

Community Assemblies on the Climate: Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Community Assembly?

A Community Assembly is a shared space in which people can come together to listen, share, talk and plan, before agreeing on an action plan. 50 people will be selected to attend to represent the wider community, taking into account demographics such as age, gender, ethnicity and so on, and sometimes opinions as well, for example your view on climate change. The discussions will be facilitated by the GwyrddNi Community Facilitators, who will ensure that everyone has their fair say, and that everyone is listened to in a relaxed environment. You don't need to know anything already, we will learn together during the sessions.

Who are the organisers?

Based on many years of community activity and grassroots success, the following social enterprises have come together to form the GwyrddNi movement: Cwmni Bro, Ynni Llyn, Cyd Ynni, Yr Orsaf/Siop Griffiths and Partneriaeth Ogwen. GwyrddNi aims to strengthen the voice of our communities in the debate on climate change by creating community action plans that will set the direction for joint action for the benefit of our communities and our planet. The partnership has been successful in attracting Lottery funding to fund Local Facilitators to lead this work by hosting Community Assemblies on the Climate in the following five areas: Pen Llŷn, Bro Ffestiniog, Dyffryn Ogwen, Dyffryn Nantlle and Dyffryn Peris.

What will it look like?

If we're able to meet in person, the assemblies will take place in a central location in the area, like a community hall. There will be opportunities to talk to each other in a whole group setting, and opportunities to break out into smaller group chats. We will be recording the ideas and comments that come out of the assembly on flip chart paper and notes, and organising these around the room. We'll be having breaks for food and thoughts. If we're not able to meet in person, we'll be conducting all of this online.

When and where will the Community Assemblies take place?

We are hosting a series of four Community Assemblies in five areas of Gwynedd. The first Assemblies will take place on the following dates (with dates for subsequent assemblies to be agreed):

Dyffryn Peris: 17/05/2022 from 19:00 - 21:00 & 18/05/2022 from 09:30 - 13:30

Dyffryn Ogwen: 28/5/2022 10:00 - 16:30

Bro Ffestiniog: 13/6/2022, 17:30-19:30 & 20/6/2022 17:30-19:30 & 27/6/2022 17:30-19:30

Dyffryn Nantlle: 15/6/2022 & 16/6/2022 time tbc

Why would I want to do this?

We want the Assemblies to represent the people and population of your area and we want to ensure a range of views and opinions - just like in real life! So we really want your unique voice and contribution, whatever that may be. You don't need to know anything already, all you need is to be willing to share your views and opinions and listen to those of other people. Lots of people who have attended similar assemblies are surprised at just how much they've enjoyed the experience.

Do I need to take part?

You do not have to, it's completely voluntary, but we really hope that you do! It may be a new way of coming together to make decisions for us, but similar assemblies and juries have already taken place and worked successfully all across the world. You can visit our website www.gwyrddni.wales to read about examples of other assemblies and juries, and to hear about the experiences of the people who attended.

What is the time commitment?

The duration of the assemblies will vary in each area, but on the whole it is a time commitment of around 26 hours (which equated to about 4 full days) over a period of 12 months.

Will I have to talk in front of people?

There will be opportunities to learn, listen and discuss as a whole assembly and in smaller groups, but there will never be any pressure on you to speak in front of people if you do not wish to do that. We will make sure that there are other ways available for people to share their ideas (e.g speaking directly to the facilitator or writing your ideas on paper) if you do not feel comfortable talking within a group .

Will I understand?

We will share information in many different ways during the Assemblies - there will be speakers, videos and handouts. You don't need to know anything already, all you need is to be willing to share your views and opinions and listen to those of other people. The Assembly will be a relaxed setting and is for anyone who lives in the area. We want your unique voice and contribution, whatever that may be.

I'm a carer

We understand that you might have responsibilities that might make it difficult for you to attend the Assemblies. If you wish to take part but think it might be difficult because of your caring responsibilities please let us know and we will see what we can do to support you to be able to attend.

