

Transcript | Climate Literacy 101

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Filling up, so I'll get started. Welcome to this masterclass event on Climate Literacy 101.

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My name is Douglas Hodston. I'm a producer here at Apolitical. As ever, it would be great to hear from all of you. So please do let us know who you are where you're joining us from and your role by posting in the chat points to the brave

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Commenter. I'm really looking forward to fielding some of your questions later on and posing them to our fantastic speakers. For those of you who may be joining us for the first time, welcome. Apolitical is the world's largest community for governments used by over a quarter of a million public servants and policymakers

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From more than 170 countries. Our mission is to make government smarter and we do this by putting the best knowledge and skills at the fingertips of public servants around the world just like you.

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And a special welcome for those of you who are already members of Apolitical's Net Zero community for government.

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If you're not yet in the community, we're thrilled to extend an invitation to join today's speakers and your peers across the global public service.

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This is a space, it's a general space to share successes you might want to seek advice on overcoming obstacles or to simply find solidarity in your efforts to lead the charge on net zero in government.

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The link is in the resources tab of this webinar, which should be at the bottom of your screen. And my colleague, I can just see has posted it in the chat as well.

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I can see that we have had a message from Marion. Hi, Mariam.

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You are based in St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador. It's really great to have you.

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Here today and I encourage everybody else to let me know where they are signing in to today's session from Rubin.

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Nice to hear from you. I am going, Graham. Hi, Graham, Toronto.

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Nice to have you in the call as well. I'm going to get through a couple of technical notes before we crack on with today's conversation.

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The event is recorded for on-demand viewing on the Apolitical website. Please don't record it yourself.

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Contact details for privacy concerns are in a political homepage footer Closed captions are available and can be toggled on or off in your Zoom settings.

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I can see we've got some more introductions flooding into the chat now. We've got Kelly from Peterborough. Hi, Kelly.

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Anne, who is from Newmarket, Ontario. Aaron from Preston, Miles from Glasgow. Hi, Miles. Bianca from Devon.

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Him from victoria canada Hi, Indira from the Bahamas. Lovely to have you. Very global audience as ever. So that's really nice to see on such an important subject today.

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Almost enough from me, but actually I want to hear from you guys now. We're going to run a couple of quick polls to get a sense of what you're hoping to get out of the discussion today. So these will pop up on your screen.

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In a second. The first poll is, there it is. Which aspect of climate change do you feel least confident in your understanding So you might feel not so aware of the climate science basic you might be unsure about the impact of climate change on ecosystems and communities.

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You might feel a lack of understanding to do a policy in climate governance Or perhaps it's in the solutions and mitigation strategies.

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Section. I'm just going to give you guys a couple of seconds to Post your answers in this poll. If you have a different response to the ones that have been listed here, then of course I welcome any additional answers in the chat.

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I can see we've got people's answers pouring in, so I'll give it a couple more seconds and then we'll we'll share these results.

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Cool. There we go. Okay, so... fairly far out in the front is policy framework and climate governance.

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So speakers, that might be something that we'll turn to in the Q&A. There's about 51 people the people on the call feel least confident in their understanding of climate policy framework and governance.

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Good to know. Thank you, everyone. There's another poll coming up now and I'll give it a second Once again, to pop up, there it is. What motivates you most to improve your climate literacy?

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Question about motivation. Why have you all join this call today.

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To learn about climate literacy. And the results coming in Out in the front at the moment in the front contributing to sustainability and resilience.

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Efforts we've got some people that want to roll up their sleeves and get involved with building climate sustainability and resilience.

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Looking about neck and neck so far is making informed decisions in your professional role as well as supporting effective climate policies. So that might be on a bit of an individual capacity There you go kind of tied into, I would say a kind of mutual third place are the top three options and then

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In the main people who want to contribute to sustainability and resilience effort. We've got one final poll One final bit of interaction for you and that is call number three is poll number How prepared is your organisation for future climate challenges.

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I'd love your opinion on this. It's always interesting. Are you very prepared in your organization?

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In your department in your in your team as kind of a more smaller unit Are you somewhat prepared you consider future risks that you could do more it might be neutral or you might feel like you're not very prepared

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I'll again give us a few more seconds. Thank you for your answers on this.

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Great. I think we have a winner here. As you can see, most people are feeling somewhat prepared. We consider future risks but could do more.

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Could do more. That is good. That's what we'll aim to do today. You'll leave the hour of being equipped to do more and perhaps speak to your teams about doing more in their roles too. So thank you for Thank you for sharing your responses to that. That is nearly enough from me. I'm going to tell you about

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Who you're going to be hearing from today. We're really fortunate to have two brilliant and esteemed guests here we've got Only pinfall and Professor Peacher Moulton Hill.

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Pichla is the co-chair of the UN Principles for Responsible Management Education Working Group on Climate Change. That's a mouthful.

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And is Professor for Sustainable Management and Education for Sustainable Development at Nottingham Business School here in the UK.

