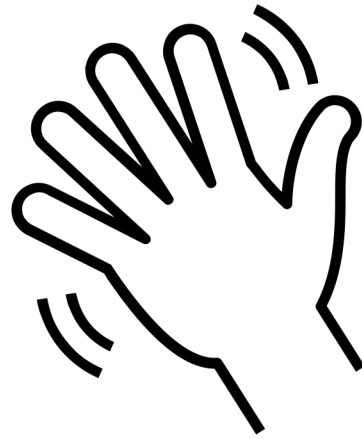


Scotland's Climate Assembly

Kelly McBride
14 October 2022

Autumn School on Deliberative Democracy, Tartu

Illustrative map of the geographical diversity of Assembly members



Hello!



SCOTLAND'S CLIMATE ASSEMBLY

**DOING POLITICS
DIFFERENTLY**

climateassembly.scot

Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019

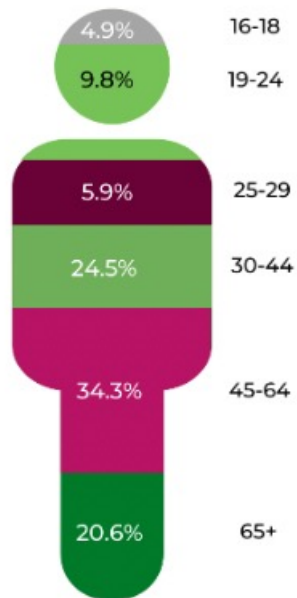
The functions conferred on the citizens' assembly are to:

- a. consider how to prevent or minimise, or remedy or mitigate the effects of, climate change,
- b. make recommendations on measures proposed to achieve the emissions reduction targets,
- c. make recommendations about such other matters in relation to climate change as the Scottish Ministers may, in accordance with subsection (6), refer to the assembly.

Introduction

- 105 participants selected from across Scotland after 20,000 invitations sent to randomly selected households across Scotland.
- Met for 7 weekends between November 2020 and February 2022
- Process delivered entirely online
- Report laid before the Scottish Parliament in June 2021
- Additional meeting for participants to consider the response
- The process had a significant budget and a dedicated Secretariat
- External design and facilitation was procured via Scottish Government

