



Cynulliad Hinsawdd
Climate Assembly

Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly



Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly Report

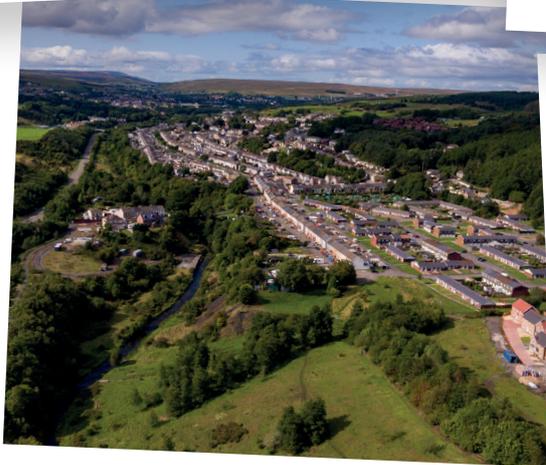
This report was drafted by [Cynnal Cymru](#) and the [Electoral Reform Society Cymru](#), two of the organising partners of the Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly.



Ebbw Vale



Abertillery



Tredegar



Brynmawr

1. Introduction

The Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly was held from 6 - 28 March 2021.

The Assembly took place online via Zoom. 50 residents of Blaenau Gwent were selected by sortition to address the question:

“What should we do in Blaenau Gwent to tackle the climate crisis in a way that is fair and improves living standards for everyone?”

44 participants attended the first assembly session and 43 participants were present at the final session for voting on recommendations. Attendance was stable throughout all sessions with 43 being the lowest attendance.

The members met for a total of 23 hours to hear evidence from over 20 different experts, discuss the issues, and produce recommendations for what local public service organisations, communities and individuals could do to address the climate crisis and improve lives for people in Blaenau Gwent.

The assembly members explored the following themes in the learning phase:

- Introduction to climate change
- Issues of fairness and the just transition
- How change happens
- Housing - retrofit, new build, fuel poverty, jobs & skills
- Nature and green space
- Transport

The agenda, videos of sessions and additional questions for speakers can be found [on the website](#).

In the deliberation phase, the assembly members made recommendations under the following themes:

- Housing retrofit
- Housing new build
- Nature and green space
- Transport
- Poverty*
- Communication*
- Education*
- Waste and recycling*

* Themes democratically selected by assembly members

2. Recommendations

5 recommendations received over 80% of the vote and were officially passed by the Assembly. The table below shows the recommendations as drafted by assembly members.

Theme	Recommendation	% Support
Transport	<p>Establish an affordable, integrated road & rail transport system accessible throughout BG.</p> <p>A one ticket system that links to bus, rail & cycle schemes - inclusivity for purchasing of tickets (digital or paper).</p> <p>Accessible all hours with safety via lighting, CCTV and to keep maintained.</p>	91
Transport	Establish & improve a safe, easily maintainable infrastructure for walkers & cyclists, for either recreational or work purposes, with access to the public transport network. Including lighting & CCTV & storage for bikes.	88
House retrofit	Train local tradespeople, create qualifications and upskill local businesses, involve FE colleges and local Universities, future proof it and provide the right courses to enable them to do the work in all green construction.	86
Green space and nature	Implement a programme of woodland preservation and reforestation of BG, using the right tree in the right place for the right reason, increasing opportunities for jobs, biodiversity and connecting woodlands. Making sure the skills are available so we can create green jobs, e.g. saw milling and timber framed housing.	86
Housing new build	Ensure that all new build properties are built using the latest sustainable technologies (E.g. Glanffrwd development as a template), employing local builders and providing a variety of accommodation types appropriate for all inc. homeless/single occupancy up to large families.	81

A full list of recommendations voted on, ranked in order of support, is available in Appendix 1.

3. Why a climate assembly in Blaenau Gwent?

The Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly was commissioned by a consortium of civil society organisations and housing associations.

The organising partners were:

- [Cynnal Cymru - Sustain Wales](#)
- [Electoral Reform Society Cymru](#)
- [Linc Housing Cymru](#)
- [Melin Homes](#)
- [Tai Calon Community Housing Association](#)
- [United Welsh Housing Association](#)



In early 2020, in the context of other existing and future decarbonisation initiatives in the housing sector¹, Cynnal Cymru, ERS Cymru and United Welsh Housing met to discuss how housing tenants and wider communities might be more involved in decarbonisation plans of Housing Associations, public bodies and other anchor organisations.

