Climate Action for New York, for the World

The clock is ticking so we are

GETTING IT DONE

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#ClimateWeekNYC
Our theme for Climate Week NYC this year is Getting It Done. The science is clear: We need to halve emissions by 2030, so Getting It Done is a call to action. Commitments are critical, but at the heart of everything happening at this year’s Climate Week NYC will be the central question of how to turn those commitments into tangible action.

Also underpinning the theme is the question of how. How are we Getting It Done? Who is stopping us? And for whom are we doing it? These are the three key sub-themes we’ve built this year’s programming around, which we see as the critical issues in climate action today.

**Urgency**

We have a clear deadline in sight: 2030. This is the year by which we need to halve emissions to have a chance of delivering net-zero emissions by the middle of the century in order to avoid the most catastrophic effects of warming.

This target is incredibly ambitious, and it will be an enormous challenge to hit, especially with the world facing multiple large-scale crises. The war in Ukraine has put tremendous pressure on the global energy system, and economies around the world are struggling to reboot as we continue to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic. Both of these factors are contributing to global inflation, with many countries reeling from economic shocks at a scale not seen for decades. Against this backdrop, politicians and other stakeholders may suggest that climate and the energy transition shouldn’t be a top priority. But we know that’s not the case.

This year at Climate Week, our events will ask leaders from governments, businesses, NGOs, U.N. bodies and civil society how they will lead in these times of crisis. How can we keep up the level of urgency and ensure that climate does not slip down the agenda?

**Accountability**

A key theme that emerged from COP26 was accountability. It’s true that there are now more ambitious climate commitments across all sectors than ever before—but they’re not worth anything if they’re not delivered. The youth movement has been at the forefront of demanding this, and the U.N. Secretary-General has brought together a high-level panel to help make it happen.

So we will be asking a vitally important question: How will we know if we’re Getting It Done? This is more than just understanding methodologies for carbon accounting; it’s exploring who can hold whom accountable and for what. How do we learn from one another’s successes and share best practices and innovations? How can we create a space in which we can also learn from failures and setbacks? In Silicon Valley, the idea of noble failures is accepted—can and should we see this mirrored in the climate space?

In an age characterized by distrust, how do we use the tools of accountability to allow us to Get It Done at the breakneck pace the climate crisis demands?

**Climate justice**

When we talk about Getting It Done, who is doing the doing? And who are they doing it for and with? We need to put people at the heart of our climate transition. Policies must promote prosperity for all people, and business strategies must support all of society. The rewards of investing in people, equity and justice are clear. We must maximize the benefits of climate investments and ensure programs are designed to deliver funding and associated projects in an equitable way that advances racial, economic and environmental justice.

We are listening and working together with our partners to ensure that all voices are heard and all views are empowered at Climate Week NYC. New York City is a global leader in providing a platform to pursue environmental justice, and as the world looks to us all during Climate Week NYC, it is my hope that this leadership builds and strengthens our resolve in Getting It Done.

There’s very little time left to make the changes we need to, but regular readers of this platform will know that there are some amazing projects and innovations coming out of the climate community. I implore you to join us—physically or virtually—at Climate Week NYC 2022.

Helen Clarkson
Chief Executive, Climate Group
Contents

Getting it Done
Climate Week NYC

The Climate Week NYC 2022 Magazine has been brought to you by:
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Climate Week NYC 2022
Programs

06 Environmental Justice
The Environmental Justice program is a dedicated space to amplify the voices and stories of those who bear the brunt of climate impacts, but have been left out of the decision making.

10 Policy
From EV tax credits to national manufacturing laws, the Policy program considers policy at all levels – local, state, international.

14 Sustainable Living
The Sustainable Living program brings together a diverse array of events to inspire everyone to be an ally to our planet and shares tips on how our day to day can be transformative to ourselves and the environment.

16 Food
The Food program examines how we can cut greenhouse gas emissions from food production and agriculture, and focus on sustainable eating, land restoration, and more.

22 Finance
The Finance program focuses on financial opportunities to identify and mitigate climate risks as part of a green recovery.

28 Energy
The Energy program brings together policy and industry experts for global collaboration in the pursuit of a net zero future through a just transition.

32 Nature
The Nature program addresses the importance of preserving and restoring the Earth’s ecosystems and biodiversity.

36 Transport
The Transport program examines the benefits in making our transport systems clean and efficient.

40 Built Environment
The Built Environment program explores the impact of buildings and infrastructure on climate.

44 Industry
The Industry program offers the opportunity to discuss how these industries can reduce industrial energy consumption and improve efficiency.

Q&A With Intersectional Environmentalist
Diandra Marizet, Executive Director of Intersectional Environmentalist, Climate Week NYC’s Environmental Justice program partner discusses specific elements of Intersectional Environmentalist. Find out how the movement got started, how to get involved, and how to support the environmental justice fight.

16 4 Ways to Eat a more Plant-Friendly Diet
What we choose to eat impacts the planet in unimaginable ways. Make meaningful changes through your food choices by incorporating Meatless Monday’s tips.

18 Podcast List
From finance to sustainable living, there is a green podcast for everyone to listen to. Check out Climate Week NYC’s official podcast, 50 Shades of Green, for details on all this week has to offer.

47 7 Environmentally Friendly Activities and Tours in NYC
New York ranks high on many lists of top eco-friendly cities, reflecting its dedication to a better environmental future. Explore sustainable things to do at the seven spots below for environmentally friendly ways to adventure around New York City.

48 Under2 at Climate Week NYC
Check out the Under2 events during Climate Week NYC and read how the Under2 General Assembly unites governments from across the world in pursuit of net zero emissions and a more sustainable future.

72 Dallas Goldtooth on the liberation of laughter and the power of joy in organizing
The “Reservation Dogs” actor, comedian, and organizer believes “if we can laugh at our oppressors, it takes away the power of our oppressors.” Read why he encourages an important reaction: joy.

76 Beacons in the Storm
Discover why a grassroots coalition aims to build solar-powered “lighthouses” across Louisiana and boost post-hurricane grid resilience.

82 Climate Week NYC 2022
Top Events
Find what program theme interests you and check out some exciting events taking place during Climate Week NYC.

86 Climate Week NYC 2022
Programs

06 Environmental Justice
The Environmental Justice program is a dedicated space to amplify the voices and stories of those who bear the brunt of climate impacts, but have been left out of the decision making.

10 Policy
From EV tax credits to national manufacturing laws, the Policy program considers policy at all levels – local, state, international.

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The Transport program examines the benefits in making our transport systems clean and efficient.

40 Built Environment
The Built Environment program explores the impact of buildings and infrastructure on climate.

44 Industry
The Industry program offers the opportunity to discuss how these industries can reduce industrial energy consumption and improve efficiency.

07 We Need a Smart Legal Strategy to Delivering Carbon Reductions and Climate Justice through the IRA
Earthjustice is using the power of the law to defend, strengthen, and enforce policies that move us towards zero emissions and 100% clean energy. Navigating a legal strategy to lower carbon emissions can be challenging; however, Earthjustice speaks on solutions through the IRA.
We sit down with Diandra Marizet, Executive Director of Intersectional Environmentalist, Climate Week NYC’s Environmental Justice program partner.

Intersectional Environmentalist offers training and consulting, creates resources and activations, and more to deepen awareness about environmental justice and the role diverse voices play in environmental history and current environmental solutions.

Environmental Justice program – Climate Week NYC

Hello Diandra! Can you tell us what you do at Intersectional Environmentalist (IE)?

At IE, I currently serve as the Executive Director, which allows me to serve as a support system for all the folks on our team and the friends, mentors and peers we collaborate with. We’re working to create educational resources, empowering spaces, art and opportunities for people with this shared vision of ensuring that grassroots efforts are supported and organized effectively. We want to create positive solutions and results for people – and the planet. Over time my role as Executive Director has involved working behind the scenes to figure out our non-profit set-up (calling the IRS or insurance companies) while the team is out fulfilling our goals and ensuring that while everyone has powerful and unique ways of working independently via our internal communications. This work helps us consistently ground ourselves in what we’re trying to achieve and stay rooted in our impact. The coolest thing my job as ED is seeing those systems I’ve helped create result in really inspiring presentations about the success, learnings and visions for the future, also seeing people nestle in work they are really passionate about – and that energy translate into work that brings 400k+ people empowerment and joy.

What does Environmental Justice mean to you?

The formal definition of Environmental Justice speaks to it as a social movement to address the unfair exposure of poor and marginalized communities to harms associated with how humans harness our resources – resource extraction, hazardous waste, and other land uses.

Practice being an advocate in conversation with those around you by simply sharing what you’re learning.

Environmental Justice program – Climate Week NYC

Facing the Climate Emergency on the Road to COP27: Solutions and Perspectives from Global Women and Gender Diverse Leaders

Tuesday, September 20, 2022
12:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT
Virtual | Multiple days | English

As the climate emergency accelerates, now more than ever we need the solutions of women and gender diverse leaders to protect our communities and the global climate. As the world prepares for COP27 during the UN General Assembly and Climate Week, global climate justice movements are demanding governments and financial institutions take urgent climate action. To confront deepening interlocking crises and accelerate a path forward, women are collectively upholding and working to advance just and resilient community-led solutions.

Speakers

- Thilmeeza Hussain, Permanent Representative to the United Nations & Ambassador to the United States from the Maldives
- Patricia Gualinga (Kichwa), Indigenous Leader from Sarayaku, and Spokeswoman, Mujeres Amazónicas Defensoras de la Selva
- Lucy Mulenkei (Maasai), Executive Director, Indigenous Information Network
The pledge asks folks not to ignore the intersections of environmentalism and social justice, to use our personal positions to advocate, to proactively learn more, to rethink emotional labors we were asking of folks to educate us, to humbly share our learning and, most importantly, to amplify the messages of these communities.

What’s the most important bit of work you think IE has done?
The most important thing IE has done has been creating in-real-life spaces for folks to add community healing that comes with being around those who just as passionate as you are. We’ve spent two years creating countless resources based on the topics our community wants to hear, we’ve created pathways for countless people in our community to have space on our platform and share their beautiful work + stories. We’ve also engaged with representatives from the White House and industry leading corporations — all of that has been so impactful.