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Bonnie is manager of research and training at Environment and Climate Change Canada and was part of the team that developed a foundational and highly regarded climate literacy suite at the Canada School of Public Service, which was launched in 2023. Give us a shout in the chat if you're from Canada and have come across any of

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On these courses, I'd love to know. Of course, this is a very small version of their bios. You can read full length versions if you navigate the resources tab at the bottom of your Zoom screen and head to the speaker section.

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Before we get started with the masterclasses, I thought it would be a nice idea to kick off with an icebreaker today.

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Before we get into the main discussion, I invite everybody on the call, if you're an attendee, to share your response to this question in the thread that we've started in the Net Zero community.

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So my colleague has just posted a link to that thread in the chat but um Bonnie and Peter, I'm going to ask you this verbally. Which person not in government do you think would make the best climate ambassador and why

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Which person so uh bonnie, you're at the top of my screen so i'm going to go to you first.

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So a climate ambassador is a very tricky question. Mainly because I'm here for mass climate literacy and distributed network leadership really for all of us to step up with courage and act as ambassadors in our own spheres of influence.

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But if I had to answer the question. My dream climate ambassador is someone deeply human, a loved and trusted messenger who just dances around all of our polarization.

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Someone who can bring warmth to climate messages, especially in communities often othered in these conversations.

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We see these traits in climate leaders today like Robin Wall Kimmerer or Ayanna Elizabeth Johnston.

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But my climate ambassador is definitely the beloved Dolly Parton. I've just seen learning that her latest anthem can be read as a climate anthem.

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So maybe this dream comes true.

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I love that, Bonnie. Do you know what? I think that is an award for the first time that Dolly Parton has been mentioned at an apolitical event and I'm very happy to have been present for that groundbreaking answer. So thank you for bringing that, Bolly passed in. I wasn't expecting that extra excellent. Titra, over to you. Who's your climate ambassador?

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Yeah, I mean, I did see the message from Bonnie before that it will be a singer, but I actually came up with some totally different people. I hope it's okay. For me, it would be really because I'm a total fan of inroads, which I will use in a moment as well. And so for me it would be Professor John Sturman and his team from MIT.

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And it would be John Dewr and Ryan Panchazaran with speed and scale because I just love for both approaches how they kind of really put the numbers together and say this is what we have to do and this is how we can solve climate change. And this is what I really hope to do.

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I love it. Thanks, Petra. That's a great answer too. And I'm looking forward to cracking into the Enroads tool a little bit later. It's a great tool. We love it here at Apolitical.

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Without further ado, thank you very much for those answers, everyone. I look forward to reading our attendees suggestions in that thread a bit later, but it's time to hear from our excellent speakers. So Bonnie and people do have two bite-sized masterclasses to share with you and we're going to kick off with for now so take it away whenever you're ready.

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Great. So we can see your screen.

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You're on mute still. Apologies, Peter. And just to reassure everybody that a recording of this event will be available to watch back if you navigate to the event page by the end of this week.

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Peter, over to you. I can see he's unmuted.

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Okay. And I'm There's always someone who has to forget to switch on the button so it's me already done for today So yeah, but my task was really to define for you as I was asked to define key terms for you like net zero and carbon dioxide equivalent, but just seeing the poll, it looks like a lot of you have maybe a good understanding of all these basic words and concepts.

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But I hope you don't mind if I go through them anyway. But then my focus is really on the climate solutions because I think it's really important to understand, for example, the science, but always link to what is the most important solution. And this is really where the focus is of my presentation.

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And I have loads and loads of slides, but the idea is really that you can have a look at things afterwards. So it's really kind of, I will not talk about everything. I will sometimes just skip through them.

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But hopefully you will actually download them afterwards look at the video links I have included and things and inform yourself more if you want to get more information.

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Just to look at the big picture, I mean, a lot of people know that we have to achieve net zero by 2050. Not everyone knows that this means and that this is recommended in the same report that we have to halve our emissions by around 2030.

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Because sometimes people think, oh, that's zero 2050 long time in the future we can relax a few years and then we get going.

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But actually to know that we have to halve the emissions already by 2030, which is only five years away now, actually makes it a bit of a more urgent task for us all to actually get going and to do the right things as well. And so you can look this all up by the way. There are also links where I have this information from and so on. So I always find it important that you that I'm not just putting things here into space without any links to it. So if you're not familiar with the term net zero.

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It is actually the idea that we reduce, that we reduce the emissions we put into space, but also that whatever is left over after we have reduced everything, what we put into space or into the atmosphere, that we then pull it down as well the rest which is left. And I think the best way to say it and the easiest way is what Swiss Ray has actually come up with the slogan is

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Do our best to remove the rest. And I think this really sums it up. So we reduce the emissions as much as we can and then we store the rest of the carbon and so we are still putting into the atmosphere and reduce come to net zero this way.

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And if you want to understand more on SSI, there are links for the videos here. So you can just go to them, which is where it's explained in much more detail.