The idea for the Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly was a result of these discussions between organising partners. It was funded through Welsh Government's Innovative Housing Programme – Optimised Retrofit Programme.

We also worked closely with [Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council](#) (BGCBC) and [Blaenau Gwent Public Service Board](#) (PSB) from the early stages of the project.

Why Blaenau Gwent?

The four commissioning Housing Associations share 24% of the housing stock in Blaenau Gwent and were already collaborating on an initiative to strengthen and support local suppliers in Blaenau Gwent through the Welsh Government's [Foundational Economy Challenge Fund 2020](#).

In 2020, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council declared a climate emergency. The PSB agreed to establish a Climate Mitigation Steering Group to develop a long term plan to reduce carbon emissions in Blaenau Gwent.

Blaenau Gwent therefore had a framework in place under which an action plan was being developed and key local stakeholders who were looking at how to involve the community.

¹ [Carbon Literacy Cartrefi Cymru](#), [Welsh Government's Optimised Retrofit Programme](#)

4. Organisation of the Assembly

Confirmation of funding for the Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly was received in November 2020.

A Steering Group was formed shortly after to (i) decide on the overall question and core themes for the Assembly (Housing, Transport, Nature and Green space) and (ii) ensure the impartiality and fairness of the process. In the early stages, the theme of food was also included, however, it was later excluded as a core theme due to time constraints.

The Steering Group met eight times prior to the start of the Assembly, once at an interim review and once at a final review.

Members of the Steering Group are at **Appendix 2**.

In addition to the organising partners, Steering Group members and experts, the following groups and organisations also played key roles in the Assembly process:

- [Sortition Foundation](#) - sortition
- [Mutual Gain](#) – support with agenda development and lead facilitation
- [Involve](#) - advisory capacity, providing training for facilitators and scribes
- [Wales Co-operative Centre](#) - Zoom training
- Volunteer facilitators, scribes and tech support drawn from the organising partners and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council



5. Who are the Assembly members and how were they selected?

Assembly members were selected at random from the general public through sortition.

Sortition allows the selection of members to be stratified by local demographics, in this case: gender, age, ethnicity, geographic location, residence status, attitude to climate change and [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation](#). This random selection combined with representative sampling meant that the wider community could be confident that assembly members were fellow citizens and were not representing special interests.

January 2021

Bilingual invitations sent to 10,000 households across Blaenau Gwent (living in 1 in 3 homes in the borough) providing information about the Assembly process and compensation (£250 in cash or vouchers).

