



2010

"TRANSITION"



DECADE

GET READY FOR A SAFE CLIMATE FUTURE

2020



A 10 year
social and structural
transition that enables
the restoration
of a **safe climate.**

for all people, all species, all generations

TRANSITION DECADE VISION

TRANSITION DECADE INTRODUCTION

We are a collective of people who share a common vision of creating a sustainable future.

To uphold this treasured vision while confronting the full forces of the climate crisis, we recognise the urgency of action and the enormous scale of transformation required to achieve our goal. After three decades of dire warnings about the severity of climate change we are yet again at a pivotal point where our own judgements about the capacity of human civilisation to overcome enormous challenges, presents two clear options.

It either drives us to great despair leading us to accept great losses and opt for adaptation, or we rise to the challenge with a dedicated and deliberate effort to use the enormous potential of human creativity and cooperation to overcome what seems like the impossible.

On the eve of a new decade, we find ourselves positioned to accelerate the effort to restore a safe climate and create a sustainable world.

The Transition Decade is inspired by our human capacity revealed in times of great challenge. We can draw on our full breadth of strengths and abilities to make a powerful contribution and create profound change at this pivotal time. The Transition Decade is deliberately oriented to utilise and catalyse positive solutions drawing on community diversity and creative forms of accessible communication.

The purpose is to engage with the widest audience possible within geographical locations to accelerate uptake and commitment.

The Transition Decade identifies a pathway to a vision of a sustainable future which calls for all people, communities and nations to join in the great transition.





WHY '10 YEARS'?

WHAT IS THE TRANSITION DECADE AND HOW WOULD IT WORK?

Climate science indicates the next ten years are crucial; ten years provides a framework within which community can respond; and ten years can align with political and business planning.

Global indicators show we are on the verge of committing to catastrophic climate change. Human activity continues to affect the earth's ecological systems at an alarming rate, increasing the threats to life as we know it on our planet. Serious damage to the climate system continues to escalate as evidenced by accelerating thinning of the Arctic sea ice, glacier melt, and the spread of coral bleaching.

We now stand on the edge of major ecological tipping points that could manifest in the next ten

years. These impacts potentially include the loss of all Arctic summer sea ice, and the destruction of 80-90 percent of the Great Barrier Reef. Appropriate risk management would demand the need for immediate action. To protect environmental systems and to avoid further tipping points it will be necessary to cool the earth as fast as possible.

To make this possible we need to create a commitment from the community and the political will to adopt and implement the necessary actions to avoid further tipping points. Many of the solutions are well within our reach to restore a safe climate, so now is the time to engage everyone everywhere.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Given the huge scale of what needs to be done, it will be impossible to get everything done in a decade, or even two decades if we approach the transition in a business-as-usual way.

A way to get intense work done in a decade is to create a mass civil campaign that adopts an emergency mode, where the whole of society is galvanised and remains committed to effective action until the task is completed. We know that society can be focused and organised in a highly collaborative way, our whole human history has depended upon our ability to cooperate. With this great strength and capacity to work together we can empower ourselves and many others to create the Transition Decade for a safe climate future.

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

To be really effective the whole of Australia and the rest of the world would understand and commit to the Transition Decade goals over time. The Transition Decade has emerged from the Victorian sustainability movement and is reaching people all over Australia.

The Transition Decade aspires to impact communities through a communication and partnership strategy targeting individuals, community organisations, business and government. Growth of the concept from one locality to another will occur once action has been proven and established.



WHERE DID THE IDEA COME FROM?

Many organisations are already advocating for and working in a ten year time frame. This reflects the growing urgency of the response required to combat climate change.

The Transition Decade integrates this work to strengthen resources, reach and to connect movements that are influencing policy and local action.

The Transition Decade was inspired by many initiatives including:

- Lester Brown first promoted the idea of a transition decade in 1990. State of the World. (Worldwatch Institute). New York: W.W. Norton. (p. 174)
- Al Gore adopted a 10 year timeframe for the Repower America Renewables Program.
- State of the World Forum adopted a 10 year timeframe climate leadership program (2050 by 2020 campaign).
- Australian local grassroots climate action groups adopted 100% renewables by 2020 at the The National Action Climate Summit in 2009.
- Climate Emergency Network (Plan ZED [ie. Zero Emissions Decade])
- Beyond Zero Emissions (Zero Carbon Australia plan)
- Zero emission by 2020 adopted by Victorian local councils (eg. City of Melbourne, Maribyrnong City Council, Moreland CC, Darebin CC, Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance, Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (western suburbs of Melbourne)
- Zero emissions of greenhouse gases - now adopted by the Australian Greens, Greenpeace, ACF.
- Safe Climate theme adopted by Environment Victoria, and a growing number of climate action groups.
- Transition Town movement is spreading rapidly in Australia utilising the transition theme.

