

CLIMATE ACTION

EXAMPLES OF KEY SHIFTS FOR ENDURING CHANGE



CLIMATE ACTION

Climate Action in the context of Radical Transformational Leadership for Social Impact (RTL Impact) is fueled by values of dignity, unity, and courage, working to generate a restored future where humanity lives in a way that benefits the planet and its inhabitants through both immediate and long-term results.

As Figueras and Rivett-Carnac begin their book, *The Future We Choose*, “The world is on fire, from the Amazon to California, from Australia to the Siberian Arctic. The hour is late, and the moment of consequence, so long delayed, is now upon us. Do we watch the world burn, or do we choose to do what is necessary to achieve a different future?”

RTL Impact exists to provide tested, powerful tools to serve as antidotes to despair, paralysis, and partial and scattered solutions.

“I choose joy over despair. Not because I have my head in the sand, but because joy is what the earth gives me daily and I must return the gift.” -Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*

Shifting society’s approach to the climate crisis will take cultural and systems shifts that inform what actions we take and how we approach this vitally important work. When we work collectively to shift our systems and cultures, consciously align and coordinate solutions to drive toward the outcomes and impact we envision for our communities and planet, and shift how we do our work, climate action can be a substantive force for dignity and restoration.

1&2 Joanna Macy, *The Great Turning*.

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Partial and scattered solutions- Local and global solutions are partial and not comprehensive. Solutions are scattered and not aligned within or between counties, regions, or countries.

Profit-driven decisions- Leadership decisions and policies that influence every sector are driven by profit and influenced by large corporations.

“Industrial Growth Society”¹
- Society’s economic system is based on the ever-accelerating growth and the commodification and destruction of people and the planet by placing profit for the few above all else.

Resignation and paralysis- The size and scope of the climate crisis leads well-meaning people to inaction through resignation, cynicism, despair, and paralysis.

White savior environmentalism - Some approaches to environmentalism uphold the concept of White saviorism, overlooking or oppressing tens of thousands of years of indigenous knowledge of land stewardship.

Passing blame- Individuals, sectors, and generations look outside of themselves to others to blame for the current crisis, absolving themselves that it is “not my fault” and “I’m not part of the problem”.

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Comprehensive and aligned solutions- Solutions are designed to include universal values, shift systems and norms, and solve problems. Solutions are aligned to create synergy and fill gaps within and between counties, regions, and countries.

People- and planet-driven decisions- Leadership decisions and policies are driven by the intended benefits to all people and the planet.

“Life sustaining civilization”²
- Society’s economic system is based on interdependence and regeneration, valuing the dignity and prosperity of all people and a healthy planet.

Strategic action sourced from universal values- Innumerable entry points for climate action allow everyday people to take strategic action in their field of influence sourced from universal values of dignity, unity and courage.

Humans as stewards- Indigenous societies around the world have developed knowledge and practices that uphold humans as stewards of the land. All people have a stake and role to play in turning the tide of the and restoring a healthy environment.

Taking responsibility to act- All people and sectors recognize their responsibility, see themselves as part of the solution, and contribute to taking climate action.



In the upcoming RTL Impact cohort, individuals involved in Climate Action in all roles and levels of leadership are invited to select this special focus area. Participants will have access to supported sessions between the program meetings to engage in focused discussions with peers in the field of Climate Action and receive support in applying the RTL framework to transforming our planet for both immediate and long-term results.

EXAMPLES OF OUTCOMES AND RELATED GOALS

Within the Radical Transformational Leadership framework, one of the essential components in designing and implementing your specific project is to identify the immediate and long-term goals and outcomes you are working towards. Below, we have shared just a few examples of the process goals and outcomes identified in the focus area of Climate Action.

Process Goals for Climate Action

- Increase in new partnerships and alignment of solutions across counties, regions, states, and countries and sectors/issues
- Increase in decisions made that benefit people and planet
- Inclusion of traditional ecological knowledge in restoration approaches and decision making

Increased number of people taking action in their homes, workplaces, and communities to support environmental health.

Outcome Goals for Climate Action

- Continual decrease in fossil fuel emissions & greenhouse gases
- Continual increase in energy generated from clean, renewable sources
- Increased use of regenerative farming methods and establishment of local food chains
- Ocean temperatures decrease to normal range
- Biodiversity is maintained or increased
- Ecosystem functions are sufficient to support life

“...one began to hear whispers of the unthinkable: It was game over. But was that true, or might it possibly be game on?” - Paul Hawken, *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*

