2020–2021 YEAR IN REVIEW
DEAR FRIENDS,

Amid all the fascinating conversations I am privileged to have with amazing thought leaders, there are many moments that deeply impact my own thinking. One from this past year, for example, was when Native American activist Sherri Mitchell—Weh’na Ha’mu’u Kwas set pointed out how the whole concept of conquest has been deeply embedded into all of our minds. It’s so foundational that it’s hard to see. “Conquest is the means by which we succeed,” she said.

This reminded me of a moment back in 2016 when environmentalist Bill McKibben leaned in to me and said, “We won the factual argument decades ago. This is about power.” The comments of Bill, Sherri and others have led us to double down on our commitment to address power dynamics in our discourse and empower conversations that deepen our audience’s understanding of the growing climate crisis.

My own relationship with power has changed over time as well. In the early days of Climate One, I thought the only people I needed to talk to were elites with financial and institutional influence. But this was a narrow view of the climate story. I have learned that the most
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.

**MISSION**

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.

**VISION**

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**VALUES**

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

powerful conversations are those that include diverse perspectives, and that solutions will come from places and people we have too often excluded. Telling the whole story requires many voices, just as solving a systemic problem requires many strategies.

At Climate One, our empowering conversations connect all aspects of the climate emergency. We have been leading the climate conversation for 14 years, informing thought leaders while inspiring the next generation. Today, people are more informed and more engaged on climate than ever before. There is a growing desire, even urgency, from the public to address climate change in all its complexities.

Our conversations over the last year have led with honesty, empathy, curiosity and my own desire to dig deeper on this complicated topic. We’ve explored the emotional toll of enduring the climate crisis and connected the psychology of denial to inaction. We’ve learned how empowering women and girls across the globe is an essential climate solution.

We’ve unpacked the relationship between poverty, oppression and climate consequences and, in so doing, learned that we cannot solve one at the expense of the other. We are all connected. We are all implicated.

I continue to learn so much through our empowering conversations, and I hope they have a similar impact on your climate journey. Thank you for listening.

Warm regards,

Greg Dalton
Executive Producer and Host
Climate One from The Commonwealth Club
LEADERS ARE LISTENING
ENGAGING WITH LONG-FORM AUDIO

At Climate One, we pursue a science-based conversation, curated for a thoughtful, intelligent audience eager to deepen their understanding of the climate emergency. We believe that podcasts and radio are the premier platforms for informative long-form journalism like ours, and we’re proud to make all of our audio episodes available for free to our growing audience.

Long-form journalism is stronger than ever, and audio is one of its fastest growing forms. It is expected that 117 million people in the U.S. will be monthly podcast listeners in 2021. The podcast audience is young, engaged and highly educated. In short, they are our future leaders. The public radio audience is also highly engaged. NPR listeners are 200 percent more likely to contact a politician at any level and 269 percent more likely to engage in environmental groups than their peers.

Combining our podcast and radio show, each episode we produce reaches the ears of more than 90,000 people, an 80 percent increase from last year.
A NEW NORMAL
WHEN WE CAN MEET AGAIN

Our program was born as a special project of The Commonwealth Club of California nearly 14 years ago. We started out hosting live public forums where people came for informative conversations and stayed for convivial receptions that featured networking and wine. Even as we began producing a TV show, a radio show and eventually a podcast, this in-room experience remained our focus.

During the pandemic, we have been lucky to find success amid chaos. We pivoted from the in-room experience to remote interviews with ease. We even found it advantageous. Today we interview leaders all over the world — and without any aviation emissions. Climate change is a global issue, and now we are having a global conversation.

People often ask when we will return to those live events. Honestly, we don’t know. Nor are we certain about what it will look like when we do. But we promise to invite you back to our home at 110 The Embarcadero as soon as it is safe to do so — and we will have wine!
Is American democracy capable of addressing the climate emergency? "If you look at countries like the United States and Australia, you can see how climate becomes a political football, and that’s really problematic,” says Rebecca Willis, Climate One guest and author of Too Hot to Handle? The Democratic Challenge of Climate Change.

