



Westminster Citizens' Climate Assembly

Recommendations Summary Report August 2023















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WHO ARE THE WESTMINSTER CITIZENS' CLIMATE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

The members of the Westminster Citizens' Climate Assembly are a group of 47 randomly selected people, who broadly represent the Borough of Westminster.

They came together in-person over four days in June and July 2023 to discuss this question:

'How can we overcome the main barriers to Westminster becoming a net zero city by 2040 together? How do we ensure this is delivered in the fairest way?'

The Climate Assembly members are:

Albert	Francesca	Peter C
Alec	Genevieve	Petya
Aleix	Hala	Rabih
Ali	Ismahan	Rachel
Amadeo	James	Rashmi
Amanda	Judith	Raymond
Anna	Karim	Shamim
Awatif	Kishan	Siddarth
Ayfer	Marla	Simon
Belgacem	Miranda	Sofia
Bryony	Nader	Sonia
Chen Chen	Najaf	Sidney
Clarissa	Nilufar	Veronica
Cyrille	Patricia	Wafa
Daniel L	Patrick	Yu Sang (Sam)
Daniel G	Peter R	







EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Westminster City Council declared a climate emergency in 2019, setting out their ambitions to be a net zero carbon Council by 2030, and working with their partners and communities to become a net zero city by 2040.

The City of Westminster has some of the highest carbon emissions by local authority area across the UK and achieving the target of net zero emissions by 2040 will require ambition action across all parts of the city- businesses, communities, and individual day-to-day activities.

The Westminster Citizens' Climate Assembly (WCCA) was commissioned as part of the Council's efforts to address climate change and strengthen its response to the climate crisis by improving the representation of residents' views on how to tackle the climate emergency.

Assembly participants were asked to consider the following questions and make recommendations on key areas of activity to help support and strengthen the Council's climate action response.

How can we overcome the main barriers to Westminster becoming a net zero city by 2040 together? How do we ensure this is delivered in the fairest way?

How it worked

During June and July 2023, Westminster Citizens' Climate Assembly brought together a randomly selected group of local people to learn about the climate emergency, to discuss issues together and then make recommendations on what steps should be taken to address the Assembly questions.

Over four Climate Assembly days and three online micro group sessions, 47 residents met to listen to evidence from a range of expert speakers (technical and lived experience) and learn about the barriers and the impact that climate change has on different communities.

- Day one focused on what the assembly was trying to achieve and gave assembly members a better understanding of the climate emergency.
- Day two focused on climate justice, and how to tackle the climate emergency fairly and equitably. Members created a vision statement and a set of guiding principles.
- Day three invited people to develop ideas for recommendations and test these with a range of people.
- Day four, the final day, helped participants refine and finalise their recommendations before presenting their final agreed recommendations from the assembly.

The micro groups provided a chance for small group discussions that supported people to ask questions, raise issues, make new connections and for relationships to grow.







How residents were selected

Assembly members were selected using a two-stage lottery where:

- 1) addresses were randomly selected for sending invites to; and
- 2) of those who expressed an interest, another random selection took place to ensure the assembly accurately represented the diversity of the City of Westminster's population.

The table below shows the criteria for recruitment, the targets that were set at the start and how the targets were met.

