



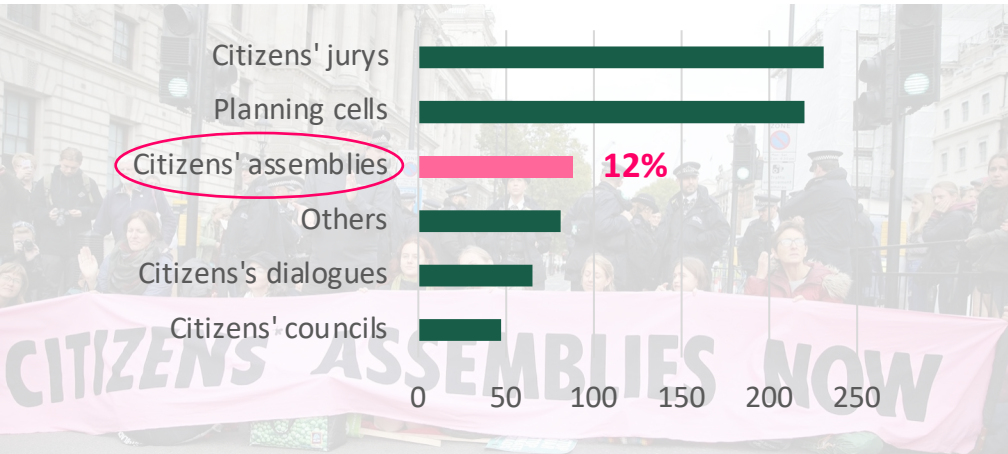
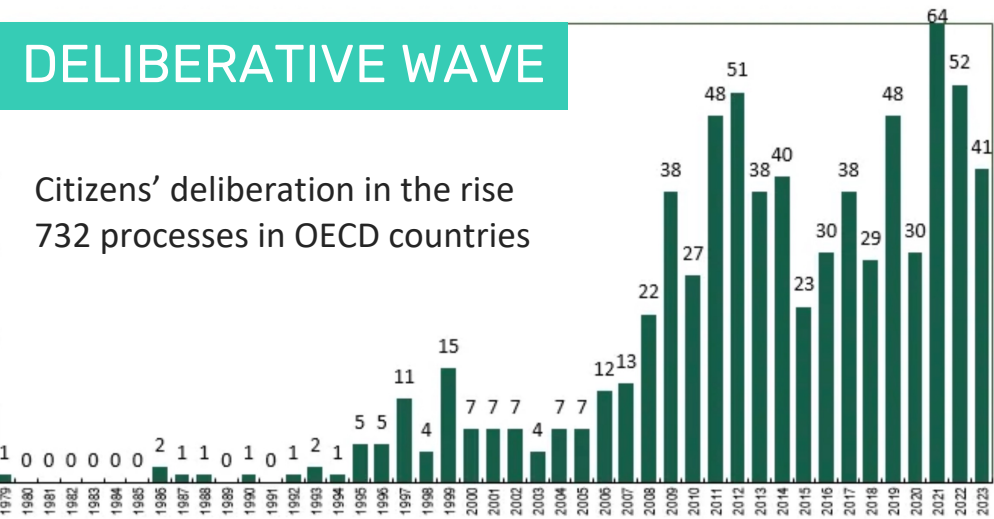
# **Harnessing the potential of Climate Citizens' Assemblies**

