

# 2019–2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



# FROM OUR FOUNDER

- 3 FROM OUR FOUNDER
- 5 MISSION, VISION AND VALUES
- 6 SHIFTING FOCUS
- 8 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
  - DIVERSITY
  - COVID-19 AND CLIMATE
  - 2019 SCHNEIDER AWARD
- 14 BY THE NUMBERS
- 15 SUPPORTERS AND TEAM



RIGHT *Greg Dalton in his home studio, working in the new normal brought about by COVID-19.*

COVER *The sky turns orange over San Francisco's waterfront due to smoke from California wildfires.*

## DEAR FRIENDS,

It was more than a decade ago that I first heard Governor Schwarzenegger talk at Climate One about a year-round fire season. But I never understood what that meant until millions of people in the American West lived through a month of smoke-filled, orange-tinted skies. Although we'd been bracing for climate impacts for a long time, they became real as we inhaled them directly into our bodies with each breath. It's one thing to intellectually know about climate change; it's another to live it and feel it.

The impacts of climate change are now abundantly visible to the average American. Today, 72% of Americans say climate change is happening, and 57% say it's primarily human-caused. Now, in late 2020, the invisible gas of CO<sub>2</sub> competes with the invisible virus COVID-19 for media, resources and our personal mental bandwidth. When you add in widespread systemic racism, it feels like there are more concerns than we can humanly worry about.

It's hard to look around and not succumb to fear and despair. But there's a way to see this moment as one of opportunity. With so much of the world facing the same acute threats together, the potential

BELOW Greg discusses the wildfires breaking out across the Amazon in the episode Scorched Earth: Culture and Climate Under Siege.

for ambitious movements has arrived. The national response to COVID-19 shows we can act fast and spend big when leaders decide to come together despite deeply-held differences.

This year, I've learned a lot about the depths and extent of my personal privilege and the deep interconnectedness of climate disruption, COVID-19 and systemic racism. There are no silver bullets. Prescribed burns and forest management may help fight wildfires, but they alone will not stop climate

change. A vaccine may end this pandemic, but it will not alone create an equitable health system. Police reform may reduce the use of excessive force, but it will not alone solve the brutality of systemic oppression.

The solutions to these issues are complex, deserving thorough examination. Climate One creates the space for a broad, evidence-based conversation about the climate crisis and its consequences. We bring leaders and experts on different sides of issues together in pursuit of empathy, common ground and cross-sector solutions.

There has been a lot of change in the last year, but we are weathering the storm and looking forward to an improved conversation because of the lessons learned. As climate change moves into our national consciousness and becomes central to every decision of consequence, we will be leading the conversation. We hope you will join us.

Warm regards,

Greg Dalton  
Executive Producer and Host  
Climate One from The Commonwealth Club

## MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

### MISSION

Climate One from The Commonwealth Club is the premier platform for the conversation about the climate emergency. Through our podcast, national radio show and live convenings for thought leaders and concerned members of the public, we create opportunities for dialogue and inspire a more complete understanding of the current crisis.

### VISION

We envision a world where a clear-eyed awareness of the climate crisis shapes decisions ranging from personal behavior to public policy and where the full spectrum of humanity's wisdom, talent and expertise is marshaled toward the well-being of all life on Earth.

### VALUES

- At the forefront
- Scientifically based
- Holistic
- Independent
- Inclusive and respectful
- Inspiring

# SHIFTING FOCUS

## CUMULATIVE PODCAST DOWNLOADS

- 2015**  
124,000
- 2016**  
330,000
- 2017**  
599,367
- 2018**  
1,055,321
- 2019**  
1,259,930

## MEDIA EXPANSION REACHING MORE LISTENERS

In spring 2020, we began strategic planning for the next phase of our work. Much has shifted in recent years, and the discovery process confirmed suspicions that we needed to refocus. Our podcast audience has grown tenfold since 2015, and our radio audience grew 50% in just one year from spring 2019 to spring 2020. The arrival of COVID-19 halted all in-person gatherings and further crystalized our need to transition to a media-focused project.

**This year we have shifted our focus to our podcast and radio show. We believe that the exploding podcast industry and broad reach of talk radio are the perfect fit for our nuanced conversations that go well beyond the headlines.**

For each episode we produce, we reach the ears of at least 50,000 people through our podcast and radio show, with some reaching more than 100,000 listeners. While live events will continue (when safe to do so), they will have a different look and feel. We are excited about this new chapter and look forward to further expanding our national reach, which has been growing at a rapid pace in recent years.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



*Darryl Molina Sarmiento, Kevin de León and Vien Truong share their insights during the live show What Is a Just Transition?*

## EPISODES ELEVATING THE ISSUE

**12 DEC 2019**  
[Dr. Robert Bullard:  
The Father of  
Environmental  
Justice](#)

**31 JAN 2020**  
[What Is a Just  
Transition?](#)

**11 JUN 2020**  
[Real Talk: Racism  
and Climate](#)

**19 JUN 2020**  
[Empowering Women:  
The Climate Solution  
We Don't Talk About](#)

**4 SEP 2020**  
[Polluting and  
Providing: The Dirty  
Energy Dilemma](#)

## DIVERSITY

### LIFTING VOICES, ADVANCING CHANGE

As the country continues to reckon with our history of systemic racism, our team at Climate One has done some reflecting on how we show up as an ally and anti-racist organization. We put forth a statement of solidarity and grieve for all who have suffered from violence and oppression.