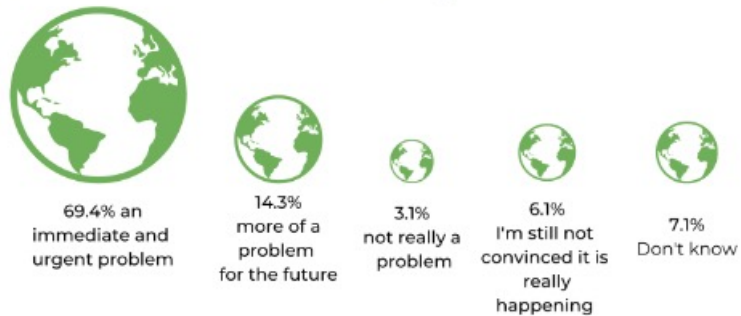
Age



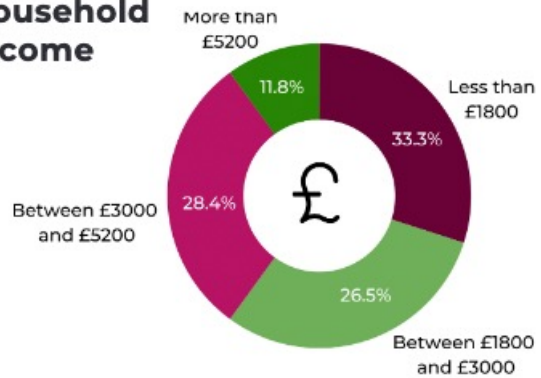
Rurality



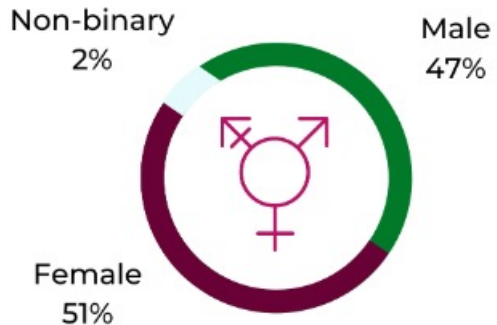
Attitude to Climate Change



Household Income



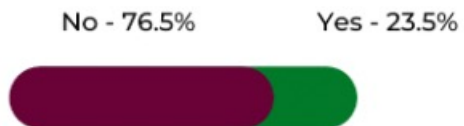
Gender



Ethnicity



Disability/ Life Limiting Condition



8 different criteria:

- Age
- Gender
- Geography
- household income
- Ethnicity
- Rurality
- Disability
- Attitude towards climate change

Source: Climate Assembly Final Report

Presentation

Design and deliberation (briefly)

Storytelling

Working in the open

Media and engagement

Outputs and what happened next

Design & Deliberation

The Question



How should Scotland change to tackle the climate emergency in an effective and fair way?

MARCH 2021

SCOTLAND'S CLIMATE ASSEMBLY

PRE-ENGAGEMENT EVIDENCE SUMMARY

Online public dialogue in October 2020. Emergent themes, published in November 2020 were used to guide the organisation of evidence and selection of experts for the Assembly process.

01

Introduction

03

Mechanisms of Change and Fairness

Systems change and economics. Business. Tax, regulation and subsidies. Decision making. Targets. Education. Media. Fairness and inequality. Covid-19. COP26. Population. Assembly.

18

Energy

Fossil fuels. Alternative energy. Carbon capture. Just transition. Global justice in energy.

25

Diet and Lifestyle

Biodiversity and rewilding. Tree planting. Soil. Peatland. Carbon sequestration. Food. Agriculture. Allotments. Fishing. Consumption. Ownership.

42

Work and Travel

Active travel. Public transport. Cars. Air travel. Infrastructure and city planning. Working environment. Green jobs. Wellbeing.

