

Climate Citizens' Assemblies, Practical Workshop  
~ Focus on assemblies held in the Japan and the UK ~

# **Case Studies of Climate Citizens' Assemblies in the UK**

---

Mikiko Kainuma, Tomoko Ishikawa

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

14 March 2024 (Thursday)

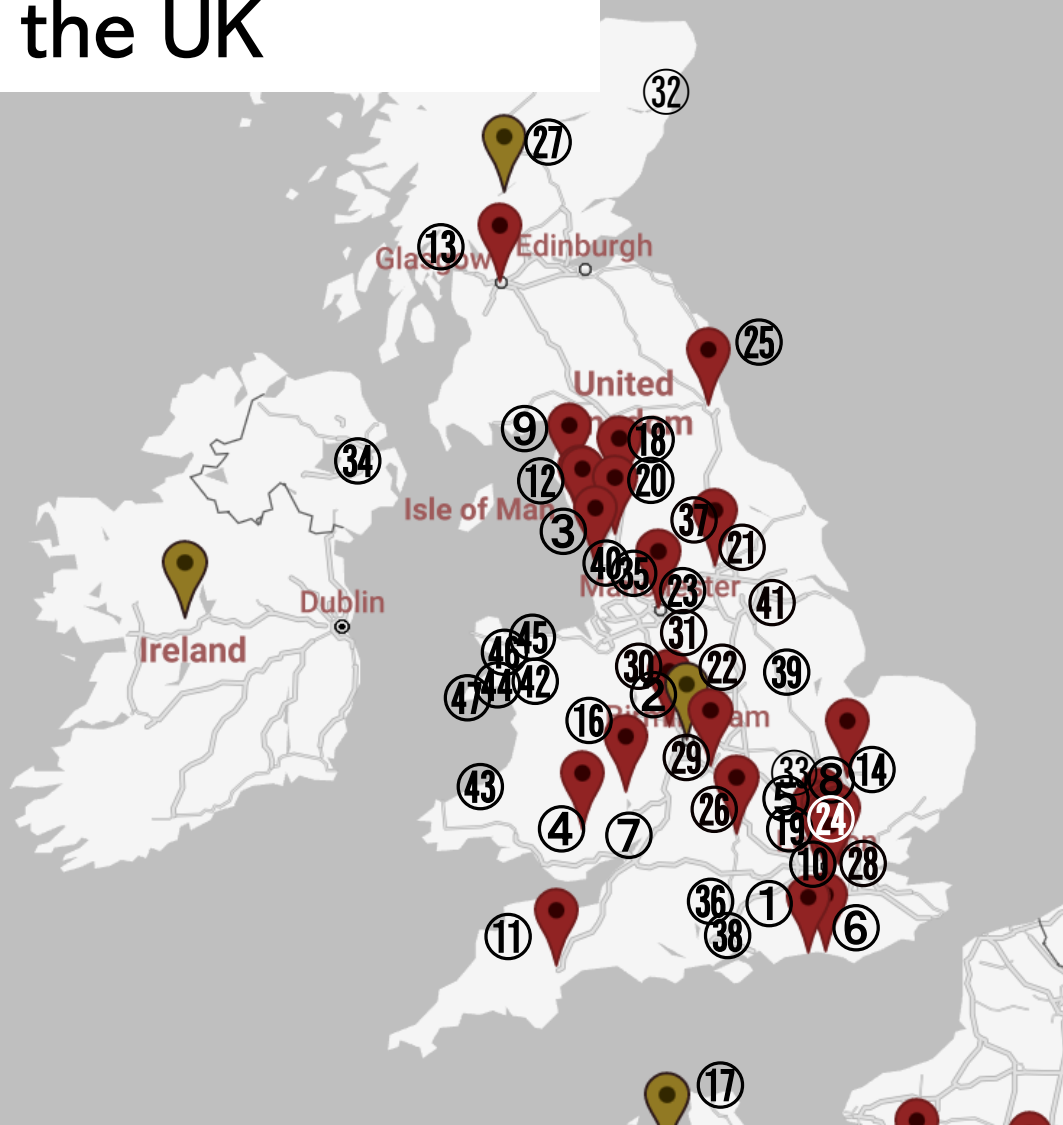
# What we are going to talk about

- Climate Citizens' Assemblies/Juries in the UK
- Characteristics of Citizens' Assemblies/Juries in the UK
- Impacts of Citizens' Assemblies/Juries

# Climate Citizens' Assemblies/Juries in the UK

Climate citizens' assemblies have been held in many municipalities that have declared net zero as a way to hear the voices of citizens.

