



UNITED STATES NATIONAL
ACTION FOR CLIMATE EMPOWERMENT
STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

A National Strategic Plan for Action for Climate Empowerment in the United States

The solutions to the negative effects of climate change are also the paths to a safer, healthier, cleaner and more prosperous future for all. However, for such a future to become reality, citizens of all countries, at all levels of government, society and enterprise, need to understand and be involved.

— UNFCCC *Action for Climate Empowerment*

Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) is a process of UNFCCC Article 6 designed to engage societies in accelerating a just transition to a low-carbon world. An “ACE workforce” includes national and sub-national policymakers and others who represent the private sector, educational institutions, nongovernmental organizations, Indigenous communities and historically disadvantaged communities of color. Our collective mission is to increase knowledge, understanding and empowerment to help the U.S. respond to the climate crisis.

Under UNFCCC Article 6 and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, all nations are expected to advance these goals. The 2012 Doha Work Programme further calls on countries to produce national strategies for ACE encompassing education, training, public awareness, public access to information and international cooperation. Each nation’s plan will be suited to national circumstances and will utilize the best communications research and strategies to achieve positive behavioral change.

A national strategy will help bring the deep and varied ACE resources into alignment, guide increased and sustained financial investments, promote inclusive and evidence-based decision-making, and disrupt the historic inequities to promote and fully integrate the voices, knowledge, and concerns of marginalized people.

Introducing the U.S. ACE National Strategic Planning Framework Initiative

No major emitting country has yet submitted an ACE National Strategic Plan. The next U.S. presidential administration, however, has an opportunity to demonstrate leadership by reaffirming its commitment to the Paris Agreement and fulfilling its obligation to include a U.S. ACE National Strategic Plan in the next Nationally Determined Contribution at COP26.

To advance this agenda, leaders from the diverse U.S. ACE workforce are building a collaborative *framework* that will guide completion of a U.S. ACE National Strategic Plan.



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We are guided by the UNFCCC's 2018 Talanoa Dialogue Platform for inclusive and participatory dialogs that set aside combative negotiation agendas in order to “build empathy and to make wise decisions for the collective good.” We are hosting four such dialogs in August 2020 focusing on (1) transformational learning and engagement; (2) inclusive and responsible community engagement in decision-making; (3) training a climate-ready workforce and (4) sectoral, sub-national, national, Indigenous and international coordination and collaboration.

A companion process solicits additional guidance from leaders in a wide range of ACE-related activities. These strategic reviewers will add to summaries of the four dialogs. A small writing team will then draft a document that all of the participants, strategic reviewers, and wider ACE-related communities will be invited to review. This open process will inform the final product: a U.S. ACE National Strategic Planning Framework in November 2020.

U.S. ACE Strategic Framework Coordination Team

Frank Niepold — ACE Reporting Lead for the U.S. National Communications, NOAA Senior Climate Education Program Manager and Coordinator, CLEAN Network co-chair and founding member

Tom Bowman — Founder, Bowman Design Group; President, Bowman Change, Inc. and co-founder, Long Beach Sustainable Business Network

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Haley Crim — Sustainability Fellow at the Village of Park Forest and Greenest Region Compact, CLEAN Network Project Coordinator

Timothy Damon — Founder and President, Global Youth Development Institute; Education, Communication and Outreach Stakeholder Community (ECOS) Steering Committee

Cyane Dandridge — Founding Executive Director, Strategic Energy Innovations and School of Environmental Leadership

Deb Morrison — Learning Scientist, Climate Justice & Equity in Science Education, University of Washington

Kristen Poppleton — Senior Director of Programs at Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy

Jen Kretser — Director of Climate Initiatives at The Wild Center

Billy Spitzer — Principal Investigator at National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation, NNOCCI and Former Vice President, Learning and Community at the New England Aquarium

Laura Weiland — Education, Communication and Outreach Stakeholder Community (ECOS) Steering Committee