



# Climate Conversation Guide

Talking about climate change and social justice in your  
community organisation





Your climate conversation can be as long or short as suits you and your colleagues. We've included suggested timings for a 45-minute conversation below.

## **Invitation email**

Hi everyone,

The Australian Council of Social Service is running a Climate Change and Social Justice Awareness Week 16-23 August to promote conversations about why acting on climate change matters for the community sector.

We know that the communities we work with are being disproportionately impacted by climate change and that action needs to center their voices and experiences.

Would you join me for a 30 minute morning tea to talk about how engaging with and taking action on climate change is relevant to our organisation and the communities we work with? No prior knowledge necessary - this is an opportunity to explore these issues together and think about how we can engage with them.

Look forward to seeing you there!

## Conversation Structure

### Introduction [5 minutes]

Share why you wanted to talk to your colleagues about climate change. You may want to mention ACOSS' Climate Change and Social Justice Campaign focussed on raising the voices of the community sector on climate change and a recent example of climate change impacts.

### Discussion [10 minutes]

What do you think about when you hear the words 'climate change'?

What's one way that climate change has impacted the communities we work with?

### Sharing a climate story [5 minutes]

Choose a story from ACOSS' ['Community Climate Action Stories'](#) that is relevant to the work your organisation does. Share three things you found interesting from the story. You may focus on motivations for acting, initiatives or suggestions for future action, depending on what is most useful for where your organisation is in its climate journey.

### Climate story discussion [10 minutes]

Ask participants to discuss how the experiences of the organisation profiled in the climate story link with your organisation's experience. Some things to consider include:

- How does climate change impact the ability to achieve organisational objectives
- How does climate change impact on the communities you work with
- How does climate change impact on your own service delivery
- Initiatives that can tackle climate change and benefit the communities you work with
- Initiatives that can tackle climate change and benefit your organisation

### Our own climate story [10 minutes]

Ask participants to complete the sentence 'Action on climate change matters to the communities we work with because...'. You can do this as a group or ask participants to write down their own responses and share them with the group. Make sure to note down these responses.

### Next steps [5 minutes]

**Discuss what steps your organisation can take to engage with climate change. These may include:**

- Sign up to the ACOSS Climate Change and [Social Justice Campaign Mailing List](#) to keep up to date with advocacy activities and policy development.
- Support more staff sign up to become Climate Change and Social Justice Champions.
- Share content on social media about why action on climate change matters to the communities you work with. This can be your own story about how the communities you work with are being impacted by climate change or a repost of relevant content from ACOSS or your State COSS
- Put a statement on your website about why action on climate change matters to the communities you work with
- Attending a climate-related talk or event
- Capture climate change impacts in your research and reporting
- Incorporate climate mitigation and resilience policies in you organisation's policy development and advocacy.
- Collect stories of climate impacts from the communities you work with
- Join the advocacy push for #RapidAndJustAction on climate as part of ACOSS Advocacy week 4-10 October
- Join a sector-specific or local climate action network (see the list below)

## **Additional resources**

[Climate for Change and Climate Compass Conversation Guide](#)

[Climate Council Conversation Guides \(Time to Act, Friends and Family, Bushfires, Energy, Extreme Weather\)](#)

[The #TalkingClimate Handbook](#)

[Real, Urgent and Now: Communicating the Health Impacts of Climate Change](#)

## Action groups

### Health

#### [Climate and Health Alliance](#)

An alliance of stakeholders in the health sector who wish to see the threat of climate change addressed through prompt policy action

#### [Doctors for the Environment Australia](#)

Voluntary organisation of medical doctors working to address the diseases – local, national and global – caused by damage to the earth's environment

#### [Healthy Futures](#)

An organisation of health professionals, students and community members taking action to address climate change and related threats to health

#### [Psychology for a Safe Climate](#)

Psychologists and helping professionals contributing psychological understanding and support within the community, helping people face the difficult climate reality

#### [Sweltering Cities](#)

Community action through stories of lived experience and affected communities to win cooling, sustainable and progressive policies.

### Rural

#### [Farmers for Climate Action](#)

An alliance of farmers and leaders in agriculture working with peers, the wider sector and decision-makers to make sure Australia takes the actions necessary to address damage to our climate

#### [Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action](#)

Bushfire survivors, firefighters and local councillors demanding that the Government take immediate action on climate change. Taking legal action against EPA NSW.

#### **Youth and Family**

##### [Australian Youth Climate Coalition \(AYCC\)](#)

Building a generation-wide movement to solve the climate crisis before it's too late

##### [Youth Verdict](#)

Young people using the law to fight for environmental justice

##### [Australian Parents for Climate Action](#)

Australia's leading organisation to engage, organise and empower parents, carers, families and everyone who cares about kids, to advocate for a safe climate for our children's future.

## People with disability

### [Climate Justice Union](#)

Community union focussed on achieving climate justice in Western Australia. Climate Justice Union in partnership with People with Disabilities WA are working to identify the links and connections between disability and climate change.

### [People with Disability Australia](#)

PWDA is involved in local and international work to include people with disability in disaster planning, including in relation to climate change. As a member of the [Pacific Disability Forum](#), they stand with people with disability in the Pacific, facing significant, immediate danger from the effects of climate change.

## Older people

### [Green Sages](#)

Older Victorians acting to increase the environmental sustainability of our community and to decrease the impact of climate change

### [Grandmothers for Climate Action](#)

A group of people concerned for the well-being of our planet, threatened species, the future of our children, grandchildren and the following generations.