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It's the same as the greenhouse effect so I will not play the video. You can watch it's really good video to explain the whole concept But I think a lot of you would look from the point like also very familiar. The greenhouse effect is actually the idea the more of the greenhouse gases we put in the atmosphere, the more we keep

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Warm the warmth it's like a blanket like we have put a blanket around the globe and the more we put into the atmosphere as thick as a blanket becomes and therefore it becomes hotter and hotter. So this is kind of the basic idea what the greenhouse effect is. Again, you have the video if you want to understand it more, but I think most of you know it already.

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And in order to do this, it's all the greenhouse gases. You might also know all of them. Here are some of them.

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The most important ones and the way we are calculating them worldwide when we say we have to reduce them, we always introduce it as a carbon dioxide equivalent. So we are kind of not instead of saying, oh, a company or a country is producing this amount of methane and this amount of carbon dioxide and another gas and another gas and it gets really confusing.

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We give one number for everything together. And this is what you will find for every country And what this actually also takes into account is a different warming potential from the different gases. Now you can see here a difference actually. For example, this is a refrigeration gas which is um

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Has much, much stronger warming potential than, for example, carbon dioxide. And this is really important to consider as well.

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And you look at what do we need to reduce and how fast should we reduce it? For example, some people don't know that air conditioning and refrigeration is really, really important because of this and obviously air conditioning is for me one of my favorite no brain kind of solutions because I hate it. I don't know if it's the same for you when you go into a building

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In a hot country in the summer and you're really frozen because it's so cold inside. And I always wonder why people not put the air conditioning on a nice temperature and alone doing this as regulating the temperature in a building.

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And maybe having some policies around it, like we are not allowed to have any building below 20 degrees. I think for me would actually make me feel more comfortable in the buildings, but also would have already quite an impact if we would all do this worldwide.

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So you might wonder how much is too much of all these emissions I just mentioned. And if you want to look at this, this is another video which you can look at. It's really kind of giving you a bit of finer ideas how fast we need to reduce emissions. But what I also like about this video, it gives you actually how much jobs we are creating and things like this. So it's something you might want to look at later

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Because I was tasked with loads of keywords so therefore it's really hard to bring them all into 50 minutes I'm allowed. But this is really one of the most important one. It's a climate change mitigation. And you can see here a few ideas.

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Because often people Yeah, when they think about this topic, they think about maybe only one area like buy electric vehicles, for example, and then they are done with a topic.

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But actually what it means, what we have to do with climate change mitigation is reduce all our emissions, all the different greenhouse gases I just showed you, like me saying, for example, which comes from what we eat or also from the food waste we are producing in every country and food waste is really a big problem in every country in the world.

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So we need to change all these things. So we need to not only change as a bike electric vehicles and then we are done, we need to, for example, reduce the food waste or change the air conditioning and so on. So we need to actually think about new ways of living our life

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And I would always think we start with the easy ones, which are also nice at the same time.

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But then obviously we could can also tackle some more complicated ones. And if you want to look more into this, as I have always given you references to look into more detail But this is only just a few ideas of what are the interrelated policies to what I have said so far. For example, it's actually for me, it's really important to increase the renewables.

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And especially when you're in a hot country so it's kind of not understandable a little bit if you're in a really hot country, why do you not use solar more for example and why does the country not have loads of policy actually to say, let's use solar for everything if possible?

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Because it would be the best renewable resource and obviously this depends always on the country what is the best So I think this is one of the first ones I would always look into. But it's lots of other things you might not think so much about. For example, we hear a lot about AI at the moment and everyone

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Talks about ai like it has nothing to do with climate change or energy or something, but actually it is a very very strong consumption of energy and actually we need to look into these ones. We need to do what kind of policies we need to develop in this area as well, how to regulate AI and especially how much energy it is consuming and data centers and so on. But it will be whatever you do, I think whatever job you have, there will be something which is related to your job because it might be things that you're responsible for transport. So you have things here.

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On increasing public transport cycling and walking and how to make it maybe also fun and nice because I think actually cities i personally saying cities where I don't sit in a traffic jam is actually a nice feature if I can just go in a green street and I kind of can just cycle along, I think it's quite a better quality of life even for me kind of.

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So you might want to consider these things also with a nice vision for the future because a lot of people often think it's a reduction of our life or we have to make big changes which are difficult to make. But I think doing a lot of these changes and putting these policies into place is actually improving in our environment. It could mean create more green cities. It could be all these other things which you can see here on the screen.

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And actually, I would love to talk longer about everything, but I realize I have to be very quick So I want to just whistle through the rest. I hope I'm not talking too fast.

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So the next one is actually that often people then when they think about the policies, I think everyone, as I get this buying election

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To call out in the question and answers. But what I think is really important is for example that it would not help if everybody buys big electric cars, SUVs for example because by buying these cars we're actually increasing our emissions. We are not producing them.