February 2021

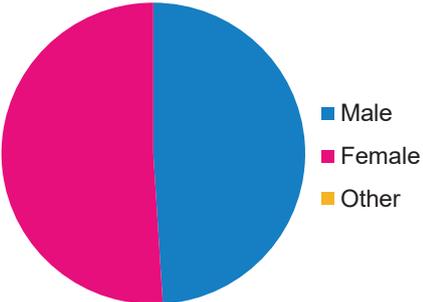
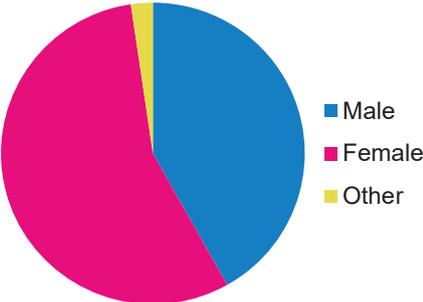
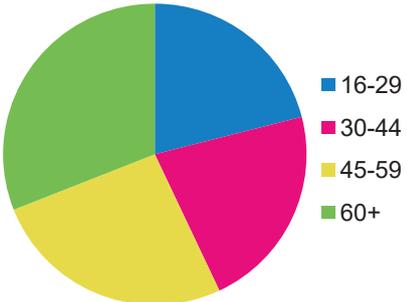
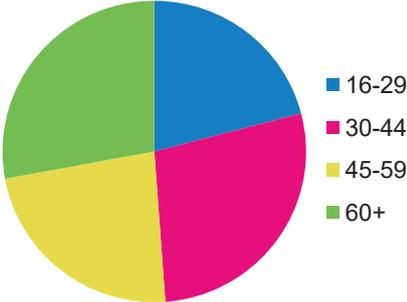
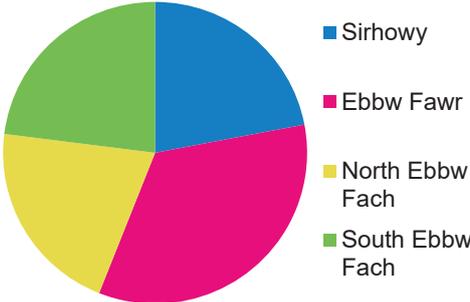
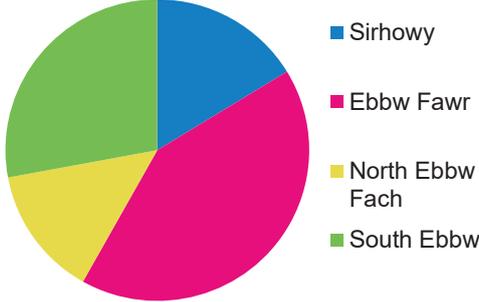
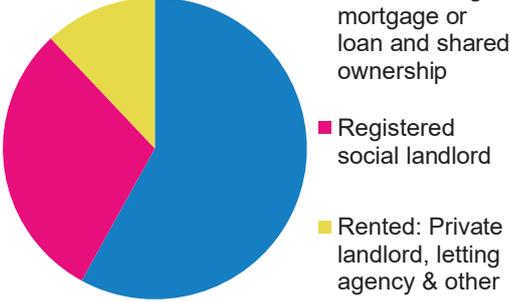
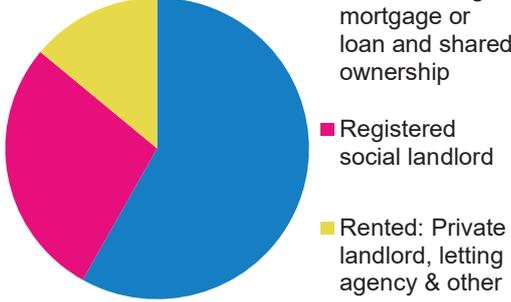
From 264 interested respondents, 50 participants were selected who were representative of the demographics mentioned above.

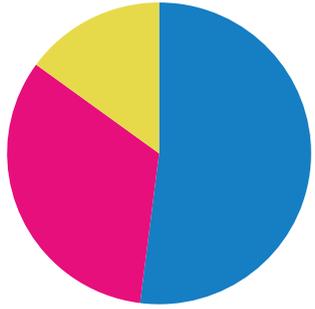
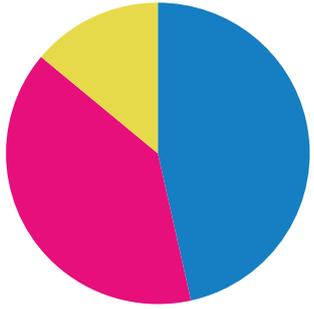
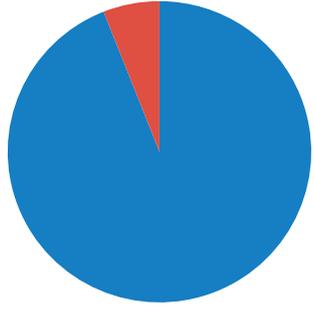
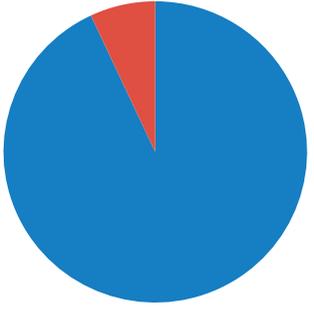
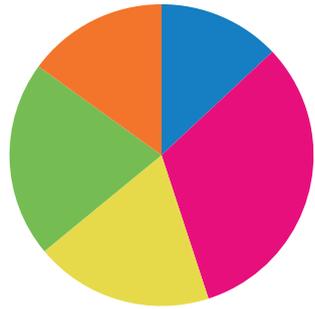
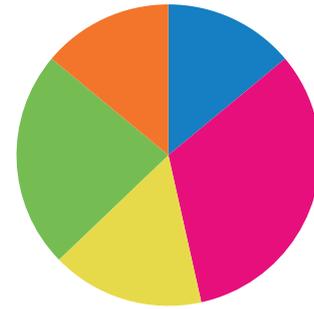
Sortition Foundation provided a breakdown of information and contact details of those selected and the remaining interested persons to the organisers.

From the final selection, several people told us they could no longer participate due to family and work commitments. These places were offered to others on the reserve list corresponding to the same demographic criteria, where possible.

