



Sustainable planet

CEO of Predator Free 2050 Ltd Abbie Reynolds was a speaker at the workshop **Sustainable planet** during the Philanthropy Summit 2021. The workshop offered inspiration and advice on maximising your funding into climate change alleviation. Here are some of the main takeaways for grantmakers and philanthropic funders.



Abbie Reynolds

- More floods and droughts
- More wildfires
- Rain and snow patterns changing.
- Extreme heat
- Ocean coral bleaching
- Ocean loss of oxygen
- Ocean acidification
- Displacement of people
- Food insecurity
- Reduced food productivity
- Malnutrition
- Increased disease spread
- Reduced fresh water
- Mental health impacts
- Increased species extinctions.

Its goal is to **limit global warming** to well below 2, **preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius**². The below shows how critical it is to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

2 degrees vs 1.5 degrees:

- The number of insects, plants and animals exposed to habitat loss will be doubled at 2 degrees compared to those exposed to habitat loss at 1.5 degrees.
- Less than 1% of coral, if any, will survive at 2 degrees of warming.
- Coastal flooding will be far worse at 2 degrees of warming.
- Marine fisheries will lose double the amount of stock if we go over 1.5 degrees.
- Sea ice-free Arctic summers will be ten times more common.
- Far greater swathes of crops will fail.
- Vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue fever will spread more easily and will also spread further.

What have we agreed to do?

In 2016, New Zealand signed the Paris Agreement. It is a **legally binding international treaty on climate change**.

² <https://bit.ly/3AemNyD>

What is climate change?

- Gases released from industry and agriculture trap solar energy and increase the temperature.
- Carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide are greenhouse gases and have all increased as a result of human activity.
- Most man-made emissions of carbon dioxide come from burning fossil fuels.

Why is it urgent?

In Aotearoa New Zealand we will see:

- Less snow and ice
- Stronger storms
- Higher wind events
- Heatwaves
- Rising sea levels and oceans warming; this will have an acidifying impact on shellfish and fish

What does it mean?

To be on track we need to decarbonise our economy at a rapid pace. This requires a significant transformation in three broad areas: reducing emissions, adapting to a warmer climate and moving towards a lower carbon lifestyle. Examples of the kinds of changes include:

MITIGATION <i>Reducing emissions</i>	ADAPTATION <i>Adapting to a warmer climate</i>	TRANSITION <i>Moving towards a lower carbon life</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flying less • Driving less • Working from home • Removing fossil fuel • Destocking farms • Planting more trees • Increasing renewable energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed retreat • Building sea walls • Moving roads and other infrastructure • Re-wetting wetlands • Reducing fishing • Biodiversity corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased insurance costs • Loss of value in fossil fuel assets • Loss of value of houses in coastal areas • Impact on investment funds • Increased costs of petrol, etc due to cost of carbon

What might it mean for philanthropy and grantmaking?

We can extrapolate what these changes might mean for philanthropy and grantmaking. These include:

FOR THE FINANCIALS	FOR OPERATIONS	FOR GRANTEES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Losses if exposed to fossil fuel investments • Potential loss of value of physical assets • Potential for strong performance from low carbon opportunities • Exposure to agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs may increase • Flights may increase • More home working • Move from internal combustion engines to EVs to e-bikes • Culture change • Climate grief • Waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change is a threat multiplier • Major disrupter of technology • The transition needs to be just or inequities will become entrenched • Has major impact for biodiversity • Māori significantly affected

A study of Philanthropy New Zealand's Environmental Funders' Network found only 4% of funding goes into nature.³ The effects of climate change mean we need to give greater consideration to where and who we fund. We have to think deeply and make decisions about who has to pay for the costs of climate change on society. We're going to have to undergo massive systems change and this is an opportunity to rebuild society more equitably.

Some places to start:

- Learn by doing – talk to Toitū Envirocare to calculate your own carbon footprint and offset it.
- The Sustainable Business Network has tools and resources online and does a lot of work in systems change. For example, the Climate Action Toolbox is free and online.
- Move to a climate-conscious and circular economy – get rid of waste.
- Genuinely work with communities to regenerate nature.
- Do some diagnostics – measure impact to see what's working well and what's not working well.
- Pull funders together and look at solutions, support each other to build capability.
- Manage your risk – talk to your fund manager to make sure you aren't exposed to fossil fuel investments.
- Identify where to invest – talk to your local iwi and hapū to see what they are doing and what they need.
- Help the causes you support – start the conversation about what climate change might mean for their organisation and the cause/s they champion.

³ <https://adobe.ly/2UINLxY>