



Our Causes

Climate Justice



CLIMATE JUSTICE GROUP – ZONTA CLUB OF OTTAWA CANADA
Discussion – November 15, 2025

During climate-related disasters, women are more likely to be injured or killed, lose their job, or be forced into slavery or prostitution to survive.

With each climate-related disaster, women fall farther behind men. Women are less able to rebuild their lives due to the widening gender gaps in education, pay, legal rights, leadership, and societal responses to climate change.

Historical and structural gender inequalities

- the extent to which girls and women can lead, make decisions, take action, and advance solutions to combat climate change.
- having fewer resources and choices
- face more barriers

https://www.zonta.org/Web/Web/Causes/Climate_Justice.aspx?hkey=bda8d92c-578a-4497-bf77-695ec0376e5a

- estimated 80% of people displaced by climate change are women. (UNFPA Climate Empower project)
- By 2050, climate change could force up to 216 million people to move within their countries (World Bank's 2021 Groundswell report)
- By 2025, climate change could force at least 12.5 million girls each year in 30 low- and lower-middle-income countries to abandon their education, with 22 of these countries located in Africa. (UNFPA Climate Empower project)
- in sub-Saharan Africa where 600 million people still lack access to electricity, women manage the household energy choices and have higher insight into how to protect and use their resources and finances. (World Resources Institute)

If average temperatures were to increase by just 1°C, women would face a staggering 34% greater loss in their total incomes compared to men. (UNFPA Climate Empower project)

Just 3% of philanthropic environmental funding supports girls' and women's environmental activism. (UN Foundation)

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STRENGTHENING WOMEN AND GIRLS AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

Zonta International is taking action to achieve climate justice by partnering with UNFPA to prevent climate-induced gender-based violence (GBV) and other harmful practices through interwoven innovative approaches and community-driven interventions in Madagascar, Mozambique and South Sudan, some of the countries most vulnerable to climate change.

The [Climate Empower: Community Empowerment and Innovation for Gender-Transformative Climate Action](#) program hopes to strengthen women and girls' role as agents of change for climate resilience.

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ADVOCATING FOR GENDER-EQUAL CLIMATE ACTION

[Zonta Says NOW to Gender-Equal Climate Action](#) is Zonta International's global initiative to achieve gender-equal climate justice.

Through Zonta Says NOW, Zonta members advocate for women's full and equal participation in the economy and support their inclusion as decisionmakers on environmental sustainability at national and local levels.

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Our Causes

Zonta Says NOW To Gender-Equal Climate Action



Zonta International envisions a world where every woman can achieve her full potential, has access to all resources, is represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men, and lives without fear of violence.

By taking gender-equal climate action now, we can keep this vision alive.

[Watch how we are taking action](#)

<https://www.zonta.org/ZontaSaysNOW>

Zonta International calls on governments to: <https://www.zonta.org/Web/Causes/ZontaSaysNOW/Actions>

- Sign the Paris Agreement and uphold the principles of climate justice agreed to in the Paris Agreement
- Actively consider human rights, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in defining and implementing their national climate action plans
- Set up more gender-balanced governing bodies to integrate gender-sensitive climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning, as per SDG 13.2 and the Paris Agreement
- Arrange education for girls and support girls' access to education
- Include basic education on climate change and its consequences to nature and societies for all students, recognizing and addressing the social and economic factors aggravated by climate change (as per SDG 13.3.1)
- Ensure climate adaptation and mitigation plans address the unique needs of women and barriers to women's full participation in the economy,
Childcare and elder care services | Occupational segregation | Informal work | The gender pay gap | Legal and social restrictions
- Include women in the formation of disaster preparedness and response plans
Recognize the unique needs of women and girls | Prioritize their health and safety | Include responses to gender-based violence.

