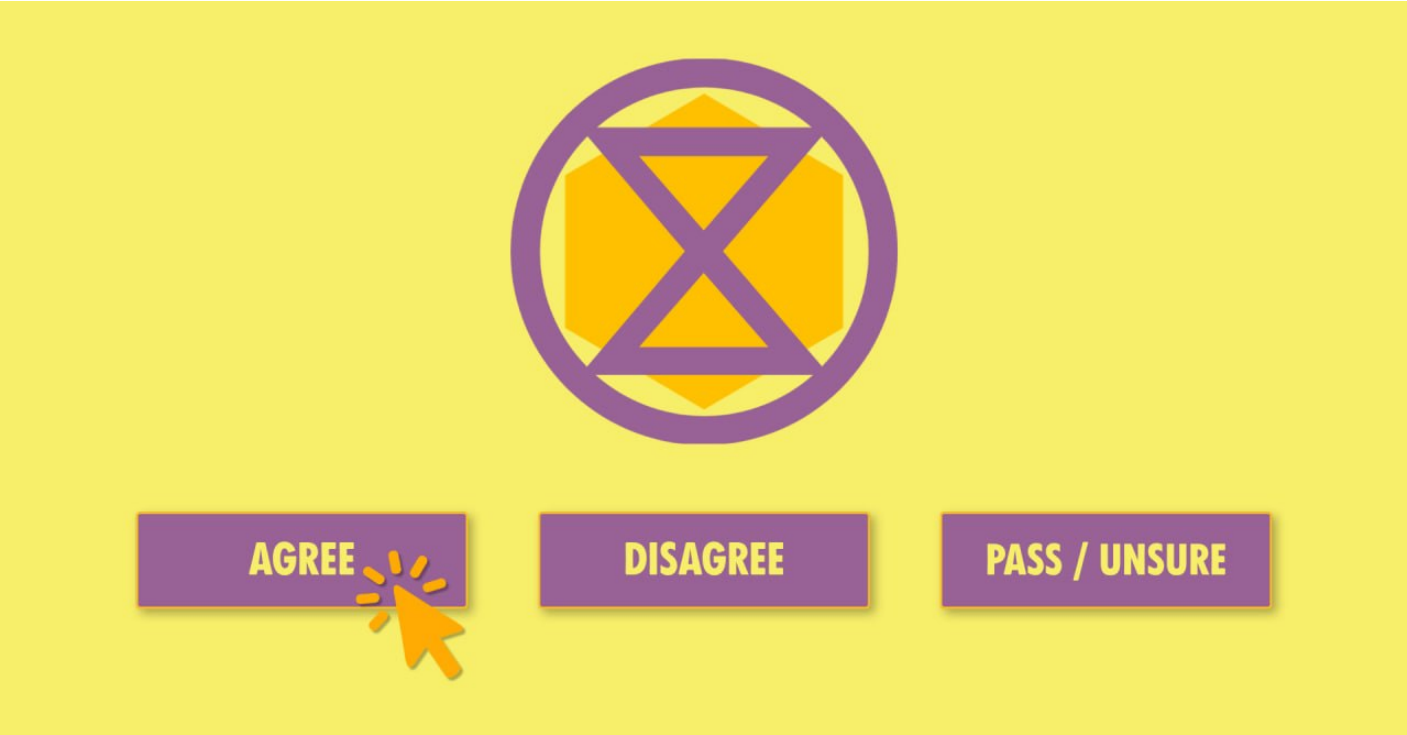
Guide: Polis for Participants



How does Polis work?

- You get a link to a Polis discussion on a particular topic. Click-by-click you will see a number of different statements for you to read and react to.
- You can **Agree**, **Disagree**, or **Pass / Unsure** on each statement.
- You can then suggest new statements, and then everyone can vote on those too.

You **won't** be able to vote on your own statement. (If your own ideas do show up, this is a glitch, so please do report this to the Assemblies team.)

Polis uses maths (algorithms) to see where people agree and disagree on issues. It groups people into clusters based on how they vote and not who they are. This helps set priorities fairly. If there are demographic statements, these help cluster groups based on specific characteristics, e.g. age, location, gender etc. Read the XR Polis privacy info here.

The most powerful part: Polis highlights statements that different groups agree on, and where they disagree. Learning where people's opinions align, allows for fairer and more acceptable decision making. More info on the history and use of Polis here.

Adding Your Own Statements

This is your chance to contribute new ideas for everyone else to vote on. Remember, people will be replying with **'Agree', 'Disagree' or 'Pass / Unsure'**

This is an example of what you will see when you get the link. Notice you have two ways to take part. You can vote on others'ideas, or add your own by scrolling further down.