The final number of participants at the first session of the Assembly was 44. Throughout sessions, the number of participants varied between 43 to 44 with 43 being present at the final vote.

The demographics of the 43 members are shown in the following pie charts.

	Target Demographics of BG	Selected (Final Confirmed)
Gender	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male Female Other 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male Female Other
Age	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16-29 30-44 45-59 60+ 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16-29 30-44 45-59 60+
Locale	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sirhowy Ebbw Fawr North Ebbw Fach South Ebbw Fach 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sirhowy Ebbw Fawr North Ebbw Fach South Ebbw Fach
Tenure	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owner: outright, mortgage or loan and shared ownership Registered social landlord Rented: Private landlord, letting agency & other 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owner: outright, mortgage or loan and shared ownership Registered social landlord Rented: Private landlord, letting agency & other

	Target Demographics of BG	Selected (Final Confirmed)
Attitude to climate change	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Very concerned ■ Fairly concerned ■ Not very concerned/Not at all/other/don't know 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Very concerned ■ Fairly concerned ■ Not very concerned/Not at all/other/don't know
Ethnicity	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ White ■ Ethnically diverse communities 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ White ■ Ethnically diverse communities
WIMD Decile	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ "1" ■ "2" ■ "3" ■ "4-5" ■ "6-10" 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ "1" ■ "2" ■ "3" ■ "4-5" ■ "6-10"

Data on target demographics, selection and final participants can be found [here](#).

A range of support was provided prior to and during the Assembly to ensure it was accessible. This included providing assembly members with tablets in the absence of owning hardware, establishing an internet connection via Wifi dongles and three hours of tech drop-in sessions to ensure members were able to fully access Zoom.

6. Engaging the wider community

It was important that the wider community was engaged in the process to (i) inform the Assembly's discussions, and (ii) as a means of ensuring accountability for implementation of the recommendations.

Engagement with the wider community was undertaken through the following methods:

i The BG Assembly website had the option to register via email to receive bilingual updates on the Assembly via Mailchimp. Interested respondents to the invitation were also invited to sign up to receive these updates. In total, 66 people signed up to receive updates.

ii Anyone living or working in Blaenau Gwent was able to respond to the question for consideration by the Assembly via Pol.is

Pol.is is an interactive surveying tool which invites users to agree/disagree with statements relating to an overall question. It also allows users to add their own statements for others to vote on.

The interactive survey ran for three weeks and closed on 22 March 2021. 135 people voted. 5,594 votes were cast and 132 statements were submitted to respond to the assembly question. The [results of the survey](#) were presented to the Assembly during the deliberation phase.

iii Social media accounts of the organising partners and BGCBC were used to communicate about the climate assembly.



7. Assembly Process

The Assembly process was in three phases; learning, deliberation and voting.



The learning phase consisted of:

- Introduction to critical thinking.
- Speakers giving evidence and their expertise on the themes of the assembly.
- Assembly members asking questions of speakers and engaging in discussion with them.

Learning was supplemented by [‘speaker templates’](#) (additional information on the speaker and their topic) and any questions not answered in session were answered via email. At the end of the learning phase, assembly members voted on the speakers that they thought could help them answer the question the best. These speakers were brought back for more in depth discussions with small groups of assembly members.

In the deliberation phase:

- Assembly members voted on four additional themes to develop recommendations around.
- Members chose which theme they’d like to draft recommendations for. In groups, three recommendations per theme were drafted.
- Each group visited the seven other themes to ask questions and comment on the draft recommendations.
- Using these questions and comments, the original groups refined and amended their recommendations to be put forward for voting.

In the voting phase final recommendations were voted on by assembly members. 43 out of 44 Assembly members voted - with one member not attending the final sessions to vote because of health issues. Five recommendations received over 80% of the votes and were officially passed by the Assembly.

Throughout the process, facilitation was used to create conversations which were inclusive, respectful, to the point, honest and constructive.

8. Next Steps

The Assembly's recommendations were presented to the chief executives of the 4 commissioning Housing Associations on Tuesday 13 April 2021.

Assembly members presented the recommendations and took part in the discussions. The Housing Associations have committed to providing written responses to the five main recommendations setting out how they will incorporate or support them.

A further selected group of volunteer from the Assembly presented the recommendations to the PSB Climate Mitigation Group on 26 April 2021. The PSB Climate Mitigation Group will provide written responses to the five main recommendations setting out if and how they will support their implementation. These written recommendations will be presented to the wider PSB.

