

Leeds Climate Change Citizens' Jury

A Citizens' Jury to discuss Leeds' response to the climate emergency has been put together by Leeds Climate Commission working with Shared Future CIC.

Twenty-five people have been selected to take part, based on a jury profile agreed by the Citizens' Jury Oversight Panel. Four thousand households in Leeds were initially contacted using random stratified sampling of addresses from the Royal Mail database, eliciting 129 responses.

Jurors will be asked to address the question, "*What should Leeds do about the emergency of climate change?*" and produce written recommendations in their own words.

The first session of the Leeds Climate Change Citizens' Jury will commence on 12 September 2019 and will be followed by seven further evening sessions, finishing with one day-long session on 3 November. Jurors will receive £250-worth of High Street vouchers in recognition of their commitment.

The sessions will include presentations by expert commentators, selected by the Oversight Panel, which jurors will be able to question using a trained facilitator. The Commission also plans to use the commentators' presentations more widely, using social media and other channels to engage people across Leeds in a city-wide debate.

The Citizens' Jury's recommendations will guide the future work of the Leeds Climate Commission and will be presented to the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee of Leeds City Council as well as a range of organisations across the city.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Citizens' Jury?

A Citizens' Jury is a way of involving members of the public to help make important decisions. It brings together a broadly representative group of some 25 members of the public who are randomly chosen. They talk about the issue, share ideas and eventually come up with a set of recommendations. They are helped by experienced 'facilitators' who make sure everyone has a fair say and that the task is achieved. During

the sessions the facilitators will help to make people feel relaxed and able to take part.

Who are the organisers of the Leeds Climate Change Citizens' Jury?

The Citizens' Jury is funded by the Leeds Climate Commission, an independent network of members working together to help Leeds take action on climate change. The Commission's members are from over 30 of the city's key organisations and businesses, including Leeds City Council, the University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Earth, ITV, Yorkshire Water and many others.

To make sure that the Citizens' Jury is in no way biased and unfair, a Citizens' Jury oversight panel has been set up. People from the following organisations attend meetings of the panel: Extinction Rebellion, Friends of the Earth, Leeds Chamber of Commerce, Leeds City Council, The Madina Town Movement, Our Future Leeds, Project Rome, Rachel Reeves MP, Racial Justice Network, University of Leeds, Yorkshire Water, Youth Strike for Climate.

What will happen during the Jury?

The first few sessions will start with an opportunity for people to work in small groups and pairs to think through what climate change means to Leeds and what steps are being taken to address the problem. We will also hear more about the science of climate change from some experts. The group will then be joined by a series of 'commentators' who are experienced experts. A question and answer session will follow their presentations and afterwards we will talk about what we heard. Finally, the jury will discuss and write their own set of recommendations on the last day.

Who will run the Jury?

The two facilitators (Pete Bryant and Jenny Willis) are from a not-for-profit organisation called Shared Future and have much experience of running Citizens' Juries across the UK. The [Shared Future website](#) has lots of information on previous Citizens' Jury processes.

Do people have to take part?

Taking part is completely voluntary. The Jury is a new way for us to work with the public to help inform decisions.

Why is the Citizens' Jury being organised?

Most people accept climate change is real but are unsure what it means for them and what impacts it will have on where they live. In March, Leeds City Council declared a climate emergency. The Leeds Climate Change Citizens' Jury is one of several ways that Leeds residents can share their views on how people and organisations of Leeds could take action to respond to the emergency of climate change. In deciding how we in Leeds best address this enormous problem it is essential that we hear directly from the residents of Leeds.

How are people chosen?

Through the Citizens' Jury we aim to recruit a diverse, broadly representative group of local residents who reflect the local population to discuss and make recommendations on how we best address the emergency of climate change.

Leeds Climate Commission has worked with the Sortition Foundation (an independent, not-for-profit organisation that promotes the use of stratified, random selection in decision-making) to design the recruitment process. Four thousand households across Leeds received a recruitment letter explaining the citizens Jury and inviting those who are interested to either complete a very simple online form or use a freephone number to register their interest. The Sortition Foundation randomly selected the 4000 addresses from the Royal Mail's address database.

After the closing date for responses (27 August), the Sortition Foundation randomly selected 25 participants, from those who expressed an interest, at the same time making sure that the profile of the 25 people selected reflects local diversity in terms of gender, age, ethnicity, disability and geography. The profile also aims to include representation from across different levels of multiple deprivation across Leeds.

Those who applied following the mailshot but were unsuccessful are being kept on a waiting list in case any jurors drop out.

Will people be identified as a member of the Citizens' Jury?

The names of the members of the Citizens' Jury will not be published.

Who will present to the jury and how will they be selected?

An important part of any Citizens' Jury or Assembly process is the role of the commentator (or expert witness). The commentator presents information to the members of the jury and is then questioned or cross-examined.

One of the main functions of the oversight panel is to identify and agree upon suitable commentators for the jury. If members of the oversight panel are unable to agree on which commentators are suitable for presenting on a particular topic it may be the case that more than one commentator is invited.

How accessible will the Citizens' Jury be?

All people selected to attend the Citizens' Jury will be contacted directly to discuss any support needs. There is a budget to cover any childcare costs, language support or other support needs. The venue will be wheelchair accessible. We will also pay travel expenses.