What would you say to someone who wants to get involved in the fight for environmental justice but feels overwhelmed or like they don’t know where to start?
I personally think starting your environmental justice journey is best suited in areas you’re already passionate about. I hope people avoid the anxiety of thinking they need to know everything. If you are really passionate about fashion, farming, tech, design, dance, film — literally anything, there are so many ways you can explore how your favorite spaces might have opportunities to be more inclusive, might have an opportunity to tell people’s stories, might be able to address inequities in how systems work. If you start with areas you love, you’re more likely to find friends to do this work with. Protecting people and the planet is work we should all do in community.

What’s the most important bit of work you think IE has done?

The IE pledge was created and shared by our founder Leah Thomas, who wanted to help create a dialogue so people could center the concerns and injustices happening to people in various industries like fashion or agriculture. The pledge asks folks not to ignore the intersections of environmentalism and social justice, to use our personal positions to advocate, to proactively learn more, to rethink emotional labors we were asking of folks to educate us, to humbly share our learning and, most importantly, to amplify the messages of these communities. Before Leah shared the pledge, myself and others had already done the work to pave smoother paths. They will share their stories and give you guidance to find your own path.

You focus a lot on climate optimism — how does that influence the work that you do and why is it important?
Climate optimism is so influential in environmental justice work. Finding optimism that is still rooted in a deep understanding of issues and struggles is the most powerful way to resist doom and gloom. That’s how empowering art about resistance, growth, hope and love — and I hope our work can achieve that too.

Thank you for speaking to us Diandra.
You can hear more from our interview with Diandra by listening to our podcast, 50 Shades of Green which you can find on Spotify or Anchor. To learn more about the work Intersectional Environmentalist do or to take the IE pledge, visit www.intersectionalenvironmentalist.com.

I also really appreciate when EJ is associated with agency, like community-led solutions — ensuring that developments for local peoples are included in environmental decision-making, in the narrative of movements, and in educational systems. I also really appreciate when EJ is also associated with agency, like community-led solutions — ensuring that developments for local peoples are included in environmental decision-making, in the narrative of movements, and in educational systems.
In August, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), creating a just-in-time opportunity to transform the US energy sector and ramp up climate solutions. But promise is not destiny, especially given the boost the IRA gives to coal, oil, and gas production. In the coming months and years, advocates will need to ramp up work to accelerate the essential shift to clean energy, drive climate solutions, and fight the expansion and entrenchment of fossil fuels.

At the environmental law organization Earthjustice, my colleagues and I work alongside hundreds of clients and partners—always free of charge—to protect communities and restore healthy ecosystems. Together, we are focusing on key avenues to ensure the IRA spurs the energy transformation we urgently need while leaving no community behind.

By Abigail Dillen

Earthjustice is the nation’s premier nonprofit public interest environmental law organization. We wield the power of the law and the strength of partnership to protect people’s health, to preserve magnificent places and wildlife, to advance clean energy, and to combat climate change.

Earthjustice is using the power of the law to defend, strengthen, and enforce policies that move us towards zero emissions and help clean energy—that means ending the extraction, transport, and burning of fossil fuels that harm communities and our environment while pushing for climate solutions that center racial, economic, and environmental justice and reduce pollution in overburdened communities.

We Need a Smart Legal Strategy to Delivering Carbon Reductions and Climate Justice through the IRA

ICSD is the top academic international conference for discussing sustainable development issues. The parallel sessions include over 300 oral and poster presentations from researchers and development practitioners from across the world, presenting their work on topics ranging from gender equity to climate change to economic development, all focused on solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In addition, ICSD’s plenaries allow participants to hear thought-provoking speeches and conversations from leaders in the field of sustainable development. Speakers and panelists include heads of state, UN officials, CEOs, economists, and university professors.

ICSD is a truly global event with programming that spans across all time zones and welcomes participants from all across the world—149 countries in 2022 to be exact! Side events offer participants additional opportunities to meet with fellow participants, explore specific topics with more detail, and learn something new.

Speaker
• Jeffrey Sachs, President, SDSN

International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD)

Sunday, September 18, 2022
11:00 PM 9/18 - 7:00 PM 9/20 EDT
Virtual | Multiple days | English
1. Drive state policy and decision-making to accelerate energy transformation

State-level policymaking will be critical to delivering on the IRA’s promise in practice. State regulators make many of the key decisions determining how we make and use energy across the power, transportation, and building sectors. From utility rate cases to new building codes, it will be essential for public interest lawyers and advocates to take the lead case for clean solutions that will become even cheaper and more readily available thanks to the IRA. Also, states will have discretion to direct IRA funds, including block grants to states. Strong advocacy in statehouses nationwide will be crucial to ensure that this money is well spent in the communities that need it most.

State-level climate bills also offer powerful tools to complement the IRA. New York’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 85 percent by 2050 and decarbonize its electric grid by 2040. Earthjustice and our clients have successfully enforced this law to block new investment in fossil power plants. Going forward, it will create an excellent framework to harness the momentum of the IRA.

2. Secure the full suite of executive actions that will achieve US climate goals

President Biden promised an “all-of-government approach” to addressing climate change and advancing environmental justice. Over the coming year, it will be essential to support — and push — the administration to keep that promise. To realize the IRA’s potential and achieve imperative reductions by 2030, the Biden administration must finalize strong standards that maximize energy efficiency and force the overdue clean-up of pollution from power plants, cars, trucks, oil and gas wells, and other carbon-intensive industries. Stronger protections are required by bedrock environmental laws including the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, and we must bring those laws to bear to strengthen and defend new urgently needed standards.

3. Block fossil fuels expansion through strategic litigation and advocacy

The IRA will dramatically reshape the domestic energy economy by investing in technologies that can ultimately end fossil fuel dependency. However, it will not wind down the extraction, burning, and export of fossil fuels in the US, which is now the world’s largest oil and gas producer. Instead, the IRA expressly mandates new oil and gas leasing and even holds renewables projects hostage to oil and gas leasing. Further, its incentives for carbon capture and sequestration threaten to extend the life of polluting coal-fired power plants while inviting new investment in “blue” hydrogen produced from gas. The US cannot meet climate deadlines or exert global leadership while doubling down on fossil fuels.

Fortunately, there are many legal avenues available to challenge new fossil fuels projects. Among many recent legal victories, Earthjustice and our clients have successfully halted massive oil and gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico, new proposed drilling in the western Arctic, and major fossil infrastructure projects around the country, from export terminals to petrochemical plants. Crucially, the IRA does not suspend governing environmental laws. Ramping up legal and political opposition to a new wave of fossil development will be imperative for the communities that bear the deadly burden of fossil fuels pollution and for our climate trajectory both nationally and globally.
A company with an aim of reaching one billion young people around the world in the next ten years, Junk Kouture is a program where these young people can be creative, be sustainably-minded, be present and be celebrated - often on the world’s most famous stages. Linking a formal education program with a sustainable fashion challenge (where entrants create couture fashion from 100 per cent recycled materials), the program ignites creative thinking in young people towards the planet’s climate crisis. The sustainable fashion challenge blends elements of creativity, sustainability, entrepreneurship, and education, it has become one of the leading creative platforms for young people in Ireland over the past 12 years. Founded by tech entrepreneur Troy Armour in 2010, the competition is now accessible to over one million students across six countries, with further expansion planned for 2023 onwards.

Since launching in New York at Climate Week NYC last September, Junk Kouture has been building its presence steadily throughout the city and further afield. 2022 will see the first ever instalment of the Junk Kouture NYC City Final, where students from all over New York and neighbouring states will compete to be part of the inaugural World Final, due to take place in the Etihad Arena, Abu Dhabi in January 2023.

With over 150 schools signing up for the first edition of Junk Kouture NYC, Junk Kouture has been recruiting further schools to take part in the zero-cost program. A flexible program designed so it can be used in and out of class, there has been significant uptake in high schools throughout New York, London, Paris, Milan and the UAE. Delivering formal Continuing Teacher and Leader Education training for teachers, as well as the upcoming roll-out of a ‘masterclass’ element for students, Junk Kouture’s education offering consists of everything from intergenerational techniques (sewing, knitting) to waste management in the home.

Junk Kouture also works closely with organisations such as Materials for the Arts, a trusted resource supplier to schools and arts groups; the NYC Department of Education; and will be appearing at the upcoming YouTube Creator Summit on Sustainability (23 September) with Global Citizen.

Described as the ‘world’s first sport for creatives’, Junk Kouture returns to New York City this September as Sustainable Living Program partner of Climate Week NYC.
4 Ways to Eat a More Planet-Friendly Diet

What we choose to eat impacts the planet in unimaginable ways. It’s true that all foods require resources to grow, process, transport, store, and cook, but some foods need more of these finite resources than others. Research shows that meat, dairy, and egg production have the greatest impact on the health environment, accounting for nearly 15 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions—more than the world’s entire transportation sector—cars, trucks, planes, trains—combined.

And while the environmental impacts of food production can seem daunting, there’s a lot you can do as an individual to reduce your “foodprint” and eat a diet that’s more plant and planet friendly. No major lifestyle changes necessary. Reducing food waste, eating more plant-based foods, and trying Meatless Monday are just a few of the ways that you can make meaningful change through your food choices.

Cut Food Waste
Wasted food is the single largest category of material in municipal landfills, which also produces greenhouse gases contributing to climate change. Storing food in glass containers, buying frozen fruits and vegetables, understanding expiration dates, and freezing leftovers are just a handful of the many things you can do to keep more food out of the trash can and in your belly.

Eat More Sustainable Foods
In 2019, the World Wildlife Foundation identified their top 50 foods for a sustainable future. These foods, which include greens, tubers, nuts, seeds, pulses, mushrooms, and vegetables, are all nutrient-dense and environmentally friendly.

Adopt Meatless Monday
Plant-based eating contributes to healthy, sustainable food practices. Shifting to a more plant-based diet has the potential to help decrease agricultural land use by as much as 80 percent. Plus, it’s good for your health. Incorporating Meatless Monday into your diet is easy, and it can be a fun way to experiment with new ingredients, cuisines, and cooking techniques.

