


Assembly of Humans & More Than Humans
Held in 2021 with 60 underage children
from a london prep school




Results

Results from the Assembly of Humans and more than Humans 2021 compared with results of the 2020 climate assemblies in France and the UK

1. The assemblies compared

	The Assembly of Humans and more than Humans	France Climate Assembly	UK Climate Assembly
Framing question	Should a wind farm be constructed in mid-Wales, and if so under what conditions? If not, what alternative is proposed?	How can France reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40 percent (from the 1990s level) by 2030, in the spirit of social justice?	How can the UK reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050?
Budget	£200	£5M	£500,000
Duration	Two hours online	Seven in-person weekend sessions and one online weekend session	Three in-person weekend sessions and three short online weekend sessions
How many people took part?	100 so far, with the potential for thousands in the future	150	108
Who was represented?	Humans of all ages represent everything from multinationals to future generations to peat bogs to birds. Our trials have included adults from Indonesia as well as UK students aged 11 – 16.	French adults were selected to represent and engage with their communities and regions.	Adults were selected to match the demographics of the human UK adult population, but with each adult representing themselves.
How will it have an impact?	The impact of the assembly will depend on how big it grows and how much attention it gets.	The process was sponsored by President Emmanuel Macron of France and 70% of the population have heard about it.	The process was sponsored by six select committees of the UK parliament – but very few people have heard of it.

2. Results of the assemblies

<div>  Voicing the air: an Assembly of Humans and More-Than-Humans </div>			
Group	Facilitator	Decision	Comments
1	Elena	Yes, with lots of conditions and some demand reduction	<p>The group want protection for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affected villages • Eco-systems, including cages round the bottom of the turbine to protect foxes, cows, bats and birds • Overseas workers mining rare earths, who should have guaranteed living conditions <p>Also a desire to reduce energy consumption to reduce the need for wind farms, although they accept that that is not easy.</p>
2	Finn	Yes with conditions, plus alternatives	<p>The conditions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect animals • Use sustainable materials • Shift to building turbines in urban areas • Use other technologies, such as solar and tidal
3	Joe	Yes, with conditions, plus alternatives	<p>The group rejected a hard limit on how much energy industry could use – that could lead to energy inequality.</p> <p>The conditions were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate away from delicate ecosystems • Replace some with some of the generating capacity with solar power, and other options. • Research the alternatives. Cover both existing and new technologies. • The group was particularly excited about the idea of space-based solar power.
4	Lollie	Yes, with conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One condition was to safeguard wildlife • Further conditions to be agreed at a second conference in six months' time. • No wind turbines to be built until then. <p>and new technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group was particularly excited about the idea of space-based solar power.
5	Neil	No as it stands	<p>The benefit of wind power in replacing fossil fuels and keeping the air clean seen as overwhelming. But the risk to airborne wildlife in this application was unacceptable. How to overcome this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There would need to be something to deter airborne wildlife from approaching the turbine. This could be sound, smell or colour. • The farmer could be incentivised to accept this with for example free energy.
6	Perry	Yes to onshore wind power, with conditions, but with turbines spread out not concentrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One to two turbines per farm • Keep height of turbines close to current 150m, but research link between height and deaths • Avoid peatbogs and migration routes • Investigate lights to deter eagles and sirens that only bats can hear
7	Romy	Yes to wind power, but split onshore/offshore	<p>There should be an onshore wind farm, but...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some wind energy should be generated offshore. • The balance between the two needs further discussion. • There should be purple lights to deter birds and bats.



France Convention Citoyenne

In France 72% of electricity comes from nuclear

We want everyone to be able to participate in green energy production at all scales of the territory by 2023. To achieve this we plan the following:

PROPOSAL PT11.1: Improvement of territorial / regional governance.

This includes: compensation mechanisms for regions less endowed with resources for green energy; and regionalising national tenders.

PROPOSAL PT11.2: Participation of citizens, local businesses, local associations and local authorities in renewable energy projects.

This development is important because each region or regional pilot knows a lot better its capacities and opportunities in renewable energies. Local management is a way to better manage the resource because you are in contact with it. We advocate solidarity mechanisms and ambitious production of local energy, recognising that all the territories and cities are not equally endowed.

PROPOSAL PT11.3: Development of self-production, so as to produce the electricity we consume.

“We are particularly committed to the participation of all - individuals, small companies, local authorities - in the production of green energy from local resources. This will support a change in the model of society that we want.” This local production will make everyone aware of the challenges of reducing consumerism. Projects must be developed with respect for biodiversity and the use of suitable eco-responsible materials.



UK Climate Assembly

How the UK generates its electricity is a central question on the path to net zero. The UK still produces a significant amount of its electricity from fossil fuels, particularly gas. All the UK's electricity generation will need to come from low carbon sources if it is to meet its net zero target. The UK is also likely to need more electricity in future due to an increase in electric vehicles and electric heating.

Key recommendation

Large majorities of assembly members ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’ that three ways of generating electricity should be part of how the UK gets to net zero:

Offshore wind (95%)

Solar power (81%)

Onshore wind (78%)

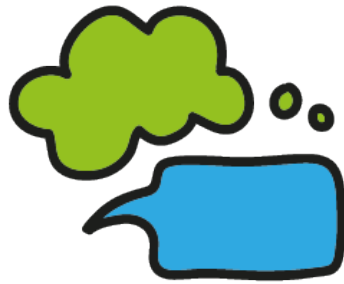
Assembly members tended to see these technologies as proven, clean and low cost, with wind-based options suitable for a “windy” UK. Offshore wind had key additional benefits, particularly being “out of the way”. Solar power was viewed as flexible in terms of where it can be located, among other advantages.

Some assembly members suggested a range of points to bear in mind when implementing all three technologies. These included their location and environmental impact, progress on electricity storage, ways to incentivise and facilitate uptake, visual design, and where they are manufactured.

3. What next?

Citizens have generated far more ambitious policies than politicians have ever come up with. Children and other people who don't usually have a voice (including future generations) have energy and initiative that can produce even better policies. They need to be heard. The voices of More-Than-Humans also need to be heard – on an equal footing with Humans. That also leads to more ambitious questions and answers.

What next: tell your friends and family and organise another Assembly (with our help).



Email JUST DUST: mp95leroux@hotmail.com

Sources:

France Convention Citoyenne

Source, pages 139-145:

<https://propositions.conventioncitoyennepourleclimat.fr/le-rapport-final/>

Executive summary in English:

<https://propositions.conventioncitoyennepourleclimat.fr/pdf/France-propositions-synthese%20-%20EN.pdf>

UK Climate Assembly

Source, page 22: Climate Assembly UK Report:

<https://propositions.conventioncitoyennepourleclimat.fr/pdf/CCC-propositions-synthese%20-%20EN.pdf>