## Net Zero Declaration + Climate Citizens' Assembly + Action Plan



- |                      |                      |  |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| ① Adur & Worthing    | ①7 Jersey            | ③2 <b>Aberdeen (Jury/Panel)</b>        |
| ② <b>Birmingham</b>  | (Crown dependencies) | ③3 <u>Barnet</u>                       |
| ③ Blackpool          | ①8 <b>Kendal</b>     | ③4 <b>Belfast</b>                      |
| ④ Blaenau Gwent      | ①9 <i>Lambeth</i>    | ③5 <b><u>Blackburn with Darwen</u></b> |
| ⑤ <i>Brent</i>       | ②0 Lancaster         | ③6 Romsey                              |
| ⑥ Brighton & Hove    | ②1 <b>Leeds</b>      | ③7 <b>Shipley</b>                      |
| ⑦ Bristol (COVID-19) | ②2 <b>Leicester</b>  | ③8 <u>Southampton</u>                  |
| ⑧ <i>Camden</i>      | ②3 <b>Manchester</b> | ③9 <b>Nottingham (summer 2024)</b>     |
| ⑨ <b>Copeland</b>    | ②4 <i>Newham</i>     | ④0 <b>Preston (Scheduled)</b>          |
| ⑩ <i>Croydon</i>     | ②5 North of Tyne     | ④1 <b>South Yorkshire (Scheduled)</b>  |
| ⑪ Devon              | ②6 Oxford/Assem;     |  |
| ⑫ <b>Furness</b>     | <b>Oxford/Jury</b>   |  |
| ⑬ Glasgow            | ②7 Scotland          | <b>Community Assemblies</b>            |
| ⑭ Greater Cambridge  | ②8 <b>Southwark</b>  | ④2 <b><u>Bro Ffestiniog</u></b>        |
| ⑮ <i>Hackney</i>     | ②9 <b>Warwick</b>    | ④3 <b>Bude</b>                         |
| ⑯ Herefordshire      | ③0 Wolverhampton     | ④4 <b><u>Deffryn Nantlle</u></b>       |
|                      | ③1 UKCA              | ④5 <b><u>Dyffryn Ogwen</u></b>         |

(Black: Assemblies; Red: Juries; Italics: London boroughs; Underlined: after 2023)

Source: Based on KNOCA. <https://knoca.eu/> and Citizens' Assemblies worldwide. <https://www.buergerrat.de/en/citizens-assemblies/citizens-assemblies-worldwide>

# The UK Climate Citizens' Assembly



**Organiser:** 6 House of Commons Select Committees, including the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS); social activists such as Extinction Rebellion also called for implementation (6 sessions between Jan. and May 2020. 108 participants. Sessions 4-6 online. Population: around 67 million).



Climate Assembly UK members on Zoom

**Mission:** To propose recommendations to make net zero a reality in the UK by 2050. Three groups (mobility, in the home, and purchasing/land use, food & agriculture) discussed separately, and energy discussed by whole group.

**Recommendation:** Submitted in Sept. 2020, with over 50 recommendations, including increase of investment in low-emission buses and trains; support for smaller organisations to provide energy services; and putting wind and solar at the heart of the UK's pathway to net zero.

**Impact:** BEIS Committee conducted a follow-up inquiry.

Source:  
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2020/september/climate-assembly-uk-new/>

# Scotland Climate Citizens' Assembly



<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-response-scotlands-climate-assembly-recommendations-action/>

**Organiser:** Held under the Scottish Climate Change Act. Government and Parliament (7 sessions from Nov. 2020 to Mar. 2021, plus 8th session in Feb. 2022. 102 participants. Population: around 5.5 million)

**Mission:** To recommend how to achieve a 75% reduction by 2030 and net zero by 2045. Discussions were divided into three sub-groups: Diet/Land use/Lifestyle, Home/Community, and Work/Travel. The members of the groups changed each time.

**Recommendation:** Submitted in June 2021. 81 recommendations in 16 areas including resources, building quality, standards and regulations, public transport, carbon labelling, education, land use, community, circular economy, taxation, and measuring progress.

**Characteristics:** Included a children's assembly. One of a number of mechanisms to incorporate citizens' views, including open government, participatory budgeting, and the Just Transition Committee.

Source: Based on Institute for the Dialogue of Environmental Policy report <https://cdn.goope.jp/61503/221028213754-635bcd22a8da0.pdf>



# Camden Climate Citizens' Assembly



**Organiser:** Camden Council (3 sessions in July 2019. Approx. 50 participants. Population: around 270,000).

**Mission:** To recommend how Camden should respond to the climate crisis.

**Recommendation:** Submitted Sept. 2019. 17 actions, including zero-carbon new homes, tree planting, more segregated cycle lanes, and the creation of a climate panel of experts and residents.

<https://www.camden.gov.uk/documents/20142/0/Camden+Citizens%27+Assembly+on+the+Climate+Crisis+-+Report.pdf/947eb4e5-5623-17a1-9964-46f351446548>

**Impact:** Camden Council established climate panels. The first panel consisted of 15 members and met quarterly for two years from Oct. 2020. The second phase (2022-2025) will meet three times a year until early 2025. Camden Council is also inviting public feedback online to ensure that the views of the public are reflected in the Climate Action Plan.

