LOCAL CLIMATE ENGAGEMENT
1. INTRODUCTION

Avoiding the worst effects of climate change will be the biggest challenge in human history. The recent United Nations Summit (COP26) held in Glasgow, highlighted how far we still have to go to achieve Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This will require bold and consistent leadership to transition to net zero and adapt to the effects of climate change.

Local authorities across the country have shown significant leadership by setting Net Zero targets that are years ahead of national legislation, with councils having a strong influence over local emissions. Research produced for the Climate Change Committee shows that one-third of all UK emissions are dependent on sectors influenced by local government policies or partnerships.

The public see local authority action as vital. Ipsos Mori polling commissioned by UK100 found that 40% of people believe that their local council is best placed to tackle climate change in their local area, compared to 30% for the Government and 19% for the individual. Climate Assembly UK members also backed locally-determined strategies, to allow for solutions better-suited to local communities.

In the last few years, many local authorities have moved beyond traditional consultation methods to engage local people using a diverse range of techniques from citizens’ juries and assemblies, to crowdsourcing and community conversations.

Enabling public participation in their climate decision-making enables local authorities to build a deeper understanding of local preferences, aspirations and needs. This supports the development of policy that is more likely to achieve public buy-in. It also allows local authorities to reach beyond those they most often hear from. This builds trust and is a key step in achieving a fair transition to Net Zero.

For local authorities, engaging the public in climate decision-making is not, however, without risks. For example, commissioning public engagement before there is clarity of focus and a plan for how it will feed into decision-making can limit its impact at best and frustrate communities at its worst. Local Climate Engagement (LCE) aims to help tackle these and other challenges, and to support robust engagement plans with a focus on perspectives of power and inclusion.
Local Climate Engagement (LCE) will enable local authorities to plan, commission and deliver high quality public engagement in their climate decision-making, in a way that benefits both them and their local communities. It will do this by providing them with a package of training, mentoring and hands-on support, developed based on our extensive experience of working with local authorities at all levels. Local authorities and partnerships in England can express interest in joining two groups: the Coaching Group and the Project Group.
LOCAL CLIMATE ENGAGEMENT

WHAT DO LOCAL AUTHORITIES NEED TO PROVIDE?

Coaching Group members will need to cover:

- Any travel, accommodation or subsistence costs associated with attending the in-person training (if relevant);
- Staff time to be able to participate fully in the training, mentoring and peer learning sessions;
- If a local authority would like to host one of the offline training sessions, then a suitable room and refreshments; this is not however a requirement of taking part.

WHAT IS OUR OFFER?

Coaching Group members will receive:

- Up to five places on an intensive training course for council officers, alongside attendees from other local authorities (delivered either as 3 x full days offline or 6 x half days online);
- 7 hours of draw-down mentoring to support course attendees to move from attending the training to planning and commissioning a piece of public engagement;
- 3 x 2 hour peer learning sessions with other course attendees to share learning as they take steps towards planning and commissioning a piece of public engagement;
- A 2-hour self-guided learning resource for the Senior Leadership Team and Senior Managers within the local authority looking at strategic questions around the use and commissioning of public engagement;
- A 2-hour self-guided resource for councillors to support them to think through how participatory and deliberative public engagement relates to their role.

COACHING GROUP

Local authorities who join the Coaching Group will develop capability and confidence in planning, commissioning and overseeing public engagement in climate decision-making.

We know from our work with local authorities that using participatory and deliberative techniques to engage the public is often a new, or relatively new, way of working. Coaching Group members will explore the practical considerations and pitfalls of public participation in decision-making including: available methods; their use, pros, cons, cost and time implications; the importance of building clear briefs and the link back to decision-making.

HOW MANY LOCAL AUTHORITIES CAN YOU WORK WITH?

We can work with around 15 local authorities as part of the Coaching Group.
LOCAL CLIMATE ENGAGEMENT

PROJECT GROUP

Local authorities who join the Project Group will work with us to deliver a high quality piece of local public engagement in climate decision-making, and start to embed the approaches and skills needed for future participation work.

Members of our team will work closely with each local authority, guiding them through a process of training, practical delivery, reflection and legacy-building.

WHAT IS OUR OFFER?

Project Group members will receive:

- An intensive training course for council officers at your local authority (delivered either as 3 x full days offline or 6 x half days online). We will work with you to finalise attendees and can accommodate up to around 20 people;

- A 2-hour learning resource for the Senior Leadership Team and Senior Managers within the local authority looking at strategic questions around the use and commissioning of public engagement (options for this to be self-guided and/or delivered in-person);

- A 2-hour self-guided resource for councillors to support them to think through how participatory and deliberative public engagement fits with their role (options for this to be self-guided and/or delivered in-person);

- Up to £45,000 of our time, pro bono, to support you to plan and deliver a piece of public engagement work;

- 6 x 2 hour peer learning sessions with other members of the Project Group.

WHAT DO LOCAL AUTHORITIES NEED TO PROVIDE?

Project Group members will need to cover:

- Staff time to be able to participate fully in the training, learning and peer learning sessions;

- Staff time to support the planning and delivery of the public engagement, including some resourcing from your external and internal communications teams;

- The direct costs of the engagement (everything except our time). We will work with Project Group members to ensure they pick an engagement method that is deliverable;

- Any travel, accommodation or subsistence costs associated with attending in-person peer learning sessions (if relevant);

- A room and refreshments for training sessions, if held in-person.

HOW MANY LOCAL AUTHORITIES CAN YOU WORK WITH?

We can work with 4–5 local authorities as part of the Project Group.
3. APPLYING AND TIMETABLE

If your local authority would like to join our Coaching or Project Group, please fill in this Expression of Interest (EOI) form and send it back to us at membership@uk100.org with the subject line ‘LCE application’.

Please read these Frequently Asked Questions before filling out the EOI form. If you have additional questions or would like an informal conversation about taking part, please use any of the contact details on the final page of this document. Please note the deadlines and project timescales in the table opposite.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>COACHING GROUP</th>
<th>PROJECT GROUP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expressions of Interest open</td>
<td>1 December 2021</td>
<td>1 December 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expressions of Interest close</td>
<td>24 January 2022</td>
<td>24 January 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expressions of Interest reviewed and successful local authorities notified</td>
<td>Review of EOIs: W/c 24 January</td>
<td>Review of EOIs and shortlisting of local authorities: W/c 24 January</td>
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<td>Successful local authorities notified: W/c 7 February</td>
<td>Interviews with short-listed authorities (via Zoom): Wednesday 2 &amp; Friday 4 February</td>
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<td>Roll out of programme</td>
<td>Training will be delivered on a choice of dates between February and July 2022. Mentoring hours are available to each local authority for 6 months from the end of their training. Peer learning sessions will begin once all Coaching Group members have completed their training and will take place during 2022.</td>
<td>We will discuss a mutually agreeable timetable with each Project Group member for the roll out in their area. Our final deadline is April 2023 when all aspects of the programme need to be completed.</td>
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Greater Cambridge Citizens’ Assembly. Credit: Greater Cambridge Partnership and the Innovation in Democracy Programme from MHCLG and DCMS.
LCE is delivered by a partnership of five organisations. All are amongst the UK’s leading organisations in the fields of local government, public participation in climate decision-making, climate research, and climate communications and advocacy. The programme is funded by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK branch) and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.