

Speaker briefing: 'What we buy' panel

This briefing contains:

1. Key background information on Climate Assembly UK;
2. Details of the speaker role and what we'd like you to cover, including how the Q&A will work.

Important note: Please be aware that the contents of this briefing are confidential until they are made public. We will let you know when this will be. Similarly, until it is made public, we would be grateful if you could not say publicly that you or anyone else has been invited to speak.

1. About Climate Assembly UK

- Climate Assembly UK has been **commissioned by six select committees of the House of Commons**: Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; Environmental Audit; Housing, Communities and Local Government; Science and Technology; Transport; and Treasury.
- The committees want to understand public preferences about **how the UK should reach its target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050**. This is the question that Climate Assembly UK will address. The committees want to understand public preferences because of the impact these decisions will have on people's lives.
- Climate Assembly UK will have **110 participants selected via a 'civic lottery' to be representative of the UK population** aged 16+ in terms of: age, gender, educational qualification, ethnicity, where in the UK they live, whether they live in an urban or rural area and attitudes to climate change.
- The assembly will meet over **four weekends in central Birmingham**. Broadly speaking each of these weekends will cover the following content:
 - **Weekend One, Saturday 25 - Sunday 26 January:** Key background information on climate change and the net-zero target; consideration of overarching ethical and strategic questions about the path to net-zero.
 - **Weekend Two, Saturday 8 - Sunday 9 February:** An introduction to issues around energy supply. Assembly members will then split into three groups to hear detailed evidence on the topics of transport; energy and heat in the home; food, farming and land use, and consumption.
 - **Weekend Three, Saturday 29 February - Sunday 1 March:** Assembly members will stay in their three groups, spending time discussing and reaching decisions on the topics covered in detail in weekend two.
 - **Weekend Four, Saturday 21 - Sunday 22 March:** Detailed evidence, discussion and decisions around energy supply and negative emissions.
- **Climate Assembly UK's report** will be presented to the six select committees, who will use it as a basis for detailed work on implementing its recommendations. It will also be debated in the House of Commons.

- There are a **wide range of organisations and individuals involved** in developing and delivering Climate Assembly UK. These include the assembly's Expert Leads (Chris Stark, Jim Watson, Lorraine Whitmarsh and Rebecca Willis), Advisory Panel and Academic Panel, as well as the trio of organisations contracted to deliver the assembly – The Involve Foundation ('Involve'), mySociety and Sortition Foundation. You can find more information about all these roles and who is filling them [here](#). This information will be added to in the run-up to the assembly until it is complete.

2. Speaking at Climate Assembly UK

2.1 What to expect when you arrive at the venue

On the day you are speaking to the assembly, its members will be divided into three groups in three separate rooms. One of these groups will be examining the topic of 'what we buy'. You will be presenting to this group.

When we take you into the assembly room, you will see around 36 assembly members, seated at five round tables. There will also be a facilitator on each table. At the front of the room there will be a lead facilitator who is running proceedings. One of the Expert Leads, Prof Lorraine Whitmarsh, is also likely to be present.

To make proceedings feel more welcoming to assembly members, we don't use lecterns or an equivalent. Instead, we will seat you at the back or side of the room until it is time for your section of the panel. We will then bring you to the front and introduce you. You will have a hand held microphone to speak into. You will only be able to refer to your slides on the screen that assembly members are looking at.

If you need us to provide a seat for you to speak from or have any other **access requirements** that we should be aware of and/or that mean that the above arrangements would not work for you, please let us know. The assembly venue is step free and fully accessible.

2.2 Your presentation to the assembly

We would like you to present for a **maximum of 10 minutes**. We will hold up timing cards for you so that you know how long you have left. After 10 minutes, we will stop you to ensure fairness for all speakers. Please therefore make sure your presentation fits within this timeframe.