How might we restore our failing water systems to secure a long-term future for all people, life and habitats?

LET'S FIND COMMON GROUND ON WATER ~ 19 Oct-19 Nov

- Vote on the ideas others have added. (As many / few as you like)
- Add your own ideas at the bottom of this page.

In this accelerating climate crisis, access to healthy water for us and nature is at risk.

It's time to have your say. Encourage everyone to join in. Share this link far and wide: https://joinxr.uk/waterpolis

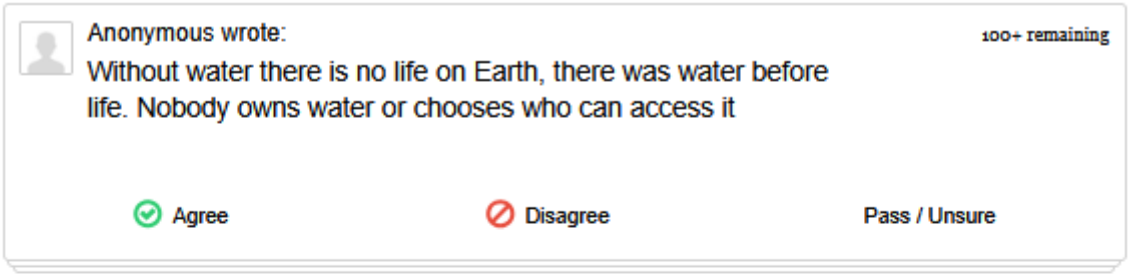
Bookmark the link and come back to keep voting until the 19th November.

Build our power and decide together to shape the future of water to create lasting change.

Learn more and find out why this Polis is crucial!

Sign up for updates and results here

Welcome to a new kind of conversation — vote on other people's statements — the more the better.



Based on the title of the poll, you can add your ideas in the box below — one at a time.

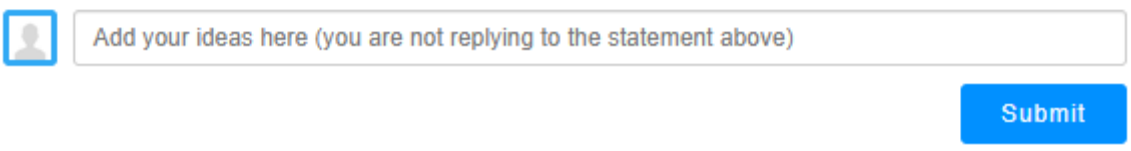
Use clear & concise wording (limited to 140 characters).

This is your chance to contribute new ideas to the poll for others to vote on.

What makes for a good statement?

- A stand-alone idea
- A new perspective, experience, or issue
- Clear & concise wording (limited to 140 characters)

Statements are displayed randomly and you are not replying directly to other people's statements: **you are adding a stand-alone statement.**



- Only share one idea at a time. If you put two ideas in at once, other people taking part do not know which they are voting for and may want to vote differently on the different ideas you have joined together.

- Try to be as clear as you can in your wording; if unsure, read your statement out loud, so you can hear how it seems to someone else.
- Be concise, you are **limited to 140 characters**.
- Your idea / statement shouldn't be a question that requires anything more than a simple response!

What Happens Next

- Polis collates your anonymous responses and analyses the results, learning as the discussion goes on.
- The most popular ideas will be displayed more often, for deeper exploration and consensus building around those ideas.
- The results are then downloaded by organisers as reports. These will be shared on the Rebel Toolkit, via email and across social media.
- If many people have taken part, that gives weight to those ideas and makes them more representative of the wisdom of the crowd. We then encourage everyone to share the results to lobby politicians, organisations and companies. The strength of opinion depends on the greatest possible participation levels.

How Polis Respects Your Privacy

- There is no registration process.
- It is anonymous.
- Your responses to demographic questions help identify which groups vote in particular ways; this helps with fairer decision-making.
- Your computer has its own address - known as the IP address; this information is deleted from our XR servers after 5 days. We have to keep that information for this short time in order to protect us all from spammers.
- If there are too few participants, demographic questions (such as age, gender, location) could identify you. These will be deleted if there is any risk of breaking anonymity.
- Read XRUK's full privacy policy.

Moderation

We use moderation to prevent abuse, and other tools when needed, however the privacy of participants has always been a key concern for XR technical teams working with Polis.

There are trained dedicated Moderators for every Polis poll. They help keep the poll simple and ensure protection of privacy.

Sometimes participants add statements that have two options, in which case Moderators will reword this into two statements, both of which can be voted on. There may be repetition of ideas; Moderators will reject those statements that are too similar.

If you have any questions or need support - contact the UK Assemblies Team.