*Learnings from the first wave  
to achieve greater impacts*

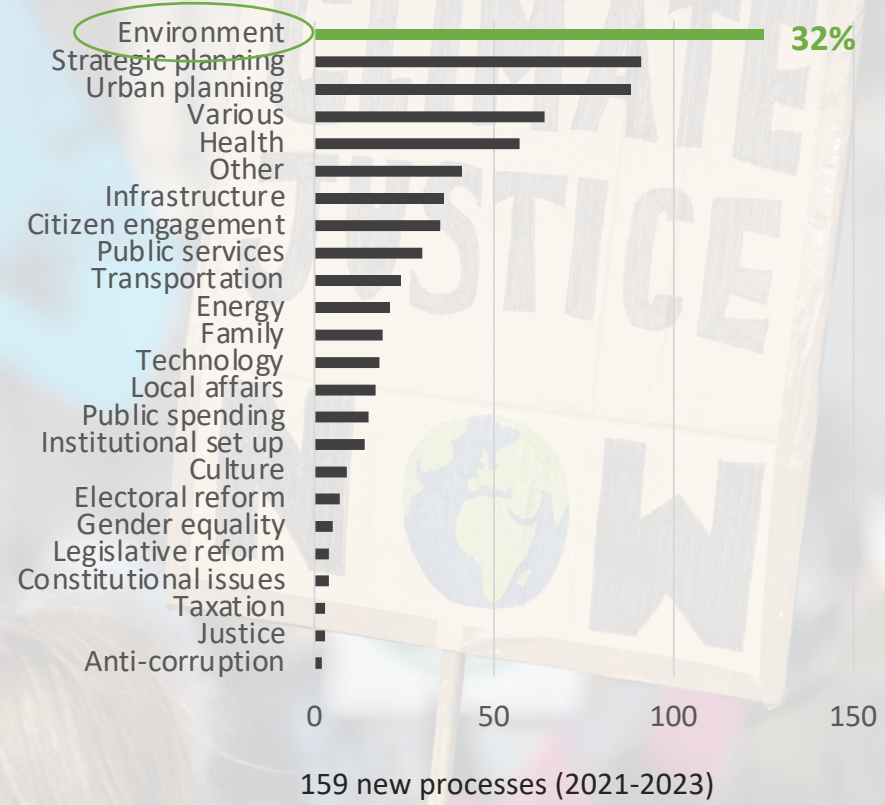
Mathilde Bouyé, Consultant, World Resources Institute

# DELIBERATIVE WAVE

Citizens' deliberation in the rise  
732 processes in OECD countries



## Environment top issue in the past 2 years



# CLIMATE ASSEMBLIES



<https://knoca.eu/>





## TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL

- Mandate fulfilled on complex climate issues
- Quality of the reports underlined by most commissioners and experts
- New and more ambitious climate measures put forward in public and political debates (e.g., Bans on advertisement of fossil fuels and polluting products, mandatory standards for product reparability and energy upgrades, greater support for disadvantaged groups)
- High level of satisfaction among participants
- Behavior changes adopted by many participants



# VARIOUS LEVELS OF INFLUENCE



## Statement of Response

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.



Jakie są odniesienia do rekomendacji?

**ŻADNA REKOMENDACJA NIE ZOSTAŁA ODRZUCONA**

**REKOMENDACJE WIĄŻĄCE**

**30** MOŻLIWA  
REALIZACJA  
W CAŁOŚCI



**20** MOŻLIWA  
REALIZACJA  
Z ZASTRZEŻENIEM



**REKOMENDACJE DO ROZWAŻENIA**

**13** PRZEKAZANYCH DO DAJSZEJ ANALIZY


<b>None</b>	<b>Pledge to consider</b> recommendations in future policies	<b>Detailed response</b> on the relevance / feasibility of the recommendations, <b>without</b> <b>committing</b> to implement them	<b>References</b> to the assembly in policies	<b>Adoption</b> of some recommendations with a <b>pick-and- chose</b> approach <b>and/or lower</b> <b>ambition</b>	<b>Implementation of</b> <b>more than half of the</b> <b>recommendations</b> (with 80 percent support), others considered
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**GOVERNMENTS' RESPONSES TO CLIMATE ASSEMBLIES**



**EMPOWERMENT**

# ROLE IN POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING

Role in decision-making	Decision-taking <i>Recommendations are adopted as proposed</i>		Climate Assemblies in Gdansk and Wroclaw	
	Agenda-setting <i>Recommendations feed into decision-making</i>		Camden's Climate Assembly	French Climate Citizens' Convention Brussels Climate Assembly
	Information <i>Recommendations inform policy-makers</i>	Irish Assembly	Climate Assembly UK	
	<div>More power</div>	Appraisal of strategic orientations	Appraisal of existing climate measures	Formulation of new climate measures
Role in policy formulation				