Zonta International calls on its membership to:

<https://www.zonta.org/Web/Causes/ZontaSaysNOW/Actions>

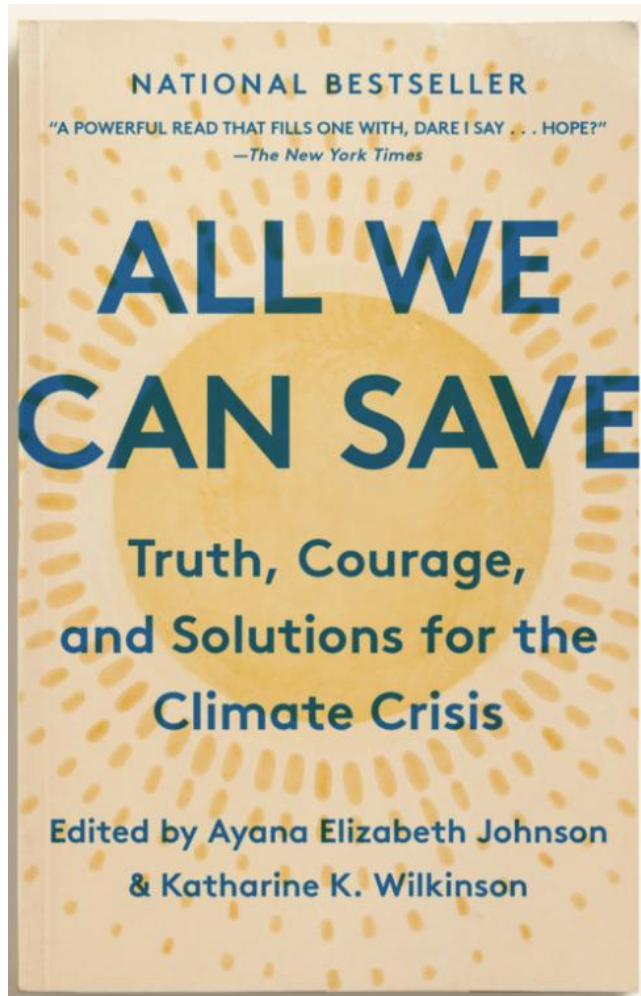
1. Increase their awareness of climate change and its gender-related consequences and raise awareness locally.
2. Include gendered climate change advocacy actions in their advocacy plans.
3. Support the inclusion of women at the national and local tables of decision-makers on environmental sustainability.
4. Promote girls' education, the inclusion of climate literacy in schools, and girls' participation in STEM studies to increase gendered scientific and technical contributions to climate change mitigation.
5. Advocate for national policies that consider women's economic opportunities and ensure their full and equal participation in the economy.

Zonta Says NOW Action Guides and the Framework for Action

The All We Can Save Circles

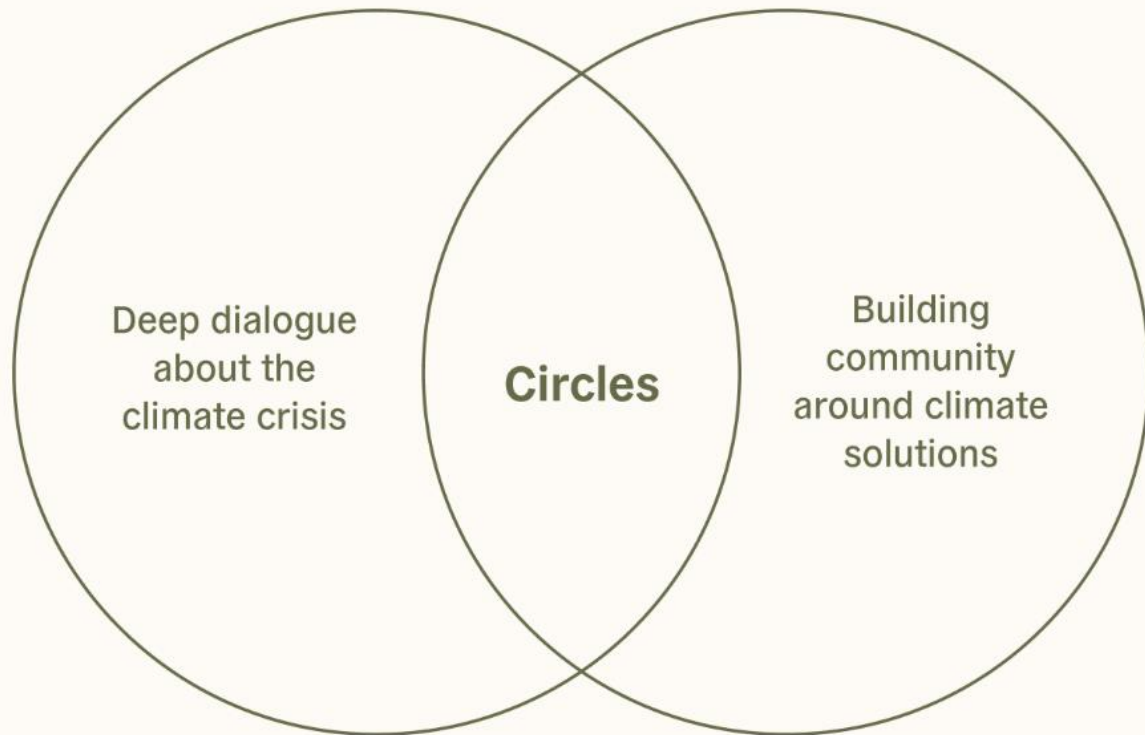
A deeper dialogue about Climate Crisis
to building community around solutions