Try Meat Alternatives
Finding alternatives to your favorite meaty foods is an excellent approach to reducing your meat consumption and environmental footprint. And thanks to some clever home cooks, there’s a number of different ways you can recreate meat-centric dishes and ingredients using plant-based swaps like tofu, tempeh, lentils, and mushrooms. Visit www.mondaycampaigns.org for some recipe ideas to get inspired.

According to the 2021 Global Methane Assessment by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), cutting farming-related methane emissions is key in the battle against climate change. Methane has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over the first 20 years after it reaches the atmosphere. Reducing this powerful short-lived greenhouse gas in this decade will keep the 1.5 degree target alive.

More than 60 percent of emissions come from the food system, either by how it is produced, or the waste that it generates. This conversation will focus on how the private sector is jumping at opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint of food, so it can be healthy for people and the planet. From plant-based hamburgers to low emissions dairy, we will see how far we have come, and what more needs to be done.
Top 20 Climate Podcasts

1. TED Climate
   We get it. You care about the climate crisis—but sometimes thinking about it is just too overwhelming. Well, we’re here to help with that. Host Dan Kwartler unpacks the problems and solutions behind big systemic issues in bite-sized episodes. You’ll find out which bag is best for the planet, imagine our world without humans, and follow the international journey of the very shirt on your back. Yes, we’re going to talk about the bleak stuff—it’s a crisis after all—but we’ll also share little ways you can make changes in your daily life, in your towns and cities, and at your workplaces to help change climate change. Ultimately, we’re aiming for some HOPE through a focus on solutions, instead of just, you know, tumbling towards inevitable doom.
   Highlight Episode: How to realistically decarbonize the oil and gas industry – Bjørn Otto Sverdrup
   www.ted.com/podcasts/ted-climate

2. For What It’s Earth
   Environment, climate and sustainability podcast. We make big green issues bite-sized and explore the things that we can do to help out. Hosted by Emma Brisdion and Lloyd Hopkins.
   Highlight Episode: Eco-Anxiety: What is it, and how can we deal with it?
   forwhatitsearth.podbean.com/

3. TILClimate
   Climate change is confusing. This award-winning MIT podcast breaks down the science, technologies, and policies behind climate change, how it’s impacting us, and what our society can do about it. Each quick episode gives you the what, why, and how on climate change — from real scientists — to help us all make informed decisions for our future.
   Episode Highlight: TIL about Nuclear Energy
   climate.mit.edu/users/tilclimate-podcast

4. In Defense of Plants
   Plants are everything. They are also incredibly interesting. From the smallest duckweed to the tallest redwood, the botanical world is full of wonder. Tune in for a podcast celebrating everything botany.
   Highlight Episode: Learning to Grow Plants on the Moon
   climate.mit.edu/users/tilclimate-podcast

5. Outside/In
   A show about the natural world and how we use it. We explore science, energy, environmentalism and reflections on how we think about and depict nature.
   Highlight Episode: How to build a Solar Powered Website
   outsideinradio.org/
Matter of Degrees
Give up your climate guilt. Sharpen your curiosity. This show is for the climate-curious people who know climate change is a problem, but are trying to figure out how to tackle it. We’re telling stories about the levers of power that have created the problem — and the tools we have to fix it.
Highlight Episode: This is a Big (Climate) Deal: What’s in the Inflation Reduction Act?
www.degreespod.com/

The Wild with Chris Morgan
Explores how nature survives and thrives alongside (and often despite) humans. Taking listeners across the Pacific Northwest and around the world, host Chris Morgan explores wildlife and the complex web of ecosystems they inhabit. He also tells stories of people working in and protecting the wild around us.
Highlight Episode: Nuclear Sea Others: A wildlife refugee story
Website: www.thewildpod.org/

Good Together: Ethical, Eco-Friendly, Sustainable Living
Living sustainably should be easier. Curious about a zero-waste lifestyle? Want to know what the circular economy or slow fashion really means? Each episode, brought to you from Brightly eco by eco-expert Laura Alexander Wittig, features daily, actionable tips to help you live your life more sustainably. Start changing the world by listening to a new, bite-sized episode every week.
Highlight Episode: For Chef Nisha Vora, the Switch to a Plant-Based Diet is All About Small Wins
brightly.eco/podcast/

The Climate Pod
The Climate Pod is a wide-ranging conversation with leading experts on the politics, economics, activism, culture, science, and social justice issues at the heart of the climate crisis. Hear from guests like Jana Goodall, Gaij Inlee, Jeffrey Sachs, David Wallace-Wells, Adam McKay, Bill Nye, Robert Bullard, Catherine Coleman Flowers, Ted Danson, Michael Mann, Rinn Wilson, Stephana Kotson, Mark Heyman, and many more. Hosted by brothers Ty and Brock Benedict.
Highlight Episode: Rockin’ for Climate Action (w/Guster and REVERB’s Adam Gardiner)
www.theclimatепod.com/

Wardrobe Crisis with Clare Press
WARDROBE CRISIS is a fashion podcast about sustainability, ethical fashion and making a difference in the world. Host Clare Press was the first VOGUE sustainability editor, and each week she interviews international guests about the big issues facing the fashion industry. Get to know their personal style, and be part of the change.
Highlight Episode: Extraordinary Invention! Could Mark Herremans’ Carbon Change the Plastic’s Game?
Website: thewardrobe crisis.com/podcast/

Drilled:
Climate accountability — investigating the various drivers of delay on climate action — is critical to understanding and addressing climate change. Drilled is an independent news outlet focused on climate accountability.
www.drilledpodcast.com/about/

Mothers of Invention:
Mothers Of Invention is a podcast on feminist climate change solutions from (mostly) women around the world. With ten years to go before we see irreversible damage to our planet, former Irish president Mary Robinson, comedian and writer Maeve Higgins, and series producer Thimali Kodikara dig into the biggest climate issues of our time with love, laughter and memorable storytelling.
Mothers Of Invention gives focus to the stories of black, brown and indigenous women and girls who have been innovating from the front lines of climate change for generations — all over the world! Through their knowledge in the fields, in the courtroom, at the marches, and in the boardroom — each episode is an education on how to cope, get empowered, and force climate justice for all.
www.mothersofinvention.online/

On No Place Like Home, we explore the biggest story of our time from inviting, intimate, creative, and surprising angles. From staying sane in the age of climate change, to real talk about whether or not our personal choices really matter to saving the planet, No Place Like Home dives into the spiritual, personal, cultural, and emotional dimensions of climate change. We don’t shy away from science and politics, but we always bring along our sense of humor — and a feisty dose of hope.
www.noplacekelhomepodcast.com/about

50 Shades of Green
Climate Group has always been green, but this year, we’re exploring every shade by giving inside access to special guests and even breaking our rule by mixing it up with #ClimateWeekNYC2022 to Get It Done for climate action across government, business, and social sectors.

How to save a planet
Climate change. We know. It can feel too overwhelming. But what if there was a show about climate change that left you feeling... energized? One so filled with possibility that you actually wanted to listen? Join us, journalist Alex Blumberg and a crew of climate nerds, as we bring you smart, inspiring stories about the mess we’re in and how we can get ourselves out of it.
gimletmedia.com/shows/howtosaveaplanet

50 Shades of Green
Climate Group has always been green, but this year, we’re exploring every shade by giving inside access to special guests and even breaking our rule by mixing it up with #ClimateWeekNYC2022 to Get It Done for climate action across government, business, and social sectors.

Outrage and Optimism
For decades the media reportage on climate change has been anything but engaging. Outrage + Optimism is different. We cover the latest news from science, business, finance politics and culture every Thursday with a can-do attitude. This podcast is for everyone looking to expand their understanding of the climate crisis and get inspired to take action.
www.outrageandoptimism.org/about-us

Emergence
emergencemagazine.org/podcast/

America adapts
The America Adapts podcast explores the challenges presented by adapting to climate change, the global movement that has begun to drive change, and the approaches that are already working.
www.americadaadapts.org
Climate transition has taken center stage in much of the focus around ESG.

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) has held the spotlight in the investing landscape in recent years. Nasdaq’s own analysis of earnings calls, SEC filings, ESG reports, among other sources, continues to show climate transition as the top topic for companies and investors alike. As we watch ESG assets remain in focus, and more stakeholders hold companies accountable for ESG-related targets, we believe crafting an ESG story with appropriate goals has become an essential consideration of any company.

Climate change is reshaping risk and opportunity across industry, finance, and civil society. Investment in both the transition to a zero-carbon economy and adapting to physical climate risks will be critical.

Join Moody’s and industry leaders to explore how to finance resiliency projects that deliver impactful progress on the path towards net zero. Discuss the importance of rigorous data and analytics for physical climate risk, understand benchmarking progress on climate pathways, and explore innovative financial tools for tackling resilience, biodiversity loss, and carbon transition.

This half-day event will kick off with a keynote on the opportunities to rebuild after the global pandemic with investments in resiliency projects, followed by three open learning forums on climate risk exposure, metrics and measurement, and financing net zero.

Speaker

- Nigel Topping, UN High-Level Climate Action Champion, COP26
- Anne Van Praagh, Head of Sovereign and Sub-Sovereign Risk, Moody’s Investors Service
- Steve Tulenko, President, Moody’s Analytics
Nasdaq has watched ESG investing intensify on the markets in recent years. According to our 3rd annual Global Investor Relations (IR) Pulse Survey, 40% of IR professionals now include ESG as part of their remit. Meanwhile, ESG-dedicated funds and ETFs now command $2.9 trillion in assets under management (AUM) with ESG-dedicated funds growing by 43% in less than two and half years. Climate transition has taken center stage in much of the focus around ESG. Using Nasdaq’s proprietary natural language processing (NLP) tools, we analyzed over 3,000 earnings transcripts across the Russell 3000 and MSCI USA ESG Leaders indices. We found that talks of climate transition jumped 50%, in just one quarter for the Russell 3000, and for MSCI ESG leaders, climate transition jumped 154% in the same quarter. During the Q&A portion of these calls, where sell-side research analysts gain information to determine the current and future prospects in certain companies, nearly half of all ESG-related questions were about climate transition, with sell-side research analysts questioning company management about climate 3–4x more frequently than any other topic.

