

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.



Credit: Camden Council
Climate Assembly.

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.

Cover Image: Citizens' Assembly
on Social Care. Credit: Involve.



Waltham Forest Citizens' Assembly on Hate Crime.
Credit: Involve.

2. ABOUT LOCAL CLIMATE ENGAGEMENT

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.



Say&Play project, London
Borough of Lambeth.
Credit: Paul Douglas Pictures.



Leeds Climate Citizens Jury.
Credit: SFCIC.





Waltham Forest Citizens' Assembly on Hate Crime. Credit: Involve.

⇒ 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.

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.

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.

HOW MANY LOCAL AUTHORITIES CAN YOU WORK WITH?

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



Say&Play project, London Borough of Lambeth.
Credit: Paul Douglas Pictures.

➔ 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.



Legislative Theatre
Glasgow. Credit: SFCIC

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.



Greater Cambridge Citizens' Assembly.
Credit: Greater Cambridge Partnership and the Innovation in Democracy Programme from MHCLG and DCMS.

DATE	COACHING GROUP	PROJECT GROUP
Expressions of Interest open	1 December 2021	1 December 2021
Expressions of Interest close	24 January 2022	24 January 2022
Expressions of Interest reviewed and successful local authorities notified	<p>Review of EOIs: W/c 24 January</p> <p>Successful local authorities notified: W/c 7 February</p>	<p>Review of EOIs and shortlisting of local authorities: W/c 24 January</p> <p>Interviews with short-listed authorities (via Zoom): Wednesday 2 & Friday 4 February</p> <p>Successful local authorities notified: W/c 7 February</p>
Roll out of programme	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.	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.

4. LCE PROJECT PARTNERS

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.



www.involve.org.uk

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Involve is the UK's leading public participation charity. We develop, support and campaign for new ways to involve people in the decisions that affect their lives. Public participation in climate decision-making is a significant element of our work; previous partners include local authorities, the UK Parliament, Scottish Government and Parliament, Government of Jersey and civil society groups.



www.uk100.org

Christopher Hammond

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UK100 is the only network for local government focused solely on climate change, energy and clean air. We bring together a cross-party network of 93 of the most ambitious decision-makers in UK cities, towns and counties to accelerate the transition to a Net Zero society.



www.demsoc.org

Paula Black

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Democratic Society is Europe's largest participatory democracy organisation, with projects in 21 countries and 35 staff across Europe. Making climate change a democratic, not just a technocratic issue is at the heart of our climate programme where we support local places to use the best citizen participation theory and practice, ranging from co-design to shared governance structures.



www.sharedfuturecic.org.uk

Pete Bryant

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Shared Future are one of the UK leaders in democratic innovation. We are committed to creating a fairer and more sustainable world by helping people at a local level to explore, debate, influence and take action on issues of public policy.



www.climateoutreach.org

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Climate Outreach is a team of social scientists and communication specialists. We have over 15 years of experience widening and deepening public engagement with climate change, working with a wide range of international partners including governments, international bodies, academic institutions, charities, businesses, faith organisations and youth groups.