Despite being the world’s biggest historical contributor to global emissions, the U.S. has repeatedly failed to lead the world out of the resulting crisis. President Biden is attempting to change that with the most progressive climate agenda ever pursued by a sitting president.

This year we asked: What climate action is possible in such a difficult political environment? In the face of polarization, inequality and a barrage of misinformation, how far can Biden take the country? And how far can democracies take the world?
Climate change is not a singular threat; it is a threat multiplier, and part and parcel of all the problems facing our planet. Understanding the climate crisis requires an understanding of all the inequities facing this world. “All of them are connected,” says Adrienne Hollis, senior climate justice and health scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists. “And the underlying cause is systemic racism.”

The insidious nature of a disrupted climate means disproportionate impacts on the marginalized communities least responsible for causing the crisis. At Climate One, we are committed to making space to not only include but prioritize these perspectives, experiences, insights and solutions. Over the last year, more than 130 people enriched our conversations; 35 percent of those guests were BIPOC, and 59 percent identified as female.

Our conversations have examined issues such as how poverty exacerbates the health impacts of climate change, how race and injustice have shaped the American farming landscape, opportunities for an equitable and just recovery post-COVID and more. A diverse range of speakers makes these conversations possible, and we are extremely grateful to all of our guests for sharing their knowledge and time with us.
Climate Connection
The Art of Conversation

Climate communications might sound like a straightforward proposition. We lean on scientific reports and white papers to understand the science of our heating planet. But living through a crisis of this magnitude can be disorienting, isolating and intimidating. When numbers and data are not enough to move us, we must rely on different strategies to connect with each other.

Over the last year, we have explored how media like art and film can make a more lasting impression on an audience than facts and figures. We have discussed the need for storytelling, both in real life and in fiction, to understand the present and imagine the future. “It’s truth; it’s intimacy. And some of it is ugly, and some of it is beautiful,” explains filmmaker Céline Cousteau.

The climate crisis may be a tragedy unfolding before our eyes, but as we write the next chapters of this story, it’s important to use all of our narrative tools to inspire, move and motivate humanity.
ABOUT THE AWARD

THE STEPHEN H. SCHNEIDER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CLIMATE SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

In 2011, Climate One founded the annual Stephen H. Schneider Award for Outstanding Science Communication. Named in honor of Dr. Stephen H. Schneider (1945–2010), the $15,000 award 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.

Recognizing the importance of scientists sharing their knowledge of climate change with the broader public, Climate One has had the honor of elevating a cohort of science communicators over the last 10 years. We look forward to continuing the tradition into the next decade and beyond.

2020 WINNERS
DR. ANTHONY LEISEROWITZ AND DR. EDWARD MAIBACH

Anthony Leiserowitz and Edward Maibach are the lead investigators on Yale’s Global Warming’s Six Americas, one of the most comprehensive studies on America’s evolving attitudes toward climate change. From the dismissive to the alarmed, they have tracked individual engagement for more than 10 years, providing indispensable insights.

We are pleased to see them join this cohort of scientists stepping out of their labs and into the public discourse.
2020–2021 FISCAL YEAR
CLIMATE ONE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB

46 Original Episodes
134 Featured Guests
3,408 Radio Broadcasts
90,000 Listeners per Episode
1,237,244 Podcast Downloads

INCOME

- 61% Foundations $50,500
- 9% Corporate Sponsors $7,500
- 28% Individual Giving $235,655
Total $333,554

EXPENSE

- 63% Full-Time Staff $335,494
- 10% Promotion and Advertising $8,538
- 7% Admin, Awards and Technology $8,419
- 20% Contractual Staff $172,051
Total $585,092

Climate One fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021

*Due to GAAP accounting rules, the timing of multiyear grants can cause deficits or surpluses in certain fiscal years.

SUPPORTERS AND TEAM

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Anonymous
Larry Birenbaum
Peter Boyer and Terry Gamble Boyer
Tom Burns and Nora Machado
Al Davis
Bill and Kate Duhamel
Mark Ferron
Mike Haas
John Hoffmeister
Jeff Horowitz
Mark Kris
Dee Lawrence
Noel Perry
William Reily
Tori Rembe
Arthur Rock
Tony Stoyer
Pasha and Laney Thornton

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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