# Canopy for Climate Democracy

27 April 2022 (v1.0)

## What is this?

The **Canopy for Climate Democracy**, part of the [Climate Democracy Model](#), offers a way of assessing and seeing the big picture of a city or region's climate resilience based on four segments for climate democracy derived from Demsoc's work:

1. *Diversity of actors and knowledge;*
2. *Participatory culture;*
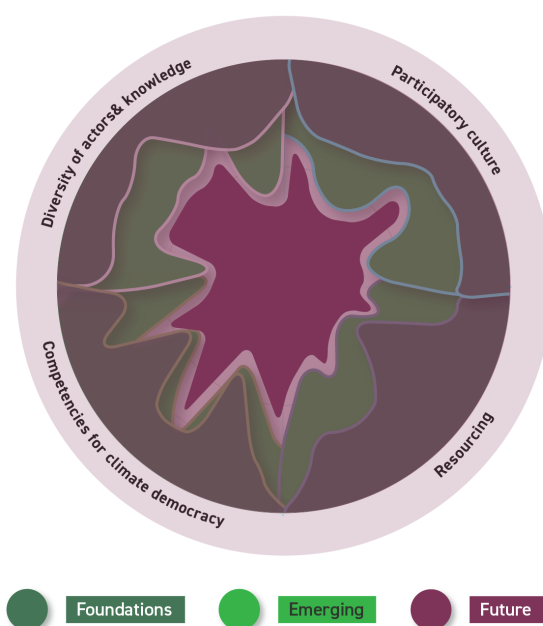3. *Resourcing;*
4. *Competencies for climate democracy.*

Segments 1 and 4 are explored at deeper levels through the [Actor Types & Interactions](#) and [Competencies](#) tools.

As an image, the **Canopy for Climate Democracy** uses a simplified drawing of tree coverage across a city or region, seen from above. The denser the canopy coverage, the more protection the city or region is offered for a climate resilient, decarbonised future.

The **Canopy for Climate Democracy** is not a numerical score or league table, it does not show winners or losers, and it is not intended to be the final word. It is a way of starting conversations and measuring progress on foundational conditions, emerging shifts, and future possibilities for change towards climate resilience.

Three states can be mapped using the **Canopy for Climate Democracy**:

1. **Foundational conditions** for example those present at the start of a climate programme;
2. **Emerging shifts t**hrough various forms of engagement and action, and
3. **Future possibilities**, 'gaps' in the canopy that need to be addressed to more fully realise climate resilience and strengthen democracy in the process.

This guide illustrates how to create a Canopy.

# What to do

Follow the instructions below.

**Who to involve**
At least 2-3 people. We also recommend someone acting as facilitator.
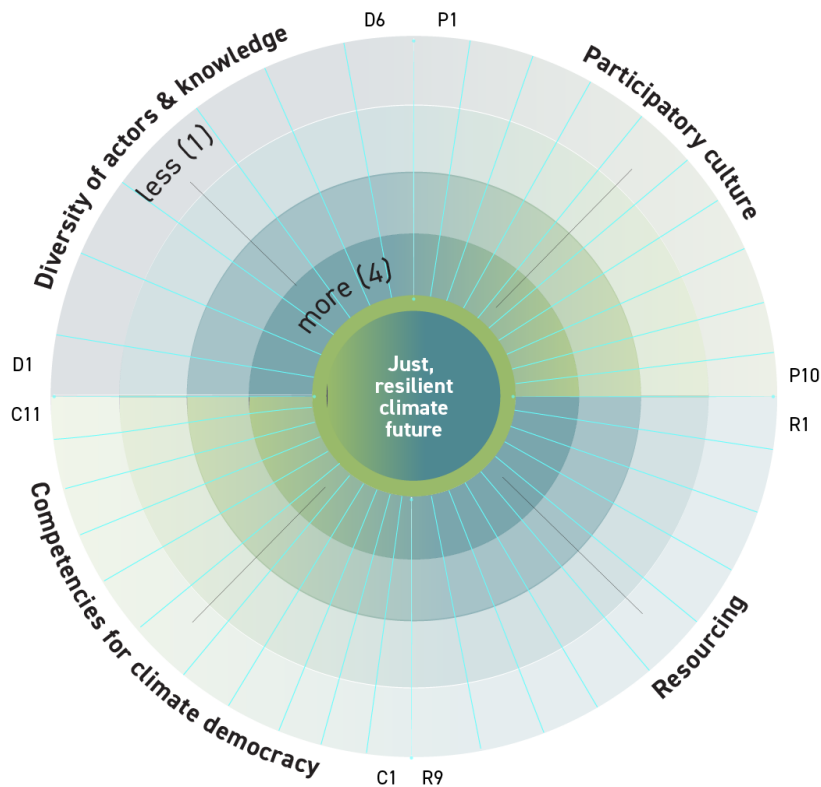
**Time**
Allow at least half a day for this activity.

**Instructions**
Let's imagine you are three months into a new climate programme and want to use the Canopy to map 'foundational conditions'. Your observations might come from primary sources e.g. interviews with city actors, and/or from secondary sources e.g. reports by the city, partners and third-parties.

