

Climate Assembly UK

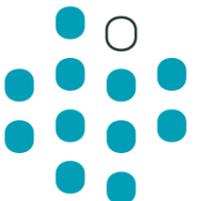
THE PATH TO NET ZERO

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



About citizens' assemblies

- Way of understanding **informed and considered public preferences** on issues that are particularly controversial, complex, moral or constitutional. Increasingly used by governments and Parliaments around the world.
- Key features include:
 - Participants are representative of the wider population;
 - Three stage process of learning, discussion and decision-making;
 - The information presented during the learning phase is balanced, accurate and comprehensive;
 - Usually facilitated by an independent organisation.
- Beyond the key attributes, there is significant flexibility in how an assembly is run and structured. This includes whether it is combined with other engagement methods such as crowdsourcing.



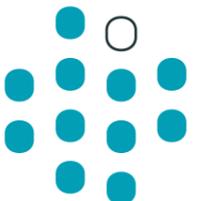


**About Climate Assembly
UK**



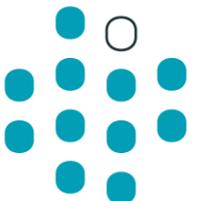
About Climate Assembly UK

- June 2019, UK Parliament passes a law committing the UK to reach net zero by 2050;
- It was commissioned by six Select Committees of the House of Commons to look at **how the UK should reach its legally-binding target of net zero emissions by 2050**, because of the impact these decisions will have on people's lives.
- Climate Assembly UK is the **first ever UK-wide citizens' assembly on climate change**;
- It provides a **new and valuable body of evidence** about public preferences for how to get to net zero:
 - 108 assembly members came from all walks of life and all across the UK, and were representative of the wider population in terms of demographics, geography and levels of concern about climate change;
 - Met over six weekends;
 - Assembly members had the chance to learn about issues, consider them in-depth and make their recommendations.



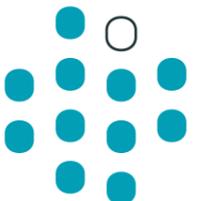
How assembly members were recruited

- **Sortition or a ‘civic lottery’** – the gold standard method:
 1. **30,000 invitation letters** sent from Parliament to randomly selected households across the UK;
 2. **People responded**, including answering a range of demographic and attitudinal questions;
 3. **Random stratified sampling done by computer** used to select the 108 assembly members, so that the assembly was representative of the wider population;
- Clarity about ability to **meet accessibility requirements**, with staff and budget line.



Issues the assembly considered

1. About Climate Assembly UK
2. Underpinning principles for the path to net zero
3. How we travel on land
4. How we travel by air
5. Heat and energy use in the home
6. What we eat and how we use the land
7. What we buy
8. Where our electricity comes from
7. Greenhouse gas removals
10. Covid-19, recovery and the path to net zero
11. Additional recommendations



The path to net zero: Climate Assembly UK report

- Launched on 10 September 2020. The recommendations set out a **clear and internally consistent path to net zero**;
- For each area the report looks at, the assembly generally considered:
 - Key considerations;
 - *What* they would like to see - futures;
 - *How* we should get there - over 50 specific policy recommendations.
Includes rationale and conditions/considerations.
- Published and can share:
 - **Executive summary:** key recommendations and an opening statement from assembly members setting out what they see as key overarching themes;
 - **Full report:** detailed chapters on each theme covered by the assembly, setting out the assembly's recommendations and their rationale for them in full.



- Respect others backgrounds & Opinions
- Only one person speaking at a time
- Be honest + don't be afraid to give your opinion
- Be calm + polite
- Phones away + on silent
- Listen + consider other people's opinions

Environment
Audit
Committee

Summary of recommendations



Opening statement

- **Fairness** (regions, incomes, sectors, preferences);
- Taking advantage of **co-benefits** for local high streets, health and the economy;
- Maintaining **freedom and choice** where possible;
- Much better **information and education**;
- **Strong leadership from government** and a **cross-party approach to change**.





Surface travel

A future that **minimises restrictions** on how much we travel. **An early shift to electric vehicles** and **improving public transport** to make it cheaper, reliable and more accessible.



In the home

Solutions **tailored to local areas and households** with greater choice for householders. Support for the use of **hydrogen, heat pumps and heat networks**.