I have work

We have tried to organise the Assemblies at convenient times but understand that these times will not work for everyone. If you wish to take part but have to work on certain days please let us know and we will see what we can do to support you to be able to attend.

I have a disability

If you are selected to attend we will contact you to ask if you need any support to help you take part. We aim to ensure that all our venues will have wheelchair access, there will be a hearing loop available, there will be sufficient lighting, toilets will be easy to locate and will be accessible, a quiet room will be available. Also, we can provide the information shared on the day in other forms if needed such as slide share, handouts, large print and braille.

Can I get help to access the internet if this is needed?

If you need a device to attend the assembly, or you need a connection to get online, or you need help with accessing the assemblies because, for example, you've never attended an online meeting, we can help with all of these things.

Will I personally have to deliver the actions after the assembly?

No, there is no expectation that you will deliver the climate action plan after the assemblies. It will be a community effort, with support from GwyrddNi and the local partner in the area, so if you would like to help to deliver the action plan after the assemblies you will be welcome to do so.

Will there be food provided?

Yes, food will be provided, including a vegan and vegetarian option.

What should I wear?

You can wear anything you feel is suitable. You will be sitting down and walking around the room. If it's a cold day make sure to bring layers in case you get cold. If at any point we will be going outside during the day we will let you know in advance so you can wear suitable clothing and shoes.

Why is a Community Assembly being organised?

We believe that local people, living in an area, are best placed to decide on the future they want to see for that area. That is why, in the face of climate change, we believe that bringing people together to learn, share and decide together is the way forward. We know from experience that when people are given the time, space and information (from a variety of sources) through Community Assemblies, Citizens Assemblies or Citizens Juries, that members of the public will develop sensible and well-informed recommendations. That is what we aim to do in Pen Llŷn, Bro Ffestiniog, Dyffryn Nantlle, Dyffryn Ogwen and Dyffryn Peris.

Will I be identified as a member of the Community Assembly?

This is completely up to you. You can remain anonymous, or you can share your experience of being an Assembly Member with others. We will discuss this at the assemblies and there will be no obligation to be identified if you do not wish to be.

What will happen after the Community Assembly?

As the Assemblies are held GwyrddNi will be talking with funders in order to secure further funding to deliver the Community Climate Action Plans agreed in the five areas. Then there will be an opportunity for Assembly members and others from the community to work with GwyrddNi and our local partner organisations to deliver the agreed plans. There will also be many opportunities to get involved between the assemblies - if you register your interest but are not selected we will keep you informed about any opportunities in your area.

Who will run the Community Assemblies?

The GwyrddNi Community Climate Action Facilitator for your area will run your local Assembly, with support from the rest of the GwyrddNi team, along with our local partner organisation. Our partner organisations in each area are as follows: Ynni Llŷn in Pen Llŷn, Cwmni Bro in Bro Ffestiniog, Partneriaeth Ogwen in Dyffryn Ogwen, Siop Griffiths/Yr Orsaf in Dyffryn Nantlle, and Cyd Ynni in Dyffryn Peris.

How do I register my interest in joining my local Community Assembly?

If you are sixteen years of age or older, and would like to be considered for your local Assembly, please fill in a short **Expression of Interest** form (below), or you can contact your Local Facilitator who can fill it in with you over the phone.

Pen Llŷn expression of interest form
Bro Ffestiniog expression of interest form
Dyffryn Ogwen expression of interest form
Dyffryn Nantlle expression of interest form
Dyffryn Peris expression of interest form

Pen Llŷn: **post@gwyrddni.cymru / 07973612966**
Bro Ffestiniog, Nina Bentley: **nina@deg.cymru / 07950414401**
Dyffryn Ogwen, Chris Roberts: **chris@deg.cymru / 07766793945**
Dyffryn Nantlle, Grug Muse: **grug@deg.cymru / 07536974930**
Dyffryn Peris, Lowri Hedd Vaughan: **lowri@deg.cymru / 07850352478**

If you would like any more information or have any further questions please visit www.gwyrddni.wales or contact us on post@gwyrddni.cymru