# OUTCOME AND CITIZENS' POLICY SPACE

Appraisal of strategic orientations	Appraisal of existing climate measures	Formulation of new climate measures
<p>"100% of the Members recommended that the State should take a leadership role in addressing climate change through mitigation measures, including, for example, retrofitting public buildings (...). "</p> <p><i>Ireland Citizens' Assembly's Climate Change Report</i></p>	<p>"On home retrofits, assembly members (...) had a slight preference for upgrading each home all in one go (56%), compared to upgrading each home gradually (44%) but attached conditions to the former around how it is financed."</p> <p><i>Climate Assembly UK's final report</i></p>	<p>"New Article L 173-2-1 for the Construction and Housing Code:</p> <p>I. Residential buildings that do not comply with minimum energy performance standards, assessed using the energy performance diagnosis method, must be fully brought up to standard, as defined by Article 17 bis L.111-1."</p> <p><i>French Citizens' Convention on Climate's report</i></p>

# COMMITMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS MATTER

## PIOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Commitment to adopt recommendations**  
supported by 80  
percent of the panel

**Pledge to directly sent the recommendations to decision-making**

**Creation of a specific body** in charge of responding

**Legal requirement** to publish a reasoned reply under a clear timeline

**Commitment to publically respond**

**Intent to consider the recommendations**

**None**

Washington CA

Camden CA

France CA

Wroclaw CA  
Gdansk CA

Ireland CA

Scotland CA

Austria CA

Budapest CA

Oxford CA

UK CA  
Germany CA

**None**

**Pledge to consider**  
recommendations  
in future policies

**Detailed response**  
on the relevance /  
feasibility of the  
recommendations,  
**without**  
**committing** to  
implement them

**References** to  
the assembly  
in policies

**Adoption** of some  
recommendations  
with a **pick-and-  
chose** approach  
**and/or lower**  
**ambition**

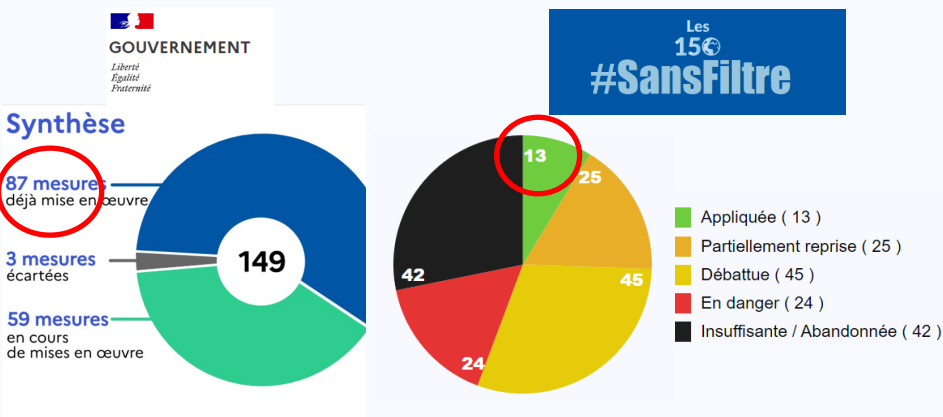
**Implementation of**  
**more than half of the**  
**recommendations**  
(with 80 percent  
support), others  
considered

## EX-POST CONSIDERATION



## NEED FOR CLARITY

Distinct follow-up processes...widely different results



March-April 2021

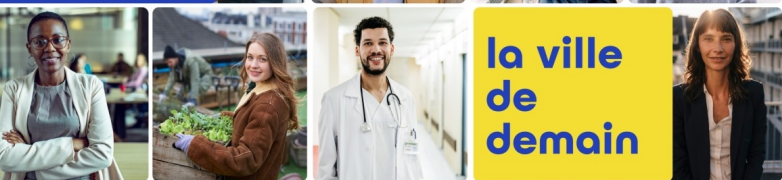
- ✓ **Commitment to publish an argued response within a specific timeframe**
- ✓ **Publication of a provisional timetable for the implementation of measures**
- ✓ **Transparent, independent follow-up process to track the implementation of citizens' proposals**
- ✓ **Bridges with decision-makers (open session, hearings...) throughout the process**





## INSTITUTIONALIZATION

**Construisons  
ensemble**



**Permanent climate citizens' assemblies,**  
convening thematic, one-off assemblies – Brussels  
Region and City of Milan

**Standing citizens advisory councils on ecological  
transitions** in a growing number of cities

Embedded citizens' deliberation in parliamentary  
committees in Belgium

- ✓ Binding follow-up process
- ✓ Citizens' initiative to chose the policy topics
- ✓ More time to dwell into specific, controversial  
issues



German Climate Assembly - Claimed space # invited, top-down spaces :

- ✓ **Champions** for the assembly – Former President Horst Köhler
- ✓ **Strong communication** strategy with proactive media outreach, collaboration with influencers and artists
- ✓ **Campaign** with a coalition of NGOs, academics, politicians...

