# Malmö Climate Citizens' Assembly (Klimatrådslaget 2024)

City of Malmö

## INTRODUCTION

Between **September and October 2024**, Malmö held its own **climate citizens' assembly, known locally as Klimatrådslaget**. It was **one of three Swedish pilots organised by Klimatriksdagen, the People's Climate Parliament**, an independent, non-partisan organisation that tests new ways to bring citizens into local climate policy. Malmö joined as part of the Speak Up partnership, to explore new deliberative methods for local climate transition.

**Forty Malmö residents** took part, including **four local politicians**, through a structured, multi-stage process. The goal was to **produce concrete proposals** for speeding up Malmö's climate action locally, while also **giving municipal staff hands-on experience with deliberative methods**, building capacity for the future.

The process started with several **introductory knowledge sessions** in the evenings, then moved into a **two-day deliberative assembly** in a weekend. Participants produced **six overarching recommendations and 26 concrete proposals**. These were **formally handed to the responsible deputy mayor**, then **reviewed by the Environmental Committee**, with the intention of folding them into the city's ongoing transition-area roadmaps and its environmental programme.

The assembly aimed to **build knowledge**, **strengthen engagement**, and **shape Malmö's climate direction through resident-driven insight**.



**SWEDEN**

## ENGAGEMENT LEVEL

- **Inform**
- **Consult**
- **Involve**
- Collaborate
- Empower

## MANDATE

The process was started by **Klimatriksdagen**, together with the **City of Malmö**, which joined the pilot to strengthen democratic participation in its climate transition. Malmö committed **real resources: venues, communication support, educational material, experts, and political participation**. Before the assembly even began, the city issued a **formal declaration of intent**, promising to receive and consider all recommendations that came out of it.

The assembly's mandate was **advisory**, not decision-making. Still, its proposals were formally received by the **deputy mayor responsible for democracy and human rights**, and later reviewed by the **Environmental Committee, the political body overseeing Malmö's environmental policy**. The Committee then tasked the **Environmental Department** with analysing all 26 proposals, and preparing recommendations for political follow-up.

Participants were told clearly what to expect. Their ideas would be considered within **Malmö's ten climate transition-area roadmaps**, the city's local climate action plans, and its **Environmental Programme 2021-203**0. There was no promise of full implementation. But the commitment to review, analyse, and feed proposals into existing planning gave the assembly a real, if non-binding, influence.

## RECRUITMENT AND PARTICIPATION

**40 Malmö residents** took part, **including 4 local politicians**, with another **10 people following as observers**. Klimatriksdagen and the City of Malmö recruited jointly, through the city's website, social media, bus screen ads, library information screens, internal municipal channels, and outreach to schools, organisations, and community networks.

Registration was open to **anyone aged 16 or older**. **216 residents expressed interest.** From there, Klimatriksdagen used a **stratified random selection tool** to build a group that **reflected Malmö's population in age, gender, education level, and city district**.

The assembly ran entirely in **Swedish**, and participation was **voluntary**, **without financial compensation**. That limited who could realistically take part. The city has since identified translation, childcare, and compensation as things to add in future assemblies, to reduce barriers and improve representativeness. No such support was offered in this pilot, but the lessons learned are clear on this point.

## PROCESS DESIGN

The whole process **ran for about a month, in three stages**: building knowledge, developing a shared vision, and a two-day in-person assembly.

Participants first attended **one in-person introductory session**, followed by **three digital evening sessions**, covering climate knowledge, local emissions data, and the basics of deliberative decision-making. From there, themes for the assembly itself were identified through **facilitated exercises, clustering, and voting**, narrowing down to six themes.

The **main assembly** ran on 12 and 13 October 2024. Participants worked in **facilitated groups** to develop recommendations and detailed proposals. **Municipal staff** took part too, both as observers and support, getting first-hand experience with deliberative methods themselves.

Afterward, Malmö ran an **internal follow-up process** from November 2024 to April 2025, including three cross-departmental workshops, an administrative analysis, and political review by the Environmental Committee. It closed with a **follow-up meeting for participants** on 6 May 2025.



