

TPXimpact



-FIDE
FEDERATION FOR INNOVATION
IN DEMOCRACY - EUROPE



 Spring School on Climate Citizens' Assemblies

Framing: Getting the question right

April 2023



Hello ☺

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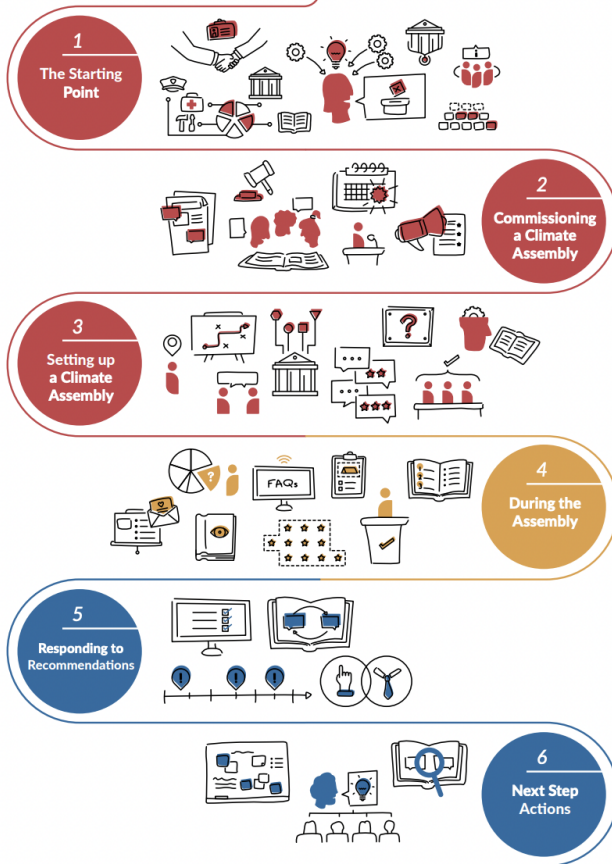
Mandate: The initiative for the assembly.

Remit: The focus of your process.

Question: The specific guiding question(s) that the assembly will focus on addressing.

Why is this important?

The remit and question will guide **everything** you do next. It will communicate the purpose and focus of the process, guide the development of the evidence, and inform the shape of recommendations.