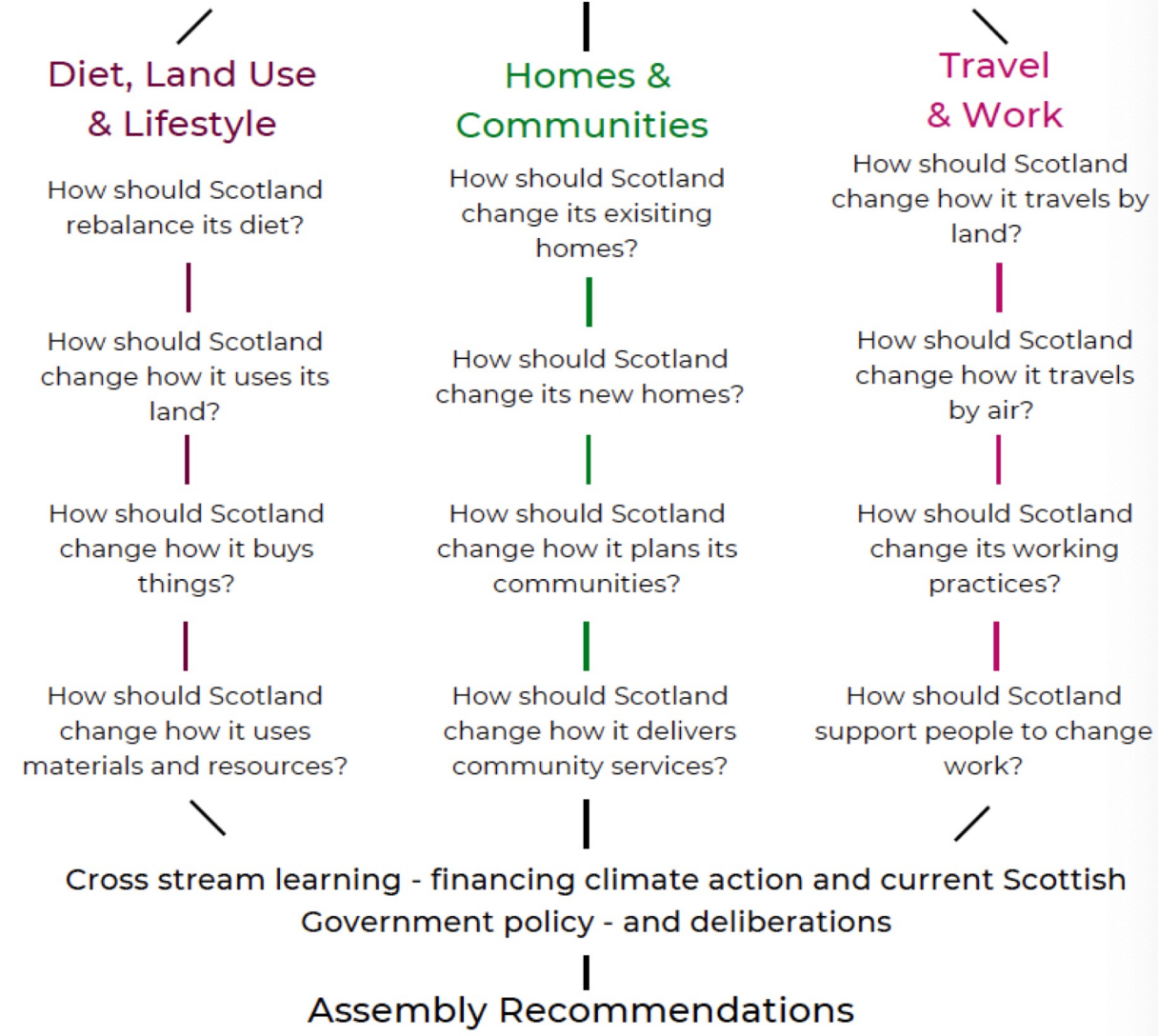
54

Homes and Communities

Heating. Improving our homes. Water use. Communities and decision-making. Communities and infrastructure. Sharing.

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?



- **Evidence Group** created a learning journey ensuring that members heard balanced, accurate and comprehensive evidence about the climate emergency, and different ways of tackling it
- Assembly learned about climate change, mitigation, adaptation, fairness, and how change happens before splitting into **three streams**
- Assembly members also heard from children in the **Children's Parliament**.

Speakers



Learning and Deliberations



Q&A



Evidence Group



Source: Climate Assembly Final Report

Design

- Sessions designed to be a mix of small groups and plenary sessions
- Lead and small group facilitators
- Invited speakers spoke in plenary, via prerecorded video or in small groups
- We used a mix of tools and techniques
- We issued updated guidance to facilitators during the process after reviewing research reports



Facilitation

All sessions took place on Zoom

Before the process, we put in place support for all participants:

- 1:1 calls
- Training
- Provided devices, data and other equipment like headphones
- Dedicated contact and ongoing support.



Working Online

- Zoom
- Videos
- Microsite
- Jamboard
- GoogleDocs
- SurveyMonkey
- Training
- Support

The screenshot shows a Jamboard interface with the title "2 - Jamboard Example". The board is divided into several sections for a discussion on carbon tax:

