



#MyWorldOurPlanet  
#EUClimatePact

**Peer  
Parliaments**

Make  
yourself  
heard

## How to host a Peer Parliament: Your step-by-step guide to leading your group through a climate debate

**Debate as well as action are key to solving the climate crisis.** We need people across Europe to be able to interact and express their ideas, opinions and concerns about climate change, so that we can learn from each other and devise solutions that work for everyone. As a society, we all need to put our heads together to tackle the most pressing challenge of our generation. This is where you can come in!

We'd like to thank you for volunteering to host a Peer Parliament session, bringing together your friends, family, colleagues and neighbours to discuss the most pressing climate issues of our time. **By hosting a Peer Parliament, you are part of a Europe-wide initiative to get people talking about climate change.** The discussions that are being held across the continent will allow us all to express our ideas and learn from each other, with the aim of helping Europe to reach its goal of becoming the world's first climate-neutral continent and society by 2050.

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## Goal

The goal of the Peer Parliament is to reach a joint and informed group decision on crucial climate action questions. You can choose from a range of response options as well as suggest your own ideas. We provide easy to read materials for an informed debate. The interaction with the thoughts and opinions of all group members will lead to an exciting process of learning together and agreeing common solutions to some of the most pressing issues of our time. Your voices and choices will be heard and debated with policymakers and stakeholders.

## How do you host a Peer Parliament?

Hosting a Peer Parliament is easy and takes just five easy steps.

This step-by-step guide will help you moderate the discussion and ensure that everyone can express their thoughts and ideas in a structured way. Moreover, this guide will support you to turn your discussions into a clear result.

**Peer Parliament debates revolve around three main topics:**



**For each of them, we have prepared materials to inform and guide your discussion.**

Each topic consists of two main questions and several potential solutions for your group to debate. The materials will help you learn more about each of the options proposed, before you discuss their pros and cons. But, of course, it is not just about what we suggest – we want to hear from you! Contribute your own thoughts, ideas and solutions during the debate.



**Once your group has learned about the potential solutions and discussed their impact, it's time to vote.** You will lead a group vote, asking each member of the group to rank the different options from the ones you support most to the least supported. As the host, you will count the votes, record the results and share your experience with the [European Climate Pact](#).



Although we do provide you with some guidelines, Peer Parliaments are intended to be casual conversations about the climate rather than formal debates. Ensuring that your guests feel relaxed will encourage a better discussion. **To support you in this, we have prepared a structure for your Peer Parliament that will help you generate interesting and meaningful results.**

## What are the 5 steps of hosting a Peer Parliament?



### STEP 1:

### Setting the stage

The first step is about preparing for the debate before it begins. Just a small amount of preparation will help the conversation run smoothly.

- **Gather your guests:** Invite 5–10 people who are interested in having a discussion. They could be seasoned climate advocates, or completely new to the topic. The more mixed the group is, the more interesting the discussion will be. You can invite friends, family, colleagues, neighbours – the choice is yours.
- **Pick a spot:** Next, think of a place to hold the debate. It might be your nearest cafe, a local park or even your living room. Just make sure that your guests are comfortable and there isn't too much background noise – you want your guests to be heard.
- **Get ready:** We'll provide you with **learning materials** that contain some relevant facts, figures and information to spark the debate. Make sure you prepare these for your guests to read – or even email them beforehand. If necessary, you can print them, but we recommend using the digital version.
- **Be open to creativity:** We want your guests to think big! You can help them to be creative by providing pens and paper, as well as some snacks and drinks to keep them energised.
- **Keep an eye on the clock:** Timekeeping is important. Make sure discussions flow smoothly by timing the different sections of the debate or appoint a member of your group to help you keep to schedule.



## STEP 2:

# Welcome and introduction

15'

### Welcome (about 5 minutes)

A positive and friendly atmosphere is crucial for a successful Peer Parliament – it will make for a livelier discussion and better outcomes. Welcome your guests and make sure that they have all met each other. You can then introduce the topic of the debate and provide practical information about the discussion.

### Introduction (about 10 minutes)

- **Introduce the purpose of the discussion** and make sure all guests have the same understanding. Explain the goal, schedule and structure of the debate, as well as your role as the host. Tell your guests that you'll be responsible for keeping the discussion active and focused, and for creating an environment in which everyone has the chance to participate. Explain that you'll be keeping time and making sure that the goal of the debate is achieved. And don't forget: you can also participate in the debate and vote, just like the other guests.
- Introduce your guests to these **six basic debating rules**.
  1. Be constructive, open and honest.
  2. Speak only when you have the floor.
  3. Stick to the time limit for speaking.
  4. Everyone should speak up at least once. Peer Parliaments are a safe space in which to voice ideas.
  5. Let other people finish speaking before you start.
  6. Listen to others and appreciate the diversity of opinions in the group. There are no right, wrong, good or bad answers.
- Icebreaker round: Ask your guests to introduce themselves and share a fun or interesting story from their recent daily life that is connected to the topic of the debate (mobility, energy or consumption).