The Transition Decade acts as a platform to link these developments, fostering a much stronger collaboration.

TRANSITION DECADE

Mapping the transition to a safe climate future

≈ 2 YEARS

**GETTING
WHOLE COMMUNITIES
TO YES**

Activate
Transition
advocates

Accelerate
the
campaign

Build the
political will
to impact
powerfully on
government &
corporate
sectors

≈ 8 YEARS

**GOVERNMENT
COMMITMENT**

Government
publicly
prepares for
Transition mode

**IN EMERGENCY TRANSITION
MODE**

Everyone gears
up for physical
rebuilding

Massively
scaling up
physical rebuilding

SAFE CLIMATE AIMS

To restore and stay within the range of safe climate conditions that allows for the maintenance of civilisation, the protection of the world's people and the conservation of all species.

(Footnote: Except in the case of organisms associated with epidemics)

SAFE CLIMATE STRATEGIES

1. Drive greenhouse gas emissions to (net) zero
2. Draw down excess atmospheric carbon dioxide from the air and store it safely
3. If warranted, directly reduce the Earth's temperature, until the first two strategies have restored a safe climate

SAFE CLIMATE OUTCOME

- > Reduce the Earth's temperature by between 0.3°C and 0.8°C.
- > Reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to between 280 parts per million (ppm) and 320 ppm as needed to achieve the Safe Climate Aim.

WHY SAFE CLIMATE?

The “safe climate” approach identifies a band of conditions known from experience to be safe for civilisation and all forms of life rather than speculating about the maximum climate damage that civilisation and the earth system can tolerate.

The task ahead requires management to keep the climate within a safe band, or if the earth system has breached the safe band, to return the earth to the safe zone as quickly as possible.

The climate system could be likened to our bodies’ management of temperature. The core temperature of a human body rarely deviates from 37°C and even after recovery from illness the temperature of a healthy person does not stay elevated but reverts to normal.

Given that humans can now change the climate system dramatically there is a need to consciously apply the same homeostatic model to the earth’s management. Otherwise we will keep driving the climate system to the brink of breakdown.

WHAT IS A SAFE CLIMATE

The major melting of the Arctic sea ice and mountain glaciers across the world, and temperature-driven bleaching started at least 30 years ago. To restore a safe climate the indications are that the earth needs to be cooled by between 0.3°C and 0.8°C. To achieve this it is likely that CO₂ levels will need to be reduced to somewhere between 280 ppm and 320 ppm.

The way to do this is not to take our society back to what it was like between 1930 and 1980 when the earth first showed signs of concerning temperature driven changes. Instead our social and economic systems need a major boost in innovation to enable environmental restoration whilst maintaining wellbeing in the developed countries and bringing wellbeing up to global best standards across the less developed world.

This is thus not a ‘go backwards’ strategy but a huge leap forward to achieve a win-win outcome for human and environment wellbeing.

“We should set an atmospheric carbon dioxide target that is low enough to avoid “the point of no return”. To achieve this, we must not only eliminate current greenhouse gas emissions but also remove excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and take urgent steps to “cool the planet”

(Dr James Hansen, head of NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies)

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

It is through the determination of many groups and individuals, who relentlessly persist in highlighting the full impacts of climate change, that we gain some insight into what is now referred to by many as the ‘Climate Emergency’.

If we accept these sobering evaluations that reflect the depth of the climate and environmental situation, and consider how we might avoid the most pressing dangers to the community of life on the planet, we quickly find that the task becomes more than overwhelming; it can appear to many to be virtually impossible.

“There is no doubt in my mind that this is the greatest problem confronting mankind at this time and that it has reached the level of a state of emergency.”

(Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser)



Planning for The Transition Decade involves reviewing commitments, reordering priorities and building capacity to operate in Emergency Mode. It's considered, organised action that responds to a clear goal is to reach, engage and connect whole communities to work together for a sustainable and safe climate future.