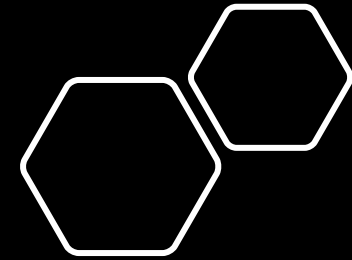


***All We Can Save* is an anthology of provocative and illuminating writings by 60 women at the forefront of the climate movement who are harnessing truth, courage, and solutions to lead humanity forward.**

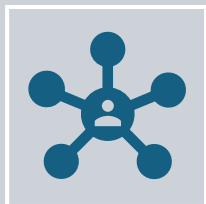
Curated by two climate leaders, ***Ayana Elizabeth Johnson*** and ***Katherine K Wilkinson*** - this book is a collection and celebration of visionaries who are leading us on a path toward all we can save.



Ready to dive deeper in community, dialogue, and climate action?



Circles



- connecting with others **through generous, inclusive, and open dialogue.**

- creating a safe “container” in which people **feel comfortable expressing themselves authentically** — and **have a shared sense of acceptance and trust.**



Circles were created by Dr. Katharine Wilkinson.

Circles are a creation of The All We Can Save Project (a project of Multiplier), and are licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International](#).


Session 1: Begin

*My heart is moved by all I cannot save:
so much has been destroyed*

*I have to cast my lot with those
who age after age, perversely,*

*with no extraordinary power,
reconstitute the world.*

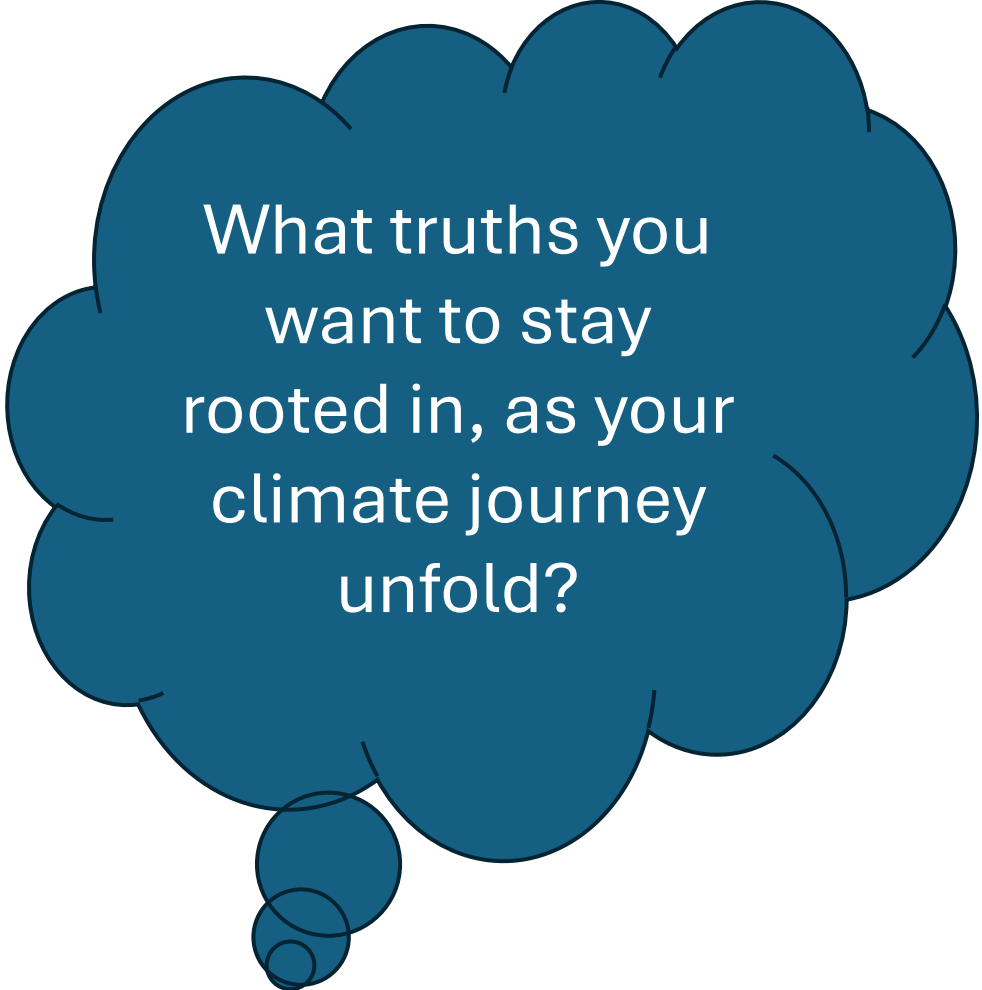
—Adrienne Rich



How did your
climate journey
begin?

Session 2: Root

*A call, a welcoming, a place to ground
The foundation of Indigenous wisdom
And the wisdom of Earth's living systems
Interconnection, emergence, justice,
regeneration*



What truths you
want to stay
rooted in, as your
climate journey
unfold?

Session 3: Advocate

Strategy, participation, public good
Plying tools of legislation and litigation
How we hold the powerful to account
And (re)write the rules with all people in mind



How does climate
impact your
civic/political
participation?


Session 4: Reframe

Language and story, creativity and culture

Our means of making sense

To tell the truth—expand, flip, and rekindle it

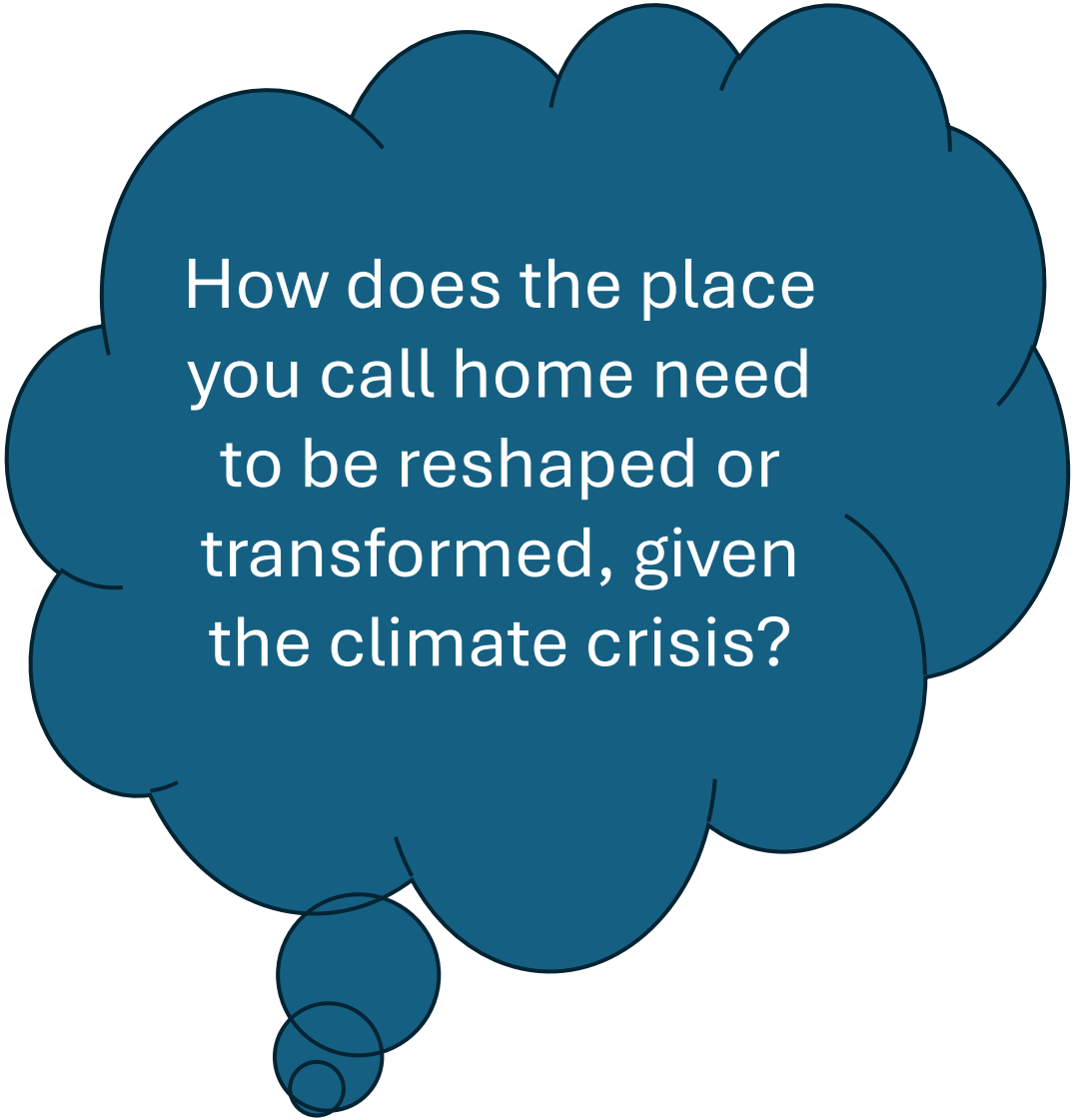
*Imagining, evolving, holding on to our
humanity*