Set your **question** by this stage

Develop your comms strategy

Clear **mandate** and **remit** by this stage

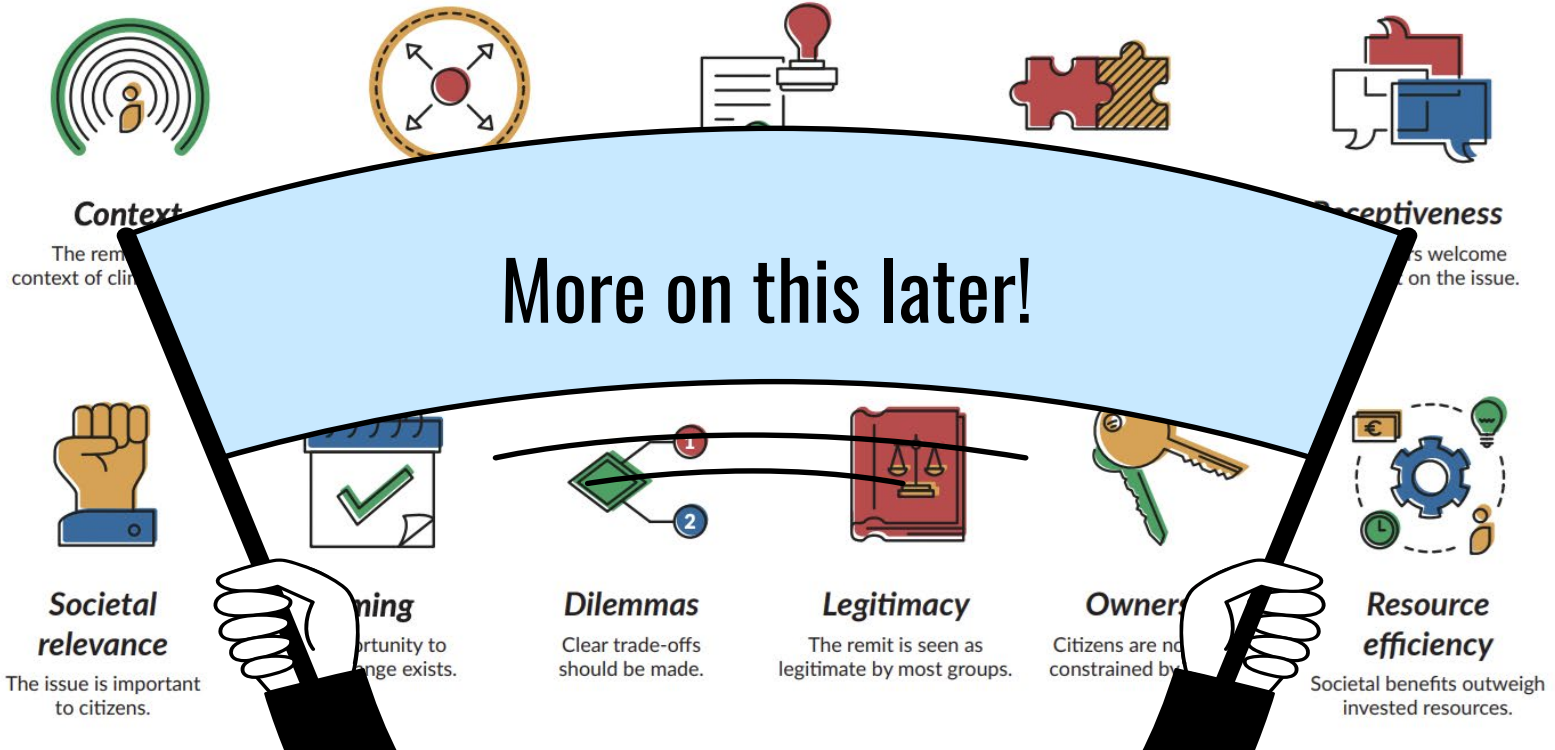
Develop key messages



Citizens' Assemblies work best when they are tasked with dealing with issues that have distinct trade-offs and where politicians have been unable or unwilling to act.



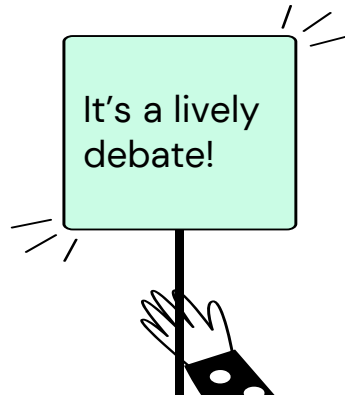
Guiding principles for setting the remit of a climate assembly



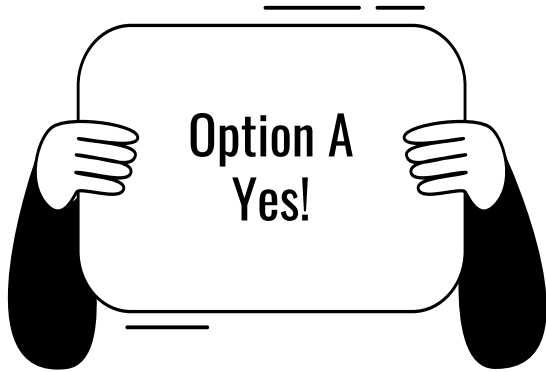
Go broad?

OR

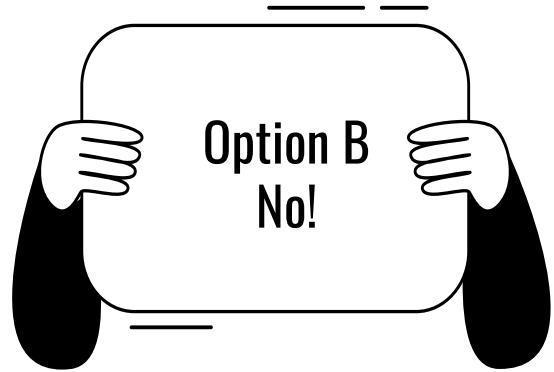
Be specific?



