

# Choosing Our Future With Community Assemblies

□□ What now to organise locally in our communities? □□ With Community Assemblies, people can organise locally to experience the power of deliberative democracy for making progress on issues that are most important to their community. If we want to choose our future, mitigate power and empower our communities, Community Assemblies are a powerful tool in your kit. Community Assemblies can: □□ Show what more inclusive democracy looks like; □□ Strengthen our local alliances collaborating with other organisations; □□ Keep up the pressure on politicians by inviting them along

- [Why Run Community Assemblies?](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Social Media and Flyer Design Templates](#)
- [Additional Learning](#)
- [Questions and Answers](#)

# Why Run Community Assemblies?

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Thanks to **The Big One**, many of our supporter organisations signed up to a **demand for citizens' assemblies** for the first time ever.

We did our shouting outside Parliament. We handed in green cards to speak to our MPs. We pressurised them online via our Digital Rebellion.

**It's now time to bring deliberative democracy into our communities!**

By organising **local Community Assemblies**, we can...

... **Grow our local networks** by continuing to build local alliances and do outreach;

... **Keep up the pressure** on local politicians;

... **Spread the word about deliberative democracy** and empower people in the process;

... **Start a local campaign or project** in collaboration with other groups.

Would like to hear some sheer inspiration from Jamie Kelsey Fry, talking about upgrading democracy through deliberation at The Big One? Enjoy...

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/kQyh3Tp1mpo>

Ready to co-create a beautiful bonding experience in your community with allies? Check out:

**Community Assembly Resources**

**Community Assembly Social Media and Flyer Design Templates**

\*\*Community Assembly Project Support Email: [communityassemblies@extinctionrebellion.uk](mailto:communityassemblies@extinctionrebellion.uk)

# Resources

[CommunityAssemblies\\_Broadcast\\_Banner\\_PurpleFunghi.png](#)

## Local Group Pack

- Why run an assembly
- What to think about before launching your assembly
- What training and support is available

## Support Form

Fill in **this form** to let us know that you are running a Community Assembly. It contains questions to help Gardeners identify what kind of support you might need: Facilitators, experts, funding and so on.

We will:

- Put you in touch with an assembly expert
- Find you an assembly facilitator if needed
- Provide financial support if needed
- Share any new training and guides with you as soon as they're out.

## Community Assembly Manual

- How to plan and organise your assembly
- How to decide on an assembly question
- How to facilitate and moderate an assembly
- How to follow up an assembly

**Open Call Introductory on Community Assemblies** YouTube June 2023 [recording of Open Call](#)

## Support Contact Details

If you have any question please approach your regional/national Gardener or email **[communityassemblies@extinctonrebellion.uk](mailto:communityassemblies@extinctonrebellion.uk)**.

# Social Media and Flyer Design Templates

All the designs and templates you could want coming soon!

# Additional Learning

## More Resources

To learn more about assemblies happening all round the world, the XR **Local Group Support Pack** contains a list of website and video links to grassroots organisations doing deliberative democracy in their way... It's truly inspirational... Here's a taster:

### Case Studies

- [The People's Plan for Nature](#)
- Video on [Cheshire East People's Panel](#) on the Cost of Living with Positive Money: Cheshire East People's Panel on the Cost of Living.
- Take The Square [blogs about local deliberative democracy](#)
- [Knowledge Network on Climate Assemblies /KNOCA](#)

### National Assembly Campaigns

- Sortition Foundation: [proposal for a House of Citizens](#) is supported by Extinction Rebellion
- Why Extinction Rebellion Demands A Citizens' Assembly On Climate And Ecological Justice [explanatory video](#).
- Extinction Rebellion: Webpages and links on XR's [3rd Demand for a Citizen's Assembly on our climate and ecological emergency](#)
- [UK Parliament Debate](#)
- (Ireland) [Children's Assembly on Biodiversity](#) Call on Ireland to 'treat the Earth like family'
- (Spain) [Los Indignados Assemblies](#)
- [Luxembourg 'step up' green energy and efficiency targets](#) partly due to citizens' assembly (Euro News)

### Alternative and Supplementary Guides to Deliberative Democracy

- Community At Work: [Deliberative Democracy manual](#)
- XR Community [Alliance Building Trainings](#) (Relationships Circle on YouTube)
- Reforming The Political System [Messaging Guide](#)

- Open Space Technology: [Alternative models of deliberation](#)
- Better Evaluation: [Goldfish Bowl Meetings](#)

## Other Resources

- **Podcast:** [Power of Community Imagination](#)
- **Podcast:** [Planet Critical](#)
- **Campaign** [Zero Hour](#) - the Climate and Ecology Bill
- **Inspiration** (World Economic Forum) David Attenborough inspired the UK to create a People's Plan for Nature. [People's Plan for Nature](#)

## Further Training

The Gardeners plan more training on Community Assemblies in the near future, in collaboration with other XR Circles, including::

- Citizen's Assembly Working Group and Advocacy Network
- Operations
- Facilitation
- Relationships
- Actions
- LG Support

For **Facilitation Training**, the Facilitation Circle holds regular, in depth trainings. These can be adapted to different settings, including Assemblies, but we hope to collaborate on tailored trainings for local groups wanting to set up a Community Assembly soon.

Meantime, you can contact the Facilitation Circle with your questions at

[facilitation@extinctionrebellion.uk](mailto:facilitation@extinctionrebellion.uk)

**Street Scripts** on Citizen's Assemblies

**Trust the People** TTP are THE expert trainers inspiring and empowering people everywhere to really bring democracy home. Enjoy 8 weeks worth of in-depth and fun training to equip your local community to organise and run an effective magical experience in deliberative democracy. And it's totally **free**, twice per year from the experts in building deliberative democracy

**Community At Work** Check their: "Facilitator's Guide to Participatory Decision Making". They run online trainings too but there is a hefty price tag. Check their schedule.

**Hope For The Future** Talking to Politicians whom you may invite to your assembly or even writing to them and meeting them in person can seem daunting. Being prepared ensures you get what you need from dialogue with those in positions of power to bring about change. The General Election is not far off and hustings will be happening... Skill yourself up and boost your confidence in talking to politicians, be they local, regional or national.

**\*\*XR Open Call on 2023-24 Strategy**

# Questions and Answers

The Community Assembly Working Group wants to ensure that we all learn from each other. When questions are asked at Open Call meetings, or at training sessions, we will bring them here and try to answer them as best we can, broken down by theme.

Meantime, we also recommend checking out the recording of XR's first Open Call about Community Assemblies, which we will post here soon.

## SOFTWARE TOOLS

Q: What was the **crowd sourcing software** used at the Big DIY Assembly to collate everyone's input and ideas, written up from the Breakout Groups?

A: It was **Polis**: <https://www.crowdwisdomproject.org/polis/>