UK in a Changing Europe initiative, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).
- **Coordinating group:** Constitution Unit at UCL
- **Oversight and other bodies:**
- **Number of participants:** 50 randomly selected citizens

- **Selection process:** Population: eligible electorate for UK parliamentary elections. Through a UK-wide representative survey conducted by [ICM](#), and then contacted by phone. The recruitment followed a stratification plan.
- **Stratification groups:** Age, gender, ethnicity, social class, place of residence, and vote in the 2016 Brexit referendum
- **Payment for participants:**
- **Submissions:**
- **Decision/recommendation type:** Ballot vote
- **Legislative power:**
- **Outcome:** Recommendations were not implemented
- **Public awareness:**
- **Successes and failures:**
- **Further reading:** : <https://citizensassembly.co.uk/brexit/about/>
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/sites/constitution-unit/files/The_Report_of_the_Citizens_Assembly_on_Brexit.pdf

The Citizens' Assembly for Northern Ireland (2018)

SUMMARY

The Citizens' Assembly for Northern Ireland will give Members an honorarium of £100 per weekend as a 'thank-you' for their participation. This is evidenced by the conclusions from the [What Works Scotland Evidence Review \(2018\)](#) where they conclude that financial incentives go a long way in supporting traditionally under-represented groups to participate:

There is evidence, particularly from deliberative processes, to suggest that providing compensation and/or incentives can help young people, single parents, carers and those suffering from financial problems to get involved (Fishkin 2009:114; Ryfe and Stalsburg 2012:51; Roberts and Escobar 2015: 34-35, 201-202). Offering financial or other incentives is important to compensate people for taking the time to participate and to cover expenses which may incur as a result of taking part such as child care, transportation, and wage replacement (Muir and McMahon 2015; Roberts and Escobar 2015:34-35). This will go some way to enabling people facing socio-economic challenges to take part and thus correct the over-representation of advantaged groups (Ryfe and Stalsburg 2012).

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** What the public's aspirations are for a social care system fit for the future? What role does the health service need to play? What role do communities and individuals need to play?
- **Dates and length:** two weekends in Autumn 2018
- **Format and activities:**
- **Commissioning body/initiated by:**
- **Funding:**The Building Change Trust
- **Coordinating group:**Involvement

- **Oversight and other bodies:**
- **Number of participants:** 77
- **Selection process:** [LucidTalk](#) created a 11,000 member opinion panel and selected a representative sample. This was done online and through telephone interviews in order to reach 'difficult to access' groups (People who currently hold elected office and senior decision making roles within the Health and Social Care sector in Northern Ireland have been excluded.)
- **Stratification groups:** Age, gender, ethnicity, regional spread, and socio-economic status
- **Payment for participants:**
- **Submissions:**
- **Decision/recommendation type:**
- **Legislative power:** Non-binding
- **Outcome:**
- **Public awareness:**
- **Successes and failures:**
- **Further reading:** <https://citizensassemblyni.org/>

Citizens' Assembly on Social Care (2018)

SUMMARY

This was the first Citizens' Assembly in the UK to be commissioned and run by Parliament.

QUICK FACTS

- **Proposition/Question:** How can we find a sustainable solution to funding adult social care?
- **Dates and length:** April to May 2018
- **Format and activities:**
- **Commissioning body/initiated by:**
- **Funding:**Parliament, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation & the Omidyar Network
- **Coordinating group:**Involve
- **Oversight and other bodies:**
- **Number of participants:** 47
- **Selection process:** Randomly selected people from England. They were initially contacted through an online survey with ICM and then recruited by our in-house team and were chosen to be a broadly representative sample of the English population
- **Stratification groups:** Age, Ethnicity, Gender, Region, Social grade, Big/small state (Government should cut taxes/Neutral/Government should increase taxes)
- **Payment:**
- **Submissions:**
- **Decision/recommendation type:**

- **Legislative power:**
- **Outcome:**
- **Public awareness:**
- **Successes and failures:**
- **Further reading:**

<https://www.involve.org.uk/our-work/our-projects/practice/how-can-we-find-sustainable-solution-funding-adult-social-care>

Citizens' Assembly for Wales (Not yet started)

Completed by CAWG Cymru and XR Cymru Political Engagement - August 2020

XR contacts:

- CAWG Cymru contact John Whiten (johnwhiten@hotmail.com)
- XR Cymru Political Engagement Mike Davies (m.davies37@hotmail.co.uk)

SUMMARY

Initial encouragement by Welsh Government was deferred and overtaken by flooding and Covid-19. Plaid Cymru is supportive and took a motion to Senedd asking for a CA as part of Covid-19 recovery but was defeated. The draft Labour policy on Environment contains a commitment to a CA. Our focus is on maintaining the momentum for a Citizens' Assembly in Wales in 2021 once a new government is formed in May 2021.