Our analyses show significant opportunities for companies addressing the climate transition. Therefore, crafting an effective ESG message that involves a transparent understanding of a company’s climate strategy with opportunities for change is essential to not only keep current investors, but attract capital from new ones.

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Available to download free on Apple and Android stores, be part of the biggest climate week on earth
Search Climate Week NYC
The world is in a critical moment, facing unprecedented challenges to energy security, rising inflation and a narrowing time window to limit dangerous global heating. The current global energy crisis and conflict in Ukraine have exposed the stark reality and costs of prolonged dependency on volatile fossil fuels. Without accelerating action to scale up wind and renewable energy in this decade, we will miss our global target of net zero emissions by 2050. Net zero roadmaps make it clear that a rapid end to coal, phase-out of other unabated fossil fuels and ramp-up of renewable energy are urgently required within this decade to achieve deep reductions in emissions across all economic sectors, and to keep a 1.5°C pathway within reach.

COP27 in November 2022 presents a unique opportunity for governments around the world to take decisive action on climate change, bolster energy security and make clear and practical commitments to a clean, secure and affordable energy system based on renewable energy.

Speakers
- Dave Jones, Global Programme Lead, Ember
- Joyce Lee, Head of Policy and Projects, Global Wind Energy Council

Modernizing America’s energy infrastructure will be essential for connecting communities to more clean, emissions-free power.
That’s why modernizing America’s energy infrastructure will be essential for connecting communities to more clean, emissions-free power. That mission—to fight the effects of climate change, and advance a responsible, just transition to renewables with the 21st century infrastructure to do it—requires partnership between the private and public sectors. In New York, the public and private sectors are embarking on the $11 billion Clean Path NY project—the largest renewable energy infrastructure development in the nation’s history. This landmark partnership between Invenergy, energyRe, and the New York Power Authority will generate 3,800 megawatts of clean wind and solar power and build a state-of-the-art 175-mile transmission line to transport it directly to the dirtiest parts of our energy grid. Clean Path NY alone will provide 16% of New York City’s electricity, eliminate 49 million tons of CO₂ (the equivalent of taking 9 million cars off the road) and drive a 22 percent annual reduction in fossil-fuel-fired generation across the state’s electricity grid. Clean Path NY is happening precisely because of the private sector ingenuity, innovation, and capital that is being combined with the New York State’s clean energy expertise and experience.

New York State is well on its way to meeting the benchmarks outlined in its Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, known as New York’s Climate Act, including 70 percent of New York’s electricity requirements met through renewable power sources by 2030. Innovative public-private partnerships like Clean Path NY are how we get it done, and turn ambitious emission-reduction goals into clean energy triumphs that will benefit all New Yorkers, now and into the future. Visit the Clean Path NY website to learn more.
The newly signed Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 invests $1.5 billion in the US Forest Service’s Urban and Community Forestry Program — the largest commitment ever to expand urban tree canopy and help all communities tackle climate change. These investments will support the planting and protection of up to 23 million trees in US cities, providing life-saving infrastructure to vulnerable residents facing extreme heat and air pollution made worse by climate change.

Trees provide countless life-saving and quality-of-life benefits to people living in cities. American Forests has a rich history of supporting cities in their quest to increase tree cover and address inequality. In 2021, the organization developed a revolutionary tool, the Tree Equity Score, which cities can use to prioritize where to plant trees in their communities, based on which neighborhoods need trees the most.

Trees provide
countless life-saving and quality-of-life benefits to people living in cities.

Invest in Cities. Yes, Cities!

By American Forests
3

Grow Climate-Smart Forests

Climate change-induced wildfires, droughts, pests and diseases make it difficult for forests to absorb carbon, produce clean water and shelter wildlife. American Forests is addressing this by creating and using forest restoration practices designed to help forests adapt to a warming world. Each practice is centered on planting the right trees in the right place. American Forests does this by focusing forest restoration on locations with better soil productivity and geological characteristics or with less disturbances than the surrounding landscape. The organization also uses assisted migration techniques to move trees to higher elevations to protect them from warming temperatures, remove invasive species, set controlled burns and selectively thin overcrowded forests. American Forests also diversifies tree planting techniques and select diverse native species with different regeneration mechanisms and genetics that help them grow back after future disturbances such as wildfires, insect outbreaks and droughts.

Turbo-Boost Seedling Production

Planting trees is one of the most effective ways to combat climate change. And with the climate change-driven wildfire “season” now almost year-round in many parts of the US, the need for reforestation has never been more acute. But here’s the question: where will we find enough seeds to fill that need? There is potential to reforest 133 million acres in the contiguous United States. But getting even halfway there by 2040 would require a whopping 34 billion trees. We need to more than double our annual production of seedlings in order to get where we need to go.

Growing seedlings requires growing a workforce and increasing the number of nurseries nationwide, and American Forests is developing strategies to significantly ramp up workforce development and nursery production. The Reforestation Hub developed with The Nature Conservancy maps realistic, lower-cost options to replant the lower 48 states — showing that reforestation could capture up to 333 million tons of carbon dioxide per year. Join American Forests this month on social media as they discuss this important issue throughout their inaugural #SeedSeptember.

Fast Forward Forest Carbon Finance

Carbon finance is being used more and more to fund large-scale forest conservation efforts that help capture carbon from the atmosphere. American Forests is advancing an innovative forward financing approach — The Reforest America Carbon Program — that overcomes these barriers to carbon-financed reforestation and produces high-integrity carbon removal in ecologically rich and climate-adapted forests. Instead of paying for outputs like number of trees planted or acres reforested, outcome-based reforestation funds measurable improvements in wildlife habitat and enhanced carbon sequestration. American Forests’ outcome-based partnerships generally cover more of the costs involved in reforestation, in areas with greater financial and ecological restoration barriers, over a longer period of time than traditional tree planting partnerships.

Find out more by following us on @AmericanForests or going to americanforests.org
FedEx CSO on Fleet Electrification and Beyond

As FedEx Chief Sustainability Officer, Mitch Jackson is tasked with helping one of the largest global transportation and e-commerce companies reach its goal to transform its operations to carbon neutral by 2040. For Climate Week NYC 2022, we asked Mitch about today’s business priorities around fleet electrification and what’s next to help achieve the company’s ambitious goal.

How is FedEx approaching the goal of electrifying its entire global pickup and delivery (PUD) fleet by 2040?

FedEx has long been an advocate for alternative forms of energy in the transportation sector, having worked with all-electric vehicles since 2010. The market is now starting to meet the moment and enabling us to better scale an electrification strategy for the FedEx global pickup-and-delivery (PUD) fleet. With such an expansive global network, we know that there isn’t one solution to meet all our electrification needs. Our phased—yet ambitious—approach

Charging infrastructure is still something we’re working to build out across our network, and we’re actively collaborating with utility companies and policymakers at all levels to do so.

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to EV acquisition across our PUD fleet reflects a realistic view of global market availability of commercial electric vehicles, production schedules, and available infrastructure.

An example of this approach in action is with BrightDrop, the technology startup from General Motors, which has delivered its first batch of zero-tailpipe emissions vehicles to FedEx Express in Southern California, with more to come. We’ve also been running other electric vehicle pilots across our operating companies and global markets, along with deploying additional sustainable logistics technologies like e-cargo bikes. We see how different operating environments present opportunities for unique technologies. In New York City, for instance, we piloted BrightDrop’s Trace electric cart and our FedEx Express couriers were able to increase package deliveries per hour by 15% on routes in a high-density, vertical urban environment.

What considerations go into electrifying a large commercial fleet, like what FedEx operates?

Step one is having a clear understanding of the different technologies you’ll need to meet the size and shape of your fleet. After that, we focus on three things:

- Finding cost-effective and reliable manufacturers who can produce zero-tailpipe emission vehicles at scale
- Building infrastructure to support charging, and making sure there is adequate capacity to handle the energy load through the utility grid
- Setting goals to drive purchasing and implementation

There’s obviously work still to be done. For one, charging infrastructure is still something we’re working to build out across our network, and we’re actively collaborating with utility companies and policymakers at all levels to do so. Simultaneously, our facilities team is trying to source more amounts of renewable energy to help support the increased energy needs of an electrified fleet.

Working hand-in-hand with policymakers, we know that the private sector can drive innovation and solutions to address the climate crisis.

A technology solution that is promising for one dimension of our business or particular operating environment may not be the right fit in another.

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Beyond fleet electrification, what other opportunities are on your mind?

The relationship between policymakers and the private sector is critical in achieving our shared goals of reducing emissions. Working hand-in-hand with policymakers, we know that the private sector can drive innovation and solutions to address the climate crisis. Freight and logistics networks are complex, and a technology solution that is promising for one dimension of our business or particular operating environment may not be the right fit in another.

With policymakers, we look for flexibility and collaboration to talk through all the options available and apply a technology-agnostic way to achieve our goals. It’s all about finding the right fit.

Another large element of our 2040 goal is to move toward more sustainable aviation. We’re eager to see the sustainable aviation fuel market expand, continue our aircraft modernization and Fuel Sense (fuel savings) programs, and invest in the development of natural carbon capture solutions at Yale that can help bridge to a future point in time where carbon neutral aviation is a possibility.
A year after the Global Cement and Concrete Association launched its Roadmap to Net Zero Cement and Concrete 2050, this event will take stock of progress to date in implementing the report’s recommendations, and examine what needs to be done next to accelerate progress.

Highlighting lighthouse projects in countries such as Thailand and Colombia, the event will examine how the Roadmap’s recommendations can be tailored for countries and companies around the world, taking into account local circumstances.