# Oxford Climate Citizens' Assembly



<https://www.oxford.gov.uk/downloads/file/2040/oxford-citizens-assembly-on-climate-change-report>

**Organiser:** Oxford Council (two sessions in Sept. and Oct. 2019. 42 participants. Population: around 150,000)

**Mission:** To answer the questions: Should Oxford seek to achieve 'net zero' sooner than 2050? What trade-offs are we prepared to make to achieve this?

**Recommendation:** Discussions based on submitted scenarios on buildings, transport, renewable energy, biodiversity and offsets, and waste. Voted on 20 Oct. 2019. Example recommendation: 'more education and information to understand what can be done individually'.

**Impact:** Reflected in the Sustainability Strategy (2020), including the Climate Action Plan.

# Oxford Climate Citizens' Jury

**Aims and objectives of #StreetVoice**

**Learn**  
To learn about the shared and contrasting values, concerns and needs of the residents of Headington and surrounding areas regarding travel, safety, air quality, climate, and health.

**Understand**  
To better understand residents' visions for the future of mobility in their community.

**Opportunity**  
To provide local residents with an opportunity to shape travel planning in Oxford for the coming years.

Kellogg College University of Oxford | GCHU Global Centre on Healthcare & Urbanisation | NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY CARE HEALTH SCIENCES Medical Sciences Division

@GCHUOxford | www.gchu.org.uk

**Organiser:** The University of Oxford (four sessions in June and July 2022, 16 participants).

**Mission:** To determine how people can move around Oxford in a climate-friendly way that improves health.

**Recommendation:** Report to Council in September 2022. Recommendations included bus priority features, free or low-cost bus travel for young people, disabled residents and the over-55s, and school bus schemes.

**Characteristics:** Use of Street Voice. Citizens' Jury aims to link transport, climate, and health measures.

Recommendations submitted to Oxfordshire County Council.

<https://www.gchu.org.uk/2022/06/streetvoice-citizens-jury-first-session/>



# Characteristics of climate citizens' assemblies

- Random selection of participants, taking into account age, area of residence, opinions, income, etc. The size of assemblies/juries ranges from 25 to 150 people. There are usually about six sessions.
- Participants learn the latest knowledge through presentations by several experts.
- Deliberative discussions take place among the participants.
- Discussions are often supported by expert facilitators.
- Policy recommendations are proposed.
- Leads to behavioural change among participants. Leads to increased citizen confidence in government.

## Why are there so many climate citizens' assemblies in the UK?

- Net Zero Declaration + Climate Citizens' Assembly + **Action Plan**

Citizen action is essential to achieve net zero. Many local authorities have incorporated the recommendations of Climate Citizens' Assemblies into their action plans.

- To deepen **understanding** of climate change action.

It is important to have accurate, science-based information. The Climate Citizens' Assemblies include expert presentations, followed by deliberations and the preparation of recommendations.

- To raise the interest of **citizens who do not participate in the Climate Citizens' Assemblies.**

Many municipalities invite input from the general public. Interest can also be raised through media coverage.

# Areas of potential impact of climate citizens' assemblies

- **Policy:** Impact on public policy and political decision-making
- **Society:** Impact on public discourse and public, business, and civil society engagement
- **Systemic:** Impact on democratic systems and systems-thinking

# Potential impacts of climate assemblies

	Instrumental impacts	Conceptual impacts	Capacity-building impacts
Policy	<p>Climate policy and legislation and resulting climate action</p> <p>Political debate/positions</p>	<p>Policy-makers knowledge and understanding of diverse public perspectives</p> <p>Clarification of roles and responsibilities in climate action</p>	<p>Focus on specific climate recommendations and policy areas</p> <p>Political coalitions, networks, or cross-party cooperation</p>
Society	<p>Public climate action/behaviour</p> <p>Media practices and coverage</p> <p>Practices in business</p>	<p>Different perspectives on climate policy issues</p> <p>Understanding of climate change and climate action</p> <p>Clarifying responsibilities for climate action</p>	<p>Businesses and third-sector organisations to support new climate action initiatives</p> <p>Enabling key groups in society to participate in decision-making</p>
Systemic	<p>Democratic systems/forms of governance</p> <p>Systems-thinking</p>	<p>Understanding of the use of deliberative processes</p> <p>Understanding of climate change as a challenge to more fundamental aspects of society</p>	<p>The use of deliberative processes and new forms of governance</p> <p>Tackling climate change from a systems perspective</p>

# What we talked about today.

- Climate Citizens' Assemblies/Juries in the UK
- Characteristics of Citizens' Assemblies/Juries in the UK
- Impacts of Citizens' Assemblies/Juries



**Thank you for your attention.**