## STEP 3:

### Debate question 1



**LEARN:** Read the context (from the learning materials) and learn about the different options (about 15 minutes)

- As a host, read the question and the potential solutions, and check that the information is clear to everyone. The options will be explained in more detail in the sections below.
- You can ask a member of the group to read the general background information out loud.
- If needed, give people time to read the more specific information on each option.
- Ask your guests to consider any pros or cons that they can see for each potential solution.



**DISCUSS:** Moderate the discussion and listen to everyone's views (about 30 minutes)

- When all guests have finished reading, start the discussion.
- Allow everyone to take their turn to speak without interruption. Only open the floor up for further remarks after each guest has spoken.
- Use the following guiding questions:
  - Which of the four given options do you prefer? Which one do you like the least? **Why?**
  - Can you think of additional ways to achieve climate neutrality in this area? How would you describe an additional (fifth) option?
- Note down additional ideas that come up in the discussion and let the group decide which idea they want to add to the vote (to be inserted as 'Option E'). If there is no clear agreement, vote on the different proposals by show of hands.



**VOTE:** Supervise the voting procedure (about 15 minutes)

- When the discussion has ended, announce that it's time to decide on your group's final ranking. You can use the voting procedure described here, but you are free to also choose a different decision-making mechanism.
- Ask each guest to give their **preferred option the highest score (five points)**, their **second most preferred option four points**, and so on, until the least preferred option gets one point.
- Ask your guests to fill out ballot papers (at the end of the guide) or collect the scores from them yourself. As the host, it is your job to count the votes and note down the total score for each option on the score sheet. You should then note down and announce the group's final overall ranking of all the options.
- If there is a draw between two options with the same number of points, ask for a quick show of hands to determine which one is more preferable.



## STEP 4:

### Debate question 2



Repeat the elements of Step Three (LEARN, DISCUSS, VOTE), this time focusing on Debate question 2.





## STEP 5:

# Submit the results and conclude

Congratulations – you've done a great job as host! Take a group photo or even record a short video on your phone and jump straight to 'Thank you and goodbye.' Or, you can upload the results together as follows.

### Share the group results (about 10 minutes)

- Go to the Climate Pact website and **share your experience**. Your results will be shared with European policymakers and stakeholders.
- Let people in your network know about your experience and results. Share a group picture or even a video of your Peer Parliament through social media, using the hashtags #EUClimatePact and #PeerParliaments.

### Thank you and goodbye (about 5 minutes)

- Thank everyone in the group for their valuable contributions and assure them that their votes and ideas will be heard. If your guests want to stay informed about the outcomes of the Peer Parliaments – or if they want to organise their own – tell them to **visit the European Climate Pact website**.
- You can also **share the ideas you have discussed during the Peer Parliament** and get involved in further discussions about your vision for future European climate policies with people from all over Europe, at a variety of events with policy-makers, citizens and stakeholders, at local, regional and European level.





## Ballots for question 1

Points	Option
5 points	
4 points	
3 points	
2 points	
1 point	

Points	Option
5 points	
4 points	
3 points	
2 points	
1 point	

Points	Option
5 points	
4 points	
3 points	
2 points	
1 point	

Points	Option
5 points	
4 points	
3 points	
2 points	
1 point	

Points	Option
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Points	Option
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Points	Option
5 points	
4 points	
3 points	
2 points	
1 point	

Points	Option
5 points	
4 points	
3 points	
2 points	
1 point	

Points	Option
5 points	
4 points	
3 points	
2 points	
1 point	

## Score sheet

Option	Points	Rank
A		
B		
C		
D		
E		

## Ballots for question 2

Points	Option
5 points	
4 points	
3 points	
2 points	
1 point	

Points	Option
5 points	
4 points	
3 points	
2 points	
1 point	

Points	Option
5 points	
4 points	
3 points	
2 points	
1 point	

Points	Option
5 points	
4 points	
3 points	
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Points	Option
5 points	
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Points	Option
5 points	
4 points	
3 points	
2 points	
1 point	

Points	Option
5 points	
4 points	
3 points	
2 points	
1 point	

## Score sheet

Option	Points	Rank
A		
B		
C		
D		
E		