A number of members are staying in contact with each other via a Facebook group. Assembly members are also being kept informed about further participatory processes in Blaenau Gwent, including a participatory budgeting initiative led by Mutual Gain.

The organising partners will be tracking progress of implementation of the recommendations, particularly around the time of the election in 2022. We will also look to secure resources to maintain momentum around the recommendations and continued inclusion of assembly members in progress of implementation.

*This is our
Blaenau Gwent*

*We all have a
part to play*

*Get involved,
this is your
COMMUNITY*

*Help us make a
change*

*IF you are in
charge - do your
job, get off your
a** and do it!*

*Citizen
assemblies
are the way
forward*

Final messages from some Assembly members

9. Learnings

The following key learnings are a summary of those identified by project partners and through feedback provided by others involved, including facilitators, observers and members.

i Funding

The funding for this Climate Assembly came from a pot of engagement funding from Welsh Government's Innovative Housing Programme. The total funding for this assembly was £50,000. We know from work on other assemblies and discussions with other practitioners that this is a very low budget to try to deliver a deliberative project to this scale.

As a result of this limited budget organising partners made certain concessions including:

- A lower payment to assembly members- assembly members were paid at over living wage, above £10 per hour. However, we know from other assemblies that a higher rate of remuneration is often offered which might have been more likely to result in a higher sign up rate from the 10,000 letters sent to residents in Blaenau Gwent.
- A reliance on volunteers - The Assembly relied on volunteers for nearly all roles including facilitators and scribes, tech support and speakers. Ideally, we would have remunerated all of these roles in recognition of the time and effort given to this project.
- Limiting payment to the organising partners - only a small proportion of organisers' time has been remunerated for this 6 month long project.

It is also worth emphasising the difficulty in securing funding for a climate assembly might limit the potential for other such assemblies unless commissioned by local or national government.

ii Time vs. topics covered

The Assembly process had to strike a balance between time constraints due to funding, the amount of funding available, the number of participants and adequate time for learning and deliberation. The total time for the Assembly was two weekends (10 hours per weekend) and two evening sessions (3 hours).

It is clear from the evaluation responses that participants felt rushed at times during the three phases (learning, deliberation and recommendation) of the Assembly. In particular, the evening session on Transport on Tuesday 16 March was felt to be too much information from 4 speakers in such a short space of time. In contrast, the session during the learning phase with only three speakers in one afternoon (7 March) with more time to go into detail, received positive feedback.

“More time for the speakers to say what they needed to and information about the speakers given to us before they came to speak with us would have been helpful. It may have allowed us to prepare questions relevant to what they were telling us.”

“I thought it went fab not enough time granted but everybody was helpful.”

Facilitators and scribes also fed back to us that the time with assembly members was limited on some occasions.

“We covered a lot in a short period of time which although did feel a little rushed at times, I feel was the right thing to do. The range of topics engaged more people.”

(Quote from facilitator)

The [Involve guidance](#) suggests at least 30 hours for a citizens’ assembly and it is acknowledged by the organisers that more time would have been preferable to allow the Assembly to explore themes in more detail and to have more time for discussion. In retrospect, alternative formats such as exploring one main theme (e.g. Housing) and leaving additional time for the Assembly to invite speakers on topics suggested by them may have helped the Assembly feel less rushed in the time available.

In addition to the time spent online, the Assembly was also provided with [speaker templates and written responses](#) to questions that speakers had not been able to answer in the time available. It is recognised that not all members would have had the capacity to review these between sessions and therefore time spent on additional reading was not compulsory.



Administrative capacity and other roles

The Assembly administration needed was extensive.

ERS Cymru, Cynnal Cymru and United Welsh led on the administration which included:

- Communication with third party consultants
- Organisation of facilitators, observers and speakers
- Organisation and provision of tech support
- Communication with local and Welsh Government
- Communication with Assembly participants
- Liaising with lead facilitators (Mutual Gain)
- Coordination of Steering Group meetings
- Communications - including website, social media
- Engagement with commissioning organisations

Support for video editing and tech support during sessions was provided by consultants through Mutual Gain.

A key learning is to have a designated admin team in addition to project managers to ensure timely and efficient administration.

iv Involvement of local organisations

As national organisations, the organising partners engaged local stakeholders at an early stage in the process.