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So for example, good policies would actually incentivize small electric cars or public transport or car sharing and so on and so on. So I think it's always important to look really with a lot of these things into more detail what we need to do. And this is only one of many examples obviously

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But as I mentioned, there are loads of things which might not be on your radar. I love this one, for example, with the green curtains, which you could make on big scales because it does tackle so many things. It's fantastic carbon sink, which I will come to in a moment as well. It can promote healthy diets, reduce food poverty, address air pollution and so on and so on. So I wanted to just highlight that these things is not only about climate, it's all about these other nice things which can be created. And if you want to find inspiration, I think one for me, one of the best is really to go to drawdown.

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Draw down our climate solutions where as it forms a name, it's drawing down the temperature. So it's loads of ideas on how to draw down the temperature by looking at all these different solutions. So I would really encourage you, there are about 100, the best ones in the world to have a look.

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And obviously when you're in policy, you might think, oh, does this really, how much does it actually, how much influence does it have? And this is just from a colleague of mine, Carol Smiltz, who has given me this slide, which I think is really kind of showing how Things are changing when you actually introduce a policy or when you decide to decline it and say, no, we're not doing it anymore and you can see what the reaction is actually in the country and how much is then

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Implemented there. If you want to look into all these a bit more, it's a handbook of carbon management. You can look at things which could become national policies, but also on a private level. So what can I do?

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Or what could I do in my institution, like in your office only, or then scale it up to the whole country, which obviously would be the best option. But I hope this gives you lots of different ideas. And now before, as I'm coming soon to an end, but I want to really highlight also carbon things because a lot of people are not so familiar that obviously we have a lot of solutions who are linked to another side as we hear a lot about solutions to stop emissions going into atmosphere. But there's a lot of solutions which actually can draw down

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And it's not only the technical storage solution, it's also the natural storage solution. I think they are really, really important. They can be increased much, much more.

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And to just give you this one slide, you can see here how much is actually under the soil, which you might think, oh, has no is not important at all but actually if you increase the soil into your country you can actually achieve that they become much, much better carbon things or that you don't lose carbon things.

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Not like VetLens, for example, don't give them up or increase them if you can. I think this is a really, really important solutions. And for example, one is really the seaweed and seagrass, which is often underestimated and which obviously could mean that you make changes that you that actually because a lot of countries like the UK have actually reduced them by 95 percent

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Going in the other direction would be obviously fantastic and would be increase the carbon things. And to give you one example which um When I do my trainings normally people don't know about shade going coffee and I think it tells you for itself otherwise please do look it up kind of

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But I think if you go to shade, oops. This is now happening shade con coffee

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Oops. To the slides.

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So if you go for shade corn coffee which obviously means that you keep the whole forest around it, which is a fantastic carbon sink and you can see on this side all the things that actually are improving it like that you sequester more carbon that you reduce soil erosion, that you provide habitats for lots of build for example of the other animals that you stop deforestation, water consumption. And this can really be kind of as a shape when coffee is good you could just decide to do it yourself

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You could decide, okay, let's ask my organization to provide it. But you obviously could also develop national policy that supports the import of shade grown coffee and actually make it easier to import this. Or if you are a coffee growing nation, you could actually develop subsidized to support the change to shade corn coffee. So these are all the different options you have to give you just one of them.

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Examples from the carbon syncs up because there are loads and loads and loads more but i have only five minutes and the last few minutes I want to share with you this what I mentioned already before which is n-roads which i think is a fantastic model to actually look at all the different solutions you can put together.

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And you can see them here on the screen, but I will also stop share the slides now and then hopefully go to the to the actual tool Let's see if this works.

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And I can also

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Not sorry about this.

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I can't get to bar out of the way.

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For everybody's reference, they might find it I'm going to post a link to this tool in the chat now in case people want to have a play around by themselves, but we can see that now.

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Ah, Jose.

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So that's good. We can see that.

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Yeah. So as you can see, it is at the moment if you don't do anything, we are going towards 3.3 degrees and obviously you all know we want to keep it to 1.5 if possible and you can play around with all the, I can't do the full normally I do it as a bit of a game how we can get to 1.5 degrees. But to give you just one example, if you, for example.

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Put all our efforts on buildings and industry like insulating homes and so on to policies around this topic.

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On a big scale worldwide and I really places for you. You can see we have already achieved to then reduce the temperature worldwide by 0.3 degrees.

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And you can try out all these different areas here and then obviously you can find out how much it would actually make a difference and sometimes you might be surprised because you think something has a bigger impact than it actually has.

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So do tie it out and it's a fantastic tool. I would strongly recommend it And to go back to my slides.

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Just to finish off. So what you can then do is actually that you come to You can make scenarios like this one which I have made for you, which is actually showing if you put all these solutions through the right policies together.

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Then we can actually make sure we are staying on 1.5 degrees and you can see how it goes down by putting all these things into place.