Stratific	ation criteria	Target %	Final members	Variation from target
Gender	Female	51.7	51	- 0.7
	Male	47.8	48.1	+0.3
	Other	0.5	0	- 0.5
Age	16-19	5.1	7.8	+2.7
	20-24	10.9	11.8	+0.9
	25-34	24.9	19.6	- 5.3
	35-49	24.7	25.5	+0.8
	50-64	20.5	21.6	+1.1
	65+	13.9	13.7	- 0.2
Ethnicity	Asian or Asian British	16.8	15.7	- 1.1
	Black or African or Caribbean or Black British	8.1	9.8	+1.7
	Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	6.5	7.8	+1
	White	55.2	54.9	- 0.3
	Other ethnic group	13.5	11.8	- 1.7
Disability	Yes, a lot	7.8	5.8	- 2
	Yes, a little	8	13.5	+5.5
	No	84.1	78.8	-5.3
Financial comfort	I am very comfortable financially	11	5.9	- 5.1
	I am relatively comfortable financially	41	43.1	+ 2.1
	I am just about managing financially	37	35.3	- 1.7
	I am not really managing financially, and often struggle to make ends meet	3	9.8	+6.8
	I am not managing financially, and often have to go without essentials or am falling deeper into debt	0.3	2	+1.7
	Not sure	8	3.9	- 4.1
Climate opinion	Not at all important	2.76	0	-2.76
	Not very important	1.97	3.9	+1.93
	Somewhat important	7.5	9.8	+2.3
	Very important	18.18	27.5	+9.32
	Extremely important	69.5	58.8	- 10.7



Westminster Citizens' Climate Assembly



	Other or don't know	0.1	0	- 0.1	
Geography	Group A (Harrow Road, Westbourne and Queen's Park)	16.8	21.6	+4.8	
	Group B (Bayswater, Little Venice and Maida Vale)	16.7	15.7	- 1	
	Group C (Abbey Road, Church Street and Regent's Park)	17.4	17.6	+0.2	
	Group D (Hyde Park, Lancaster Gate and Marylebone)	16.9	11.8	-5.1	
	Group E (Knightsbridge & Belgravia, St James's and West End)	16.7	17.6	+0.9	
	Group F (Pimlico North, Pimlico South and Vincent Square)	15.5	15.7	+ 0.2	

Climate Assembly Advisory Group

An independent advisory group was established to oversee the design and implementation of the assembly. Their role was to provide advice and guidance to ensure the assembly plan, evidence and materials were accurate, balanced and unbiased.

Pre-engagement

Involve and the Council led four pre-engagement workshops with a range of stakeholders, to inform the design of the in-person assembly sessions.

Two workshops were hosted with a number of representatives from local VCS organisations, and businesses. Another internal workshop was held with a broad cross section of Council services, with a final workshop then being attended by Cabinet Members.

The purpose of these workshops was:

- to raise awareness about the purpose and ambition of the Assembly
- to explore the barriers associated with reaching net zero by 2040 in the fairest way, from a range of perspectives
- to allow an opportunity for attendees to input into the assembly content
- for attendees to make suggestions of expert speakers to contact

The assembly recommendations will be shared with all attendees of these workshops.







WESTMINSTER CITIZENS' CLIMATE ASSEMBLY VISION, PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During day two, Assembly members created a vision statement for a 2040 net zero city. They also set key principles to ensure that in Westminster, reaching net zero is delivered in a fair way.

Assembly Vision and Principles

Vision and Principles		
Vision for a net zero Westminster	Empower communities and businesses to work together to build a sustainable and resilient environment that fosters a healthier and greener way of life.	
Principles for delivering net zero in the fairest way	 Prioritise climate change actions in the buildings we live and work in. 	
	• Make our actions transparent, measurable and independent from the political process.	
	• Engage and educate the community, to enable fair and inclusive decision making.	
	• Create incentives for both businesses and citizens to create change.	
	• Drive change through equity, inclusivity and co-ordination between all stakeholders.	

Both outputs provide an important bedrock for the assembly's recommendations.

Day three and four focused on creating and reaching agreement on a set of recommendations. Together, assembly members produced eight recommendations, and five minority recommendations for the Council to consider and take forward.

Each recommendation that received 80% or more support through a vote on the final day, was presented to the Council.

A number of recommendations received less than 80% support, so were not presented on the day. Those that received between 40% and 79% of support and are included as minority recommendations. Those that received less than 40% support were excluded from the list of minority recommendations, although they will still be included within the main report. Westminster Citizens' Climate Assembly







Majority Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION 1 - Agreed by 91% of assembly members

To fund and support greening initiatives and projects. Both in terms of increasing biodiversity and developing green infrastructure and technologies.