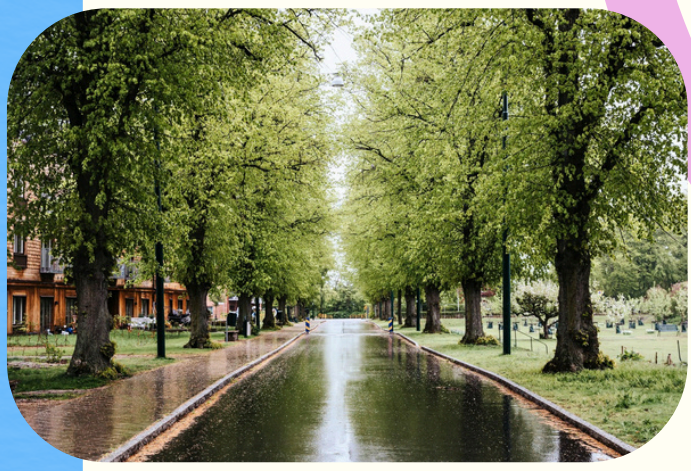
## OUTPUT & FOLLOW-UP

The assembly's core output was **six recommendations** and **26 detailed proposals** for accelerating Malmö's climate transition, handed to the deputy mayor and reviewed by the Environmental Committee.

Between November 2024 and February 2025, the Environmental Department assessed each proposal against ongoing municipal work: the ten transition areas, and the Environmental Programme 2021-2030. **Three internal workshops** in January 2025 brought staff from different departments together, to weigh feasibility, spot overlaps with existing plans, and think through next steps.

The resulting analysis went to the Environmental Committee in April 2025, which then tasked the Environmental Department with folding relevant proposals into the transition-area roadmaps. The report was also **shared with other departments**, for use in their own planning.

Many proposals turned out to **align closely with initiatives already underway**, which gave them extra weight internally. It's still too early to say how much will actually be implemented. But the **proposals have already fed into strategic thinking** across several transition areas, so the process is having a real, tangible effect, even without full implementation yet.





## RESOURCES

The initiative was **jointly resourced by Klimatriksdagen and the City of Malmö, through the Speak Up project.** Klimatriksdagen led the design and facilitation of the process. Malmö contributed expert input, logistics, communication channels, and political backing. Multiple municipal units were involved, both during the assembly and afterward.

The **post-assembly analysis** needed **significant staff time**, covering workshops, drafting, coordination, and political preparation. Because follow-up wasn't fully planned for in advance, this phase turned out **more resource-intensive than expected**.

There was **no formal external evaluation**. But Malmö held **several internal learning sessions** in May 2025, with staff, managers, and Klimatriksdagen. These sessions surfaced clear strengths, such as democratic innovation, strong facilitation, and real participant engagement, alongside challenges around planning, anchoring within the organisation, and representativeness.

## STRENGHTS

- **High participant engagement**, with strong learning and real democratic innovation.
- **Effective facilitation** and a **well-structured deliberative method**.
- **Constructive political involvement** throughout the process.
- **Valuable internal learning** for municipal staff, building **lasting capacity** for deliberative methods.

## CHALLENGES

- **Insufficient early planning**, leading to ad hoc decisions and a demanding follow-up phase.
- **Limited diversity**, due to a lack of compensation, translation, and other accessibility support.
- **Weak anchoring** with departments, directors, and political leadership beyond the core team.
- Many proposals overlapped with existing initiatives, pointing to a **need for clearer scoping** upfront.
- **Uneven distribution of responsibilities** among staff.

## FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Start with a **clearly defined purpose and scope**, and **plan for both implementation and follow-up** from day one.
- **Build broad support early on**, including receiving departments and political leadership.
- **Offer accessibility measures and compensation**, to improve representativeness.
- **Communicate clearly** about ongoing municipal work, to avoid duplicating existing efforts.
- **Invest in facilitation**, and set up **clearer voting and quality-control processes**.
- Choose **inspiring venues**.
- Be transparent about what can realistically be influenced.



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