- Lifestyle**: A header section with the question "What is the challenge / issue / problem you are seeking to address?". It includes three sticky notes: "To lower carbon emissions and footprint", "To encourage the use of lower carbon products", and "To help support individual behaviour change".
- What is your proposed recommendation trying to achieve?**: A section with two sticky notes: "Carbon tax on high polluting products" and "Carbon dividend scheme: using the carbon tax money to directly impact individuals/families".
- What type of action are you suggesting?**: A section with four sticky notes: "To build a carbon tax and dividend scheme/programme", "Need to model a fair and equitable carbon tax amount, probably MORE than £75/£100 per tonne. Need to be a more significant figure?", "Clear communication and awareness outlining the benefit, who and how many will be better off", and "Analysis on impact, so we don't cause a problem downstream".
- Who needs to take the action**: A section with two sticky notes: "Scottish Government to set taxation targets" and "Businesses - how will they report in an open and transparent way".
- Considerations related to Fairness**: A section with three sticky notes: "Would the dividend(s) be tax free?", "And that it does NOT affect any benefits", and "Large corporations to be made to pay tax, unlike some do not do now...".
- Other considerations**: A section with three sticky notes: "Alternatives at a reasonable cost? Especially if there is something that will be taxed heavily and is essential", "OK Scotland doing something but need to consider the UK in the wider context", and "BUT, should carbon tax collected go in to a dividend scheme and not other clean, green schemes?". A fourth sticky note at the bottom says: "It's all very well carbon taxing in Scotland but what's stopping people going over the border to buy their iPhone and not have to pay extra because of the carbon tax".

Storytelling

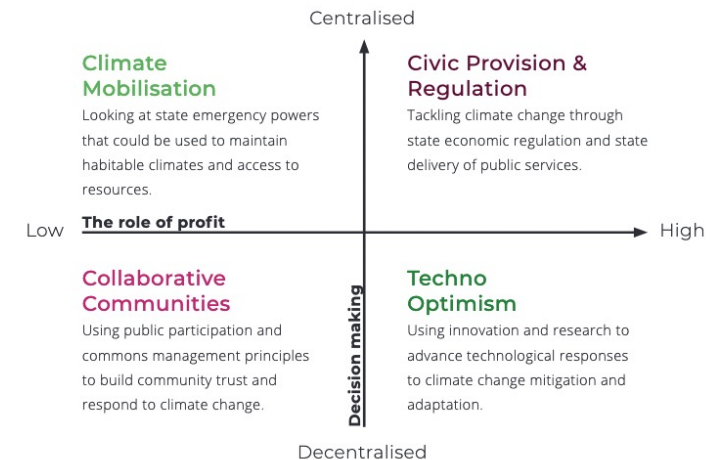
Introducing scenarios

- The assembly used scenarios and storytelling as tools to consider how change has happened.
- Scenarios were developed based loosely on previous work with EU Innovate with support from Forum for the Future
- The evidence group then developed a fictional story for each of these scenarios, exploring what a day in the life of an ordinary Scottish citizen might look like at some point in the future between now and 2040
- Participants were also encouraged to think about the levers for, and barriers to, achieving change in the context of the climate crisis

Imagine the future in 2040, once the key recommendations from the Assembly have been implemented.

What does a day in the life of you and your family look like?
What might be different in the way we live?

Capture words and phrases



Source: Climate Assembly Final Report

Developing stories of the future

Final weekend:

recommendations and goals included on the ballot were presented back to members in a final story to visualise the interconnectivity of their ideas and the possible future they could create.



Working 'in the open'

