

groundswell mobilisation

groundswell aims to build a critical mass of people acting powerfully together, demanding action to urgently restore a safe climate by creating a safe climate economy within a decade.

Getting community, business and politicians to commit to that goal is likely to be even more challenging than the task of developing the necessary technology.

groundswell aims to provide a strategic framework for the social and political change needed so that politicians of all persuasions will commit to urgent and effective action.

Already a multitude of groups, campaigns, local governments; businesses and community organisations across the country are all doing amazing climate work.

groundswell will work in partnership with these groups. We will encourage groups to frame climate activism around the goal of creating a safe climate economy within a decade, and to connect the twists and turns of today's climate campaigns and politics with where we have to be in 2020. We will provide resources, build connections and coherence, and help build capacity to undertake this work.

groundswell plan

groundswell will provide well researched messages, materials and mobilisation techniques- the 3M's- that can be used everywhere to help people have conversations with their communities about the massive transition needed, and generate support for effective action. We aim for the initial 3M's to be available by end 2011, and to raise sufficient funds to run several pilot community mobilisation programs in 2012.

These programs would include staffed safe climate centres that would be the springboard for reaching out to communities. Each program will be unique, depending on the characteristics of the community, and the preferences of the people involved. These mobilisations would be conducted using an action research model so we can learn from them before large scale roll out begins in 2013.

We invite you to register your interest and talk to us about how you would like to work with groundswell.

Janet Rice | groundswell Manager
p: 0439 363 846 | e: janet@janetrice.com.au
<http://climateemergency.wordpress.com>

Produced by Climate Emergency Network, in support of The Transition Decade



CLIMATE
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groundswell
FOR A SAFE CLIMATE

imagine a safe climate future

Imagine a world where the threat of dangerous climate change is a thing of the past.

A world where we can look back with relief at having avoided more extreme heat, droughts and floods, rising seas, melted icecaps and glaciers, destruction of the Great Barrier Reef, wars, famines, and millions if not billions of refugees.

Imagine a world where the power of the economy is harnessed to restore a safe climate rather than destroy it; a world focused on zero emissions energy and energy efficiency where the consumption of fossil fuels has ceased. A world where excess carbon dioxide is taken out of the air and safely stored in the soil and in restored natural areas.

technology of now & the future

The technology to create this better future is evolving today. Solar thermal power stations in Spain are already producing electricity 24 hours a day. Solar rooves will produce clean energy more cheaply than coal in just a few years, and so much innovation is still to come.

Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE) has produced a plan for Australia to transition to zero carbon energy in a decade, and BZE are now working on zero carbon plans for other sectors of our economy.

Carbon dioxide can be drawn out of the air and safely stored in the soil as char. This was done by the Amazonian people hundreds of years ago and modern technologies exist to do it on the huge global scale that is needed now.

safe climate economy within a decade

The earth is already too hot and the oceans are beginning to be too acidic.

Science tells us that we must shift to a safe climate economy within a decade if we are to avoid triggering major climate tipping points and to stop the plunge into worsening extreme weather events and desertification.

The only way to restore a safe climate - cooling the planet and stopping ocean acidification- is to stop adding carbon to the atmosphere, reducing the world's emissions to zero within a decade; and to actively draw carbon out of the atmosphere. Even then we may still need to temporarily employ a small amount of direct cooling - to block some radiation from reaching the earth - to keep the earth's temperature low enough to avoid tipping points and to protect biodiversity and food production capacity.

our choice

It's incredibly foolish to gamble with protecting conditions on earth suitable for humanity and all other species to flourish, when at this critical stage, in this critical decade, we have a choice.



getting to yes!

changing our economy to restore a safe climate

To succeed in building a safe climate economy by 2020 we need to start the restructuring now. We need to get our politicians to commit to take this action in the next three to four years and to work in concert with communities and governments across the world, every nation doing its bit.

The Gillard government's clean energy future package, although a useful start, falls a long way short of what is necessary to restore a safe climate. This will require deep structural change, re-orienting our economy to sustainability, eliminating the use of coal, gas, oil, eliminating waste, and making changes in everything we do; the ways we produce food, and how we are housed and clothed.

It is going to be a hugely challenging task, but a necessary one to ensure a healthier, safer and cleaner world for all.