

AAEE NSW CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

In October 2019 the Australian Association for Environmental Education NSW Chapter (AAEE NSW) declared a climate emergency.

In response to the climate emergency all of AAEE NSW business, activities and decision-making will address the climate emergency.

We acknowledge that time is running out to solve the climate crisis and what we collectively do this decade as citizens, communities, businesses and governments will determine humanity's future.

This decade is our last chance to limit global heating to 1.5 degrees to prevent further irreversible climate tipping points from being reached. These tipping points will cause runaway catastrophic global heating that will make large areas of our planet uninhabitable for our current human population.

The western world has benefited the most from the development achieved by the burning of fossil fuels, yet it is our sisters and brothers in the global south that are suffering most from climate change. We have a responsibility to drastically cut our emissions to address this inequity that is causing our fellow Australians in the Torres Strait and our Pacific neighbours to suffer the loss of their homelands due to rising sea levels.

We join the millions of people around our planet who are working to prevent dangerous climate change and regenerate the natural systems on which all life depends.

We draw hope and optimism from knowing that we are part of this global community who care and are taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and drawdown carbon from our atmosphere.

Our mission

Support and collaborate with environmental educators and climate advocates to communicate a hopeful and inspiring vision of the regenerative future our global community can create.

Our goals

1. Support and learn with our members and networks to help their communities believe it is worth doing something about the climate emergency, so they are mobilised to take action.
2. Support our First Peoples climate justice movement and learn from their insights and approach to healing by listening and valuing their sharing of knowledge.
3. Collaborate with our partners and create new alliances to increase the scale and pace of our own and others' climate emergency responses.
4. Lead with courage and humility and use our voice and leadership to grow NSW and Australia's climate emergency response.
5. Seek new collaborations with community, industry, non-government and government organisations to share our resources, skills and networks for climate action.
6. Acknowledge our climate grief, anxiety, fear and despair with fortitude to focus upon our climate emergency plan.
7. Heal by acting on our climate emergency plan collectively and restore our wellbeing through our connection with nature.

ACTION PLAN- 2021/2022

GOAL	TARGET	ACTIONS	WHO	EVIDENCE OF IMPACT
Acknowledge our climate grief, anxiety, fear and despair with fortitude to focus upon our climate emergency plan.	AAEE NSW e-news	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each e-news has an article on a resource related to our climate emotions, including good news stories to help overcome eco-anxiety 	Executive Officer, all Staff & Climate Emergency Working Group	Annual survey
Support and learn with our members and networks to help their communities believe it is worth doing something about the climate emergency, so they are mobilised to take action.	AAEE NSW e-news	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each e-news has inspirational news on organisations or communities taking action and links to resources to mobilise communities. Promote 'Register' of LG climate emergency declarations (www.cedamia.org/ced-regions-in-australia) 		
	AAEE NSW Facebook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Facebook posts share news, links, actions etc 		
	AAEE NSW publications (including but not limited to website and blogs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop (or promote an existing) '3-5 things to do' list (easy but evidence-based) to act now on climate change Identify and reflect upon links to climate change in the Local Government case studies we produce Develop a school case study/example climate action project, and identify existing examples from other sources that we can promote Have climate change mitigation and adaptation as key element of revised School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) template Get people to document their 'climate story' (from the 10 Communication Tips resource) and put these on website and FB 	Executive Officer, staff (who specifically?)	Feedback on publications and annual survey

<p>(Continued) Support and learn with our members and networks to help their communities believe it is worth doing something about the climate emergency, so they are mobilised to take action.</p>	<p>AAEE NSW Professional Development</p>	<p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include “Adapting education programs to acknowledge the climate crisis” and/or “communicating climate change” as key topics in the Local Government Sustainability Leadership Program, and offer a LG Community of Practice as a legacy of this program. • ‘How to write a climate emergency plan’ masterclass (Darebin as case study) • ‘How to talk to your Councillors’ resources and online session prior to September LG elections <p>SCHOOLS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include “communicating climate change” as well as sector-specific examples and resources for teachers a session in the next Sustainable Schools Online Conference (May) • Run a ‘teaching climate change’ workshop or course for teachers, could include a series of online sessions plus mentoring/support (possible collaborators Teachers Fed, IEU, etc) • Establish an online discussion forum dedicated to ‘teaching climate change’ for teachers • Ensure Mid North Coast Regional Coordinator for SSNSW relates school sustainability to climate change when managing networks and mentoring schools 	<p>Executive Officer, staff (who specifically?)</p>	<p>Feedback on each.</p>
<p>Support our First Peoples climate justice movement and learn from their insights and approach to healing by listening and valuing their sharing of knowledge.</p>	<p>Increase membership of First Peoples in AAEE NSW activities /EMO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer free membership for several First Peoples climate justice and environmental organisations and seek their input for climate response • Encourage First Peoples representatives to join Executive Committee and/or Climate Emergency Working Group 	<p>Executive Officer</p>	<p>Ask existing/new partners and collaborators: “What difference do you hope our collaboration will make to your organisation?” and after 1 year reflect</p>
<p>Collaborate with our partners and create new alliances to increase the scale and pace of our own and others’ climate emergency responses.</p>	<p>All partners are aware of our Plan and opportunities to collaborate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share and discuss our climate emergency response with partners such as R&E, EZEC’s, ECEEN, KAB NSW, Midwaste, NSW Environmental Trust, Nature Conservation Council 	<p>Executive Officer</p>	
	<p>Alliances formed with 3 new organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) and seek advice from them re. 3 new organisations to seeks alliances with to assist each other with our CE response. 	<p>Executive Officer</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish processes for engaging with new organisations and implement 		with them on this.
	2+ media articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase media coverage (e.g., The Conversation) through academics Engage influential supporters to support and increase reach (e.g., Costa, Lesley Hughes) 		
Seek new collaborations with community, industry, non-government and government organisations to share our resources, skills and networks for climate action.	Connect with 10 new organisations including first peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse, youth, arts, climate activism and strategic climate organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and connect with current student climate leaders and ask them what we should do, how we can help Collaborate with ECEEN to understand how climate change action fits with the Early Years Learning Framework and National Quality Standards for early childhood sector, collate existing resources and promote Seek collaborations with for example: SeedMob (Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network), Psychology for a Safe Climate, Breakthrough, 2040 The Movie, the Climate Clever App, 1 Million Women, Carbon8, Climate Reality Leaders Australia etc. 	Climate Emergency Working Group	
Lead with courage and humility and use our voice and leadership to help increase NSW and Australia's climate emergency response.	Offset all emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offset our current emissions 	Executive Officer	Emissions offset reports.
	Reduce our emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise formatting of Net Zero Emissions by 2022 Plan and enact operational changes. 		Progress on our plan.
	A call to action to all environmental educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Central Coast Environmental Educators Network to ensure climate emergency response and leadership is a big focus of the 2021 NSW conference. 	Executive & Climate Emergency Working Group	Conference feedback
	Communicate our climate emergency response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update our website with a few highly visible items e.g., images; stories; video vignette explaining why and what and how, to clearly show the direction our organisation is taking. 	Executive Officer & Climate Emergency Working Group	Philanthropic funding received
	Advocate for a stronger climate emergency response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submissions to government and business relating to climate emergency matters 	Climate Emergency Working Group	Six submissions made.
Heal by acting on our climate emergency plan collectively and restore our wellbeing through our connection with nature.	AAEE NSW e-news	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each e-news reports on the achievements of our climate emergency plan and reminds people of the power of connecting with nature. 	Executive Officer	