THE ACTIONS NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

Short

- Conduct mapping survey
- Research regularly if not already conducted
- More tree planting (faster, easier, less red tape)
- Rejuvenation of areas

Medium

- Engage full spectrum of experts including (not exhaustive) engineers, charities, finance, tech, science
- Communicate at public and local level Long
- Change and amend national legislation including new, increase, modify, remove
- Measure transparently and an independent audit including live analytics, test stations and publication of achievements

WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

- Council (accountable) for policy and execution
- Charities to direct support and provide expertise including not for profit e.g. education bodies
- Private sector (small businesses are involved)
- Large enterprises involved due to funding and integrating these activities in their business

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

WCC

OUR TOP 3 REASONS <u>WHY THIS IS</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>:

- Health benefits (physical and mental)
- Energy management and reduction
- Foster sense of community pride and fuels further change encouraging shared cohesion

- Ensure all areas benefit prioritise disadvantaged areas
- Subsidise and fully fund the services to make them more accessible to all







RECOMMENDATION 2 - Agreed by 89% of assembly members

Building and introducing renewable energy technology on new and existing infrastructure, while also supporting current initiatives.

THE ACTIONS NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

Short

- Maintaining initiatives that promote clean energies (EVs, carbon offset price)
- Creating economic incentives to make goals commercially viable

Medium

• Utilising public space to generate clean energy (bus stops, footpaths, roofs, solar, roads etc)

Long

• Supporting and leveraging new technologies (kinetic...)

WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

- Council
- Residents
- Businesses

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

• Council, Residents, Businesses

OUR TOP 3 REASONS WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT:

- 86% of carbon emissions come from buildings
- 11% of carbon emissions come from road transport
- Cleaner air and energy for Westminster

- Ensure that disadvantaged and vulnerable communities are benefited through the initiatives
- Tackling the cost implications for companies and residents by creating new policies (like subsidies)







RECOMMENDATION 3 - Agreed by 87% of assembly members

Energy efficiency rating on any organisation, whether for profit or not, which owns, manages or occupies one or more non-residential buildings in Westminster. Provide incentives for and assistance in hitting targets. Publish this data for transparency for the council website and promote through WCC communication channels.

THE ACTIONS NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

Short

- Clear and ambitious policy, communication and education directed at businesses
- Incentivise businesses that are willing to participate in order to stimulate participation

Medium

- Establish a system that:
- Consistently updates data on a live website for monitoring and accountability purposes
- Rates businesses on a scale similar to energy rating used for white goods
- Requires businesses to display rating on the premises

Long

• Measurement and reporting of performance

OUR TOP 3 REASONS <u>WHY THIS IS</u> IMPORTANT:

- Commercial buildings are the biggest polluters in Westminster
- Individuals are disproportionately impacted by emissions
- Public information

ENSURE THIS IS DELIVERED IN THE FAIREST WAY:

- Give businesses time to improve and / or prepare for retrofit
- Strengthen enforcement for non compliance

WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

- Community; including residents, workers, students, businesses (commercial and SME)
- The Council

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

• The Council and definition of organisation as listed above in top box







RECOMMENDATION 4 - Agreed by 96% of assembly members

It should be mandatory for all types of businesses to ensure that developers reuse and recycle materials and minimise energy use. This should be complemented by the revised one-stop circular construction website, that offers easy access to all.

ACTIONS NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN: OUR TOP 3 REASONS WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT:

 Short Revise website communication and awareness Medium Communicate benefits to businesses Long Consolidate rules and regulations so that businesses can comply 	 Ensuring businesses are proactive Reduce construction waste Preserve resources ENSURE THIS IS DELIVERED IN THE FAIREST WAY:		
	 Regulate amounts that can be used by businesses depending on business type and size Continuous monitoring and auditing of website (updated stats) Enforcement through penalties but encouragement through incentives e.g. public accreditation 		
WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?			
 WCC and Communications Team Government Construction Industry Businesses Communications Team 			
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?			
The Council & Government & Regulating bodies			







RECOMMENDATION 5 - Agreed by 85% of assembly members

Make climate action the top priority when updating planning policies and documents and giving approvals. Pay particular attention to prioritising climate action in listed buildings.