QUICK FACTS

Proposition/Question	
Dates and Length	
Format and activities	
Commissioning body/initiated by	Welsh Government
Funding	£ million in this year's budget
Coordinating group	
Oversight and other bodies	

Number of participants	
Selection process	
Stratification groups	
Payment for participants	
Submissions	
Decision/recommendation type	
Legislative power	
Outcome	
Public awareness	
Successes and failures	
Further reading	

Future of Scotland Citizens' Assembly (Oct 2019 - ongoing)

LAST UPDATED: Justin Kenrick 18/8/20

XRScotland contact: Justin Kernrick

QUICK FACTS

Proposition/Question	Considering 3 questions related to the constitutional future of Scotland:
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	<p>What kind of country are we seeking to build?</p> <p>How best can we overcome the challenges Scotland and the world face in the 21st century, including those arising from Brexit?</p> <p>What further work should be carried out to give us the information we need to make informed choices about the future of the country?</p>
Dates and Length	October 2019-March 2020, 6 weekends but the last weekends were delayed by covid. Extended w/last 2 sessions to reconvene on line.
Format and activities	https://www.citizensassembly.scot/meetings
Commissioning body/initiated by	Scottish Government
Funding	£1.37 million from the Scottish Government https://www.citizensassembly.scot/sites/default/files/inline-files/Citizens%27%20Assembly%20Budget.pdf
Coordinating group	Involve -facilitator
Oversight and other bodies	--
Number of participants	Over 100
Selection process	Sortition - https://www.citizensassembly.scot/sites/default/files/inline-files/Recruitment_paper_final2_1.pdf
Stratification groups	broadly representative of the adult population (16 and over) in terms of age, gender, socio-economic class/educational qualifications, ethnic group, geography and political attitudes.
Payment for participants	Yes

Submissions	
Decision/recommendation type	recommendation
Legislative power	The recommendations will be set out in a report that will be laid in the Scottish Parliament.
Outcome	Interim report from first 4 sessions-- process on going
Public awareness	--
Successes and failures	In process
Further reading	https://www.citizensassembly.scot/

Scottish Climate Citizens' Assembly (from November 2020)

LAST UPDATED: Justin Kenrick 18/8/20 justinkenrick@yahoo.co.uk

XR Scotland contact: Kate Dyer and Justin Kenrick

SUMMARY

This can potentially meet XR Scotland's 3rd demand, depending on whether or not it is able to assess the science, assess why previous responses to climate change have failed to have any impact, what level of ambition is needed, and if it has effective enough input and facilitation to be able to deal with the emotional impact of looking ecological collapse in the eye and deciding what system change is needed.

We believe that neither the Government's 2045 target nor XR's 2025 target should be imposed on the Assembly, but that members should decide the carbon budget, the time frame, and the response needed based on their assessment of the science.

XR Scotland reps on the Stewarding Group proposed a deliberative workshop for the Stewarding group on the nature of the question. The workshop was accepted and well attended. Four out of the 5 questions arrived at had a very clear systems change focus, and what was clearly important was having an interpretation of the science from someone

aligned with Government (2045 target), and from an eminent climate scientist (in this case Kevin Anderson) who sees 2045 as way too late.