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So I think this would be something I would really encourage you to do and to develop for your own country and then this is kind of just a summary of what are, for example, some of the biggest changes according

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To using this model from MIT and Climate Interactive. And one which I highlighted here at the end is actually to Please climate literacy, which we have just done in these 15 minutes where I was trying to visit you through lots of things.

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But please do look at the slides. I have a few more slides for you if you want to look further into this, which will be shared after this this workshop today and also some other links kind of there that you can look up if you want to find out more because I think this is really important that we have a good understanding what to do and then we can put the right things into place.

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And I hope I have not gone over my 15 minutes now

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That was wonderful that was wonderful. I commend you, Petra, for the sheer amount of ground that you just covered in such a short amount of time that was really incredible and yeah just to reiterate to everyone, there are more slides

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To explore and plenty of resources that Peter has kindly included in her presentation that you'll be able to find if you navigate to the event page. We are going to post that on the page tomorrow, so please navigate back there to look at those

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Fantastic slides again and explore more. Now, Bonnie, without further ado, I am going to hand immediately over to you And I am stalling just a little bit because I'm just pulling up your screen.

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Live on your behalf just let me know that you can See them.

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Then I will take a minute to heartily thank Petra. That was fantastic. You really summed up the core realities of the climate crisis.

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All of which has huge implications for all public service. And that deck is just a gift. I hope you do all have a chance to look through and you'll see that that handbook on carbon management, she undersold it. I think she is

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The award-winning author of that book last year. So please do check that out.

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I'm going to pick up now to reflect on how public service climate literacy is an effort to move from isolated environmental policy silos to integrating climate and nature in all public sector work.

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So this is a shift that's happening in many countries and is facing some headwinds these days.

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So I'll take a moment to reflect on what we've learned ourselves from colleagues in developing climate literacy.

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As well as what it means to be serving through shifting social conditions for climate action.

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Finally, I want to reflect on how critical nature and biodiversity are to effective climate literacy.

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I'll wrap up by offering what this might mean to you.

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But before I get started, I'm going to invite everyone to open the chat and really lean into your keyboard today.

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I'm really grateful that Apolitical has offered us this rare chance to reflect together on what it means to build governments that are responsive and reactive to the risks and the opportunities we find in a changing climate.

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So I really want to hear from you. If the themes I'm recounting reflect your experience.

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If you've experienced a shift in the social acceptance of climate action.

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And how you've seen nature literacy show up in your professional experience.

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And what I'm most excited about you hearing, and this might be back of mine for last slide.

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Is examples of how you have integrated climate and nature considerations in your work, whatever your work is.

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So really looking forward to hearing from you. You'll see that when you type in the chat, the comments are attributed to you.

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Questions are anonymous. This might totally mess up the schema, but if you want to communicate anonymously, please use the Q&A.

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All right, Doug, let's go. Next slide. So I'm an official in the Environment Ministry in Canada.

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Responsible for promoting climate literacy in our public service. My team and I work with climate experts to offer training to support Identifying the connections between our work and the changing climate.

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I've been tracking down a lot of my counterparts in other national governments because I'm hugely curious about what training is effective in empowering public servants to see the ways in which their work affects the changing climate and the changing climate affects their work.

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To my mind, the value of connecting with all of these officials is showing and encouraging this work.

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Initially, I thought it was about understanding our common challenges But the first thing we learned when connecting with officials was that we know this is hard.

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And it really won't help to parse all the reasons why.

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Broadly we're in the business of organizational change, like I say, moving from isolating environmental policy in silos to having all public sector jobs integrate climate change.

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And we're compounding that organizational change with the subject most closely associated with disaster, anxiety.

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And dread. So the challenge is clear. But the lesson we learn first is that our best bet for how this work will advance is to show and encourage the many the many efforts underway around the world.

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Value of showcasing comes from what we've seen as the sheer diversity of practice.

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And the value of encouragement is that we're not certain that anyone has this right just yet.

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I mean, Brazil might have this right, but the rest of us are still growing.

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So this is the pattern that I see emerging from all of these international conversations.

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Including a survey we recently conducted of the more than 100 members of the OECD's network of schools of government.

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So those survey responses plus a few interviews, plus our experience supports me in showing and encouraging these three themes today.

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Okay. The first is core climate literacy necessary for all public servants?

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So we are not there yet, but I think there's growing consensus about providing a floor level understanding sharing a vision of a resilient net zero economy that Petra spoke so well to.

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And the frameworks as well for mitigation and adaptation that are necessary to get there.

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This is training that gives us a starting point to figure out where our public service work needs to engage with fighting climate change.

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So we use climate literacy in the same way as the essential principles of climate literacy publication that came from NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency last year.

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What's exciting there is that climate literacy is not defined passively.

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But it's about being empowered to communicate about climate change and to be able to inform your decisions with climate considerations.

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That's the climate literacy we're talking about. Now, audience segmentation so I believe a time will come.

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When it will be common sense that of course all jobs are climate jobs. Of course, auditing includes assessing climate risks and opportunities. Or of course, agriculture programs are sensitive to climate or of course procurement is green procurement.