**Emphasis on innovation and ambition, experimentation of new governance chambers**



**GREATER FOCUS**





✓ **Too broad scope → focus on controversies**

Trade-offs between mitigation / ecosystem,  
Equity issues, phase-out scenarios

✓ **Technical framing → system change lens**

- Vision of growth/progress and societal values underpinning different transition scenarios – Scotland's climate assembly
- Political economy issues - power dynamics (political barriers, lobbies), investment flows
- Ecosystem approach – looking beyond GHG emission reduction



**SOCIAL JUSTICE**



Strong concern from participants but difficulties to adequately address complex social impacts

**Gentrification**



**Exclusion**



**Barriers**





## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### What contribute to fairness

What values or principles are needed to ensure that in Westminster net zero is delivered in a fair way?

• TARGETING INVESTORS

• WHO PAY FOR RETIREMENT?

NOT EVERYONE CAN AFFORD

INCENTIVE & PENALTY

REWARD SCHEMES FOR THOSE WHO CAN MAKE IT

• BUDGET ALLOCATION TO ENSURE FAIRNESS

• REPRESENTATIVES FROM DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES

THE IMPACT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

Need for :

- ✓ More, dedicated **time**
- ✓ **Narrower scope**
- ✓ Less **conceptual** session on social equity
- ✓ **Dedicated expert support**
- ✓ **Data – differentiated social impact analysis**
- ✓ **Hearings of disadvantaged groups** vulnerable and exposed to climate change and climate measures





**LINK WITH THE  
BROADER PUBLIC**

Criteria	UK population <sup>14</sup> %	Assembly members %	No. of assembly members
Climate views			
Very concerned	52	49.1	53
Fairly concerned	33	32.4	35
Not very concerned	9	14.8	16
Not at all concerned	5	2.8	3
Other	1	0.9	1

Data Source: [Ipsos/Mori, July 2019](#) (Q: How concerned, if at all, are you about climate change, sometimes referred to as 'global warming'?)

## REPRESENTATIVENESS



**Moving beyond BAU criteria to better reflect societal debates and people's various views, needs and constraints**

### ✓ Attitudes toward the topic

Views on climate change - CAs UK, Scotland, Germany and Washington State

### ✓ Behaviors

Favorite transport modes (*cars, public transports, bikes and foot*) - Wroclaw's assembly on sustainable mobility

### ✓ Vulnerabilities

Brussels Citizens' Agora on Just transition

### ✓ Children

Discussion with children (Scotland) or children's assembly (Ireland - biodiversity loss)



- ✓ **Budgeted communication strategy**
- ✓ **Interviews of assembly members**
- ✓ **Collaboration with ambassadors, partners, social media influencers**

## France's Citizens Convention on climate :

- Communication = **9,2%** of the **whole budget**
- **70%** of French people had **heard** about the CCC's proposals
- **62%** of which **approved** these proposals
- **Influence** on the public debate





## LOCAL DEBATES



**Strong potential of citizens' assemblies to raise public awareness and foster broader conversation on societal choices**

### **Challenging online consultation during climate assemblies**

**→ Cascading public discussions from the assembly to local and community dialogues**

- French Citizens' Convention on Climate : public meetings with assembly members
- Scotland's climate assembly : parallel discussions at schools
- Global Assembly on Climate and Biodiversity : local community dialogues all around the world





# Thank you !

Findings from :

Bouyé, M. and C. Excell. 2024. *Citizens' assemblies and the climate emergency*. WRI

Liot P., Bouyé M. et Le Coz A., *Enseignements de la Convention Citoyenne pour le Climat pour le futur des assemblées citoyennes et leur rôle dans l'action climatique*, Démocratie Ouverte, Paris, 2022.