QUICK FACTS

Proposition/Question	Yet to be determined
Dates and Length	Planned to be over 6 weekends if face to face (November 2020 to February 2021) or 10 weekends if online
Format and activities	https://www.climateassembly.scot/
Commissioning body/initiated by	Mandated by Scottish Parliament September 2019 Climate Act.
Funding	Expect- ca £1.4million
Coordinating group	Involve/ DemSoc - facilitating
Oversight and other bodies	Secretariat, and a Stewarding Group (XR Scotland member of latter): https://www.climateassembly.scot/Stewarding-group
Number of participants	ca. 100
Selection process	Sortition - postal civic lottery
Stratification groups	broadly representative of the adult population (16 and over) in terms of age, gender, income, ethnic group, geography, rurality, disability, and attitudes to climate change
Payment for participants	£200 gift per weekend, plus childcare etc costs covered
Submissions	n/k

Decision/recommendation type	Recommendations
Legislative power	The recommendations will be set out in a report that will be laid before the Scottish Parliament.
Outcome	--
Public awareness	--
Successes and failures	--
Further reading	

Climate Assembly UK (January to April 2020)

LAST UPDATED: 18- 8- 2020 (Kathie)

XR contact: Marijn, Alex, Amy

SUMMARY

[See full internal brief here](#)

[See XR press release here](#)

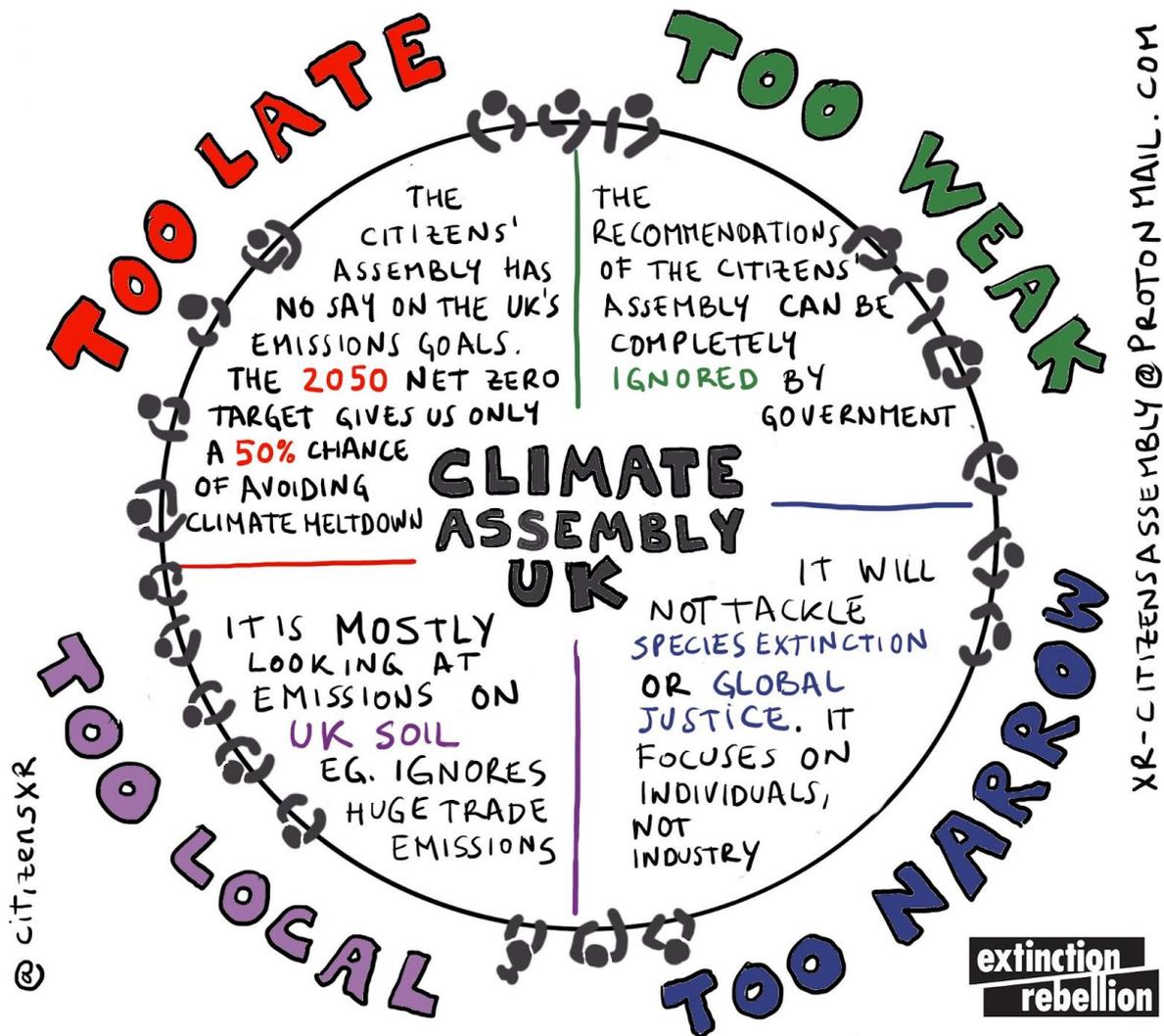
[Climate Assembly UK website](#) (with full programme, livestreams and full transcripts of presentations, details of advisory and academic boards, etc. etc.)