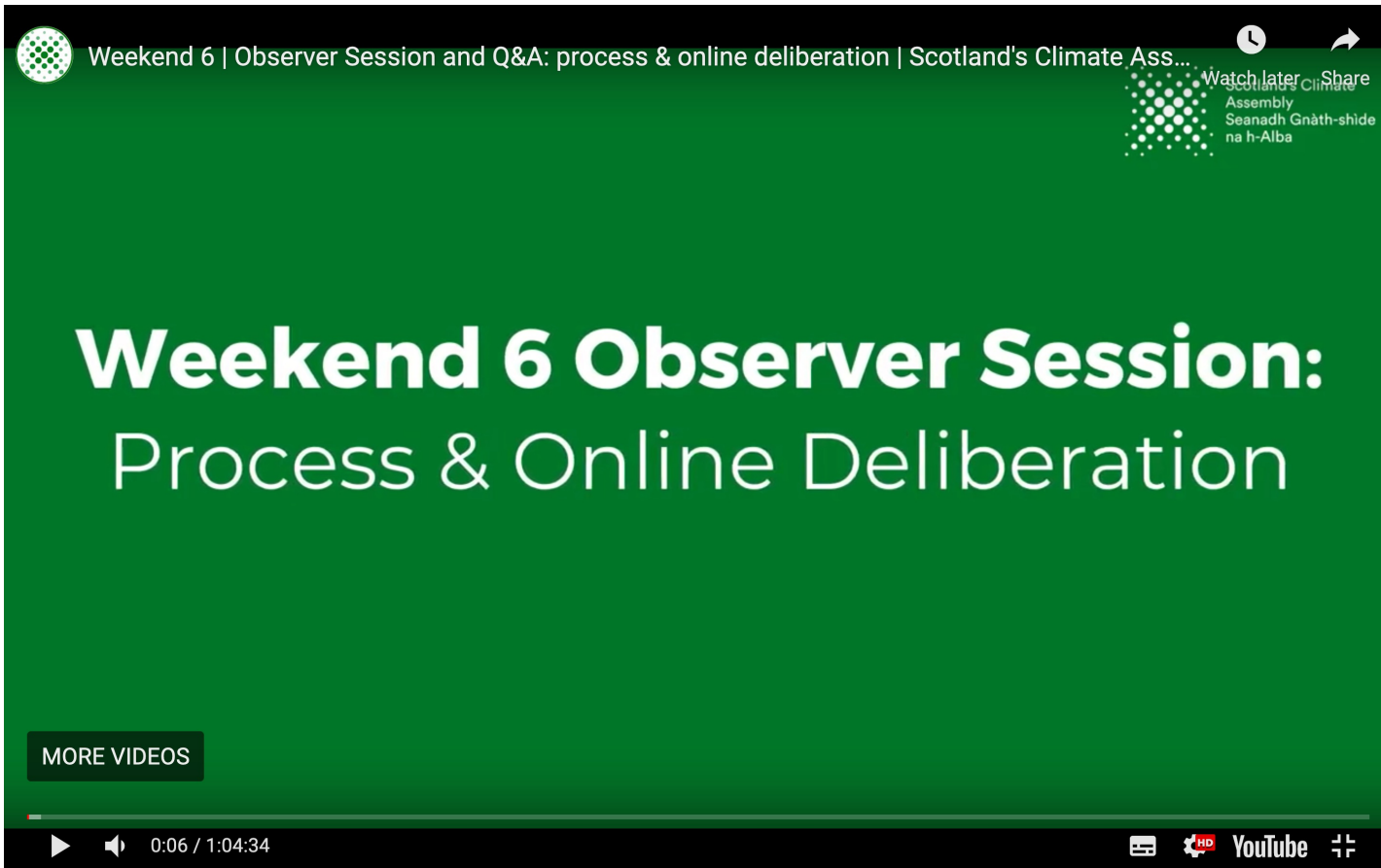


SCOTLAND'S CLIMATE ASSEMBLY

MEETS

CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT





Over **380 people** registered to observe over 7 weekends

Observers received all of the weekend's materials

Observers could also choose to join a live session with people involved with the Assembly as facilitators and speaker

258 attended the live sessions (195 individuals, of which 33 attended multiple sessions)



Scotland's Climate Assembly

247 subscribers

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What does the Paris Agreement mean for...

2.5K views · 4 months ago

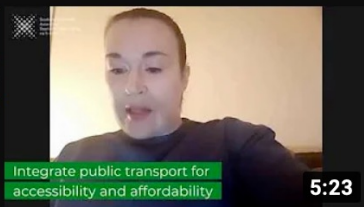
Subtitles



Film 4 | Children's Parliament Investigates Climate Chang...

561 views · 1 month ago

Subtitles



Our Future Goals | Scotland's Climate Assembly

532 views · 1 month ago

Subtitles



Introduction to Climate Science by Prof Iain Stewart...

491 views · 5 months ago

Subtitles



Land | Mike Daniels | Scotland's Climate Assembly

379 views · 3 months ago

Subtitles



How and Why We Set Climate Change Targets by Iain...

368 views · 5 months ago

Subtitles



Film 3 | Children's Parliament Investigates Climate Chang...

