

CLIMARTE

EMERGENCY:ACTION

VISION

To harness the power of the arts to communicate the Climate Emergency in all its manifestations thus mobilising the public to demand immediate effective action; a [transition to zero emissions](#) while at the same time [drawing down legacy carbon](#) at emergency scale and speed, before 2030.

MISSION

To increase the amount of climate focussed and socially engaged art with which to inform and inspire the public; raising awareness about the causes and readily available solutions for the Climate Emergency while elevating the role of the Arts and creative workers as powerful change makers in society.

THEORY OF CHANGE: ART + SCIENCE + COMMUNITY

Recognising that art is arguably humanity's most powerful universal language, [CLIMARTE](#) was established (2010) to harness the creative power of the arts to engage, inform and inspire action to address the most urgent common threat in human history - the Climate Emergency.

Founded on the best available science, [CLIMARTE](#) communicates through collaborations between artists, scientists, academics, and activists to mobilise and amplify public responses to the Climate Emergency in all its manifestations.

Creative workers are by nature complex systems thinkers, resourceful and multi-skilled. Possessing a broad range of problem-solving skills and talents, we know that artists can creatively communicate—in extraordinary, even magical, ways—the terrifying scientific data as well as powerfully articulate hopeful solutions to mobilise Australia to transition from a global climate action blocker to a leading force effectively addressing the Climate Emergency.

We believe that engaged local communities are the foundations for healthy democratic societies. As such, CLIMARTE collaborates with trusted and diverse organisations, communities and individuals to produce and present participatory exhibitions and public forums exploring all aspects of the Climate Emergency and associated social justice issues in ways that can be adopted by local communities anywhere.

Having successfully brought together a broad alliance of arts organisations, practitioners, artists, administrators, audiences and academics from across the creative sector, CLIMARTE produced and presented three highly collaborative and socially engaged 'ART+CLIMATE=CHANGE' festivals, as well as commissioning two Poster Projects, and hosting many public forums and events to more broadly engage with the wider community.

WHY DOES CLIMARTE'S WORK NEED TO BE DONE? (context)

As evidenced by the latest most terrifying [IPCC report](#) (as well as daily [news reports](#)), the world is already in advanced stages of a climate breakdown that could have been avoided with planning and action.

The greater public's awareness and understanding of the Climate Emergency has grown significantly as a result of the 2020 Bushfires, as well as drastically increasing incidences of extreme weather here and seemingly everywhere.

As detailed in the [IPCC report](#), the science is unequivocal in its findings that if we are to escape the worst consequences of ecological collapse, greenhouse gas emissions must fall to zero at the same time as legacy carbon is drawn out of the atmosphere at emergency scale and speed, before 2030.

However, too many Australian leaders are still acting as though they do not have a fundamental duty of care to protect people from the Climate Emergency. That must change as a matter of extreme urgency.

Whilst it's hopeful that some Local and State Governments are committing to decisive action, it is against a backdrop of continued delay and obfuscation at the Federal level; prevarication that appears aimed at rewarding fossil fuel political donors. A recent [analysis of political donation information](#) shows that the fossil fuel industry is by far the largest donor to Australia's major parties, and that great efforts are made to hide the sources of this funding.

Given that the global pandemic has given rise to the authority of science in public health, CLIMARTE sees opportunities to extend this respect to interconnected and interdependent climate and biodiversity health associated with the Climate Emergency as well.

We are somewhat encouraged that in some fields the evidence of ecosystem collapse is taken for granted and direct policies are being implemented. Governments who fail to act are becoming more isolated as core constituents, such as corporations, move ahead with their own responses to the Climate Emergency.

Although dangerously late, the Climate Emergency is now accepted as reality and, in the absence of effective government leadership and policy, action is being taken by many on many different fronts.

This was not the case when CLIMARTE began in 2010. Over the years CLIMARTE has increasingly been credited with advancing climate crisis conversations in the Arts sector; conversations that in 2010 were unwelcome at best due to the sector's heavy reliance on funding from extractive and exploitative industries.