You could also ask, should we do...



OR





Broad



Benefits



Can explore systematic and cross-cutting issues.



Participants can be involved in direction setting.



Develop general climate literacy of the participants and broader public.








Explore the complexities and interdependencies of different issues.



Give a general sense of public interest in addressing climate issues.



Issues

-  Often the remit is just too broad, with consequence for the quality of process, outputs and impact.
-  Assemblies are rarely aligned with policy windows to enable policy impact.
-  No guaranteed that you will directly address known challenges and issues head on (though this might be politically convenient).
-  Difficult to design and select evidence, driven by time constraints in the process.
-  Recommendations that sit outside the scope of the commissioner.

Broad remit

Examples

Ireland's Citizens' Assembly 2016-18

How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change

Scotland's Climate Assembly 2020-21

How should Scotland tackle the climate emergency in a fair and effective way?

Germany

How do we shape climate policy: good for us, good for our environment and good for our country?



Introduction to climate change adaptation and mitigation

Why we set targets, where Scotland's emissions come from, and how can we make fair and effective change happen?

Diet, Land Use & Lifestyle

How should Scotland rebalance its diet?

How should Scotland change how it uses its land?

How should Scotland change how it buys things?

How should Scotland change how it uses materials and resources?

Homes & Communities

How should Scotland change its existing homes?

How should Scotland change its new homes?

How should Scotland change how it plans its communities?

How should Scotland change how it delivers community services?

Travel & Work

How should Scotland change how it travels by land?

How should Scotland change how it travels by air?

How should Scotland change its working practices?

How should Scotland support people to change work?

Cross stream learning - financing climate action and current Scottish Government policy - and deliberations

Assembly Recommendations



Specific



Benefits



Easier to design (but don't let that put you off).



Enables the full assembly to work on issues together.



Produces a relevant package of recommendations that policy makers can prepare to respond to.



Able to identify clear trade-offs and options.



Outputs can be more tangible for policy makers.



Issues



Limited focus may frustrate some participants.



Limited exploration of interdependencies.



Limited exploration of changes needed across the system is limited to the framework.



Might not satisfy political or civil society calls for action on climate change.

Specific remit

Examples

Devon Climate Assembly (UK)

What should be the role of onshore wind in the Devon Renewable Energy Strategy? (one of 3 questions)

Poznan (Poland)

How to take care of the city's green areas in the context of climate change.



Approaches to setting the question



Make sure it's a question, not a subject description.



Keep it clear and simple.



If there are clear trade-offs, embed them.



Don't include a solution.



Don't lead people toward a predetermined answer.



Clearly stated
trade-off

Yarra Valley Water needs to find a balance
between price and service which is fair for
everyone. How should we do this?

starts with a straightforward
problem statement

The question
is left open



The remit is
brief & specific

How should we best spend \$2m to
improve our community through the use
of infrastructure spending?

Clear parameter

The goal is
clearly stated

Clear parameter

Source: newDemocracy Foundation, R&D guide *Framing the Remit*
Source: How to run a citizens' assembly, liDP UK

**You
decide?**

OR

**Involve
stakeholders
?**



Pros & Cons

You decide...



A question that directly responds to your challenges

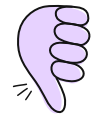


Setting a question that doesn't connect with the public

Involve stakeholders...

