

Mapping Public Engagement with Energy, Climate Change and Net Zero

LCS-RNet 14th Annual Meeting, 18th December 2023

Professor Jason Chilvers

UK Energy Research Centre & University of East Anglia

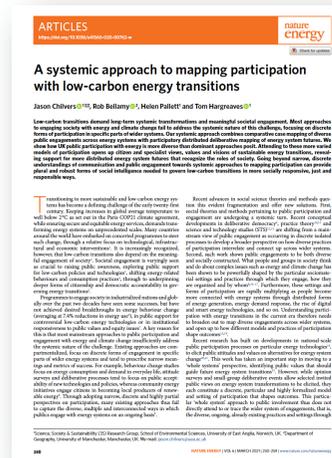


A new direction for public engagement

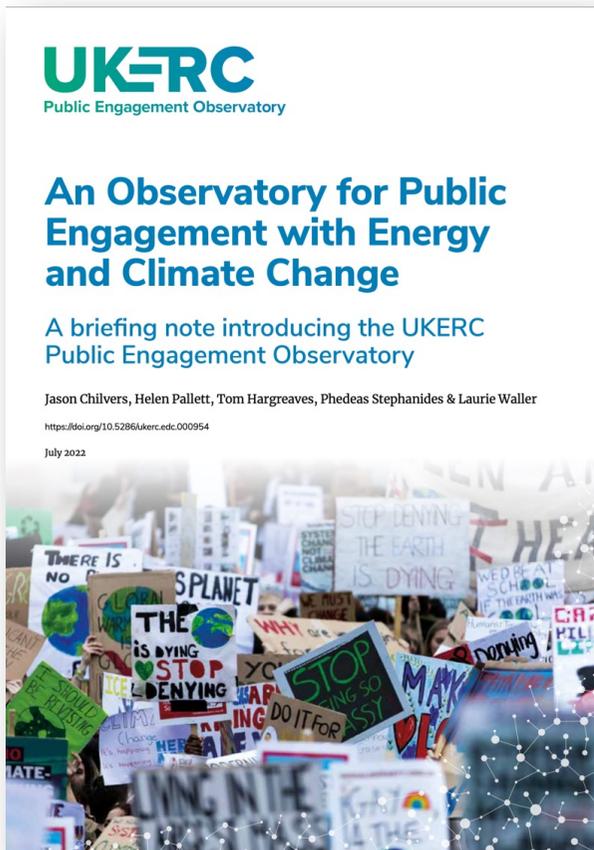
Three waves of public engagement

1. **Communication to the public** (*deficit of public understanding*)
2. **Drive to develop discrete forms of public engagement** (*deficit of engagement*)
3. **Public engagement as diverse and systemic** (*deficit of responsiveness to diverse ongoing public engagements*)