Where might you
spark/convene a
fresh climate
conversation?

Session 5: Reshape

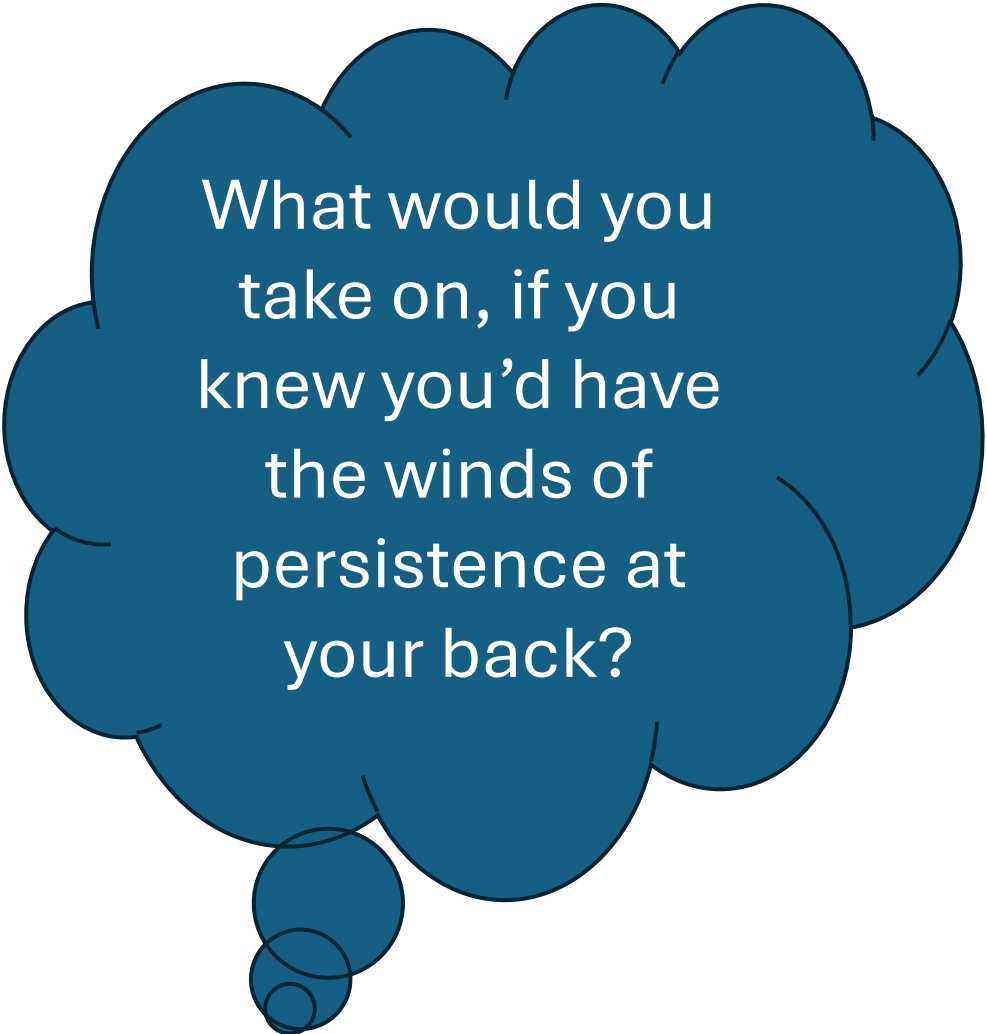
*Problems embedded in the contours
Of cities, transport, infrastructure, capitalism
Coastlines and landscapes where human-
nature meet
Much to reconsider, rend, invert, remake*



