



Cynulliad Hinsawdd
Climate Assembly

Expert Witness

Sian Cox, Extinction Rebellion Cymru

What is your passion / specialism / position on solutions to the climate crisis?

I'm not an expert on carbon reduction or local solutions.
I'm an ordinary person, involved in the push for global change.

1. Global system change is needed

It's a global emergency – the global tank is full
Caused by the global economic system – global pumps on full blast
Global pumps need to be turned off now

2. Governments can't do what's necessary

MPs need votes. Next election.
Voters want benefits now.
Turning pumps off = impacts now. Benefits later.

3. Ordinary people can and will do what is necessary

CAs plan long term, for the common good.
Local action not big or fast enough for global emergency.
We need national CAs held by national governments.

Thinking about critics and/or alternative views to that which you have put forward above – what would others say about your perspective and idea?

Critic: We don't need to change the system; we all just need to do our bit

Me: 71% of emissions trace back to 100 global companies.
Making \$ trillions in profits. Planning \$ trillions more.
Profit-driven system = pumps keep pumping

Critic: XR is undemocratic – forcing us to change our lifestyles.

Me: XR use peaceful direct action
To force government to act, not individuals



With an independent CA on solutions fair to *everyone*.
Citizens' Assemblies are true democracy.

Critic: The UK has already had a CA on climate change

Me: Only on net zero by 2050 (pumps on for 30 more years)

Only on emissions inside the UK – not our huge emissions from trade and investments overseas
Government didn't commission it and can ignore its recommendations.

Critic: Citizens' assemblies aren't perfect either

Me: We're not aiming for perfection. We're aiming for better.

Use this final part of your presentation to help Assembly members better understand your position in relation to others and what that means for addressing the question that they have been set.

3.5% - powerful, peaceful force for change

1. Local action is good...

- Don't stop here – keep going.
- Join together and with others to push for local change.

2. ... but not big or fast enough for the global emergency

- Keep going, local to national
- Connect with other CA members across UK
- Join XR. We're all kinds of ordinary people, trying to make Government:

1. Tell everyone the truth about the emergency.
2. Act immediately – net zero by 2025 and halt nature destruction.
3. Hold (and trust) a Citizens' Assembly to decide how, in a way that is fair to everyone.

3. Keep in touch?

I'm in the CA Working Group for XR Cymru. We work to tell people about citizens' assemblies. We'd love you to keep in touch with us. Our email address is: CymruCAWG@protonmail.com.



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Suggested further research:

Videos:

- Governments act when 3.5% of the population pushes for change (12 mins): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJSehRIU34w&ab_channel=TEDxTalks
- 7.5 min film on the Oxford City Council CA on climate change: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcci4Yc8ywU&ab_channel=OxfordCityCouncil
- 25 min film on the Irish CA on climate change: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFTyKcbVpyU&t=635s&ab_channel=EcoEye
- 7 min film about the French CA on climate change and a just solution: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyqTvBzsTqI&ab_channel=MehrDemokratie

Websites and campaigns

- Extinction Rebellion UK: <https://extinctionrebellion.uk/>
- Extinction Rebellion Cymru: <https://xrcymru.wales/>
- The Wales Six Principles campaign. Calling on all political parties to support six principles (including a CA) for dealing with the climate and nature emergency: <https://www.sixprinciples.org/>
- The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill. Supported by 110 MPs so far. We need to get more MPs to support it – there are 650! – or nothing will happen: <https://www.ceebill.uk>

Recommended reading

- 'Emergency on Planet Earth'. A clear, easy to understand, all-in-one-place explanation of the various aspects of the problem and how they tie together. By Emily Grossman: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GBVyOoJuD2pd1lCYDBE7jvs1YvLbtbSh/>

Sources of information in my talk

- Emissions are caused by the global system: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/climate-change/causes-of-climate-change>
- Emissions up 60% since 1990: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/chart-global-co2-emissions-rose-60-between-1990-and-2013>
- Nature destroyed at a rate never before seen: <https://www.wwf.org.uk/press-release/living-planet-report-2020>
- Current world government policies lead to 3 degrees by 2100: <https://climateactiontracker.org/global/temperatures/>
- Politicians lobbied by powerful vested interests to maintain status quo:



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- <https://influencemap.org/page/Measuring-Corporate-Influence-of-Climate-Change-Policy>
- MPs not experts on climate change:
https://www.rebeccawillis.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Building_a_political_mandate_for_climate_action.pdf
- OECD recommends governments use and be led by CAs:
<https://www.oecd.org/gov/open-government/innovative-citizen-participation-new-democratic-institutions-catching-the-deliberative-wave-highlights.pdf>
- 71% of greenhouse gas emissions trace back to 100 global companies:
<https://fullfact.org/news/are-100-companies-causing-71-carbon-emissions/>
- Who plan \$4.9 trillion of further fossil fuel expansion in 2020-2030
<https://www.globalwitness.org/en/blog/big-oil-set-to-spend-5-trillion/>
- Who are subsidised \$ hundreds of billions every year by governments:
<https://www.iisd.org/gsi/what-we-do/focus-areas/fossil-fuel-subsidies-climate-change>
- Who are winning \$ billions in damages from governments for environmental action:
<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/jun/10/obscure-legal-system-lets-corporations-sue-states-ttip-icsid>
- UK emissions overseas contribution to global warming:
UK_Carbon_Footprint_Analysis_Report_March_2020 (003).pdf