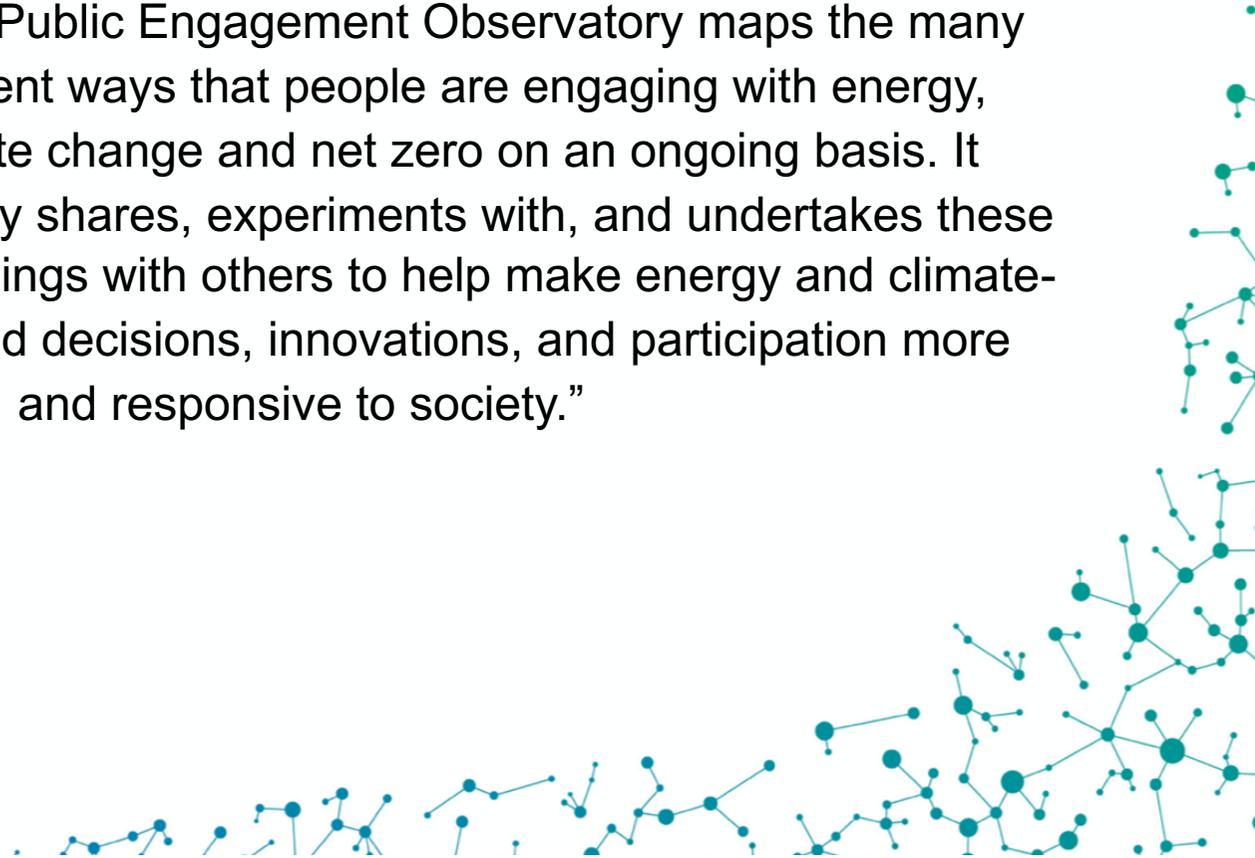
(Chilvers et al. 2021)



UKERC Public Engagement Observatory



“The Public Engagement Observatory maps the many different ways that people are engaging with energy, climate change and net zero on an ongoing basis. It openly shares, experiments with, and undertakes these mappings with others to help make energy and climate-related decisions, innovations, and participation more just... and responsive to society.”



Public Engagement Observatory

An Observatory for Public Engagement with Energy and Climate Change



The Observatory maps the ways people are engaging with energy and climate change

[LEARN MORE](#)



Explore diverse cases of public engagement with energy and climate change

[EXPLORE](#)



Contribute your own examples of public engagement with energy and climate change

[CONTRIBUTE](#)

Latest Publications



Publication | Report

Mapping Participation for Democratic Innovations: An experiment in evaluating a citizens' panel on home energy decarbonisation

The Public Engagement Observatory is actively exploring how new approaches to mapping diverse...

Latest Case Studies



Case Study | Everyday practices

Conditioning Demand

Qualitative study exploring interview data from 2 UK projects: 'Carbon, Comfort and Control'

News & Events



Article | News

Remaking Participation and Democracy: Call for Contributions

We are delighted to invite contributions to our Combined Format Open Panel at the 2024 quadrennial...