Speakers
- Thomas Guillot
  CEO, Global Cement and Concrete Association
- Senior spokespeople, US and international cement and concrete industry
- Senior spokesperson, Portland Cement Association
- Selwin Hart,
  Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General, Climate Action and Just Transition (Invited)
- Diane Hoskins,
  co-CEO, Gensler (Invited)

Actions
Businesses Can Take to Build a Climate-Resilient City

By Enrico Viale, Head of Enel North America

The Inflation Reduction Act is historic and full of carrots to incentivize US businesses to meet net-zero goals. With nearly $370 billion to transform energy and transportation, consumers will see downward pressure on electricity prices, a cleaner and more resilient grid, and more affordable electric vehicles (EVs).

Ten years of federal policy certainty starts now. Savvy businesses should take an active role in the energy transition to maximize incentives and climate-proof their operations. These are four immediate actions New York’s private sector can take to open new revenue streams, reduce carbon emissions and build a more climate-resilient city that stands the test of time.
1 Electrify Operations

Expanded incentives for producing renewable energy will progressively decarbonize the US electric supply and reduce our reliance on volatile fossil fuel markets. Researchers at Resources for the Future are projecting retail electricity costs will decline by 5-7% over the next decade. When businesses electrify, they gain two major benefits. First, they’ll experience lower and more stable energy costs. Second, they’ll tap into a cleaner and more efficient power source. Many of today’s electric-powered heat pumps, water heaters, lighting, refrigerators and vehicles also come equipped with technologies that give businesses more visibility and control over their energy usage.

2 Adopt a Sustainable, Distributed Energy Supply

Businesses won’t need to wait for their regional electric grid to become cleaner and more reliable; they can invest in their own on-site sustainable energy production. New, expanded tax credits will make small-scale distributed energy resources (DERs) like standalone batteries, solar panels paired with battery storage and microgrids more accessible and affordable. These assets power business operations with cleaner, cheaper electricity and in many markets also generate revenue when surplus electricity is sold back to the grid. DERs also increase a city’s resiliency. Storage systems help stabilize regional grids during peak demand periods, reducing the likelihood of local power outages.

3 Embrace Smart, Electrified Transport

Incentives for EVs and chargers will make them more accessible and affordable. For New York businesses operating vehicle fleets or managing parking facilities, electrifying transport should be a top consideration. Companies and institutions adding multiple EV chargers may be eligible for tax credits for each charger installed, significantly reducing the cost of electrifying a fleet or constructing a public charging station. While EVs often require a higher upfront investment, regular fuel and maintenance costs are typically lower than their gasoline or diesel counterparts. And with smart EV chargers, energy usage can be managed remotely, optimizing charging times and further lowering costs.

4 Get Flexible with Energy Demand

Businesses and institutions with a large electrical load – whether from electric appliances, vehicles, or even DERs – should look to get paid for their energy flexibility. Utility and grid-sponsored demand response and flexibility programs provide payments to facilities that agree to reduce energy usage when the grid is stressed. By temporarily reducing energy or selling back excess energy from DERs, businesses receive compensation and give the grid the flexibility it needs. Energy users should plan for an integrated electrification strategy for the most lucrative, sustainable and impactful results. These four solutions can work together to create greater value for businesses and help build climate resilient cities. A proud sponsor of Climate Week NYC, Enel North America is electrifying the economy with a mission to combat the climate crisis and build a low-carbon future. Enel works with companies, cities, utilities and other partners to reduce their carbon emissions, create and benefit from a reliable electric grid and maximize the value of electrification. Enel recently brought forward its net zero commitment by 10 years to 2040 and is mobilizing $8.3 billion in North America from 2022 to 2024 to accelerate the clean energy transition.
The role of Brazil in the decarbonization of the global steel industry

Thursday, September 22, 2022
Virtual | 1 hour | English

The Iron and Steel sector is the largest industrial source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions globally and the second-largest industrial energy consumer. Due to these facts, coal is the most used fuel worldwide, followed by electricity and natural gas (IEA, 2020). Because of its intensive energy use and high carbon profile, governments and global corporations are focusing on the sector’s rapid decarbonization. Several steel producers have adopted emission reduction targets encouraged by initiatives worldwide, some declared their goals in law, such as Germany, Japan, and South Korea, and some countries have an in-policy document, such as China, the United States, and Brazil.

In this context, Brazil is the ninth-largest steel-producing country globally and the largest in Latin America. The country plans to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Speakers
- Philipp Hauser,
  Agora energiewende (Germany)
- Otto Hebeda,
  UFRJ (Brazil)

Copper contributes to climate solutions in innumerable ways, from its uses in renewable energy systems to electric vehicles (EVs) to energy-efficient infrastructure. However, to drive climate action fast, action must be scaled through partnership. The International Copper Association (ICA) collaborates with its members and global partners, like The Climate Group, to promote innovative solutions that mitigate climate change and drive forward the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
Partnerships Accelerate Decarbonization

For the copper industry, action on decarbonization must begin at the mine site. Although innovative technologies and practices at the modern mine drive progress, the copper industry needs the support of partners throughout the value chain to accelerate change. ICA members are already putting this into practice; Anglo American and Antofagasta are working with organizations in the energy sector to develop hydrogen-powered mining vehicles, and the technological innovation needed to electrify mining operations is being spearheaded by the global Charge on Innovation Challenge led by BHP, Rio Tinto and Vale.

Partnerships Close the Loop in the Circular Economy

Part of copper’s contribution to decarbonizing other industries is its ability to be recycled without loss of its natural properties. However, this requires barriers to recycling to be reduced via circular systems. ICA members are pursuing circular production processes through industrial symbiosis – the use of one industry’s waste by another. Aurubis and Boliden are converting byproducts from the copper production process for applications in the buildings and construction sector, and members such as Rio Tinto, LS-Nikko and JX Nippon have created partnerships with e-scrap recyclers to ensure the recovery of valuable raw materials from electronic waste. To fully close the loop, government, product designers, manufacturers, recyclers and consumers must collaborate to enable a culture of sustainability without waste throughout the value chain.

Partnerships Scale Impact on the SDGs

Beyond the material itself, partnerships allow ICA to attain a global impact by leveraging the collective expertise of the industry. ICA’s flagship partnership with United For Efficiency, a public-private partnership led by UNEP, works to bring minimum energy performance standards and energy-efficient appliances to emerging and developing economies. In addition, ICA has recently launched two energy partnerships: the Cornerstone of Rural Electrification (CORE), which provides off-grid energy access to rural communities, and the Grid Efficiency and Resilience (GEAR) initiative, which works to increase the efficiency of power grids in Africa. These projects provide holistic solutions impacting 10 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Action enabling the green transition is taking place, but the true catalyst for global change will be collaboration that unites the strengths of individual industries and sectors. While each industry must do its part to create substantive change from within, real impact demands untraditional thinking and alliances. ICA and its members are ready to accept the challenge and accelerate change.
New York ranks high on many lists of top eco-friendly cities, reflecting its dedication to a better environmental future. For a start, the five boroughs are full of green buildings, small urban farms and garden-filled areas, many of which offer fun activities, educational tours and ways you can join in to make a positive impact. Explore sustainable things to do at the seven spots below, and see our Green NYC guide for other environmentally friendly ways to explore the City.

### Billion Oyster Project
**Governors Island, Brooklyn Bridge Park, Soundview and Coney Island**

New York Harbor was once home to a thriving oyster population that cleaned and filtered waterways and protected the shoreline from river erosion. The Industrial Revolution and growing sewage introduced pollution to the harbor, killing off oysters within a century. In 2014, Billion Oyster Project began restoring oyster reefs back to their habitat in sites across the City. There are programs for individual volunteers, students and corporate entities that cover species identification, restoration and monitoring—you can become a project ambassador or a community scientist with your own research station. The organization, which has field stations in the five boroughs, aims to restore a billion oysters to New York Harbor by 2035.

### Randall’s Island Urban Farm
**Wards Meadow Loop, Wards Island Park, Randall’s Island**

Despite its building density, NYC has hundreds of urban farms and gardens that produce fruit, vegetables and herbs distributed and consumed within the five boroughs. Randall’s Island Urban Farm, set on an acre of land, grows hundreds of plants and teaches visitors botany and sustainable farming practices like pollination and composting. The farm also has rice paddies, berry bushes and greenhouses, all of which are open to the public on Exploration Days during weekends in the summer months.

### Javits Center Green Roof Tour
**429 Eleventh Ave., Hell’s Kitchen, Manhattan**

If you’ve never been on a working green roof, seeing the 6.75-acre sedum rooftop of the Javits Center makes a great first experience. You’ll learn about the birds and bees: that is, the roof has honey bee hives that produce jars of honey for sale and is also home to bats, nesting birds and various insects. Find out about the reduction of bird hits on the building’s windows thanks to recent renovations, and how the green roof helps lower energy consumption in parts of the property. Tours are available to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

### Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden
**1000 Richmond Terrace, Randall Manor, Staten Island**

Staten Island is known as the “greenest borough” of NYC, with nearly 60 percent of its area covered by greenery—and much of that open for nature-oriented activities. So put on comfy shoes and hop on the ferry for a volunteer day at Snug Harbor Heritage Farm, which grows produce using sustainable practices like composting and crop rotation. There is plenty of opportunity to weed, plant or otherwise help in the gardens. In 2021, the farm generated 22,000 pounds of produce, roughly a fifth of which was donated to the community.
Bryant Park Beekeeping

Bryant Park, 40th to 42nd Streets, between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, Manhattan

Climate change and rapid urbanization threaten bee species globally, but NYC beekeepers have made it their duty to maintain these insects in apiaries around the City—a good thing, as without these tiny pollinators, many fruits, flowers and vegetables would simply not exist. The one in Bryant Park, which holds 10,000 honeybees, is open for viewing between April and July. You can also attend instructional classes on beekeeping on select noon Fridays at Bryant Park’s Reading Room (also seasonal); it’s a chance for budding beekeepers and gardeners to learn about bee colonies and their role in the ecosystem.

GrowNYC Teaching Garden

Governors Island

This urban farm educates guests on farming and harvesting vegetables, fruit and herbs. It also incorporates zero-waste ideals by using recycled lumber for vegetable beds and rainwater harvesting as irrigation. Other educational sights include an aquaponics system, rain garden and nutrition workshops, affording visitors the opportunity to plant, water and cook produce. The farm is mostly aimed at students and conducts programming throughout the school year, but it is open to the public on weekends between May 1 and October 31.