The most important of these was BGCBC and the PSB Climate Mitigation Steering Group. Organising partners met with both BGCBC and the Climate Mitigation Group early on to explain the context and their hope that the Assembly process and recommendations would inform decarbonisation plans of public bodies in Blaenau Gwent, as well as those of the housing associations.

BGCBC and the PSB Climate Mitigation Steering Group became collaborative partners in the Assembly process, with representatives sitting on the Assembly Steering Group and volunteering as scribes and facilitators.

The speakers whom the Assembly found particularly engaging were those with local knowledge and/or experience that they could see as relevant to issues needing addressed in Blaenau Gwent.

v Opportunity for engagement

A recurring theme raised by members was their need for more effective communication and engagement by local organisations in relation to the big changes required to decarbonise. For example, plans for local transport, electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and retrofitting homes.

The presence of representatives from local organisations at the Assembly provided an opportunity for a two way process of listening and learning with a view to constructive discussion leading to the creation of recommendations.

This process helped to build trust which could be built on further with continued engagement and communication about implementation and progress of the recommendations.

vi Importance of facilitation

Due to budgetary constraints, we relied on volunteers to facilitate and scribe the sessions. All volunteers were provided with specific training via Involve, which took place over two half day sessions.

Feedback from the evaluation underlines the excellent job done by facilitators and scribes with 97% of respondents feeling included in small group discussions and 100% feeling respected by the facilitators. Assembly members also noted the important role of facilitators in ensuring discussions between members were conducted with respect.

“The facilitators were great and really helped get people to share their thoughts in a comfortable way”

However, none were experienced in facilitating citizens’ assemblies and required additional support in advance and following sessions. One member had felt a facilitator had not been bold enough in ensuring their voice was heard.

24% of respondents to the evaluation also felt that the facilitators tried to influence their group with their own ideas. This is likely due to inexperience and the need for more support and training, rather than any deliberate attempt to influence.

Feedback from facilitators also highlights the need for more information about the format and expectations of sessions.

“I think as facilitators it would have been useful to have the full rundown of the day a little sooner rather than later”

“There was a lot of confusion about the briefing notes not matching the detailed plan that was a bit confusing”

In the recommendations phase of any citizens’ assembly, facilitators have a key role in ensuring recommendations are clear. Further support for facilitators to ensure recommendation criteria were understood and facilitators felt confident in drafting recommendations would have been beneficial.

“I believe some of the very good recommendations failed due to their wording. Therefore much more time needed to refine and refine final proposals.”

vii Transparency of process

The lead facilitators provided an overview of the format and purpose of each stage of the Assembly to provide certainty to the members and ensure transparency of the process.

At the voting stage, there were two issues that led to confusion potentially undermining the transparency of the process for some of the Members. Both instances highlight the need to ensure assembly members fully understand the voting process (e.g. through Q&A, practice votes) before voting commences.

i) Confusion as to whether ‘neutral’ was counted as a vote for or against a recommendation

During the voting stage, assembly members were asked to vote on the recommendations by Zoom poll using ‘Strongly Agree’ - ‘Agree’ - ‘Neutral’ - ‘Disagree’ - ‘Strongly Disagree’.

Shortly after the first few votes, an assembly member raised concerns that it was not clear that a ‘neutral’ vote did not count towards support for the recommendation. As such, the voting process was restarted.

ii) Suggestion to lower the voting threshold from 80%

Of 24 recommendations formed by the Assembly, five received the 80% vote to pass as official recommendations (80% being the normal threshold for citizens’ assemblies’ recommendations). Approximately three quarters of the way through the voting process, a suggestion was made by the lead facilitator for assembly members to vote on whether the threshold should be lowered. A vote was held on whether to reduce the threshold, which secured 70% support and therefore did not pass.

The voting process should have been explained more clearly before members’ started to vote, in particular the threshold required for a recommendation to pass and that there is precedent for this being lowered if an 80% majority of Members voted to do so.