**Dismantling systemic racism and building an equitable and just future will require intentionality, dedication and time. Like most spaces, the climate conversation has also been lacking in diversity. Climate One is committed to elevating the voices, stories and issues that have been too frequently invalidated or ignored.**

Recent episodes have examined the dynamics of power at the intersection of climate justice and systemic oppression. Dr. Robert Bullard, our most recent Schneider Award winner and the father of environmental justice, has shared his perspective with the Climate One audience on multiple occasions. We've also explored how empowering women is an important strategy for combating climate change, and how we can make the transition to a clean economy a just one.



*A farmworker wears a mask to protect against COVID-19 while doing fieldwork.*

**SERIES EPISODES**

**3 APR 2020**  
[COVID-19 and Climate: Human Response](#)

**17 APR 2020**  
[COVID-19 and Climate: Implications for Public Health](#)

**1 MAY 2020**  
[COVID-19 and Climate: Economic Impacts](#)

**22 MAY 2020**  
[COVID-19 and Climate: The Future of Energy](#)

**21 AUG 2020**  
[COVID-19 and Climate: Implications for our Food System](#)

## **COVID-19 AND CLIMATE**

### **PARALLEL PANDEMICS COLLIDE**

When COVID-19 arrived on our shores, we quickly learned how unprepared our divided nation was for dealing with a problem of such magnitude. Disinformation, confusion and polarization slowed our response, much as it has with climate change.

**In April, we quickly launched the series COVID-19 and Climate to start a conversation about these twin crises. We explored the impacts of two invisible killers — the coronavirus and carbon pollution — on our energy, economic, health and food systems.**

There is a lot we can learn from fighting COVID-19 that applies to our fight against climate change. By tackling them together, we can rebuild our economy and jumpstart our climate response.

## 2019 SCHNEIDER AWARD

### DR. ROBERT BULLARD

Robert D. Bullard is often described as the father of environmental justice. He is a Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at Texas Southern University, where he was also the Dean of the Barbara Jordan–Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs from 2011 to 2016. Prior to joining TSU, he was founding Director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University. He received his Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

Dr. Bullard is an award-winning author of 18 books that address sustainable development, environmental racism, urban land use, industrial facility siting, community reinvestment, housing, transportation, climate justice, disasters, emergency response, community resilience, smart growth and regional equity. He is co-founder of the Historically Black College and University Climate Change Consortium. Dr. Bullard is a proud U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

In 2018, the Global Climate Action Summit named Dr. Bullard one of 22 Climate Trailblazers. And in 2019, *Apolitical* named him one of the world's 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy.



### ABOUT THE AWARD

Dr. Stephen H. Schneider was the first member of the Climate One Advisory Council and planned to attend a Climate One event on the day he died in 2010. Shortly thereafter, Climate One founded the annual Stephen H. Schneider Award for Outstanding Climate Science Communication, which recognizes a natural or social scientist who has made extraordinary scientific contributions and communicated that knowledge to the public in a clear and compelling fashion.

The award jurors are Naomi Oreskes (Henry Charles Lea Professor of the History of Science, Harvard University), J. Marshall Shepherd (Georgia Athletic Association Distinguished Professor of Geography and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Georgia), and Cristine Russell (Senior Fellow, Environment and Natural Resources Program, Harvard University). The jury solicited nominations from a broad spectrum of anonymous experts in the fields of science and communication, and decided that Dr. Bullard exemplifies the rare ability to be both a superb scientist and powerful communicator in the mold of Dr. Schneider.

### ABOUT STEPHEN H. SCHNEIDER

A pioneering communicator of climate change science, Dr. Stephen H. Schneider is considered one of the founders of climatology. Clearly explaining the effects of climate disruption in many influential papers and forums, he contributed much of the empirically based science that proves climate change is real. Schneider received his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering and plasma physics from Columbia University in 1971. He also studied the role of greenhouse gases and suspended particulate material on climate as a postdoctoral fellow at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. The recipient of multiple fellowships, Schneider was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2002.