1 week ago



Mapping Public Engagement with Energy, Climate Change and Net Zero

Jason Chilvers, Phedeas Stephanides, Helen Pallett & Tom Hargreaves

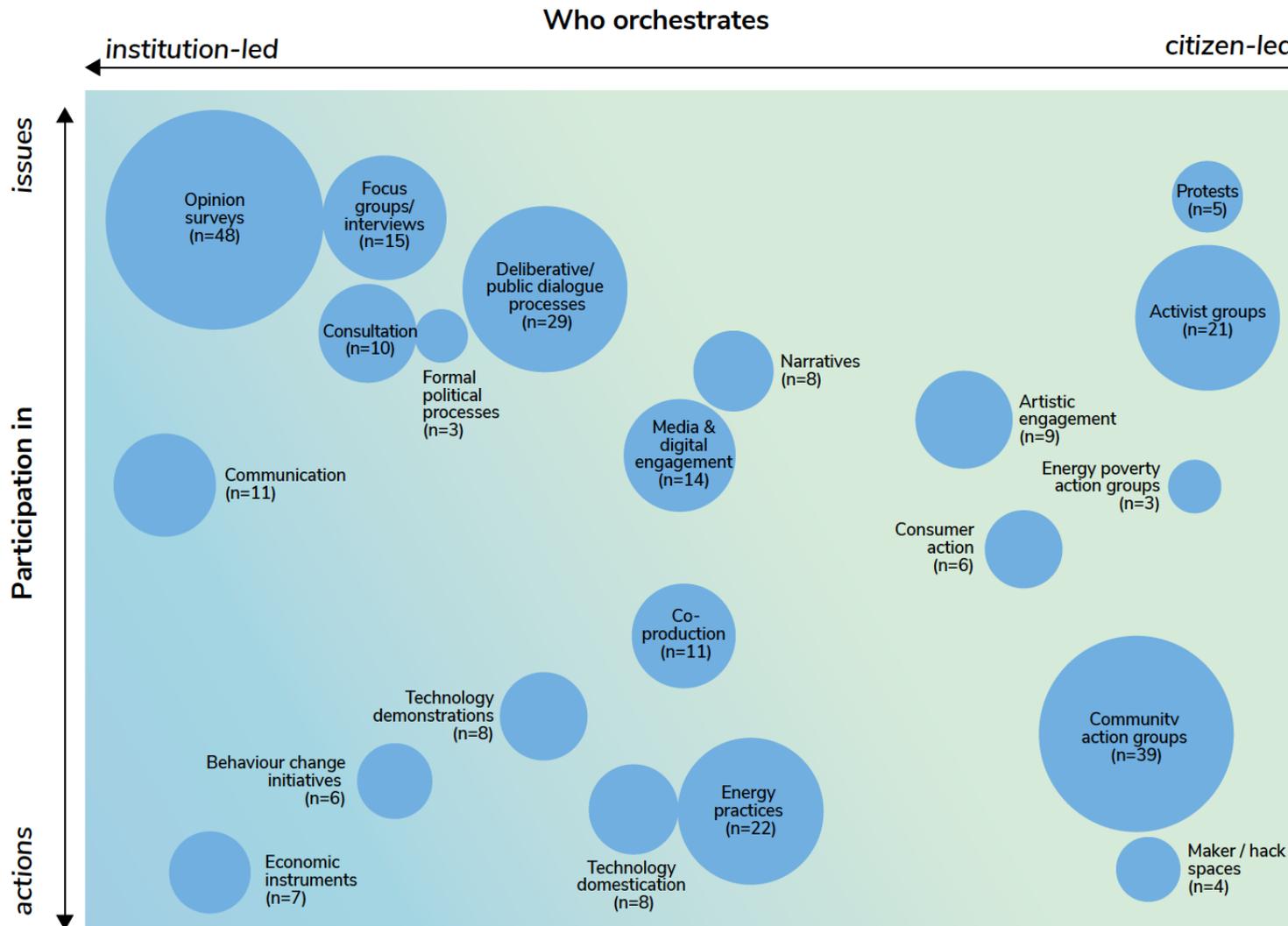
<https://doi.org/10.5286/UKERC.EDC.000962>

June 2023



Diverse public engagements with energy & climate change

(2015-2022, n=284)