You are very welcome to use **PowerPoint slides** for your presentation. These can help assembly members follow the points you are making. We have attached a PowerPoint template and brief guide to make sure your presentation works with the screens at the venue and that all assembly members will be able to see it clearly. Please do look at these and let Sarah know if you have any questions or need any help.

Please send your draft slides to Sarah and Lorraine Whitmarsh by Friday 3 January ready for your call with Lorraine.

We will need the **final version of any slides by Friday 31 January** so that we can do things like print copies for assembly members who need them.

2.3 Accessibility and red/yellow cards

When putting together your presentation, please bear in mind that many assembly members may be hearing about your topic for the first time. We recommend:

- Not assuming any prior knowledge of your topic, except what will have been covered by previous speakers on your panel or is likely to have been covered by speakers at earlier weekends (please see 2.8 below);
- Avoiding jargon wherever possible, and explaining it where it is unavoidable;
- Thinking about the structure of your presentation to make sure it is easy to follow;
- Making sure you don't have so much content that you need to speak quickly to get through it in the time.

At the weekend itself, assembly members will have **yellow and red cards**. If someone holds up a yellow card during your presentation it means they'd like you to slow down a bit. Please repeat the last thing you said and then speak a little more slowly. If they hold up a red card it means they've lost you. Please repeat the last thing you said and explain it a little more. Then carry on but speak a little more slowly. We don't envisage you having any problems with this, but if we spot anything that we think could be clearer in your presentation in advance of the weekend we will let you know.

2.4 Your Q&A with assembly members

Your Q&A will be done in a style a bit like speed-dating. As previously mentioned, participants will be sat around five different tables. You will spend 10 mins at each of these tables answering questions. This is often assembly members' and speakers' favourite part of the assembly weekend. It allows for a more informal and direct conversation. Please keep your answers brief and to the point, so that tables can get through as many questions as possible. The facilitators on each table will chair the Q&A.

2.5 Informants and advocates

We are asking speakers to take on two slightly different roles at the assembly. You can see which we are asking you to do in 2.8 below.

	During your presentation	During your Q&A
Informants	<p>We'd like you to explain the range of views or options that exist on the topic(s) we have asked you to cover. You do not have to include views or options that would clearly not allow the 2050 target to be reached.</p> <p>Please do not give a personal opinion or skew what you present because of your personal opinion.</p>	<p>Some questions may have straightforwardly factual answers, in which case obviously do answer them in this way.</p> <p>Where this is not the case, please explain the range of opinions out there. You do not have to include views or options that would clearly not allow the 2050 target to be reached. You are welcome to give a sense of where the balance of opinion lies, if relevant.</p>
Advocates	<p>We would like you to present your personal opinion - or, where relevant, the opinion of the organisation you are there to represent. The limits to that are that we ask you not to give answers that are factually inaccurate.</p>	<p>Some questions may have straightforwardly factual answers, in which case obviously do answer them in this way.</p> <p>Where this is not the case, your answers can reflect your personal opinion - or, where relevant, the opinion of the organisation you are there to represent. The limits to that are that we ask you not to give</p>

		answers that are factually inaccurate.
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2.6 Transparency (live-streaming, recording, website)

We anticipate there being significant interest in Climate Assembly UK and it is important that it is fully transparent. For these reasons we will:

- Live stream evidence sessions online;
- Record evidence sessions and then upload the videos to the climateassembly.uk website;
- Make speaker's presentations available in pdf form on the climateassembly.uk website;
- Live stream Q&A sessions from one or more table in each room, if assembly members consent to us doing so.

We will also:

- Publish the outline agendas for each assembly weekend, including who is speaking on the climateassembly.uk website;
- Publish this speaker briefing on the climateassembly.uk website.

If you have any concerns or questions about these plans, please let Sarah know.

2.7 Media and observers

It is possible that there will be **media** present at the assembly while you are there, and that this may include one or two journalists observing your evidence session. If this is going to be the case we will tell you in advance. You may also be contacted by the media once your name is published as a speaker. Climate Assembly UK's communications team will send you brief additional information nearer the time with some advice and key contact details for if this happens.