Topline: This does not meet our third demand¹. The assembly is hamstrung by the Government's inadequate 2050 target. What's more, it is not commissioned by the Government but by backbenchers from the previous Parliament, so the Government can completely ignore its outcomes. Of course, this is an opportunity to showcase the citizens' assembly process and so XR will not disrupt the proceedings. This could be a small step in the right direction for a deliberative, citizen-led democracy to address the emergency. However, this assembly is working under considerable constraints. The Government must now step up to the plate and commission its own assembly; one that empowers participants to decide on how to address the climate and ecological emergency.

Summary of key criticisms shared on @CitizensXR Twitter and @XRRebellionUK:

¹ Third Demand: "Government must create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on climate and ecological justice"

WHY CLIMATE ASSEMBLY UK DOES NOT MEET OUR THIRD DEMAND



QUICK FACTS

Proposition/Question	To consider how the UK should meet its target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050
Dates and Length	24-26 January, 07-09 February, 28 Feb-1 March, 20-22 March, Report end of April 2020 Owing to Covid-19 the final face-to-face meeting was replaced with 3 online weekend sessions.
Format and activities	Weekend 1: Launched by David Attenborough. Then evidence presented on climate science and broad principles.

	<p>Weekend 2: Critical thinking talk. Then assembly split into three (again by random selection and stratification). Evidence across three separate areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. how we travel 2. In the home 3. What we buy, and land use, food and farming <p>Weekend 3: Deliberations in three separate groups.</p> <p>Weekend 4: Further evidence on energy supply and negative emissions tech. Then final recommendations. Also one session is left open for participants to use as they see fit; suggestions collected through course of assembly and decision made based on those by Involve post-weekend 3.</p>
<p>Commissioning body/initiated by</p>	<p>Six House of Commons Select Committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ● Environmental Audit ● Housing, Communities and Local Government ● Science and Technology ● Transport ● Treasury <p>Note: DEFRA <u>not</u> involved.</p>
<p>Funding</p>	<p>House of Commons, 120,000 Esmée Fairbairn Foundation 200,000, European Climate Foundation, 200,000</p>
<p>Coordinating group</p>	<p>Involve</p>
<p>Oversight and other bodies</p>	<p>Expert Leads</p> <p>Advisory Panel - feedback on assembly design including expert speakers, questions for participants to give views on and written briefings for assembly members (although the panel did not in practise review all documents)</p> <p>Advisory Panel - reviews the written briefings and provides additional advice to Expert Leads</p> <p>Academic Panel - review briefings created for assembly members to support the expert leads in</p>

	ensuring they are balanced, accurate and comprehensive.
Number of participants	110
Selection process	Sortition by phone, 30,000 invites were sent out
Stratification groups	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1j1fcmOzeABdYR1wFNdp_dcOZaiOMDSiNwygnReh6_Cs/edit
Payment for participants	£600
Submissions	No
Decision/recommendation type	Report, 'preferences' not recommendations
Legislative power	None 'The report will act as a valuable body of evidence for all politicians and policy makers on public preferences for how to get to net zero. As the UK prepares to host COP26 in 2021, the UK Government has promised a 'year of climate action', and assembly members have stressed their desire to see their work turned into tangible progress on net zero.'
Outcome	Interim report: The assembly has published an interim briefing on Covid-19, recovery and the path to net zero, ahead of the final report https://clicca-production.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/COVID_19_and_recovery_FINAL_w_links_003.pdf Final report to be presented to Select Committees by one of the citizen representatives on september 10th
Public awareness	Low
Successes and failures	

Further reading	https://www.climateassembly.uk/ Select Committees announce plans for Citizens' Assembly
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