If a significant proportion of the community accept the climate emergency this can build political will to enable government and business to respond to the goals of the Transition Decade. Our governments need clear and deafening direction from the community to invest in the policies and projects that will enable a structural transition and to deny and roll back those policies and projects that will cause further impact.

A model to achieve this level of engagement is Saturation Mobilisation which describes a process of equipping citizens with as much information as they need to get them active quickly.

The approach will require big-picture strategic thinking, a 'can-do' approach and a focus and clarity that comes with the conscious decision to step into Emergency Mode. It resists the temptation to slip back into the default position of accepting incremental change, and stay in our silo-thinking. The approach is simultaneously comprehensive, intense, short-term, geographically limited, coordinated and facilitated ensuring that the 'buzz' infects the community. Virtually no-one misses the sense that something is happening. This local universality creates a sense of momentum and connection which, when strategically harnessed, creates the foundation for a local positive tipping point and up-scaling of cooperative community effort.

In Emergency Mode the goal is to generate and harness an enormous upswing in interest and activity across the whole community. By reaching 'everyone everywhere', one hundred percent of that population hear the meme of the 'Transition Decade' and feel compelled to get involved.

MULTI-ORGANISATIONAL COLLABORATION

It is abundantly clear that no single organisation can do this on their own and that we need an effective and very large collaborative effort to achieve transformational change. Working from our respective strengths and from the shared vision of the Transition Decade we can step into Emergency Mode together and concentrate fully on moving forward to reach the goal.

This will be achieved by a multi organisational collaboration of organisations and individuals with complementary visions and objectives. Together they will prepare for a Saturation Mobilisation campaign to reach “Everyone, Everywhere”. Letterboxing, local media, local government, street stalls, local events, radio, public meetings, sector by sector contact, schools, service clubs, child care, minority groups, etc. etc. They will undertake this campaign for an intense period of time – three months – in addition to their usual work which will add to their workload and generate a lot of interest in their work – an increase in members, volunteers, supporters, profile, etc.

This Planning Phase will include close attention to calendar events, the existing network, potential champions, strategic stakeholders, resources needed, a SWOT analysis to gauge risks and opportunities (how to benefit from The Buzz and not be overwhelmed by it), a gap analysis and a sequence that will strategically draw in the active initiators to take it to the 100% reach.

An important part of the planning phase is the building of deep familiarisation and from there, deep respect between those who are willing to contribute to the Guiding Team. The kind of multi-organisational collaboration that is needed for the Transition Decade requires firstly a process that fosters deep familiarisation between likely collaborators – the active initiators – and from this, deeper trust and a willingness to work together.

By working strategically and connecting our work beyond the usual silos and divisions we can send a strong message that collaboration across all movements and sectors is vital at this time and catalyse people not previously active into action. Engaging existing local groups and local champions who may or may not work in the local community, the Saturation Mobilisation model also stimulates the establishment of new groups and the emergence of new champions, as those experiencing mounting concern receive the nudge needed to catapult them into action. There are many in our society building on the numbers of existing and past change advocates who are just waiting for the clarion cry that now is the time to fully commit and act.

The Consolidation Phase coordinates the work, builds community capacity links and refers or directs people to the most appropriate organisation to match their interests. Groups will receive quality referrals and knowing their collaborators now very well, will also give quality referrals. The result is that interest and ‘demand for change’ increases.

Tools for the Transition, planning templates, training courses, communication materials and more can be strategically pooled to optimise efficiency.





JOIN THE COLLABORATION

Are you ready to join the Transition Decade? The Transition Decade is a growing movement that is bringing together concerned citizens using the power of collaboration.

The Transition Decade is calling for groups to join T10 Action Network to support the transition to a safe climate future. **For more info email info@t10.net.au**

For more information visit **www.t10.net.au**

GETTING READY FOR THE TRANSITION DECADE

Ready? Hold a vision for a **sustainable world**?



Ready? Recognise the **climate emergency** situation?



Ready? Want to restore **safe climate** conditions?



Ready? Grasp the scale of the **social and structural** transition?



Ready? Want to complete the structural change in the next **10 years**?



YOU'RE READY FOR THE TRANSITION DECADE!



THE TRANSITION DECADE



Friends of the Earth



CLIMATE EMERGENCY NETWORK



beyond ZERO emissions



sustainablelivingfoundation

The Transition Decade is a campaign developed by a growing alliance of groups committed to a safe climate and sustainable future.