311 views · 2 months ago

Subtitles



Introduction to Climate Change Mitigation by Dave...

289 views · 5 months ago

Subtitles



Welcome from Josh Littlejohn and Ruth Harvey |...

271 views · 5 months ago

Subtitles



Air Travel | Leo Murray | Scotland's Climate Assembly

265 views · 3 months ago

Subtitles



Film 1 | Children's Parliament Investigates Climate Chang...

251 views · 5 months ago

Subtitles



Impacts of Climate Change by Kate Crowley | Scotland's...

240 views · 5 months ago

Subtitles



Welcome to Weekend 1 | Scotland's Climate Assembly



Imagined Futures: Climate Mobilisation -SCA Weekend 3



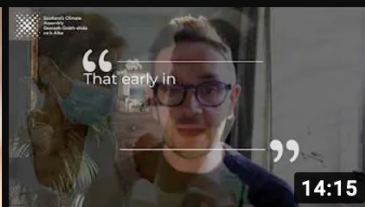
A Quick Guide to Climate Anxiety | Climate...



Adapting to Climate Change with Anna Beswick and Davi...



Introduction to land use - Dr Amanda Thomson - SCA...



Costs and ambitions on the path to net zero | Chris Star...

Media & Engagement

Strategy

- Dedicated and experienced staff hired to Secretariat
- Knowledge of how a citizens' assembly / mini public works was crucial for communicating the process to stakeholders and wider public
- The approach involved a mix of media and formats: national and local print media; national and local broadcasts; social media; podcasts; events

Ministerial
meetings

Public
events

Sector
engagement

Parliament
events

National and local press coverage

PERSPECTIVE

Scotland must make the eradication of fossil fuel use a priority in radical plan to tackle global emergency

By Scotland's Climate Assembly

We, the members of Scotland's Climate Assembly in our report to Parliament, present a call to action to the nation for change to tackle the climate emergency in an effective and fair way.

The climate emergency is a real and urgent issue that cannot be ignored. It requires immediate action at all levels of society. If we fail to act now, we will fail our current and future generations, in Scotland and across the world.

We believe that urgent cultural change is needed across society – from governments, businesses, communities and individuals. As a nation we have the opportunity to be pioneers, by taking immediate action to empower our next generations to lead sustainable lives by setting up the framework now. We will need to be ambitious, united and driven to succeed in fulfilling Scotland's potential to reduce carbon emissions.

As a society we will need to change and adapt to meet the challenges, and recognise that there will be costs. But failure to act now will mean greater expense, and more difficult changes in the future, in order to avoid catastrophic costs to the planet. Climate change affects every one of us, and no one should evade responsibility. The entire population of Scotland has the right to accurate, up-to-date and accessible information to develop a clear understanding of the reality of the climate emergency.

Good quality information and knowledge about the urgency required, and things that need to be done, will empower people to take action themselves and drive col-



↑ Scotland's Climate Assembly believes we should maximise use of renewable sources of energy instead of fossil fuels.

located private and public transport systems, high-speed broadband and the electricity network, if we are to achieve our decarbonisation goals.

We believe Scotland has the opportunity to be a world leader in a second green industrial revolution, and we should lead by example investing substantially in research, development and the eradication of aviation and shipping

part to play in achieving this by minimising the amount of energy we use and maximising the use of renewables. We all need to take responsibility for reducing the carbon footprint caused by consumption (eating less meat and dairy; buying fewer new goods; reuse and repair) and become a critical mass of people transforming these