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But our experience is that this mainstream integration is still far off.

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One key step that we've seen many colleagues take is to think through and deliver smart audience segmentation.

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Which tailors training to particular roles and responsibilities economic sectors or government functions.

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For example, our friends in Spain are targeting the auditors We are working on developing tools to help grants and contributions staff integrate climate and nature across all government funding programs. But for real success here, again, I'm going to look to brazil

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We're going to share a climate learning path with our resources here.

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That's just a brilliant, effective climate action story. Their national school of government is spotlighting climate this year and featuring over 50 separate events.

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They really get serving all public service communities. And the third thing I want to point to here is transformative skills.

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Climate literacy is not just about what we know. It's about how we work together in the face of complexity.

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Urgency and uncertainty. This demands more than technical know-how.

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It calls for a shift in mindset. And the cultivation of deeper human capacities.

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In the public service, we are well trained in linear planning and risk aversion, which are important strengths, but not always well suited to the adaptive cross-cutting, future-focused work that climate action requires.

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So this moment asks us to grow new capabilities. Systems thinking, collaboration across silos, moral courage, personal resilience.

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And navigating change. These are sometimes called transformative skills And one framework that names and nurtures them is the inner development goals.

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If you've been integrating transformative or inner development in your professional work.

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We would love to connect. This is going to be the subject of our ongoing future international conversations.

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In our experience, climate literacy that doesn't name or encourage these skills will really struggle to implement real change.

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So this is the shape of what we're seeing in climate literacy in the public sector.

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That we need to promote a floor of climate literacy for all we need to support various audiences including leadership.

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To act on climate in their roles. And we need to name and promote the skills that will support this change.

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If any of this resonates, please do note it in the chat. If you have taken a core climate literacy course in your country, I absolutely want to hear about that.

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If any of this is resonating, please do tell me a story.

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All right. Thank you. So with thanks to apolitical for a place to speak frankly I want to reflect on a significant change in our own experience recently.

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And the change we're seeing come out of the US as well, not to mention the private sector.

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I'm going to use the title here, Shifting Social Conditions for Climate Action.

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Or what does it mean to be climate literate? To serve in a climate informed way And two and... cyst on the further development of climate awareness Now.

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I welcome your thoughts on how you would theme this. What changes you're seeing that might challenge the integration of climate and nature considerations in your context?

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And for our experience, I would suggest that public support for climate policy isn't fixed.

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It shifts with economic pressures. With political narratives and with our lived experiences.

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In Canada, like other parts of the world, evolving political discourse is shaping how climate action is perceived.

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What looked like strong public demand for rapid climate action in 2021 or after record wildfires in 2023, looks quite different in 2025.

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I'm mainly speaking to Canadian experiences But global headlines have seen both corporations and governments pulling back both from net zero pledges And now underfunding climate adaptation.

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As well. In Canada, we reference the program of applied research on climate action, or PARCA.

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And read.climate, climate communications think tank at Carleton University here in Ottawa.

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And both of them point to a growing divisiveness over the climate solutions Petra highlighted so well.

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This is not a shift back to widespread climate denial. Support for action remains.

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But it's overshadowed by economic anxieties. But it's not just economic anxieties or the affordability crisis that have reframed climate action here.

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It's pressures from misinformation and disinformation campaigns And strangely, even the lived experiences of early onset climate impacts such as extreme weather.

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Don't guarantee climate policy support. If the solutions feel unfair or abstract.

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So these and other political narratives have shifted social buy-in for climate action, at least in Canada.

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What does this mean for public servants? I want to say that we must be equipped to navigate shifting public sentiment not to advocate but to ensure informed, adaptive, credible governance. Climate Action in the public service is not advocacy, but responsible governance.

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It's a core contribution to ensuring economic and social resilience. Climate literate public service is advising and operating in right relationship with reality, offering truthful, trustworthy advice to ministers.

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This means, as I've said here, positioning climate policy and climate informed policy as a long-term investment in affordability and stability. Onward Doug.

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All right. Not okay.

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My main point here on nature interconnectedness is that when we first launched climate literacy, we undersold how important nature interconnectedness is.

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With a warming planet harming biodiversity and nature-based solutions contributing to cooling you're only getting a fraction of the picture. The global science body underpinning biodiversity talks has told us that these are interacting, mutually reinforcing and accelerating global crises.

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And we don't yet have the governance to address this well.

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It Fez, that scientific body, has laid out a comprehensive set of strategies to transform our world this way.

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And our experience is that biodiversity learning and capacity is probably five years behind climate literacy.

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So consider this your call to action to be part of the efforts to urgently address both climate and nature together in all public sector work.

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Next slide. So mostly I want to hear from you now and into the talk about what way you have integrated climate and nature considerations in your work.

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The headline here is first and foremost to talk about climate change in all of your settings.

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Every time you talk, every time you ask questions or offer observations, you're building capacity, not just for yourself.