THE ACTIONS NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

Short

- Change WCC attitude towards heritage challenged buildings
- Engage public resistance to changing public buildings

Medium

• Create steering group to advise WCC planning dept on updating existing policy to prioritise climate action

Long

• Ensure policy change is implemented and regularly updated

WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

- Lobby at national government level
- Climate action steering group

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

The Council's planning department

OUR TOP 3 REASONS <u>WHY THIS IS</u> IMPORTANT:

- Buildings in WCC contribute 86% of CO2.
- WCC has highest proportion of heritage buildings in UK
- Immediate impact and low cost

ENSURE THIS IS DELIVERED IN THE FAIREST WAY:

 Steering group including external stakeholders from community and professional experts







RECOMMENDATION 6 - Agreed by 85% of assembly members

Develop an educational programme for the community (including schools) which builds green skills. Green skills include: active lifestyle, living sustainably, growing food, recycling, cooking, gardening and nature.

THE ACTIONS NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

Short

- Develop educational programme (curriculum) Targeted at all ages
- Gain funding/investment from local business partnerships.
- Promote programme through social media/website/local radio

Medium Term

- Practical workshops available in community hubs, youth clubs, sports clubs to broaden outreach of educational programmes.
- Involve the wider community through events (e.g. food sharing events with cuisine from all over the world) + networking

Long Term

- Get feedback from all ages about how educational event are working
- Assess and evaluate the impact: event attendance, food growing, parent participation
- Target every school in Westminster
- Gardening space at schools for the school community

WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

- Schools/academics/head teachers/trustee/governors
- Business partners
- Climate Ed (educational charity)
- MPs/Department of Education
- Mayor + Westminster City Council

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

The Council & local government, Elected officials at the Council & GLA

OUR TOP 3 REASONS <u>WHY THIS IS</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>:

- Skills for the future to help us reach net zero by 2040
- Increase awareness, positivity and action
- Social cohesion behind a common goal
- To create job opportunities in the green sector

- Involve older people in the community
- Involve foreign students (ESL) English as a second language
- All schools- free to take part
- Support people from disadvantaged backgrounds to participate







RECOMMENDATION 7 - Agreed by 80% of assembly members

Recycling needs to be scaled up by all stakeholders to include a wider variety of waste streams. Information should be provided in simpler, easy to understand language, and multiple languages most appropriate to Westminster's diverse community and visitors.

THE ACTIONS NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

Short

- Increase collection and capacity: 2x recycling collections per week
- Support repair cafes and initiatives for repair, reuse and upcycling

Medium

- Introduce schemes to incentivise recycling e.g. bottle deposits and a points based rewards scheme with vouchers and discounts
- Setup the infrastructure to recycle WEEE centrally
- Incentivise sustainable consumer and business behaviour e.g. refills, reusable products, sustainable packaging that are more affordable

Long

• Providing resources and space equitably across Westminster to parks, households, gardens to process green waste

OUR TOP 3 REASONS <u>WHY THIS IS</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by rewarding consumption waste, landfill and incineration
- To enable greater understanding and participation in waste, reuse, reduction and recycling
- Greater resource efficiency, promoting a circular economy including cradle to cradle design

ENSURE THIS IS DELIVERED IN THE FAIREST WAY:

- Resources and effort for the comms and education to be equitably divided across Westminster
- Information accessible in multiple ways (e.g. leaflets and website) and accessibility options (e.g. colour blindness options)
- Charity support to increase training and support for people with multiple and complex needs that are willing and able to participate

WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

- Businesses, households, blocks- Housing Associations/Estate Managers
- Individuals: Landlords, Tenants

- Tourists and visitors
- WCC + Central Government including historic sites
- Charities- especially on repurposing and repair