The other people who may be present at the assembly are **observers**. Observers could include, for example, officials or MPs from the relevant select committees, or members of Climate Assembly UK's Advisory Panel. Again, we will let you know in advance if any observers are going sit in on your evidence session.

2.8 What we would like you to cover

The next pages show an outline of the evidence panel on 'what we buy', including what we would like you to cover. 10 mins is not a huge amount of time for your presentation, so please only cover what we are asking you to. There is no need to recap anything that has been covered by the other speakers, including any background information.

Climate Assembly UK is focussing on **emissions produced in the UK** because this is the basis on which the UK Net Zero target is calculated. We are also including international aviation and shipping. Please therefore **only cover these areas in your presentation**, as relevant. We will tell assembly members that the UK is responsible for a larger carbon footprint during the assembly's first weekend.

Introduction (also covering the food, farming and land use topic)

Order	Speaker name & organisation	Purpose (what we want assembly members to get out of it)	Areas to cover	Advocate or informant	Speaking time
1	Professor Lorraine Whitmarsh, University of Cardiff	To understand what will be covered in this topic and how the topic fits into the wider context of what the assembly is discussing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce the two panels (what we buy, and what we eat/land use), what these will cover and what they will not (i.e., transport, energy) - Outline the % of total emissions attributed to each of the two areas (consumption and food/land use) - Outline how these two areas link to supply and to negative emissions (i.e., reductions will need to be far greater without NETs) - Note scope relates to territorial emissions (but need to consider implications for overseas emissions) 	Informant	10 mins

Panel:

Order	Speaker name & organisation	Purpose (what we want assembly members to get out of it)	Areas to cover	Advocate or informant	Speaking time
1	Professor Mike Berners-Lee, Lancaster University	To understand the purpose of the panel i.e., role of (non-food) product/service consumption in causing climate change, and outline of broad policy options to address it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe where emissions are coming from (i.e., carbon footprint of different products / materials, services, waste) - Describe the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover) - Outline how the waste hierarchy relates to 'how' (i.e., policy intervention) questions - Note that different policy approaches are associated with co-benefits and trade-offs (elaborated on by subsequent speakers) 	Informant	10 mins

			- Outline arguments they are going to hear from the other speakers		
2	Professor John Barratt, University of Leeds	To understand the 'top' level of the waste hierarchy – i.e., 'avoided consumption' – and its advantages and disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outline drivers of consumption, how consumption patterns might change and how that relates to changes in emissions (including related assumptions) - Describe transformative models/options for reduced consumption (e.g., degrowth, voluntary simplicity) and associated trade-offs and co-benefits - Describe options for material efficiency, design for longevity / extended product lifetimes, and remanufacturing, including any co-benefits/trade-offs 	Informant	10 mins
3	Dr Nicole Koenig-Lewis, Cardiff Business School	To understand the 'middle' level of the waste hierarchy – i.e., 'reuse' – and its advantages and disadvantages	Describe options for servitisation, product service systems (sharing economy, library of things, etc.), extended producer responsibility and remanufacturing schemes, including any co-benefits (e.g. wellbeing) / trade-offs	Informant	10 mins
4	Julie Hill, WRAP	To understand the 'bottom' levels of the waste hierarchy – i.e., 'recycle, recover' – and their advantages and disadvantages	Describe options for dealing with waste recovery and recycling, including any co-benefits (e.g. cost saving) / trade-offs	Informant	10 mins
5	Libby Peake, Green Alliance	To understand policy options for reducing emissions associated with consumption and waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outline the options for how to achieve the end goals outlined above (i.e., reduced consumption and waste) - i.e., roles and types of policy response (note: needs to include carbon and material allowances, carbon taxes, shifts in VAT, restrictions/bans on advertising, etc.) <p><i>Important this section doesn't get bogged down in discussions about waste collections</i></p>	Informant	10 mins