

Climate for Change FAQs

This document contains a summary of our activities, impact and funding.

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General FAQs

Who is Climate for Change?

We know what needs to be done to address climate change effectively. Across the world, policies, technologies and practices already exist that, if taken up at scale and speed, could stop or even reverse global warming. What we are missing is the social and political will needed to act.

Climate for Change seeks to create that social and political will - the social climate in Australia in which our political leaders can and must do what it takes to stop, and ultimately reverse, global warming. We have the tools needed to act on climate change now, however we lack the political will to do so. Our mission is to empower communities across Australia to learn how they can take meaningful action, and engage with our elected representatives encouraging them to treat climate action as a priority on a national level.

We are grateful to live in a representative democracy and believe strongly in the power of everyday people to shape this democracy when they actively engage as citizens. Enabling this engagement is the foundation of our work.

[You can read more about us and our work on this page of our website.](#)

What happens in a Climate Conversation?

A volunteer host invites roughly 10 friends around for a meal, with the intention of discussing climate change. We send a trained volunteer facilitator who leads a group discussion around the problem of climate change, what needs to be done and the most powerful ways we can take action. At the end of the talk, the facilitator will ask who will continue the conversation and host their own, aiming for at least two more to ensure growth.

Find out more here: <https://www.climateforchange.org.au/host>

What does C4C do outside of the Climate Conversations Program?

Climate for Change runs a variety of activities outside of the Conversation Program, including:

- Communities Leading Change (<https://communitiesleadingchange.org/>)

- This program is about empowering people from the Latrobe Valley and surrounding areas to engage their communities and building support for a sustainable and fair future.
- Fundraising and Communications Fellowship Program
 - From January to June each year, we train 25 fellows in fundraising, communications and the inner workings of the NFP sector. The fellows help us run our annual crowdfunder.
- MP Engagement Groups (https://www.climateforchange.org.au/mpegs_resources)
 - MPs tell us that to act on climate change, they need to hear more from their constituents. MPEGs are self-directed, community-led groups that engage MPs through letter writing nights or calling parties
- Climate Update (<https://www.climateforchange.org.au/subscribe>)
 - Every fortnight we collect the most important climate change news and compile it in an easy-to-understand format that helps you to see the bigger picture of climate change. We also include at least three actions you can take. Find past updates [here](#).

You can read more about us here: <https://www.climateforchange.org.au/about>

Find podcasts, interviews and articles here: https://www.climateforchange.org.au/c4c_media

Impact FAQs

What makes you different from other environment organisations?

We are the only organisation in Australia specifically focussed on helping ordinary people to have better conversations with their peers on climate change – something that is now being recognised by experts as key to building public support for the action we need.

More than a half of our Climate Conversation attendees are *not yet active within the environmental movement*. We play a unique and crucial role in Australian society, empowering people and communities concerned about climate to act, and connecting them with other environmental organisations that would otherwise be unlikely to reach those communities.

Why don't you focus on larger campaigns (eg. Stop Adani)?

Climate for Change has always focussed on and advocated for work that creates long, lasting change. Our target audience is mainstream Australia - people who understand that climate change is real and serious, but are not sure what they can do about it. Our target audience often don't think of themselves as 'activists', meaning they might be less likely to join and engage with groups such as Stop Adani to start with.

Climate Conversations are a perfect entry point to action, and a way to shift the social climate to one where our society demands climate action, quickly.

We regularly support other organisations' campaigns within our [Climate Updates](#), including actions, rallies and forums that take place.

What impact do Climate Conversations have?

We consistently hear stories of people who would never have dreamed of taking action on climate change shifting their attitudes, standing up to elected representatives and reaching out to others. Our [2019 Annual Report](#) has some fantastic stories of change within it, and [this document](#) has a number of testimonials from people who have hosted their own Conversations.

At the end of each Climate Conversations, attendees fill out a short survey. Statistics about what they learnt, and how their attitudes and understanding changed can be found in our [Impact Report](#), released earlier this year.

Funding FAQs

Where is the money going?

100% of the donations go to Climate for Change. Our annual crowdfunder provides over 50% of our funding each year, so without it, Climate for Change is unable to continue its work.

We use these funds to develop and deliver our pioneering face-to-face Conversations Program, which has reached over 9,000 people face-to-face in just a few years - inspiring and empowering them to take action on climate change.

Over the next three years we want to take this program into communities that influence the national debate on climate change and go deep into those communities to shift that debate.

We are planning to scale our work by 500% and reach 40,000 people face-to-face. But to do that, we need to be able to invest in growing our program.

Most of the funds we raise go towards creating content, developing and delivering training and other support resources by our staff, who enable an incredible team of over 100 volunteers to deliver our work in the community.

Because we are a volunteer-powered organisation, we are able to achieve a lot of impact with the donations received. Our volunteers spend 3 hours a week on average with us. [According to the Funding Centre](#), this means that by supporting 100 volunteers in a year, we're creating additional \$650,000 worth of impact.

If our crowdfunder raises \$190,000 this year, the money will go towards achieving our goal of 40,000 Conversations. And not only that - the impact of money raised will be multiplied more than three times in a year through enabling our staff to do our work and support our volunteers.

Why aren't you asking government/sponsors/philanthropists to fund your work?

Funding from the Government, sponsors, even philanthropists often comes with strings attached. Because we are almost entirely funded by our supporters who donate what they can, we can remain independent, doing work and providing resources that our community asks for.

We're proud of the fact that most of our funds come from our supporters who give what they can to enable our work. This shows there is strong support for what we do amongst the community

we serve, and enables us to remain an organisation of the people, by the people, for the people.

Having said that, we appreciate that a diverse funding base is the key to longer-term viability for our fledgling organisation.

So by supporting our crowdfunder, you are having an immediate impact in terms of providing funds that enable our work straight away, but also a longer-term impact by showing other funders that there is community demand and support for the work we do.

Are you a charity?

Yes! We are a charity registered with the ACNC and Consumer Affairs (VIC). At this stage, we do not have DGR (tax deductibility) status, however with donations of \$2000 or more, there is a possibility of tax deductibility. If you're interested in making a large donation and have any questions about this, please [email our Philanthropy Coordinator, Alex Balsillie](#).

Why don't volunteers do this work?

We do have lots of volunteers who do wonderful work for us, but unfortunately, volunteers aren't magical creatures (although we think they are!) - they need to eat, drink and have a house to live in, and so most of the time they have to work as well as volunteer. This means their time is limited and if life gets busy or overwhelming - if they have a deadline or a sick child or they are sick themselves - usually the first thing that gives is their volunteer work. And there are certain things we need to make sure are done regularly and/or on time so that all our volunteers can do their work. This is the work we prioritise paying staff to do.

Besides all that, Climate for Change believes that our work should be paid. We love our work and are lucky to do something meaningful, but it seems strange to us that those who work to make our planet safe to live on for generations to come don't deserve to be paid.