Brooklyn Grange Farm

850 3rd Ave., Sunset Park, Brooklyn

Brooklyn Grange operates rooftop urban farms in Brooklyn Navy Yard and Sunset Park, growing more than 100,000 pounds of fruit and veg using hydroponics systems and organic farming practices. They have a range of events, including classes like Introduction to Microgreens, so you can learn to cultivate them in those cramped NYC apartments, and Caribbean Cooking, to learn Taino ingredients and methods. Also, on offer are farm tours (at both locations), workshops and hive inspections.

Download today for free and be part of the biggest climate event on Earth

Search Climate Week NYC
What if apartment listings had to include energy-efficiency scores?

How energy disclosure could help lower renters’ utility bills and tackle climate change.

By Emily Pontecorvo, Grist

In 2020, 34 million US households reported that they had trouble paying their energy bills or kept their house at an unsafe temperature to keep costs manageable. Nearly 20 percent of households reported that they gave up basic necessities in order to pay an energy bill for at least one month that year. Now, with inflation, Russia’s war in Ukraine, costly climate impacts to the energy system, and a tight energy market, energy costs are increasing. “Especially now, the need for renters to know how much they’re gonna pay in energy costs, especially low-income renters, is so important,” said Sussman.

Making people’s homes more energy-efficient is also an essential step for tackling climate change. Energy use in residential buildings accounts for about 20 percent of US carbon emissions. ACEEE estimates that energy-saving measures have the potential to reduce emissions by 33 percent by 2050. As the US moves toward electric vehicles and electric heating systems, energy efficiency is also essential to ensuring the grid can handle the additional demand. Most renters have little power to make energy-saving changes to their homes, other than swapping out lightbulbs or putting up plastic insulation on the windows in the winter. Landlords also don’t have much incentive to pay for deeper retrofits like air sealing, window replacements, insulation, or more efficient appliances, since they typically aren’t paying the energy bills. The result is that rental units consume 15 percent more energy per square foot than owner-occupied homes in the US.

“Especially now, the need for renters to have this information to influence their decision-making is so important,” he said. “Especially now, the need for renters to know how much they’re gonna pay in energy costs, especially low-income renters, is so important,” said Sussman.

For test how energy efficiency information would influence renters’ choices, Sussman and his co-authors designed a fake rental listing website and recruited 2,455 current renters to choose their favorite among different housing options. Participants were asked to enter a location and the number of bedrooms they were looking for. Then they were shown three listings at a time that included a photo, monthly rent, number of bedrooms, number of bathrooms, and square footage. Some also saw either an estimate for monthly energy bills or an energy efficiency score. (The same three images were rotated through each round to reduce the potential for the photos to influence choice.) The authors found that the presence of efficiency information made renters 21 percent more likely to select a highly efficient unit and, coincidentally, 21 percent less likely to choose an inefficient unit. They also found that using a spectrum scale for energy efficiency information rather than assigning it a numeric score or sharing the average monthly energy bill.

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Adam Lake, Head of Climate Week, explores the journey it has been on and how it has been influenced by global changes in how we all tackle climate change.

Climate Week NYC has taken place every year over the last fourteen years during the third week of September to coincide with the United Nations General Assembly. The idea was simple - go to where global leaders from business and government will gather and create a platform where those committed to tackling climate change can collaborate, commit, and compete with each other with ever increasing levels of ambition. It’s a model that worked, and still forms the basis of the week to this day. As public support for taking climate action has grown, so too has the engagement and ambition we have seen from those in a position to make change happen.

But we know that progress isn’t being made fast enough, not on a national level, or an international one. For too long the only people who had a voice on the issue of climate change were those whose voices were already being heard. And as important and critical as those voices are in Getting It Done, a whole part of the picture has been missing for too long.

Local climate activism has been moving the climate fight forward for years but the role it plays now in guiding the global narrative has changed. Grassroots campaigners, youth activists and marginalized groups from around the world shouldn’t just get a seat at the table, they play a core role in setting what the agenda should be. The influence of those most being impacted by climate change is having an increasing role in how we take on this challenge. Listening and learning from those who have been on the frontlines for decades will help us shift the dial.

We first saw the momentum shift at scale in 2014 when Climate Week NYC partnered with the United Nations Climate Summit. As Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and US Secretary of State John Kerry joined the likes of Apple’s Tim Cook from and Paris Agreement architect Christiana Figueres at our Opening Ceremony, over 400,000 activists took to the streets of Manhattan as part of the Climate People’s March.
For the first time Climate Week NYC hosted over 150 events led by leaders and volunteers from around NYC. Since 2014, we have seen the amount of events taking place grow as a new generation join this work every year. The program we have this week brings together the most diverse and eclectic selection of events you’ll find thanks to the creativity and commitment those most impacted and affected. We are seeing more voices and they are getting louder and clearer. Spread out over the five boroughs, these events galvanize climate action.

One of the most exciting developments in recent years is the merging together of climate activism and climate action. In 2019 the Youth Climate March came together as the Secretary General’s Climate Action Summit showcased global leadership on a scale never seen before. But what was even more inspirational was what happened next. 2020 will forever be remembered as the year a pandemic hit the world and impacted our way of living in unimaginable ways. But amongst the suffering and sacrifice it also showed that we do have the ability to make massive changes to protect ourselves and each other. It also showed that where there is a will there is a way – the many levers pulled by governments to meet the challenge brought hope to many in the climate community as evidence that unprecedented action is possible.

2020 was the first ever Climate Week NYC that was 100% virtual, but despite the inability of being able to come together in person we found a way to keep the action happening. It was the year we broke every record in participation both in New York and around the world with over 500 events. The restrictions did not restrict the determination to take action. We’ve had a takeover of late night TV, participation from royalty, amazing art installations across the city and practical action on the streets. But behind all of this, the key to success of Climate Week NYC is our unwavering belief that bringing people together to find solutions is what makes the real difference.

Those marching yesterday really do become those who will lead tomorrow, our hope is that by creating a platform to bring people together we can help speed up and strengthen the journey to a net zero world.
Every year states and regions of the Under2 Coalition come together to share knowledge and first-hand experience of climate action – and to challenge the international community to increase its ambition and play its part in tackling climate change. We call this the Under2 General Assembly and it unites governments from across the world in pursuit of net zero emissions and a more sustainable future.

Last year we met in Glasgow during COP26. At this time our members not only committed to becoming a net zero coalition by 2050 at the latest, but laid out the actions they would be taking before 2030 to make this a reality. These actions came from a broad range of sectors – from agriculture to energy, industry and transport – in recognition of the interconnected challenges we face and the solutions that already exist to meet them.

The climate crisis is too big for any group to tackle alone: it needs all of us pulling in the same direction. State and regional governments can provide the conditions for businesses to decarbonise their supply chains. At the same time businesses can support government efforts to reduce emissions, improve air quality and regenerate nature.

Nehmat Kaur, Head of Global Government Relations for Climate Group said: "Climate Week NYC is the biggest climate event of the year and the Under2 Coalition is more involved than ever before. 50 states, regions and provinces are coming to New York this month to show their progress on climate and to find new ways of meeting the challenges we all face. COP26 laid the foundations for greater action across every country and every sector. Now’s the time to realise that ambition and show what we can achieve when we work together."

Climate Week NYC enables vital conversations on difficult subjects. As well as the General Assembly, our government members will be able to attend events and debates aimed at finding solutions that work. Some of these will be hosted by Climate Group and others will come from a broad range of groups that share our determination to take meaningful action. Crucially, there will also be voices representing different parts of the world and acknowledging the different challenges they face. This means looking to a cleaner future that is fair and just for everyone. From cutting emissions to adapting to extreme weather, the Under2 Coalition will echo the call of Climate Week NYC in 2022 to ‘Get It Done’.

COP26 laid the foundations for greater action across every country and every sector. Now’s the time to realise that ambition and show what we can achieve when we work together.
Under2 Events

Visit www.theclimategroup.org/states-and-regions-climate-week-nyc for a full list of Under2 Coalition events

Act local, tackle global: how just transitions in emerging economies can help meet global climate targets

Tuesday 20 September 13:00 - 14:00 ET

A just, equitable and fast transition is needed in emerging economies to help meet global climate commitments set by countries across the world. Can local solutions for a just transition in emerging economies solve the global equity and climate crisis, ensuring no one gets left behind?

This session is part of The Hub Live at Climate Week NYC, from September 20-21. Get more info on the other sessions in The Hub Live over September 20-21, as well as the sessions happening as part of our Opening Ceremony on September 19.


Break the ICE: the role global partnerships play in driving the zero emission vehicle transition

Wednesday, September 21, 2022 09:00 AM - 10:00 AM ET

Ambitious targets require innovative action. Partnerships between business and government can play a crucial role in driving the transition away from internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. Join us to hear how our partners are driving the zero-emission vehicle transition together.

This session is part of The Hub Live at Climate Week NYC, from September 20-21. Get more info on the other sessions in The Hub Live over September 20-21, as well as the sessions happening as part of our Opening Ceremony on September 19.

Speakers
- Dr Mónica Araya, Distinguished Fellow at ClimateWorks - Drive Electric Campaign
- Stuart Greig, Director of Transport Scotland’s Low Carbon Economy Directorate at the Government of Scotland
- Laura Hendricks, Chief Executive Officer at Transdev US

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/break-ice-role-global-partnerships-play-driving-zero-emission-vehicle-transition

Financing for a fairer future in Latin America

Tuesday, September 20, 2022 02:30 PM - 03:30 PM ET

Join us as we bring together governments and financiers to explore possibilities in Latin America where there is strong – and growing – interest in net zero investments in energy, transport, waste and agriculture.

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/financing-fairer-future-latin-america

Unlocking collaboration across the Americas

Wednesday, September 21, 2022 09:00 AM - 10:00 AM ET

States, regions, and businesses across the Americas face common challenges when addressing and implementing climate policy. Shared borders, geography, and trade agreements mean that successful climate policies are dependent on collaboration.