Air travel

A balance between protecting travel and lifestyles and the need to **limit growth in air passenger numbers**. Taxes on air travel that **increase as people fly more often and as they fly further**, and investment in new, cleaner aviation technologies



What we eat and how we use the land

A future centred around **local produce and food production**, a voluntary change in diet to **reduce meat and dairy consumption by 20-40%**, and a “managed diversity” of land use.

Support for farmers through the transition. Care that changes **do not disproportionately affect the least well-off**.





What we buy

Businesses make **less energy- and materials-intensive products**. Individuals **repair and share products more** with technical and financial support for business. Better information to promote informed choice, including **better labeling and information about carbon emissions and recycling**. Measures to increase recycling.



Greenhouse gas removals

Strong support for **forestation and better forest management**, restoring and managing **peatlands and wetlands**, and using **wood in construction**. Some support for **enhancing the storage of carbon in the soil**. Less support for BECCS and DACCS.

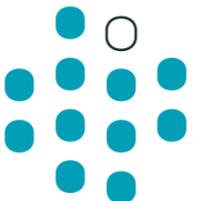


Where our electricity comes from

Strong support for **wind power (offshore and onshore) and solar**, less support for nuclear power, bioenergy and fossil fuels with CCS.

Covid-19

79% backed a **green economic recovery**. 96% backed steps to **encourage lifestyle change**.





Flipchart content:

- Paul Ekins** (with photo):
 - Two columns of sticky notes (yellow and pink).
- Modi Mwatsama** (with photo):
 - Two columns of sticky notes (yellow and pink).

Meeting Notes
Summary of discussion
12 March
Emergent Issues
The current UK tax
system is complex
and the price
of tax
is high

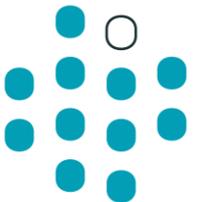


How we travel on land



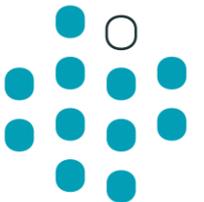
Considerations

1. Ensure solutions are **accessible and affordable** to all sections of society;
2. Help create **significant change at an individual level**, including through education, incentives and disincentives;
3. Achieve **cross-party support** for decisions so that they are not changed by successive governments;
4. Follow the principle that **the polluter should pay** ;
5. Check and **be careful about side effects**, including moral, ethical and environmental implications;
6. **Invest in and develop public transport** to make it accessible and affordable;
7. Invest more and faster in **research and development for technologies** ;
8. Ask an **independent regulator to assess long-term consequences** of the science and policies;
9. **Protect jobs and industry**, and support them to transition;
10. **Free bus travel, as introduced in Dunkirk.**



Futures

- A future which minimises restrictions of travel and lifestyles –and instead focuses on a shift to electric vehicles and improvements to public transport
- Specifically, the assembly recommended:
 - A ban of the sale of new petrol, diesel and hybrid cars by 2030-2035;
 - A reduction in the amount we use cars by an average of 2-5% per decade;
 - Improved public transport.



Policy options

Assembly members recommended fifteen policies with at least two-thirds support:

On cars

Quickly stop selling the most polluting cars, e.g. SUVs

Grants to buy low carbon cars

Car scrappage scheme

On public transport

Government investment in low carbon buses and trains

Increasing investment to make buses faster and more reliable, and adding new bus routes and more frequent services

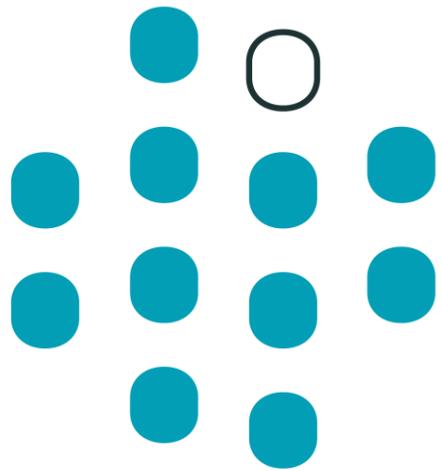
Making public transport cheaper

Bringing public transport back under government control

Other

Investing in cycling and scooting facilities

Localisation – more local services, amenities and transport links



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