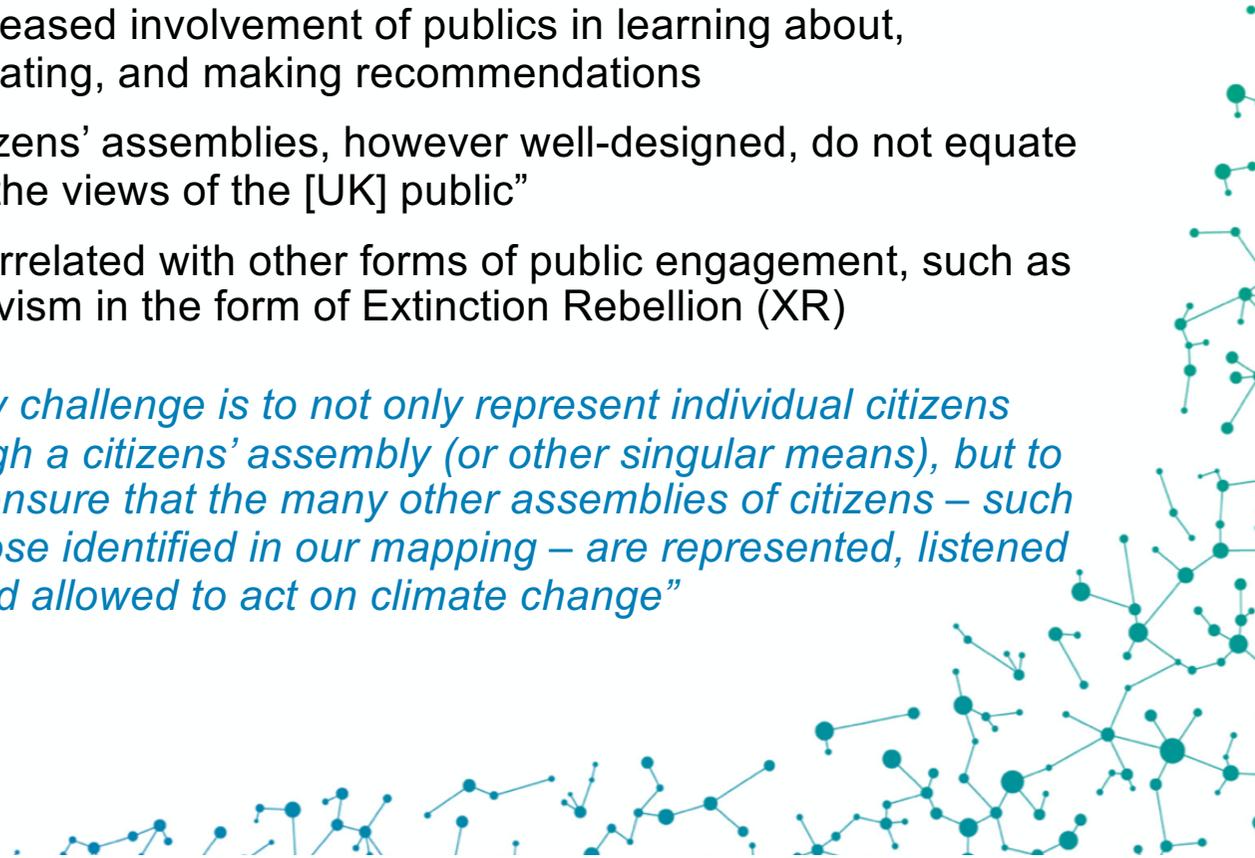
The rise of citizens' assemblies



- Rise of citizens' assemblies at national, local and regional levels in the UK
- Increased involvement of publics in learning about, debating, and making recommendations
- Citizens' assemblies, however well-designed, do not equate to “the views of the [UK] public”
- Interrelated with other forms of public engagement, such as activism in the form of Extinction Rebellion (XR)