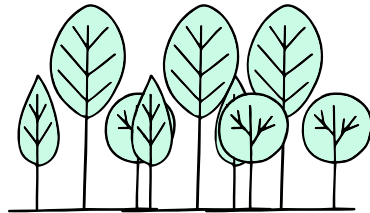
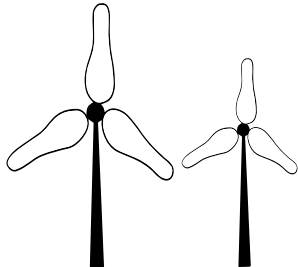
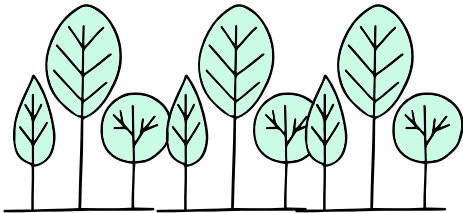


Enhance buy-in to the process and highlighting things you would have missed

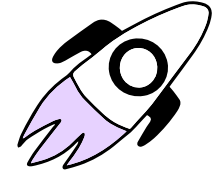


The question might not be best to achieve policy impact.

Start with
WHY



Collaborative approach



Set the scene

Bring everyone up to speed with why you are planning an assembly: political will, local interest, key drivers. Bring in evidence and baseline data.

Understand the challenges

What are the key issues facing your place, and how will the assembly help you to make an impact on them? Look at guiding principles.

Explore broad & specific remits

What approach will help you to address the challenges you have identified?

Develop draft question options

Draft a set of questions. You can do this in rounds in a workshop setting, with feedback and iteration.

Test and finalise the question

Explore your proposal with stakeholders, including policy colleagues, before you finalise it.



Ask yourself



Should the assembly make recommendations on a specific aspect of climate policy?



Do you want to source proposals for a wider series of actions that help to tackle the climate crisis?



Are there timing considerations, for example due to emissions reduction targets or legislative process?



Should we focus on actions we can take, or also – for example – local organisations and communities?



What are the links to current or planned legislation?



What baseline data and evidence is available to guide our decision making?



Can this approach really make an impact?



Preparing for a climate assembly

Guidance for policy officials

Author: Kelly McBride, TPXImpact

June 2022

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Author: Janosch Pfeffer, Doctoral Researcher, Leuphana University

June 2022

DRAFT GUIDANCE

SETTING THE REMIT FOR A CLIMATE ASSEMBLY: KEY QUESTIONS FOR COMMISSIONERS

Stephanie Brancaforte, Rinascimento Green

Janosch Pfeffer, Doctoral Researcher, Leuphana University

June 2022

KNOCA is a European-based network that aims to improve the commissioning, design, implementation, impact and evaluation of climate assemblies, using evidence, knowledge exchange and dialogue. KNOCA documents climate assembly practice, identifies and disseminates best practice for impact and shapes future trends. You can find us and join KNOCA at <https://knoca.eu/>

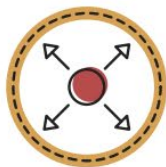
If you have any feedback on this draft guidance, please contact Stephanie at sbrancaforte@change.org

Guiding principles for setting the remit of a climate assembly



Context

The remit fits the context of climate politics.



Scope

Sufficient time to develop recommendations, understand consequences, and provide justifications.



Authority

The sponsoring authority has sufficient power to act on recommendations.



Political relevance

Policymakers see a need for change on the issue.



Receptiveness

Policymakers welcome citizen input on the issue.



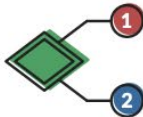
Societal relevance

The issue is important to citizens.



Timing

An opportunity to affect change exists.



Dilemmas

Clear trade-offs should be made.



Legitimacy

The remit is seen as legitimate by most groups.



Ownership

Citizens are not unjustly constrained by the remit.

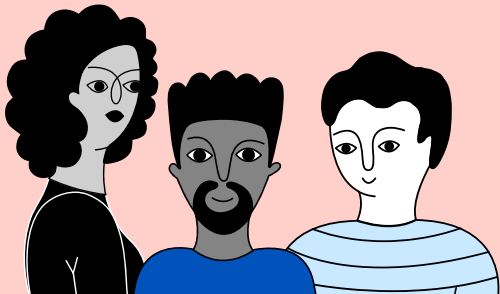


Resource efficiency

Societal benefits outweigh invested resources.



THANK YOU



Reflections?

Please raise your hand to share any comments or reflections.



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