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

The Council & local government Elected officials at the Council & GLA





RECOMMENDATION 8 - Agreed by 87% of assembly members

Review, Adapt & Act- We expect WCC to reconvene the citizen's assembly annually, regardless of political affiliation and independent of the election cycle, to account for its progress and to restate goals in light of any shortfall

THE ACTIONS NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

Mapping of recommendation to the person accountable and to the council Short:

- Create future calendar of continuing the assembly
- Create an action plan of recommendation
- Establish a citizens climate assembly committee comprising one representation from all stakeholders

Medium:

- Communicate the progress of the recommendation through existing channels (emails, letters, flyers etc. in multi-languages)
- Creating the new first draft of the new dashboard including recommendation holder's mapping progress, outcomes, partners of each recommendation

Long:

- 360 degree interactive and accessible dashboard covering status of recommendation from ideation to realisation
- Regular annual assembly to be made more accountable of every recommendation

WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

- Responsible citizens of Westminster, and Expert citizens
- The Council's partners
- Head of Councils
- Westminster Council experts

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Named Councillor

Westminster Citizens' Climate Assembly

OUR TOP 3 REASONS WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT:

- Accountability and transparency for both stakeholders citizens/council
- Continuous performance improvement of recommendations
- Identify deviation, assess their impact and implement appropriate controls to mitigate them

- Transparency is a key aspect of fairness, one single source of truth in dashboard to include end to end recommendation stream map between wcc and it's partners of that implementation that particular recommendation
- Dashboard to be implemented on the climate emergency web page and non digital channel to be accessible and inclusive
- Data accuracy quality- user access training and contextual understanding to making informed decisions







Minority Recommendations

A minority recommendation is a recommendation that received positive support from a smaller group of assembly members. (At least 40% of votes but less than 80%). These minority recommendations help highlight wider diverse views that are not held by the majority of the participants in the panel. Work that didn't meet the 40% threshold are contained within the body of the main report.

Minority recommendations are listed in order of % support.

Minority Recommendation 1 - Agreed by 76% of assembly members

Create a WCC climate and related health support team. A home visit scheme run by WCC that is either voluntarily requested or recommended by health and other social services. Giving guidance advice and offering affordable improvements on health and climate efficiency.

THE ACTIONS NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:	OUR TOP 3 REASONS WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT:
 Short Funding and resourcing Targeted comms to vulnerable groups Framework of content Medium Funding and resourcing Ongoing update and reviewing content Review of effectiveness e.g., take up of vulnerable groups Accessibility Long Funding and resourcing 	 Buildings contribute 86% of WCC emissions Improved health benefits for those less well off Education linked to action
	 ENSURE THIS IS DELIVERED IN THE FAIREST WAY: Free at points of use Prompt from social / health services help capture disadvantaged people Efficiency advice and provided improvements
	help save people money

WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

- WCC
- Social / health services (low additional impact to workload as referrals only)
- Charities (bringing together existing council charity schemes of a similar nature)

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

WCC







Minority Recommendation 2 - Agreed by 76% of assembly members

Ensure WCC 'business community partnership scheme' is tailored towards achieving net zero.

THE ACTIONS NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

Short

- Review current incentives / rewards available and publicise underutilised ones
- Identify new / develop incentives / rewards
- Make projects / schemes accessible to all sizes of businesses / organisations
- Develop existing and form new business council relationships and outreach to increase engagement and community contributions
- Raise awareness e.g., tax relief schemes

Medium

- Lobby for any changes at a government level
- Make it easy and attractive for willing and able businesses to participate e.g., obvious results or work in progress ready to start projectsemotional appeal e.g., save an asthmatic child's life. Have visible sponsorship options. Businesses group together to fund bigger projects.
- Seed funding?