As former CLIMARTE Committee member and artist turned Greens politician Gabrielle de Vietri's "Maps of Gratitude, Cones of Silence and Lumps of Coal" (2019) shows, the boards and major supporters of some of Australia's leading arts and culture organisations—critical crucibles in a healthy democracy— include people with strong ties to the fossil fuel industry, as well as enablers in the finance and media sectors. CLIMARTE strongly argues that it is beyond wrong that Australia's Arts sector is largely dependent on funding from these heavily polluting, enormously politically powerful industries for survival.

We know that in response to extreme weather events, urban Australians are becoming increasingly concerned about their own and rural communities. CLIMARTE's creative projects are developed to help bridge the divide between city dwellers and people living in rural areas; to demonstrate care and concern in ways that cut through the divisive narratives that too often dominate mainstream media reporting.

In developing its programs, CLIMARTE actively creates production models that can take art where it's needed most; to communities on the frontline of economic transitions, polluter propaganda aimed at maintaining the status quo, and increasingly extreme weather.

Our extensive experience has shown us that community-led events very effectively cut through 'information disorder' to provide important public interest information based on the best available facts and data as well as numerous, significant opportunities for further learning and public debate in ways that are creative and accessible, including free of charge.

An award-winning organisation, CLIMARTE is globally recognised for the quality, depth, and scope of its work enabling emotional engagement with climate threats, as well as the many powerful, readily available, fair and affordable solutions. The facts, data and evidence show that transitioning to zero emission technologies will bring many more jobs, better human and ecological health, as well as positive purpose to communities on the frontline of extreme weather, as well as resource conflicts and solutions.

After a decade of experience, we know how effectively the arts can communicate the terrifying data as well as the hopeful solutions to mobilise Australia to transition from a global carbon pariah to a leading force addressing the Climate Emergency.

By every definition, this is urgent essential work. It is the sort of societal transformational work that artists do best.

Understanding that artists bring a raft of exceptional skills to the table, CLIMARTE is well positioned to guide and promote exciting and hopeful Climate Emergency plans co-designed by scientists, economists and creative workers.

Opening in November 2021 (during COP26), CLIMARTE's Gallery at 120 Bridge Road Richmond (inner Melbourne), Victoria, Australia, is understood to be the world's first Climate Emergency focussed gallery.

CORE ACTIVITIES

In the context of the Climate Emergency, CLIMARTE collaboratively develops:

- groundbreaking participatory exhibitions addressing interconnected and interdependent ecological impacts as well as effective, justice-based solutions;
- robust programs of public-facing events that delve into critical discourse between art, science and civil society;
- ongoing opportunities for the community to collectively express deep grief and despair while organising pathways to urgently usher in available solutions;
- ongoing opportunities for artists and creative practitioners to exhibit 2D, 3D and digital artwork;
- ongoing opportunities for creative workers to be fairly remunerated for their important work;
- programs exploring the role of creative workers in crisis preparedness, response and recovery; and
- frameworks for creative workers to play key roles in designing pro-active pathways towards building a regenerative economy that serves all people and nature.

KEY GOALS

- Engage artists to create powerful climate emergency/regenerative focussed work;
- engage curators, along with other creative practitioners to produce diverse, socially engaged exhibitions and public programs focussed on the most effective, democratic responses to the climate emergency;

- creatively engage and educate local communities on the urgency as well as ecologically and socially sustainable solutions to the climate emergency;
- host inclusive public discussions on the climate emergency and associated justice-related issues;
- form collaborative partnerships with trusted organisations to get creative projects out to where they are needed most;
- elevate the role of the arts in society; and
- achieve organisational sustainability in order to deliver all on the above.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Increased reach and engagement, including online analytics, media coverage, website visits and newsletters;
- number of, and attendance at exhibitions in the Gallery;
- number of, and attendance at, public events held in association with exhibitions in the Gallery;
- increased diversity of collaborative partners;
- number and diversity of external speaking opportunities;
- depth of audience awareness and engagement;
- greater engagement with communities on the frontline of resource conflicts and energy/economic transitions; and
- an increase in the diversity of locations for CLIMARTE activities.