## Women

### [1 Million Women](#)

Building a movement of women and girls acting on climate change through the way we live

### [Women's Climate Justice Collective](#)

## First Nations

### [Seed](#)

Australia's first Indigenous youth climate network

## Housing

### [Better Renting](#)

Better Renting is a community of renters working together for stable, affordable, and healthy homes.

## Legal

### [Environmental Justice Australia](#)

Environmental Justice Australia is a leading public interest legal organisation. Their lawyers act on behalf of people and community organisations to safeguard health; to protect magnificent forests, rivers and wildlife; and to tackle climate change.

#### [Equity Generation Lawyers](#)

Equity Generation Lawyers combine expertise in climate change risk and a flair for innovative legal action that has international reach.

#### [Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action](#)

Bushfire survivors, firefighters and local councillors demanding that the Government take immediate action on climate change. Taking legal action against EPA NSW.

#### [Youth Verdict](#)

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### **Religious**

#### [Greenfaith/Australian Religious Response to Climate Change \(ARRCC\)](#)

Grassroots interfaith organisation seeking to learn from the wisdom of the faith traditions in responding ethically to our ecological environment

### **General**

#### [350.org](#)

Works with a network of campaigners and local groups across Australia to help coordinate online campaigns, grassroots organising, and mass public actions

#### [Australian Conservation Foundation \(ACF\)](#)

Australia's national environment organisation, speaking out, showing up and acting for a world where forests, rivers, people and wildlife thrive

### **Decarbonisation**

#### [CORENA](#)

Zero interest loans to community organisations to pay for projects such as installing solar panels, improving energy efficiency, switching away from fossil gas use or purchasing electric vehicles.

#### [Coalition for Community Energy](#)

C4CE's vision is for community energy to be a significant creator and beneficiary of Australia's renewable and sustainable energy system with community energy groups and projects initiating, developing, owning, operating, implementing and benefiting from renewable and sustainable energy.

#### [COREM - Renewable Community Power Mullumbimby](#)

## Regional

[A Grandstand for the Environment \(seniors / grandparents in Manningham and beyond\)](#)

[Sustainable Living Armidale](#)

[Baby Boomers for Climate Change Action \(Boroondara\)](#)

[Banyule Climate Action Now](#)

[Bathurst Community Climate Action Network](#)

[Bayside Climate Change Action Group](#)

[Lighter Footprints \(Boorondara\)](#)

[Brimbank Climate Action Network](#)

[Children's Book Creators for Climate Action](#)

[Climate Action Moreland](#)

[Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance](#)

[Dandenong Ranges Renewable Energy Association](#)

[Darebin Climate Action Now](#)

[Climate Action Darwin](#)

[Eastern Climate Action Melbourne](#)

[Environment Victoria eastern suburbs](#)

[Environment Victoria southern suburbs](#)

[Climate Action Hobart](#)

[Gold Coast Climate Action Network](#)

[Hume Climate Action Now \(CAN\)](#)

[Hunter Community Alliance](#)

[Lighter Footprints \(Boroondara and Whitehorse\)](#)

[Locals into Victoria's Environment \(LIVE\) \(Port Phillip\)](#)

[Melton Sustainable Living Group](#)

[Moonee Valley Sustainability \(MVS\)](#)

[Moreland Energy Foundation \(MEFL\)](#)

[Climate Action Moreland](#)

[Climate Action Newcastle](#)

[Parramatta Climate Action Network](#)

[Stonnington Climate Action Network](#)

[Transition Banyule](#)

[Transition Towns Maroondah](#)

[Warrandyte Climate Action Now](#)

[Western Region Environment Centre \(western suburbs\)](#)

[Ararat Greenhouse Action Group](#)

[Bass Coast Climate Action Group](#)

[Baw Baw Sustainability Network](#)

[Benalla Climate Group / Benalla Sustainable Future Group](#)

[Bendigo Sustainability Group](#)

[Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions \(BREAZE\)](#)

[Centre for Climate Safety \(Geelong\)](#)

[Emerald for Sustainability](#)

[Fossil Fuel Free Geelong](#)

[Frack Free Geelong](#)

[Geelong Sustainability Group](#)

[Grandmothers for Climate Action](#)

[Groundswell Bass Coast/SGCS](#)

[La Trobe Environment Action Forum \(Bendigo\)](#)

[Latrobe Valley Sustainability Group](#)

[Macedon Ranges Green Energy Coalition](#)

[Moorabool Environment Group](#)

[Mount Alexander Sustainability Group](#)

[Murrindindi Climate Network](#)

[North East Regional Sustainability Alliance \(NERSA\)](#)

[Otway Ranges Climate Action \(ORCA\)](#)

[Outdoors People for Climate Action](#)

[Riddells Creek Sustainability](#)

[Sustainable Hepburn Association \(SHARE\) \(Hepburn Shire\)](#)

[Surf Coast Air Action](#)

[Surf Coast Energy Group](#)

[The Hub \(Castlemaine\)](#)

[Trentham Sustainability Group](#)

[Voices of the Valley \(Latrobe Valley\)](#)

[Wangaratta Sustainability Network](#)

[Wannon Climate Action Now](#)

[Wodonga and Albury Toward Climate Health \(WATCH\)](#)

[Yarra Valley Climate Action Group \(YVCAG\)](#)