### OPPOSITE Top:

*Dr. Bullard on the stage at the 2019 Schneider Award. Middle: Dr. Bullard accepts the award from 2017 Schneider Award winner Dr. Michael Mann. Bottom: Stephen H. Schneider at the Global Solutions/Climate Change Pavley-Waxman Hearing, University of California, Los Angeles, August 21, 2009.*

### PAST AWARDEES

#### 2018

**Dr. Katharine Hayhoe**  
Professor and Director,  
Climate Center, Texas  
Tech University

#### 2107

**Dr. Michael Mann**  
Distinguished Professor of  
Atmospheric Science,  
Penn State University

#### 2016

**Dr. Naomi Oreskes**  
Professor of History of  
Science and Affiliated  
Professor of Earth and  
Planetary Sciences,  
Harvard University

#### 2015

**Dr. Chris Field**  
Director Emeritus, Department  
of Global Ecology, Carnegie  
Institution for Science

#### 2014

**Dr. Jane Lubchenco**,  
Distinguished Professor,  
Oregon State University

#### 2013

**Dr. Nicholas Stern**  
Chair, Grantham Research  
Institute on Climate  
Change, The London  
School of Economics and  
Political Science

#### 2012

**Dr. James Hansen**  
Director, NASA Goddard  
Institute for Space Studies

#### 2011

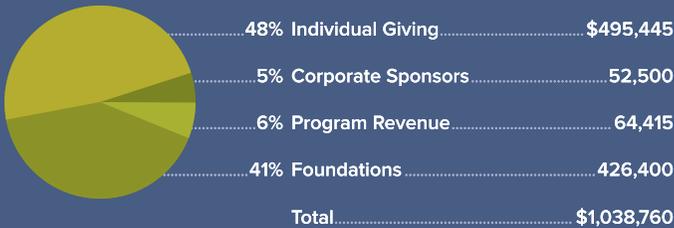
**Dr. Richard Alley**  
Professor of Geosciences,  
Penn State University

# BY THE NUMBERS

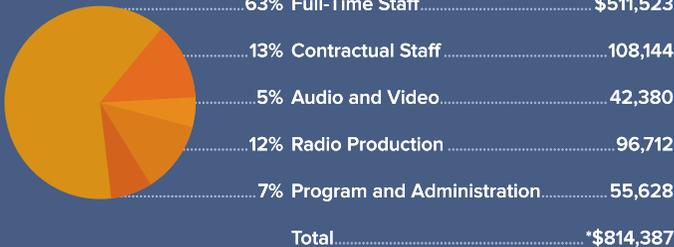
2019–2020 FISCAL YEAR  
CLIMATE ONE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB



### INCOME



### EXPENSE



Climate One fiscal year July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020  
\*Due to GAAP accounting rules, the timing of multiyear grants can cause deficits or surpluses in certain fiscal years.

# SUPPORTERS AND TEAM

### STEWARDS

- Anonymous
- Larry Birenbaum
- Peter Boyer
- Terry Gamble Boyer
- Tom Burns
- Al Davis
- Bill and Kate Duhamel
- Mark Ferron
- John Hofmeister
- Jeff Horowitz
- David Keller
- Paul Klingenstein
- Mike Krautkramer
- Mark Kriss
- Dee Lawrence
- Nora Machado
- Norman and Janet Pease
- Noel Perry
- Regan Pritzker
- William Reilly
- Toni Rembe
- Arthur Rock
- Tony Stayner

### FOUNDATIONS

- Anonymous
- Caldera Foundation
- ClimateWorks Foundation
- Erol Foundation
- Greater Milwaukee Foundation
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- Pasha and Laney Thornton Foundation
- Seed Fund
- Sempercor Foundation
- Sidney E. Frank Foundation
- Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation
- Water Foundation
- William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

### CORPORATE SPONSORS

- Bank of the West
- Ford Motor Company
- RBC Wealth Management Group
- Shell Oil Company

### TEAM

- CLIMATE ONE
- Sara-Katherine Coxon  
Content and Strategy Manager
- Greg Dalton  
Founder and Host
- Steve Fox  
Director of Advancement
- Kelli Pennington  
Director of Audience Engagement
- Tyler Reed  
Director of Events and Operations
- THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB
- Dr. Gloria Duffy  
The Commonwealth Club of California CEO
- CONTRIBUTORS
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- Billy Bean
- Jen Burke
- Marnie Burke de Guzman
- Spencer Campbell
- Anny Celsi
- Joe Dwyer
- Sarah Gonzalez
- Arnav Gupta
- Anthony Hall
- Josh King
- Mark Kirchner
- Justin Lagera
- Doug Latimer
- Steve Martin
- Bryan Massa
- Justin Norton
- Michael Paglinawan
- Ed Ritger
- Lena Shabanova
- Chelsie Stelloh
- Andrew Stelzer
- Devon Strolovitch
- Matt Webber
- Gary Yip

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We rely on the generosity of our community to produce each Climate One episode. For information about underwriting opportunities, major donor gifts and benefits please contact Steve Fox, Director of Advancement: [sfox@commonwealthclub.org](mailto:sfox@commonwealthclub.org)



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