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But for your colleagues and stakeholders. In all of these informal government settings, you are a culture maker.

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And your comments, questions, and the connections you draw between your work and the changing climate are so important in building effective responses to these crises.

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As you work through climate literacy, you'll lean into issue identification, seeing that connection and broader communication skills But I will land on talk about it and talk about it again.

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Peach's wonderful presentation ends with a video about Pass It On, and I want to end with that as well.

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Because things have probably changed since you last

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Talked about it, but we still need all necessary for that.

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So thank you. Doug, if you would just click slowly to the next slide and the slide after that.

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I want you to show you that there are lovingly curated resources there to share widely.

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Let me navigate to them.

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Yeah, my email is on that slide and I'm easy to find and here to talk.

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This one? Fantastic. I'm going to leave that up there.

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There you go. All right. Thank you very much.

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Bonnie, that was fantastic. Really dovetailed beautifully with Petra's presentation from going to the you know granular to the big picture for the public servants on this cool today. So I encourage everybody to take a look at this resources, get in touch with Bonnie if you want to

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Learn more about her climate and nature initiatives. Once again, these slides will be posted to our event page By the end of the week.

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So you can refer to them back there if you didn't just get a chance to note down those resources. You can find them on the event page.

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Absolutely fantastic presentations from our speakers there. Thank you so much.

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We're going to turn to Q&A now. So I can see there's some questions in the Q&A section already. I'm just going to give everybody a minute or two to type any more that they have. Whilst you're doing that, I just want to remind you about our Net Zero community.

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It's the place where more than 500 public servants working on or interested in reaching net zero connect with one another.

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It also serves as a collaborative environment to share successes and speak advice or overcome obstacles both on achieving net zero work.

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Or climate literacy in your role. So in the resources section, if you navigate there, you'll find a link to the community and I hope that you will join and introduce yourself.

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Um let's... look at some of these questions then.

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Already some really nice ones. This is one from Indira. Hi, Indira. This is for you, Petra. So Indira asks um May you elaborate on food or slash lifestyle change to decrease methane emissions. Any kind of quick elaborations on that subject and how lifestyle change is like

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Impact will decrease methane emissions.

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Yeah, I think I did already mention a little bit in the chat as well about this. I think the easiest one is really to reduce food waste and this might be even on the basic of your own shopping habits, for example, to plan your meals and not to have so much food waste. But obviously it's also on the bigger picture and like in the supply chain for example and depends on the country as a lot of developing countries, for example, they have food waste more due to that they don't have storage and agricultural practices, for example, and so on. So people need to look into it that food is not wasting on the fields also because it can't be stored properly and that their policies around this one as well.

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But also for the developed countries, for example, it's often also in the supply chain that, for example, a carrot is not straight. And then all these carrots are chunked away.

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Of course they are a bit bent or something and i think this is kind of both. It's a kind of maybe a policy to say that this is not allowed to have so much food face and to actually maybe make even penalties or whatever for it, but also to encourage consumers to to actually buy these kind of cooked vegetable and maybe even use it as a marketing tool i once had a soup made from cooked

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Carrots and you could not see it because it was carrots versus tiny and you could not see that they were cooped before it just was pieces of carrots kind of so so they're changes in lots of different ways. And I think it's important that you look at your country and identify where is the food waste and then have the right policies to address it.

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Thanks, Peter. That's really nice. This is a fantastic question from Kendra. And Kendra, thank you for this question. I'm going to pose it to Bonnie.

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It sounds like Kendra's working in a kind of policy role, Bonnie. So she's asking, you very kind of aptly laid out the urgency of climate change action What are some of the key communications that we should be adding to our briefing packages if you're working

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Policy or doing kind of briefing work or other communication materials to influence change from our staff level positions.

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Any advice on kind of communications or briefings?

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Kendra, thank you. That's a great question. I think it absolutely builds from the issue identification skill like to the extent that you can put your finger on where there's opportunities for decarbonization in that work, opportunities to build resilience, opportunities to protect nature.

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The messages can flow from there. We find often that messages that put the decision maker in an active sort of hero's journey Mom.

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Model that allows them to see themselves on a pathway to a resilient net zero future are often really compelling.

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A lot of that framing is set up at red.climate, which is definitely in our resources. And I'd warmly recommend you take a look there.

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Thank you, Bonnie. And Kendra, I might just add on to that at apolitical, we had a really interesting course that is called Communicating Climate Change. I'll ask my colleague to perhaps see if they can post a link for that in the chat because it might be a resource that might be interesting to you working on that briefing.

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Briefing work. But thank you for the excellent question. This is a nice one from Steve. Peter, I'm going to ask you this one from Steve. It is, what is your view on the impact of the increasing digitalization of the global economy. We might have some people on this call working in digital roles, digital government and transformation is the kind of mission of the day for

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Many governments around the world is the is the evidence from the impact of increasing digitalization clear? Is it bad for the environment? What do you think?