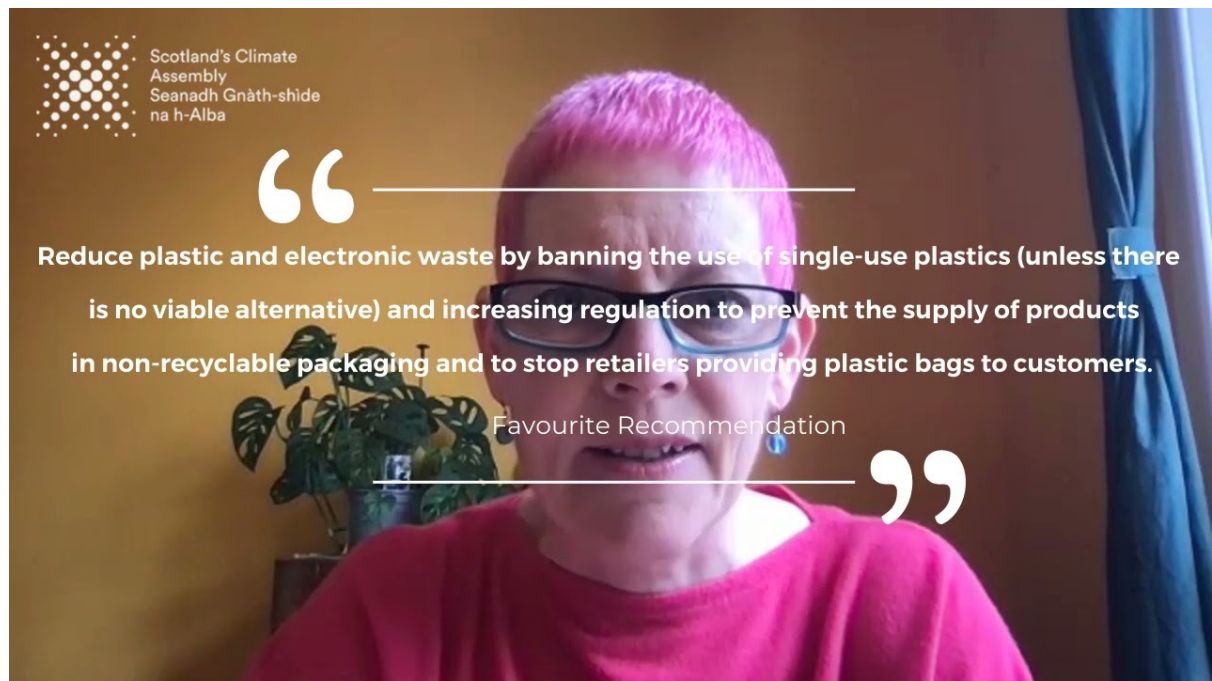
environment, and considerations of fairness, as well as carbon emission reductions. We want to measure Scotland's success by the health and well-being of its people and environment as well as gross domestic product (GDP). This will require a radical shift by business and government to measure sustainability and happiness, not just profit, when con-

no one is left behind. We call on the Scottish Parliament to start now by acting urgently and decisively to establish an agreed plan and measurable timescales for delivery.

The interim report of Scotland's Climate Assembly, setting out 16 agreed goals for tackling the climate emergency in an effective and fair way will be published in the

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES GIBSON

Participant voice and sharing their stories



“ Reading the Statement of Ambition for the first time and then hearing it read aloud by members of the Assembly was truly memorable. To have all our work come together in this statement was a momentous achievement. It had such a powerful message and I felt fortunate to have been involved in the process. ”

Jocelyn, Assembly Member



“ I was interested in becoming a member as I knew that it was only the second kind of citizens' assembly that has happened in Scotland so far and a great opportunity to be part of history and a voice that will shape the future of climate change. ”

Aswad, Assembly Member



“ I am so proud that we had the courage to make this recommendation as it will be a huge change for our country but one that I believe will make it easier for both Government and business to make decisions to tackle the climate emergency. ”

Yvonne, Assembly Member



Outputs and what
happened next



Scotland's Climate Assembly

Interim Report



Scotland's Climate Assembly

Recommendations for Action



Scotland's Civic Charter on Climate

The Civic Charter was a public statement from over 100 respected individuals and organisations across Scottish society.

It highlighted the broad and deep support across Scotland for the Assembly's vision and recommendations for action.

It was addressed to the Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament, and to Scottish society more broadly.



We the undersigned write to express our support for Scotland's Climate Assembly and the recommendations for action it has submitted to the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament.

