



BEYOND POLITICS

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES

Citizens' Assemblies are a group of randomly selected citizens, from 100 to 1,000 in size, that represent a microcosm of society.

They are brought together to make political decisions, particularly on issues that are too controversial for politicians to risk their careers.

This process can take from months to years.

CA members go through a deliberative democracy learning process where they have access to experts and listen to many points of view and differing interest groups, before they come to a decision.

Members often find that even though they came to the issue with their own strongly held ideas and thinking, they will have their mind completely changed through the deeper knowledge and wider perspective gained through the process.

Academic research shows that people trust citizens' assemblies. Whereas no-one trusts politicians.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLIES

People's Assemblies are a group of self selecting people who come together in an assembly, often in occupied spaces as part of a movement towards revolutionary change (Tahir Square, Egypt).

The aim of the PAs can be to make decisions, discuss issues or rapidly organise.

Assemblies usually last from an hour to four hours and often happen in occupied spaces, roads or open town or city squares.

The people's assembly will use participatory democracy, that is, everyone's voice is heard equally and no voices lead. The aim is for the collective voice of the entire assembly to become involved in arriving at a decision. Trained facilitators are used to support the process.

People will find that even though they have come to the issue with their own strongly held ideas and thinking, they will have their mind completely changed through the deeper knowledge and wider perspective gained through the process.

Human experience shows that people trust people's assemblies. Whereas no one trusts politicians.



Search Extinction Rebellion / Follow us on social media for updates and events