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Yeah, I mean, it is kind of it depends what AI you're taking because on how much you had to train this AI because some of the training is actually equivalent to the energy consumption for a whole country in the whole year if you have the very sophisticated AI models because they need so much input. So I think I would take it to this. I find AI is also fascinating in some ways. And I think it is, and I would not say don't use them at all or something.

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But I would really, I think we often have not looked enough into how much energy are they consuming actually and do we need them for everything? Do we actually This is, for example, on our phone, do we really need to ask the AI for an answer which maybe a Google search would also do without an AI as a Google search without an AI? So I think it is kind of maybe a bit to take it with a bit more caution because I think a lot of people are super enthusiastic about it.

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And also then to think about how are these computers run? I mean, they are more energy efficient ways of running the computers, of storing data, of how to do data centers and so on. So I think it's a more complex question again

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But I think in the short, this is the answer I would give kind of to it. Take it.

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Precaution.

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It doesn't sound like the kind of, there's a definitive answer yet one way or another. So I think that kind of continue our research on that one but it's an excellent question, Steve. This is a question that I've got for you, Bonnie and uh

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We're kind of getting to the end of time here, so I'm just conscious of getting this one in.

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This is from Indira who said that there is a Difficulty in building capacity within government agencies regarding climate literacy when there is a lack of financial power behind behind the department maybe there's a small learning and development budget or

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Training budget perhaps what are your recommendations to address this shortcoming or constraint around finances and education.

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Indira, thank you for asking. And if you're interested in continuing the conversation, please come find me.

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I'm going to suggest two things. There are ways to act in the absence of funding.

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And there are ways to ask for funding. In terms of asking for funding, I frame climate literacy as an enabler of all climate policy and good governance.

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So it's not just about building a public service that can deploy excellent climate policy. It's about building a public service that can serve publics through the onset of climate breakdown.

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And that good governance is necessary and can be. They're funded any number of different ways. So demanding and pushing for that financing is one strategy.

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Is this an opportunity to, again, mention and offer our Climate Literacy Foundation courses? It is, I'll take it, and apolitical has resources as well.

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Our courses will be linked in the end of my deck. They are what we call Creative Commons open licensed. So we don't just offer, but we warmly invite you to excerpt from it to take what matters, take the pieces on adaptation vocabulary vision pieces

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Whatever best suits and please use and distribute as you see fit And there are many resources that way. The world is I think here and ready to serve public servants with the climate resources we need to be effective in our jobs.

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Thanks, India.

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Thank you, Bonnie. That's wonderful. And I think that Natasha in the chat has actually just circulated a link to some of those courses there. But again, do consult Bonnie's slide, which will be posted on the event page.

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By the end of this week, if you want to check out the full kind of full bibliography that she created. So thank you both.

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I'm afraid that we're rapidly reaching time to close up shop, but we had so many great questions. I'm really sorry if we didn't have time to pose or answer yours today.

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If we didn't get around to asking them, then perhaps you'd consider posting that question in the net zero community where your peers or perhaps one of our staff speakers and add their thoughts and with them, we'll continue the conversation in that community. It's a great place to kind of

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Get collective intelligence and it's a it's a room full of teachers from around the world, if you think about it in that way. I am going to round us off by firstly asking everybody for a bit of feedback. There'll be one final poll that pops up on your screen.

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In a moment that will ask you to rank this event on a scale of 1 to 10.

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Pen meaning it was an excellent excellent hour in terms of the value of your time And one meaning this was such a good use of my time as a public servant.

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I'm just going to let that run in the background. It's completely anonymous, so feel free to be completely honest.

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I also have a final bit of closing bonus content. For all of you. So as a special thanks to everyone that attended today's session and contributed their great questions we're going to give you all access to one of Apolitical's most popular pieces of research

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It's a report that is titled How Climate Change is Changing Everyone's job or how climate is changing everyone's job in government If you would like a link to this report.

00:57:30.000 --> 00:57:40.000

I would advise you to go to the net zero community and leave a comment on the post, which is at the top of the page It's a post written by me. If you comment in that thread, we'll send you a link for the report

00:57:40.000 --> 00:57:46.000

After the event, my colleague again is posting a link to that thread in the chat.

00:57:46.000 --> 00:58:01.000

Now we hope you find the reports useful. That is really all we have time for today. I would like you to ask all of you to join me in giving today's because a massive round of applause. Thank you, Peter. Thank you, Bonnie, so much for

00:58:01.000 --> 00:58:10.000

Careful and considerate presentations are really full of amazing information I can see lots of clapping hand emojis rising on my screen.

00:58:10.000 --> 00:58:18.000

Thank you to everyone else that joined this conversation for being so engaged in your learning and on this important topic. We hope you found the conversation helpful.

00:58:18.000 --> 00:58:24.000

Thank you to everyone that's made today happen. And we hope to see you at another API School event.

00:58:24.000 --> 00:58:33.000

Very soon take care everyone and another one in the not too distant future.