“I felt very frustrated at the end with the voting as felt that so much time had been spent working through the recommendations for them not to get the 80 percent”

The evaluation clearly shows members’ frustration at the voting process and the number of recommendations passed by the Assembly. On the latter point, it could be interesting in future assemblies to build in a mechanism for understanding why members voted in a certain way.

viii Other learning points

Summarised below are some additional learnings that we wanted to highlight:

- The Assembly process can inspire individual action as well as collective recommendations.
- The learning phase is a two way process between speakers and assembly members - through asking questions and challenging speakers, the Assembly bring theories and policy back to reality.
- Assembly members of local citizens’ assemblies bring their local knowledge, interests and lived experience to the consideration of issues. The expertise of local people is of real value and underlines the need for local assemblies.
- Local climate assemblies are not a replacement for a national climate assembly - If we are to tackle climate change at the scale required, we need both local assemblies and national assemblies to engage people of Wales in the processes that happen at different levels.
- This model of deliberative democracy should be used beyond climate- there are a number of significant issues facing Wales. Citizens’ assemblies should be used as part of a toolkit of policy process to address these issues.

“I feel worried for our future if we continue living as we are. I have already started making changes to my own lifestyle and have been encouraging others to do the same.”

“Heartening to see a cross-section of fellow BG people commit to taking part fully, to getting stuck in to such a crucial issue.”

10. Evaluation Responses

The members of the Assembly were invited to complete a short evaluation survey on 29 March (following final recommendations on 28 March).

37 Assembly members completed the evaluation which had a total of 12 questions designed to gauge the members' emotional and practical experience of the Assembly.

Responses to the evaluation have been used throughout the report to highlight learnings.

In terms of process:

- Over 65% of participants felt that the Assembly increased their confidence with using technology
- 70% of respondents felt that there was sufficient time to learn about the issues before making recommendations
- 35% of respondents felt that there was enough time for discussion and deliberation
- 86% of respondents felt that information was presented in a fair and balanced way
- 95% of respondents rated their overall enjoyment of the Assembly a 4 or 5 on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being 'not at all' and 5 being 'very much')

The full evaluation survey results are available [here](#).

Recommendation theme: TRANSPORT

- 1 Establish an affordable, integrated road & rail transport system, accessible throughout BG. A one ticket system that links to bus, rail & cycle schemes – industry for purchasing of tickets (digital or paper). Accessibility for all hours with safety via lighting, CCTV and to keep maintained.
- 2 Create an incentivised community based electric car sharing scheme (24/7), where you either hire a vehicle for yourself or share (Uber system) a vehicle - with safety in mind.
- 3 Establish & improve a safe, easily maintainable infrastructure for walkers & cyclists, for either recreational or work purposes, with access to the integrated public transport network. Including lighting & CCTV & storage for bikes.

Impacts

- transport accessible all hours for shift workers.

Do we become prosperous first - or do we act now? eg would there be a voluntary shift to invest in Climate crisis if transport infrastructure lead to prosperity.

Considerations

- car share - would be useful for workers, concert goers etc.
- a 1 ticket system for all travel - Bus, train, cycle hire, car share, taxi.
- Safer travel late at night with integrated bus, train, lit pathways.

Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly votes on final recommendations

4 weeks ago | More

More from Cynnal Cymru

Autoplay next video

Blaenau Gwent C...
Cynnal Cymru

11. Carbon emissions of a virtual assembly

Throughout the process, we were mindful of the carbon footprint of the Assembly. For example, we chose not to print and send any materials to participants save for reasons of accessibility.



We calculated an approximate carbon footprint of the online assembly to be 55.193 Kg CO₂e. You can read more about how we calculated this and how this might compare to an in person assembly [here](#).



Appendix 1

Recommendations

The table below shows the recommendations as drafted by the Assembly.

Theme	Recommendation	% Support
Housing Retrofit	Train local trades people, create qualifications and upskill local businesses, involve FE colleges and local Universities, future proof it and provide the right courses to enable them to do the work in all green construction.	86
	Blaenau Gwent must create an accessible, practical, well publicised information platform for all (an upgraded website, an app, information lines and local one stop 'retrofitted shops/hubs' for advice and demonstrations on all things green throughout the area.	70
	Every home below EPC 'c' must have a retrofitting survey by 2023, with a view to implementing the actions that are recommended and starting the work within 12 months where funding options are in place.	67
Housing Newbuild	Ensure that all new build properties are built using the latest sustainable technologies (E.g. Glanffrwd development as a template), employing local builders and providing a variety of accommodation types appropriate for all inc. homeless/single occupancy up to large families.	81
	Prioritize brown field sites over green belt for new builds and ensure green space created within new developments	79
	Provide green energy grants to assist all new build purchases to all people and provide green incentives for all energy efficient properties. T's + C's stipulate 5 yr occupancy otherwise grant to be repaid.	56
Nature and Green Space	Implement a programme of woodland preservation and reforestation of BG, using the right tree in the right place for the right reason, increasing opportunities for jobs, biodiversity and connecting woodlands. Making sure the skills are available so we can create green jobs, e.g saw milling and timber framed housing.	86
	Create roles for coordination, cultivation and support of the use of green spaces (allotments, woodlands and urban green spaces) by the community to benefit all generations and create a sense of community ownership. Supporting communities in activities including food growing, recreation, bio-diversity, green prescribing, green space planning and aesthetics (e.g Blaenau Gwent in Bloom).	77