This session aims to address these common challenges and highlight potential shared solutions by breaking down silos between government, business, and other key stakeholders. In this way we can enable meaningful collaboration and identify key target areas for long-lasting and sustainable public-private partnership.

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/unlocking-collaboration-across-americas

We need to talk about methane: why net zero isn’t just about CO2

Tuesday, September 20, 2022 09:00 AM - 10:00 AM ET

Reducing methane emissions might be the single most effective strategy to limit global warming – so why do we mainly talk in terms of carbon emissions? We know methane matters. What action is needed to deliver on the Global Methane Pledge agreed at COP26? And can we go further?

Facing the Climate Emergency on the Road to COP27: Solutions and Perspectives from Global Women and Gender Diverse Leaders

Tuesday, September 20, 2022
12:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT
Virtual | Multiple days | English

As the climate emergency accelerates, now more than ever we need the solutions of women and gender diverse leaders to protect our communities and the global climate.


Environmental Justice

Powering the Energy Access Workforce of the Future

Monday, September 19, 2022
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM EDT
Virtual | 1:30 hours | English

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/powering-energy-access-workforce-future

Intergenerational Equity and Climate Justice: Reimagining Commonwealth Youth Participation in Climate Action

Tuesday, September 20, 2022
12:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT
Virtual | 2 hours | English


Rainforests, Climate, and You: Disrupting Climate Finance

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
Hybrid | 4 hours | English

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/rainforests-climate-and-you-disrupting-climate-finance

Protecting the northern forest: Why the Boreal is critical to saving the planet

Thursday, September 22, 2022
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM EDT
Hybrid | 1.5 hours | English


African Feminist Perspectives on COP27 and Beyond

Tuesday, September 20, 2022
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM EDT
In-person | 1:30 hours | English

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/african-feminist-perspectives-cop27-and-beyond

Women Land Defenders on the Frontlines of Biodiversity Protection and Climate Action

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM EDT
In-person | 1:30 hours | English


World Biodiversity Summit – New York

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
Hybrid | 5 hours | English

Now returning for its second year, World Biodiversity Summit offers a platform to tackle the crucial issue of biodiversity loss and to meet the goals outlined in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. World Biodiversity Summit (WBS) is organized by the World Climate Foundation and takes place alongside three pivotal events: UNGA in New York, UNFCCC COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh and finally UNCBD COP15 in Montreal.

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/world-biodiversity-summit-new-york

Equitably Implementing Natural Climate Solutions Using 3 Interactive Tools

Tuesday, September 20, 2022
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM EDT
Virtual | 1:30 hours | English

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/equitably-implementing-natural-climate-solutions-using-3-interactive-tools
**International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD)**

Sunday, September 18, 2022
11:00 PM 9/18 - 7:00 PM 9/20 EDT
Virtual | Multiple days | English
ICSD is the top academic international conference for discussing sustainable development issues.
www.climateweeknyc.org/events/international-conference-sustainable-development-icsd

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**From Farm to Table: Reducing Methane in the Food System**

Sunday, September 18, 2022
11:00 PM 9/18 - 7:00 PM 9/20 EDT
Virtual | Multiple days | English
According to the 2021 Global Methane Assessment by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), cutting farming-related methane emissions is key in the battle against climate change. Methane has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over the first 20 years after it reaches the atmosphere. Reducing this powerful short-lived greenhouse gas in this decade will keep the 1.5 degree target alive. More than 60 percent of emissions come from the food system, either by how it is produced, or the waste that it generates. This conversation will focus on how the private sector is jumping at opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint of food, so it can be healthy for people and the planet. From plant-based hamburgers to low emissions dairy, we will see how far we have come, and what more needs to be done.
www.climateweeknyc.org/events/farm-table-reducing-methane-food-system

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**Climate-Smart Choices in the Grocery Store**

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM EDT
Virtual | 2 hour | English
www.climateweeknyc.org/events/climate-smart-choices-grocery-store

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**Can Sustainable Food Systems Save the Climate?**

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM EDT
Virtual | 2 hour | English
www.climateweeknyc.org/events/can-sustainable-food-systems-save-climate

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**Beyond carbon: Calculating the value of next-gen sustainability criteria**

Thursday, September 22, 2022
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EST
www.climateweeknyc.org/events/beyond-carbon-calculating-value-next-gen-sustainability-criteria-0
A year after the Global Cement and Concrete Association launched its Roadmap to Net Zero Cement and Concrete 2050, this event will take stock of progress to date in implementing the report’s recommendations, and examine what needs to be done next to accelerate progress.

Waste as a resource, the new gold in the Built Environment

Towards Net Zero: Cement and Concrete Industry Action and Progress 2050 Roadmap ‘1 year on’

Connecting Wood Construction with Sustainability and Net Zero

The Carbon Impact Inside: How Interior Designers Can Fight Climate Change

Waste as a resource, the new gold in the Built Environment

Banking on cities: How to boost private investment in green urban infrastructure

Beyond net zero – to grow your climate impact by maximizing your carbon handprint

Industry

Blockchain Central UNGA

Petrochemicals – a significant environmental threat

The role of Brazil in the decarbonization of the global steel industry

Moving America’s Freight Industry Towards Net Zero: How the Transport Industry is Saving the Planet by Pulling More Freight
Climate change is reshaping risk and opportunity across industry, finance and civil society. Investment in both the transition to a zero-carbon economy and adapting to physical climate risks will be critical.

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/financing-resilience-alongside-net-zero

Amtrak Executive Vice President Strategy, Planning, and Accessibility, Dennis Newman, will speak on a panel with fellow transportation leaders on ways Amtrak and their respective agencies will deliver solutions for a faster, more effective modal shift.

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/public-transportation-modal-shift-lower-carbon-transport-systems

Getting From Point A to Point Clean: The Community Movements Powering the Clean Transportation Revolution

Thursday, September 22, 2022
03:00 PM - 04:00 PM EST
Virtual | 1 hour | English
www.climateweeknyc.org/events/getting-point-point-clean-community-movements-powering-clean-transportation-revolution

Amtrak Executive Vice President Strategy, Planning, and Accessibility, Dennis Newman, will speak on a panel with fellow transportation leaders on ways Amtrak and their respective agencies will deliver solutions for a faster, more effective modal shift.

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/public-transportation-modal-shift-lower-carbon-transport-systems

Climate Opportunities: Commercializing Decarbonization Solutions in Heavy Transportation

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
In-person | 4 hours | English
www.climateweeknyc.org/events/climate-opportunities-commercializing-decarbonization-solutions-heavy-transportation

The ESG Leadership Forum

Monday, September 19, 2022
01:00 PM - 04:30 PM EDT
Hybrid | 3 hours | English
www.climateweeknyc.org/events/esg-leadership-forum

Reducing NYC transportation emissions: discussing bill Int. 0279-2022

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
Virtual | 2 hours | English

Sustainable Investment Forum North America

Thursday, September 22, 2022
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM EDT
In-person | 1 day | English
www.climateweeknyc.org/events/sustainable-investment-forum-north-america

Financing the Just Transition, a journey to net zero in emerging markets

Tuesday, September 20, 2022
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM EDT
Virtual | 1 hour | English

Financing a Net Zero Economy

Wednesday, September 28, 2022
08:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST
Hybrid | 1 day | English
www.climateweeknyc.org/events/financing-net-zero-economy

The ESG Leadership Forum

Monday, September 19, 2022
01:00 PM - 04:30 PM EDT
Hybrid | 3 hours | English
www.climateweeknyc.org/events/esg-leadership-forum

Financing Resilience Alongside Net Zero

Tuesday, September 20, 2022
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM EDT
Tribeca 360 | 3 hours | English
Climate change is reshaping risk and opportunity across industry, finance and civil society. Investment in both the transition to a zero-carbon economy and adapting to physical climate risks will be critical.

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/financing-resilience-alongside-net-zero
The Sixth Annual Marketplace of the Future

Tuesday, September 20, 2022
12:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT
Virtual | Multiple days | English

Inspired by the 1939 New York World’s Fair, the Marketplace of the Future is an annual expo showcasing products and services embodying a sustainable future. For its 6th annual event we’re returning with dozens of start-ups covering the spectrum of climate solutions. From breakthrough renewable energy technology to zero-waste packaging, experience what it’s like when a sustainable future meets present.

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/sixth-annual-marketplace-future

How You Can Help Solve the Climate Crisis

Tuesday, September 20, 2022
06:30 PM - 08:00 PM EST
In-person | 1:30 hours | English
www.climateweeknyc.org/events/how-you-can-help-solve-climate-crisis

Building a Brighter Future: How Solar is Empowering Schools and Cities Across the Nation

Thursday, September 15, 2022
12:00 PM - 01:00 PM EST
Virtual | 1 hour | English

Unlocking Carbon Removal & Entrepreneurs with Voluntary Carbon Markets

Tuesday, September 20, 2022
05:00 PM - 07:00 PM EST
In-person | 2 hours | English

Kickstarting the Renewables Era at COP27

Thursday, September 22, 2022
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT
Virtual | 1 hour | English
The world is in a critical moment, facing unprecedented challenges to energy security, rising inflation and a narrowing time window to limit dangerous global heating.

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/kickstarting-renewables-era-cop27

Sustainable Living

Energy

Electrification Is The Low-Carbon Future | GSEP At Climate Week NYC

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
09:00 AM EDT - 04:00 PM EDT
In-person | 1 day | English

Building a Brighter Future: How Solar is Empowering Schools and Cities Across the Nation

The Mega-Sustainable Metaverse

Monday, September 19, 2022
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EDT
Virtual | 30 minutes | English
www.climateweeknyc.org/events/mega-sustainable-metaverse

Zero-waste and plastic-free refill shops: A throwback to the past to save our future


Accelerating Energy Transition Investments: How can capital be mobilised?