How does the place
you call home need
to be reshaped or
transformed, given
the climate crisis?

Session 6: Persist

*Damn if this work isn't hard, our task towering
The fire of activism—on the front lines, in the
belly
Standing for justice, for health, for the sacred
We don't have to do this alone*



What would you
take on, if you
knew you'd have
the winds of
persistence at
your back?

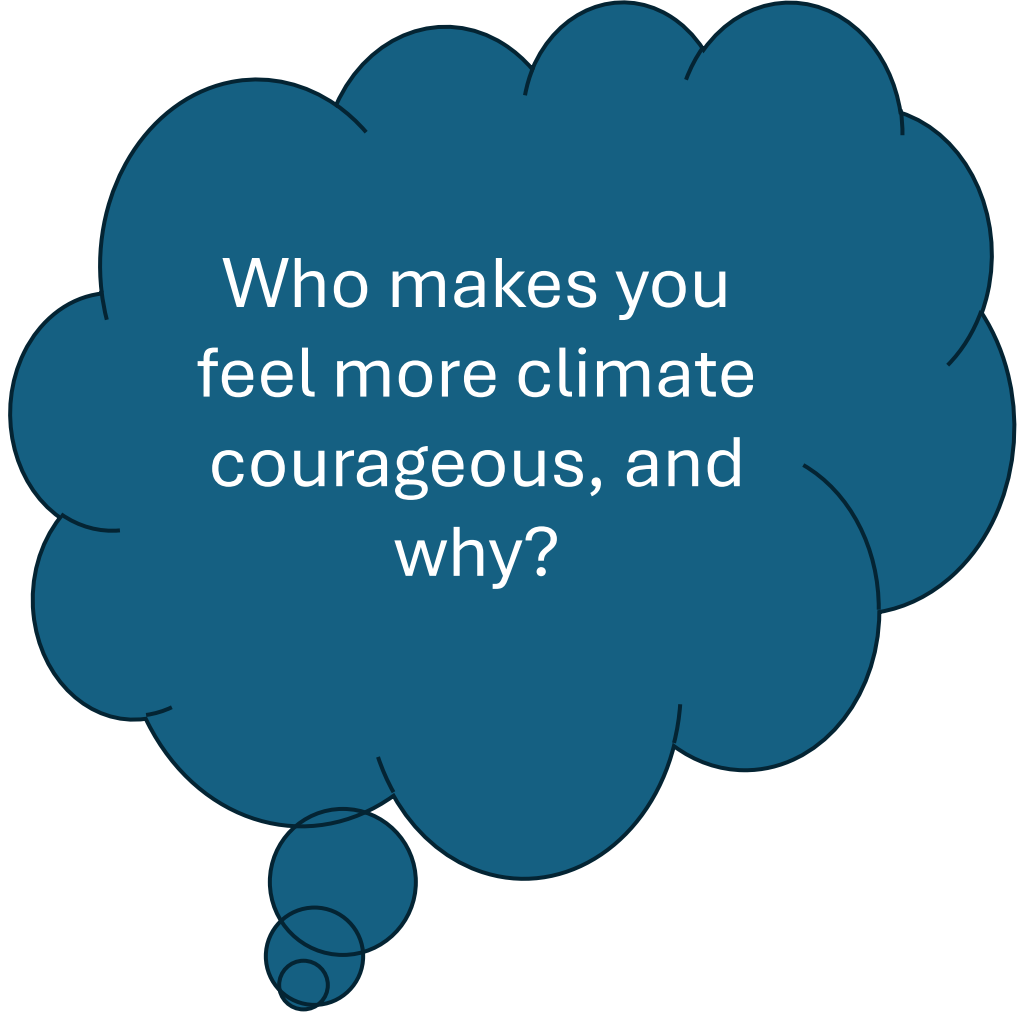
Session 7: Feel

Awake, aware, attuned

Hearts break, souls shake with anxiety

*Can't skip this struggling, mourning, raging,
healing*

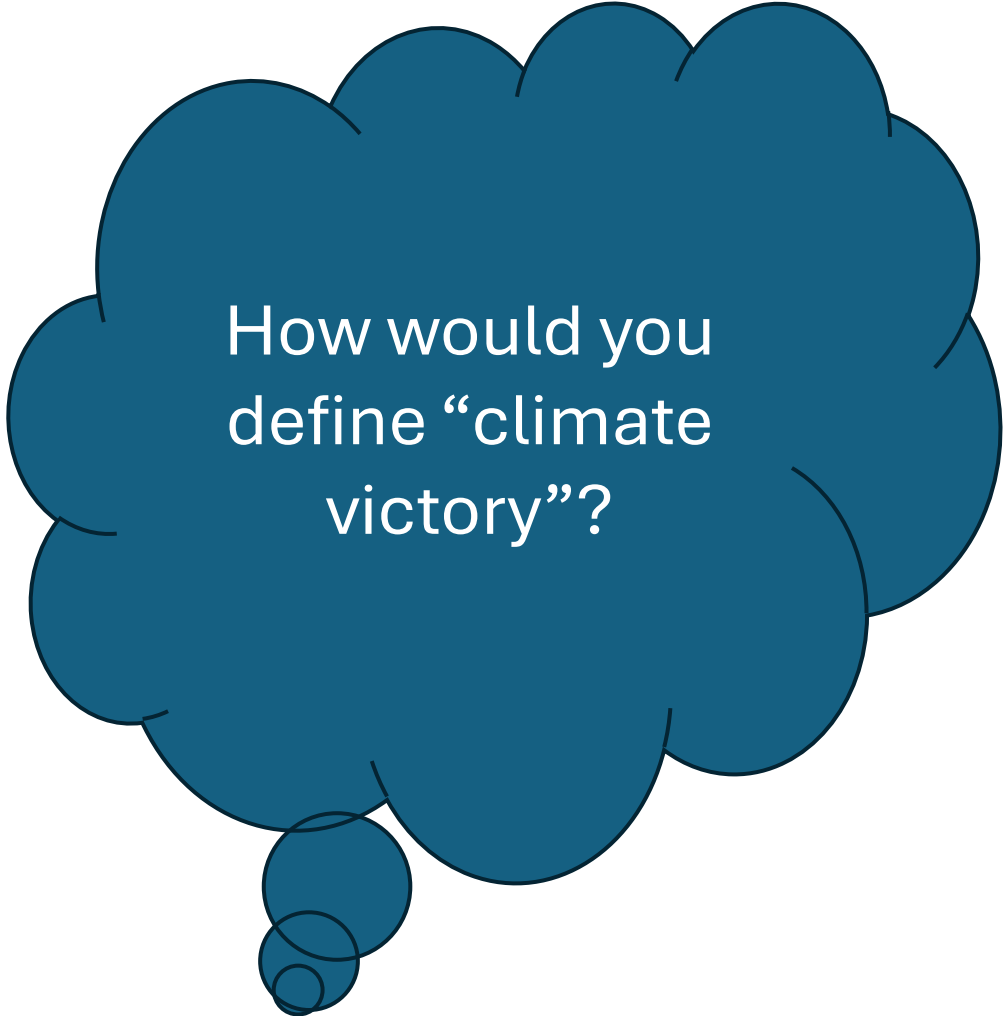
A ferocious love for the planet we call home



Who makes you
feel more climate
courageous, and
why?