The Assembly's recommendations and conclusions are innovative and ambitious. They are also realistic and achievable – as long as they are matched by political will. Scotland now has a mandate from its people to provide genuine global leadership on climate change.



Scottish Government Response to

Scotland's Climate Assembly:
Recommendations for Action



Net Zero
Scotland
Scottish
Government

Scotland's Climate Assembly Research Report: process, impact and Assembly member experience



PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND PLACES





Statement of Response

We the undersigned write to express our support for Scotland's Climate Assembly and the recommendations for action it has submitted to the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament.

The Assembly's recommendations and conclusions are innovative and ambitious. They are also realistic and achievable – as long as they are matched by political will. Scotland now has a mandate from its people to provide genuine global leadership on climate change.

As the Assembly makes clear, the climate emergency affects all of us and requires immediate action from government, industry, NGOs, CSOs and communities across Scottish society.

Through the Climate Assembly, ordinary people from across the country have laid the foundations of a strategic vision and urgent plan of action for Scotland to deliver on its climate change commitments. Policy-makers need to take heed of both the Assembly's specific recommendations and the spirit of their report. Clarity on a national strategy that delivers on the Climate Assembly's level of ambition will make all the difference.

The Assembly, with over 100 members, found common ground for both driving cuts in emissions and adapting to a changing climate - despite coming from diverse backgrounds and holding different views. This charter shows there is a groundswell of support across the country for the actions the Assembly has proposed.

As the Assembly said in their Statement of Ambition, "As a nation we have the opportunity to be pioneers, by taking immediate action to empower our next generations to lead sustainable lives by setting up the framework now."

[Click Here to Sign Scotland's Civic Charter on Climate](#)

On behalf of the membership of Scotland's Climate Assembly, we commend the Scottish Parliament for establishing the Assembly and the Scottish Government for providing a considered response.

Across Scotland, and within our Assembly, there are different views on the pace of change needed to address the climate emergency, but it must be addressed.

We know it will take time to engage with communities to enact the changes needed fairly and consistently for all, so we need the Scottish Government to take things forward with a sense of urgency.

We believe, from the Scottish Government's response to our recommendations for action, that Government needs to think less about what they can't do and instead demonstrate a positive attitude, thinking hard about how they can make things happen.

Members of the Assembly overall are disappointed with the Government's response to many areas of our recommendations, as it does not appear to recognise the urgency behind the Assembly's recommendations for action.

Throughout the Government's response there are many pledges using words like 'consider' and 'explore'. We would like to see a clearer roadmap, with more ambitious targets. We want the Government to commit to more specific actions, targets and timescales and to report back to us as a matter of urgency, so that we are able to hold them to account for delivery.

Publication - Correspondence

Scotland's Climate Assembly: letter from Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport to UK Government

Published: 1 March 2022

Directorate: [Energy and Climate Change Directorate](#)

Part of: [Environment and climate change](#)

Letter from Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, Michael Matheson, to the Minister for Business, Energy, and Clean Growth, Greg Hands, on the recommendations of Scotland's Climate Assembly.

“Many of the areas highlighted for action by the Climate Assembly, require UK Government action, and are critical to the delivery of Scotland’s targets given the current balance of devolved and reserved powers.

These include, but are not limited to the fiscal and pricing elements of emissions trading, decisions on the gas grid, investment in the electricity network infrastructure, regulation on energy networks, vehicle standards, motoring taxes and the regulation of renewable energy investment.

The vast majority of tax and fiscal powers, including many of those that relate to recommendations made by Assembly members, are reserved.”

Conclusion

- Developed a collective statement, 16 goals and 81 recommendations
- National press coverage, discussion in Scottish Parliament and new Government initiatives have started to emerge from the process
- Demonstrated that a full assembly process can be delivered online in Scotland and involve a wide group of actors and stakeholders
- Created open and reusable content, setting standards for transparency
- Individual impact – connections, learning, new skills, self reported changes in perspective and behaviour
- Some members are still involved in events about the process

Thank you!

Kelly McBride

[@kelly_mcb](#)