Long

- Awards ceremony?
- Recognising participation then manage scheme as a programme ensuring coordination, evaluation and promotion of programme

WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

- Businesses
- Grass roots organisations
- Charities
- Community Groups

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

WCC

OUR TOP 3 REASONS <u>WHY THIS IS</u> IMPORTANT:

- Secures private sector funding / resources
- Publicises importance of net zero
- Achieves positive results with cross community engagement
- Potential to speed up progress to achieving net zero goal

- Full range of scheme and geographic need / coverage.
- All level participation.







Minority Recommendation 3 - Agreed by 67% of assembly members

Lobby the government to introduce legislation to limit/restrict the availability of carbon credits to all businesses, whilst also incentivising with funding for abiding businesses

THE ACTIONS NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

Short

• To be discussed at local level assemblies (via councillors)

Medium

- Legislation to be drafted
- Consultation with businesses

Long

• Present proposal to government (national)

OUR TOP 3 REASONS <u>WHY THIS IS</u> IMPORTANT:

- Accountability
- Reducing emissions
- Tackling major contributors

ENSURE THIS IS DELIVERED IN THE FAIREST WAY:

- Tiered/phase approach (depending on business size and type)
- Abiding businesses that perform well should be rewarded

WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

- WCC
- Government
- Businesses

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

All parties above







Minority Recommendation 4 - Agreed by 65% of assembly members

Council provided a carbon calculator for SMEs (small medium enterprises) with integrated advice. Resources (they will use) and that provides measured tax breaks for carbon reductions that reflect the size and budget of the organisations

THE ACTIONS NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

Short

- Sourcing the base data for the tool
- creating the guidance and content
- Initial using and ongoing testing during development
- Sourcing and funding
- Make clear to SMEs what the benefit is

Medium

- Programming the tool
- Providing assurance for the sums
- Communication and awareness
- Council to check and follow up (governance)

Long

• Long maintaining the tool over the long term

WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

- Council is accountable
- SMES regularly consulted and tested towards effectiveness
- Steering group who owns, develop and maintain the tool
- Specialists / non-profit orgs / charities to consult and educate SMEs
- independent auditors

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Council- accountable

OUR TOP 3 REASONS <u>WHY THIS IS</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>:

- Standardised measurement of impact
- If you can't measure, how do you know if it is effective
- Feedback from the businesses

- For SMEs (possibly large companies)
- Making the tool accessible to those with physical disabilities (colour blind)
- Make for those less tech savvy







Minority Recommendation 5 - Agreed by 46% of assembly members

Reprioritise residential and commercial areas to favour sustainable transport. Reduced reliance on private vehicles in favour of alternatives- walking, cycling etc.

THE ACTIONS NEEDED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN:

Short

- Consultation with public and businesses to identify problem areas and educate on benefits
- Survey potential areas for pedestrianisation
- Evaluate needs of businesses to identify efficiencies regarding deliveries
- Identify potential location for delivery hubs to reduce vehicles in problem areas
- Identify where private parking may be less needed by residents

Medium

- Trial areas- feedback throughout
- Initiate incentives- tax breaks /fines

Long

- Pedestrianisation of certain areas
- Delivery hubs- 'last mile centres' for Amazon and similar
- Reduced parking availability for non-electric vehicles

WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

- Businesses
- Residents
- TfL and GLA

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

- Council- enforcement and legislation
- Business- compliance and consultation
- Residents feedback and review

OUR TOP 3 REASONS <u>WHY THIS IS</u> IMPORTANT:

- Air quality
- Reduce congestion
- Better for pedestrians and cyclists

- Consult with businesses and residents
- Feedback throughout process to ensure fairness and make changes as needed
- Regular review
- Clear signage of rules
- Fair notice of planned changes







NEXT STEPS

A delegation of Assembly Members will present the recommendations to the Climate Leadership Group, a quarterly meeting with all Cabinet Members, on 7th September. After this meeting, the Council will provide a written formal response to the Assembly participants.

Westminster Citizens Climate Assembly will be included on the Full Council agenda on 20th September.

On 28th September, an event will be held to thank Assembly participants and discuss next steps and opportunities for staying involved with the Council.