Session 8: Nourish

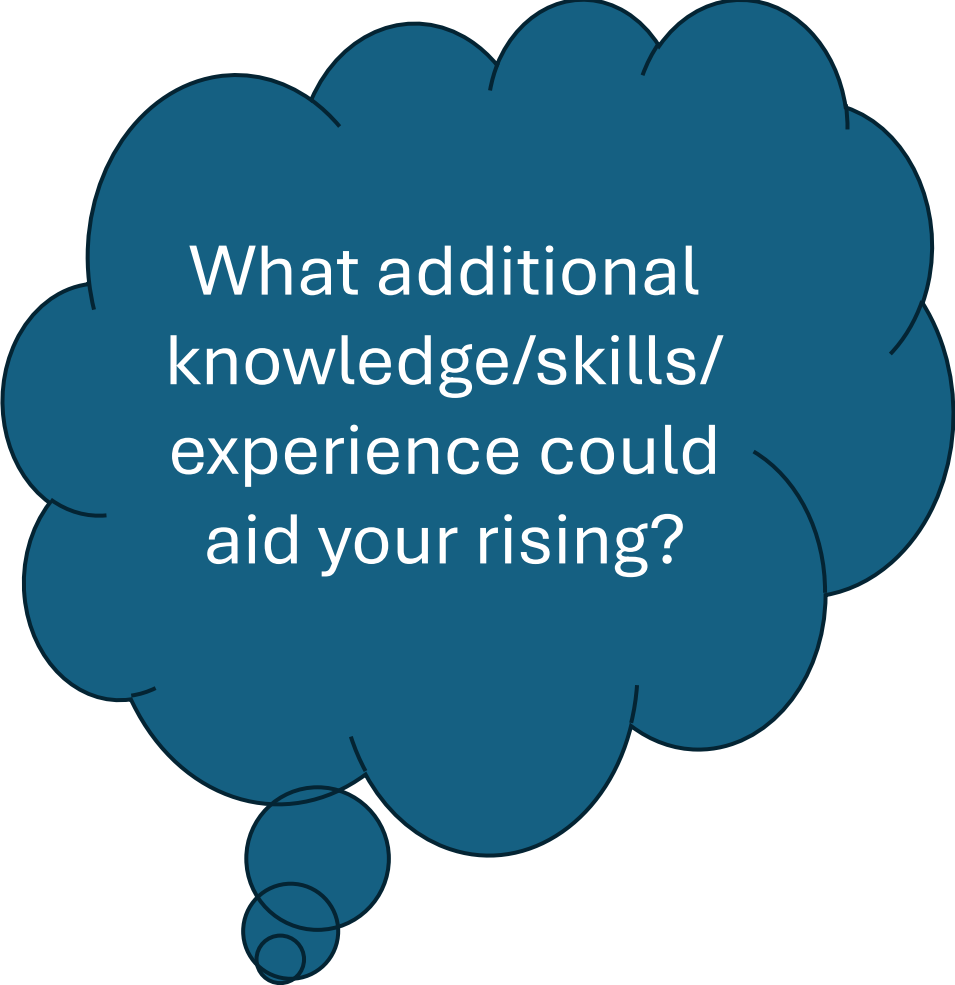
*Soil, food, water, sky—inseparable
The foundations of our aliveness
Collaborating with and supporting nature
Microbes, farmers, photosynthesis*



How would you
define “climate
victory”?

Session 9: Rise

*Generations—growing, giving, gathering
Nurture community and transformation
For a future that holds us, all of us
This is the work of our lifetimes*




What additional
knowledge/skills/
experience could
aid your rising?

Session 10: Onward

“There must be those among whom we can sit down and weep, and still be counted as warriors.”

— Adrienne Rich



How do you define
climate leadership
now?

Afterwards: What next?

Our Circle may want to gather for another session to explore “what’s next” — collectively and individually —

SUSTAIN CIRCLE COMMUNITY

Dig deeper by exploring some questions

Create a WhatsApp group for ongoing discussions

Learn through podcasts, webinars, and stay updated

Continue engaging generous questions

Take on a collective project, leveraging the superpowers of our circle

GROW THE CONVERSATION

Share the anthology and spark a conversation with someone new!

Convene another Circle, plan events focused on themes

Create Climate Stories for useful info and inspiration

TAKE COLLECTIVE ACTION

MAKE IT PROFESSIONAL

STAY IN TOUCH with “All We Can Save Project”

PROGRAM TIMELINE

Meetings	Tasks	Structure
NOV 2025	Session ONE	40 min session
DEC 2025	Session TWO	40 min session
JAN 2025	Session THREE	40 min session
JAN 2025	Session FOUR	40 min session
FEB 2025	Session FIVE	40 min session
FEB 2025	Session SIX	40 min session
MAR 2025	Session SEVEN	40 min session
MAR 2025	Session EIGHT	40 min session
APR 2025	Session NINE	40 min session
APR 2025	Session TEN	40 min session
MAY 2025	AFTERWARDS Session	40 min session