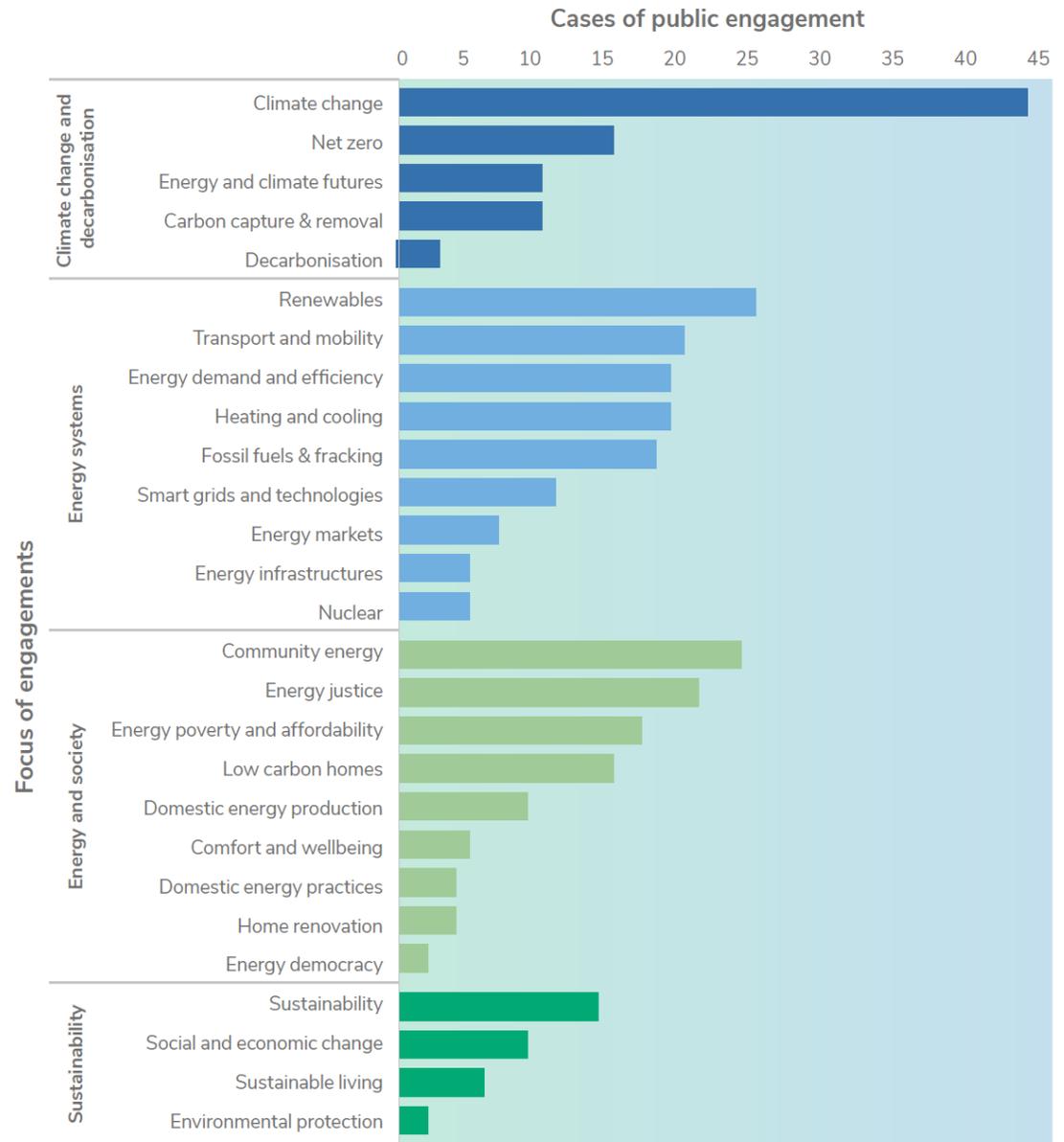


“A key challenge is to not only represent individual citizens through a citizens' assembly (or other singular means), but to also ensure that the many other assemblies of citizens – such as those identified in our mapping – are represented, listened to, and allowed to act on climate change”

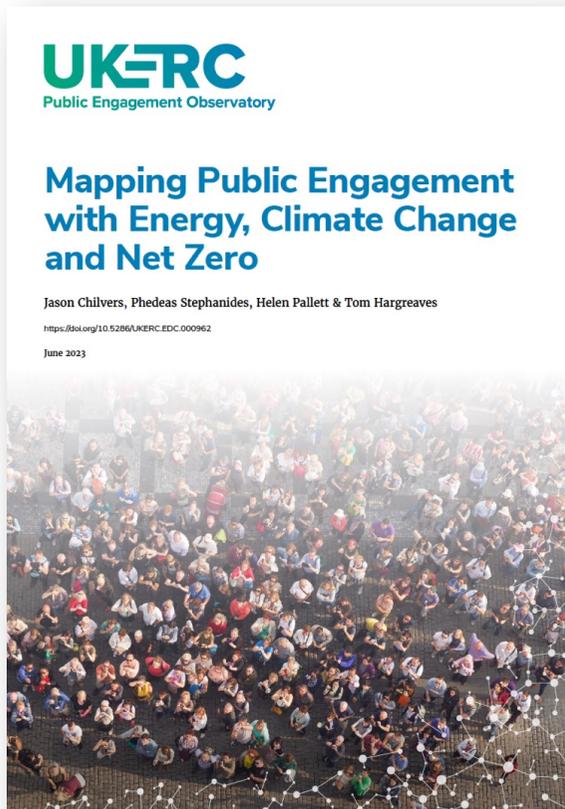


What are publics engaging in?

- Climate change and decarbonisation
- Energy systems
- Energy and society
- Wider sustainability issues



Key insights & recommendations



1. Recognise diverse public engagements with energy, climate change and net zero
2. Attend to public engagements as continually emerging, interrelating and excluded
3. Towards systems of public engagement
4. Observatories and mapping participation for policy, innovation and society

Thank you

ukerc-observatory.ac.uk | [@UKERC_Engage](https://twitter.com/UKERC_Engage)

jason.chilvers@uea.ac.uk | [@jasondchilvers](https://twitter.com/jasondchilvers)