Theme	Recommendation	% Support
Nature and Green Space	Develop a community owned/part-owned green energy programme e.g. solar farms, wind farms, or hydro electric. Supported by community green bonds. Making sure bonds are accessible and provide beneficial return.	74
Transport	Establish an affordable, integrated road & rail transport system accessible throughout BG. A one ticket system that links to bus, rail & cycle schemes - inclusivity for purchasing of tickets (digital or paper). Accessible all hours with safety via lighting, CCTV and to keep maintained.	91
	Establish & improve a safe, easily maintainable infrastructure for walkers & cyclists, for either recreational or work purposes, with access to the public transport network. Including lighting & CCTV & storage for bikes.	88
	Incentivise a community based electric car sharing scheme (24/7) where you either hire a vehicle for self or share (Uber system) a vehicle with safety in mind.	33
Education	Set a goal and support schools to source Welsh/British, sustainable produce and increase the use of these products over time, to include more vegetarian options.	74
	Make climate change and its impacts mandatory, interactive (e.g. competitions, prizes, rewards), relevant to the local area in the school curriculum. The council should assist schools with projects relevant to the age and practical involvement by the young people with the wider community.	62
	Offer short courses on climate change to individuals, local businesses, tradespeople, and decision-makers through educational institutions or by children in schools.	57
Waste and Recycling	Establish local Repair hubs to Re-use/re-purpose/upcycle items.	79
	Reinstate community skips - to robustly address fly-tipping & litter - siting of more litter bins that are emptied more often. Install & monitor more CCTV/enhanced measures at known fly-tipping spots. Re-direct fly-tipping & CCTV costs to community skips and in time it would pay for itself.	65
	Set up an enhanced information website, newsletter & community boards to promote transparency and sharing of information about recycling and how to access these services - this would improve awareness for future consultation on these issues.	63
Communication	Develop a local Climate Change Communications Strategy for promoting climate change action within the community at all levels by 2022 to be reviewed annually.	67

Theme	Recommendation	% Support
Communication	Set up a Climate Change Communications Network that oversee the evolving Strategy (to be cross sector including citizens and youth representatives) sharing best practice, information and knowledge.	63
	Employ dedicated local Communication Officer(s) to lead on the Climate Change Communication Strategy.	53
Poverty	Providing infrastructure, training and funding to businesses (new, growing and existing) within the local economy – e.g apprenticeships, employment and volunteering opportunities.	72
	Providing centralised grants to improve energy performance of all homes and reduce fuel poverty and energy usage by 2027.	70
	Providing advice, space and funding for communities to create their own local hub with a network of Outreach Officers.	58

Please note that % support for some recommendations have been updated due to review of raw data.

Appendix 2

Steering Group Members

- Ben Saltmarsh (NEA Cymru)
- Bethan Proctor (CHC Cymru)
- Bev Jones (Melin Homes)
- Chris Blake (The Green Valleys CIC)
- Daniel Wheelock (Blaenau Gwent CBC)
- Darcey Howell (Blaenau Gwent Youth Forum)
- Jess Blair (ERS Cymru)
- Joe Frampton (United Welsh)
- Judy Phipps (Blaenau Gwent over 50s forum)
- Professor Julie Froud (University of Manchester)
- Justine Scorrer (Linc Cymru)
- Lorraine Whitmarsh (Director, Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformation)
- Luke Penny (Cynnal Cymru)
- Mara Moruz (Blaenau Gwent Youth Forum)
- Matthew Matthias (ERS Cymru)
- Nia Thomas (ERS Cymru)
- Owain Israel (Linc Cymru)
- Richard Thomas (United Welsh Housing)
- Sarah Freeman (NRW)
- Sarah Hopkins (Cynnal Cymru)
- Steve Cranston (United Welsh Housing)
- Tim Daley (Digital Public Services Wales)
- Trisha Hoddinot (Melin Homes)



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