

# What Are Community Assemblies?

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/K\\_NbHQI3T1g](https://www.youtube.com/embed/K_NbHQI3T1g)

A community assembly is local people hearing, deliberating & deciding about local issues that affect community lives everyday.

The current political system is failing to take the actions we need.

**It's time to decide for ourselves, together!**

**Let's bring deliberative democracy into our communities to show them the power of deciding together!**

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

- **Open conversations about XR's 3rd demand for a [Citizen's Assembly on Climate and Ecological Justice](#)**
- **Grow our local networks** by continuing to build local alliances around issues we are all concerned about;
- **Do outreach;**
- **Keep up the pressure** on local politicians, local and unitary authorities;
- **Spread the word about deliberative democracy** to empower people by showing what outcomes could be achieved;
- **Start a local campaign or project** in collaboration with other groups sharing a common concern;
- **Invite local politicians and candidates** to build positive relationships and ask if they support the **CE Bill** to further climate and ecological protections;
- Depending upon local relationships with political decision makers, if authorities ignore our climate and ecological emergency, we can **escalate pressure via NVDA**. (Check out the [Escalation Plan](#) for more on this)

Ready to co-create a beautiful bonding experience in your community alongside your local allies?

Then check out our [Community Assembly Resources](#).

## Citizens' Assemblies, People's Assemblies and Community Assemblies

XR uses three different kind of assemblies, which have some similarities and some differences:

| <b>CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY</b>  | <b>PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY</b>              | <b>COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY</b>  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Deliberative democracy</b>  | <b>Deliberative democracy</b>         | <b>Deliberative democracy</b>  |
| <b>Group deliberation</b>  | <b>Group deliberation</b>             | <b>Group deliberation</b>  |
| <b>Informed by experts, stakeholders and people with lived experiences</b> | <b>No external speakers necessary</b> | <b>Informed by experts, stakeholders and people with lived experiences</b> |
| <b>Random selection called "sortition"</b>                                 | <b>Self-selected</b>                  | <b>Self-selected</b>   |
| <b>10 - 30 days</b>  | <b>Can be as little as 45 minutes</b> | <b>If possible, several hours, but not necessary. 90 minutes to a day.</b> |
| <b>Inform policy</b>   | <b>Inform activists decisions</b>     | <b>Inform policy</b>   |

You can [find out more about the differences between the three possible models here](#) Bear in mind too, that different organisations have different names for assemblies and there are a wide variety of structures and processes across the deliberative democracy spectrum. It's a rewarding learning curve!

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