**Step 1.** Read the Climate Democracy Model report, **Section 3: Big picture assessment** to familiarise yourself with the Canopy concept and the ***Four segments for climate democracy***. We strongly recommend doing this first before jumping into the activity.

**Step 2.** Draw this image on a piece of paper. Note that each segment has a different amount of 'slices' corresponding to how many conditions it has, as stated in the report. E.g. *Diversity of actors & knowledge* has 6 conditions (D1-D6), *Participatory culture* has 10 (P1-P10), etc.
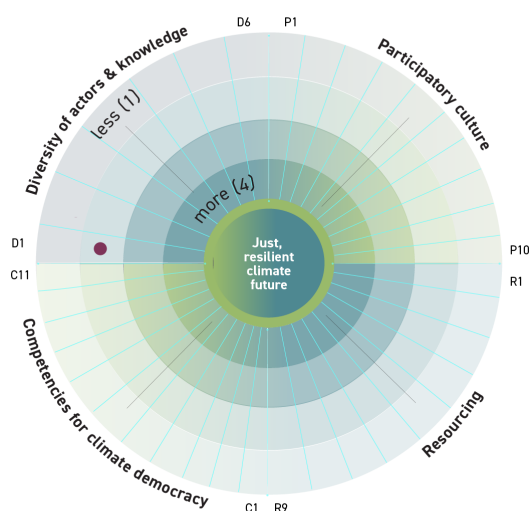
**Step 3.** Start with whatever section you like. For example, if you choose to start with the *Diversity of actors and knowledge* segment.

- Go to the [Climate Democracy Model](#) report, ***Four segments for climate democracy:*** *Diversity of actors and knowledge* section.
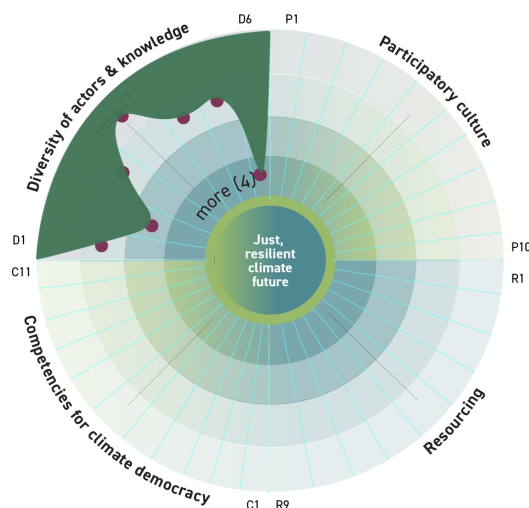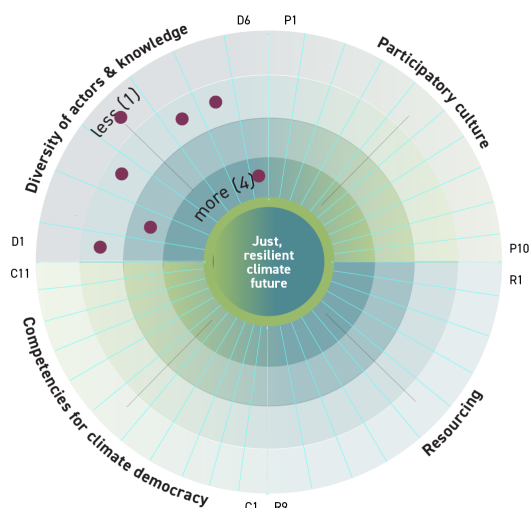- Read through the *Diversity of actors and knowledge* table. Here it is for reference:

|  | Less diverse, less inclusive | More diverse, more inclusive |
|---|---|---|
| D1 | Homogeneous voices and knowledge systems; decision-making powers limited to specific individuals and groups | Coalitions of diverse voices and knowledge systems; diverse set of individuals are empowered to make decisions |
| D2 | Homogeneous actors with technical, consultative focus | Mix of technical, participatory, community actors |
| D3 | Narrowed view of culture | Working across cultural contexts |
| D4 | Oppressions thought of / addressed in separate ways | Oppressions thought of / fought in intersectional ways |
| D5 | Adheres to one dominant way of knowing the world | Prioritises indigenous, feminist, partial ways of knowing the world |
| D6 | Only focuses on the human part of the problem | Includes non-human actors, "the natural world" |