Thursday, September 22, 2022
03:00 PM - 07:00 PM EST
In-person | 4 hours | English
www.climateweeknyc.org/events/accelerating-energy-transition-investments-how-can-capital-be-mobilised

How You Can Help Solve the Climate Crisis

Tuesday, September 20, 2022
06:30 PM - 08:00 PM EST
In-person | 1:30 hours | English
www.climateweeknyc.org/events/how-you-can-help-solve-climate-crisis

Women Land Defenders on the Frontlines of Biodiversity Protection and Climate Action

Rainforests, Climate, and You: Disrupting Climate Finance

Net Impact NYC Panel – The Environmental Impact of the 2021-2022 SCOTUS Term

Making Paris Work for the People: Adaptation at scale in climate-vulnerable nations

From Farm to Table: Reducing Methane in the Food System

International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD)

How You Can Help Solve the Climate Crisis

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/how-you-can-help-solve-climate-crisis


www.climateweeknyc.org/events/making-paris-work-people-adaptation-scale-climate-vulnerable-nations

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/farm-table-reducing-methane-food-system

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/international-conference-sustainable-development-icsd

www.climateweeknyc.org/events/how-you-can-help-solve-climate-crisis
Dallas Goldtooth on the liberation of laughter and the power of joy in organizing

The “Reservation Dogs” actor, comedian, and organizer believes “if we can laugh at our oppressors, it takes away the power of our oppressors.”

By Hannah Docter-Loeb, Grist

Fix / Imperial Oil / Getty Images

Reading the news, it’s easy to feel grim about the future of our planet. Climate anxiety, frustration, and anger are common reactions. Dallas Goldtooth understands that. But he encourages another equally important reaction: joy.

As a "Keep It in the Ground" organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network and a member of the Dakota and Diné Nations, Goldtooth has been on the front lines, literally and figuratively, of the climate and environmental justice movements. He spent many years working on the successful effort to shut down Keystone XL, and he was fighting the Dakota Access pipeline long before the campaign received widespread attention.

Goldtooth is intimately familiar with the science and statistics behind climate change — he’s written reports on the subject — so he recognizes why people might feel anxious, frustrated, and angry. But the 2017 Grist 50 honoree believes these emotions, though valid, aren’t enough to bring people into the movement, let alone solve our planet’s problems. To Goldtooth, who in addition to being a climate activist is an actor and entertainer, any solution must include a healthy measure of fun.

“It’s easy to fall into this cynicism and negativity, but humor and joy is a way for me to process all of that in a way that’s generative,” he says. “It’s really an outlet for me. My acting, my artistry, is an outlet for me to process my anxieties and frustrations with the world in a way that is generative. It’s building something rather than tearing something down.”

Goldtooth knows a thing or two about humor. Beyond his genuinely hilarious appearance in three episodes of the television series Reservation Dogs, he is a cofounding member of the 1491s, an Indigenous sketch comedy group that uses humor to explore contemporary Native American struggles with stereotypes, racism, tribal politics, and more. His expression of joy isn’t confined to performances, though. Goldtooth once made a point of livestreaming himself gleefully sliding down a hill at Standing Rock, which is just one of many examples of how he brings levity to his activism. He believes others should, too.

"I think there’s nothing more human, nothing that speaks more to our ability to process the world around us than our ability to make light of situations no matter how hard or difficult or dark they may be," he says. Fix talked to Goldtooth about why he considers joy so essential to activism, why so many activists seem reluctant to embrace it, and how humor can be a liberating force. His comments have been edited for length and clarity.

When we talk about a just transition toward a sustainable society in a new world, what we’re really talking about is allowing ourselves to radically imagine a future in which we exist on our terms.

Dallas Goldtooth

Q. Why is bringing a measure of joy and fun to this work so important to you?
A. It’s so easy for us to get stuck in the pits and fully submerge ourselves with climate anxiety. In order for us to radically imagine a different future, we have to imagine and allow ourselves to experience the joys of this world and see ourselves being happy in the future. That can only manifest if you start now, if you find joy in the moment, and you use love for the land, love for our lives, and love for our people to drive
When people were broadcasting from the protest, the personas you often saw were angry activists and angry organizers. That’s justifiable anger and rage that you saw, but I noticed that I’m more lighthearted in how I communicate. I chose not to be the angry activist. I found that most appropriate for me.

We don’t want to be throwing out buzzwords and acronyms. What we’re going to do is celebrate. We’re going to have a festival, we’re going to have music, we’re going to have a celebration, we’re going to express ourselves with smiles while educating folks on the issues, because that’s what really motivates people to build power.

Q. Sometimes people are too serious as activists. Do you think there are risks in that?
A. I always get turned off when people are too serious. The camera is on and they’re angry and their brows are furrowed. For me, as an individual, that doesn’t call me in. For some people it does; I can’t say everyone has to be happy. We don’t all have to organize with a smile. But we have to be mindful about what’s calling people in to build collective power, and we can’t ignore the inherent power of using joy and using laughter as a way to heal and build that power. I don’t want to play into, “We don’t like you guys because you’re scary and angry, these folks are more palatable.” Since I’m lighthearted and take this approach, I’m trying to be very cognizant of not undermining the work of people who choose a different approach.

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Q. How can activists and people in frontline communities embrace joy? And why should they?
A. A good example is a group called Gulf South for a Green New Deal and their event, Gulf Gathering for Climate Justice and Joy. That’s literally the fulfilled name of the event. They [used] that as an organizing moment to educate their communities on false solutions like carbon capture and storage, carbon pipelines, and offshore leasing and drilling. Their angle is, “These are community folks and we want to bring people into this space, but we don’t want to yall at them. We don’t want to be throwing out buzzwords and acronyms. What we’re going to do is celebrate. We’re going to have a festival, we’re going to have music, we’re going to have a celebration, we’re going to express ourselves with smiles while educating folks on the issues, because that’s what really motivates people to build power.” We’re seeing communities claim that and utilize that to really make that’s really going in a good way.

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Beacons in the storm

A grassroots coalition aims to build solar-powered "lighthouses" across Louisiana and boost post-hurricane grid resilience.

by Jeff St. John

After Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans in 2005, New Wine Christian Fellowship in LaPlace, Louisiana opened its doors to hundreds of displaced residents and volunteers. In 2012, Hurricane Isaac flooded thousands of homes and businesses in its home parish of St. John the Baptist, New Wine became a hub for providing food, clothing and other supplies. In the wake of Hurricane Ida last year, the congregation provided disaster relief yet again, but with the power out for nearly three weeks, it was a challenging task.

"For ministries and organizations like ours on the ground, you need power to keep food cool, you need power to dispatch people correctly," New Wine pastor Neil Bernard said. "It would have been a whole lot better to have power for people who were already frightened and lost."

That's why Bernard and his congregants jumped at the chance to join the Community Lighthouse effort led by Together New Orleans. The goal of the $13.8 million project is to secure rooftop solar and backup batteries for faith and community centers so they can supply the power they'll need when the next disaster strikes.

The project has lined up $10 million in nonprofit grants and pledges of federal and city government funding so far, and is targeting 24 locations across Louisiana, 16 of which are in New Orleans. Each will be equipped with enough solar and battery capacity to supply more than a week of electricity for critical loads like refrigerators, cooling centers, and charging for cellphones and medical devices. Besides serving as shelters, these locations will be staging grounds for volunteers to fan out across neighborhoods and assist residents stranded by flooding or who lack the financial means to evacuate. Every neighborhood in New Orleans will be within a 15-minute walk of a "community lighthouse." The group's long-term aim is to secure enough funding to establish up to 85 such centers across the state.

Building resilience from the local community level up is a central part of the vision, according to Together New Orleans leader Antoine Barriere, senior pastor of Household of Faith Family Worship Church in New Orleans.

"We've spent years saying, 'When are they going to fix the levees, when are they going to set up cooling centers?'" he said. "We have to stop saying, 'When are they going to fix the levees,' and start saying, 'How are we going to fix the levees'?

"Hurricane Ida sparked something in Southeast Louisiana," said Logan Atkinson Burke, executive director of Alliance for Affordable Energy, a community advocacy group and Together New Orleans member. The increasing availability of rooftop solar and backup batteries is "enabling dreaming, if you will, about what resilience could actually look like in our city."

In March, the US Department of Energy picked Together New Orleans as one of 14 community organizations to receive technical assistance under its Energy Storage for Social Equity Initiative. Jennifer Yoshimura, a program manager with the DOE initiative, explained that the group's plan had jumped out with the DOE initiative, explaining that the group’s plan had jumped out at the application review team for its holistic approach to resiliency.

"We saw a community banding together in a meaningful way," she said, "from all walks of life, to identify a problem and do something about it."
Answering the Need for Collaboration and Connection

This pressing need for collaboration and collective effort is precisely why The Nest Summit evolved into a Campus for 2022. Connection is at the core of positive shared experiences, partnership, and empowering communities to work together productively. The Nest Summit Campus at the Javits Center is proud to be creating this level of connection. It will be a robust and vibrant central destination to unify leaders across businesses, NGOs, government, and academia to accelerate climate action.

100% Focused on Climate Solutions

At a time when the world is increasingly recognizing the need for answers to the climate crisis, The Nest Summit Campus is 100% focused on solutions that are actionable today. Its programming is designed so that no matter where one is in their journey to greater sustainability and a greener future, it will provide access to the insights, expertise, and resources needed to advance climate initiatives.

Accelerating Climate Action

The Main Stage conference includes 22 sessions of thematic programming and features over 70 speakers addressing essential elements of climate solutions. The critical importance of diversity, equity, and climate justice will be common themes throughout these discussions. The 16 Co-located Events taking place along with the Main Stage discussions will add rich depth and expertise to the climate solution focus of The Nest Summit Campus. These meetings will bring together subject matter experts representing science, finance, government, transportation, food and health, and other corporations devoted to achieving drawdown. The purpose of the Campus is to create substantive opportunities for knowledge sharing, new connections, and potential partners across the entire climate action community. In addition to the expert conversations joining the Campus, the Climate Collective, an environment for connecting with colleagues and discovering climate solutions, and the Garden Eatery Social, a sustainable food experience serving plant-based meals, will provide critically important space for communities dedicated to advancing climate solutions to network at the Campus.

For more information about the activities at the Campus and to register to join, please visit www.thenestsummit.com.
I am getting it done.

...by prioritizing sustainability and clean energy in how we make and distribute our products to consumers.