**Step 4.** Use a coloured pencil to mark or shade in your answers from the table in the *Diversity of actors and knowledge* segment of the Canopy (top left). Discuss with your peers where you collectively think the answer lies. The left hand column is the least desirable conditions for climate democracy. In the right hand column are the most desirable. It's up to you where you place your mark.
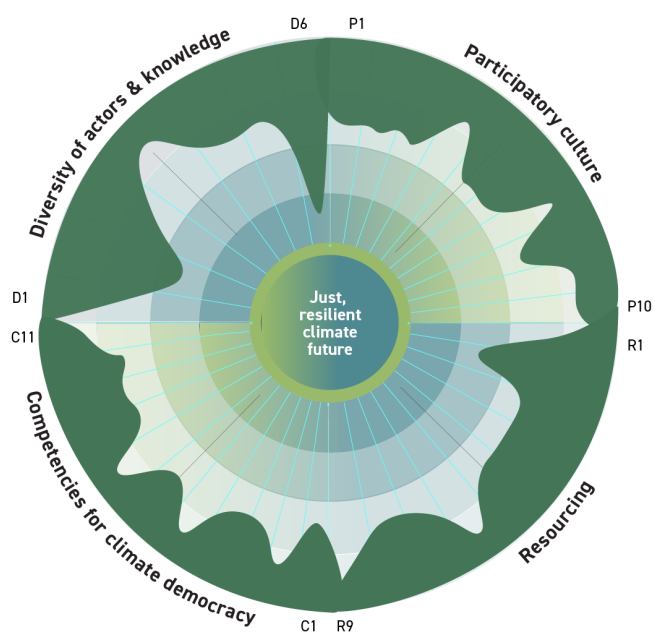
- For example, for D1, you might decide the assessment is closer to the left hand column, but isn't completely true to that statement, so you place your mark in the 2nd ring, as indicated below (left).
- Then for D2, you might decide the assessment closer to the right hand column, but isn't completely true to that statement either, so you place your mark in the 3rd ring, as indicated below (right).

**Step 5.** Repeat this for the remainder of the *Diversity of actors and knowledge* segment, then colour in the area you've marked out.



**Step 6.** Then repeat for the remaining segments, using the [Climate Democracy Model](#) report, **Four segments for climate democracy** as a reference.
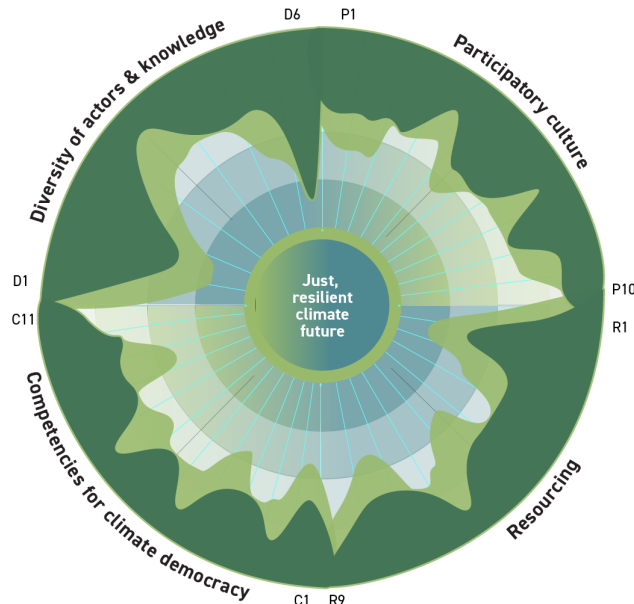


Congratulations! You have now mapped the 'Foundational conditions' for climate resilience in your city or region.

You can now share your Canopy mapping with your peers and partners and spark a conversation about what's present, what there could be more of to strengthen democracy and climate resilience, in your climate action work.
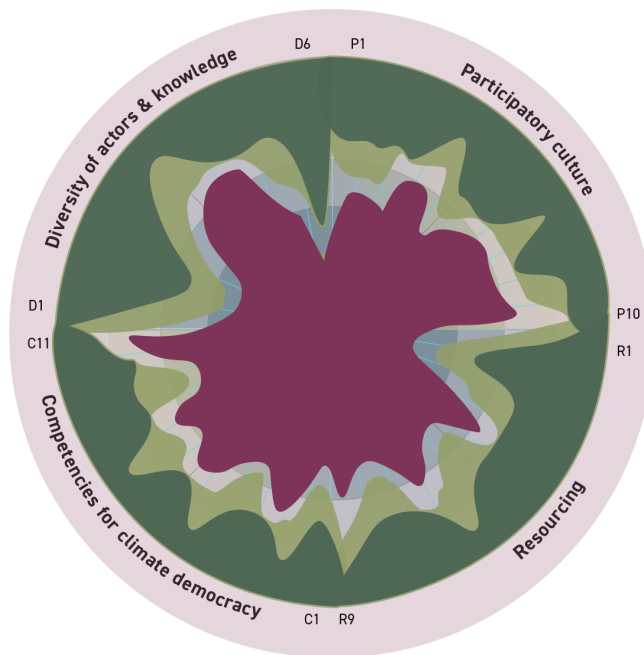
**Step 7.** Throughout the project, you can return to the Canopy to do an assessment of 'Emerging shifts', conditions observed to have shifted over the course of the project for example through various forms of engagement and action: new methods, new ways of working, new relationships, or political or social action, among other reasons.

Go through the same process, marking and shading in your assessment using another colour.



You have now mapped 'Emerging conditions' for climate resilience in your city or region, and can celebrate what has shifted, and reflect on what else needs to change as the project progresses.

**Step 8.** When the project wraps, you can return to the Canopy to adjust the 'Emerging shifts' if need be, and shade in gaps in the Canopy as 'Future possibilities', using another colour.



You might include some or all of these mappings in project reporting to tell the story of what shifted and why, and what possibilities for strengthening democracy and climate resilience still exist.