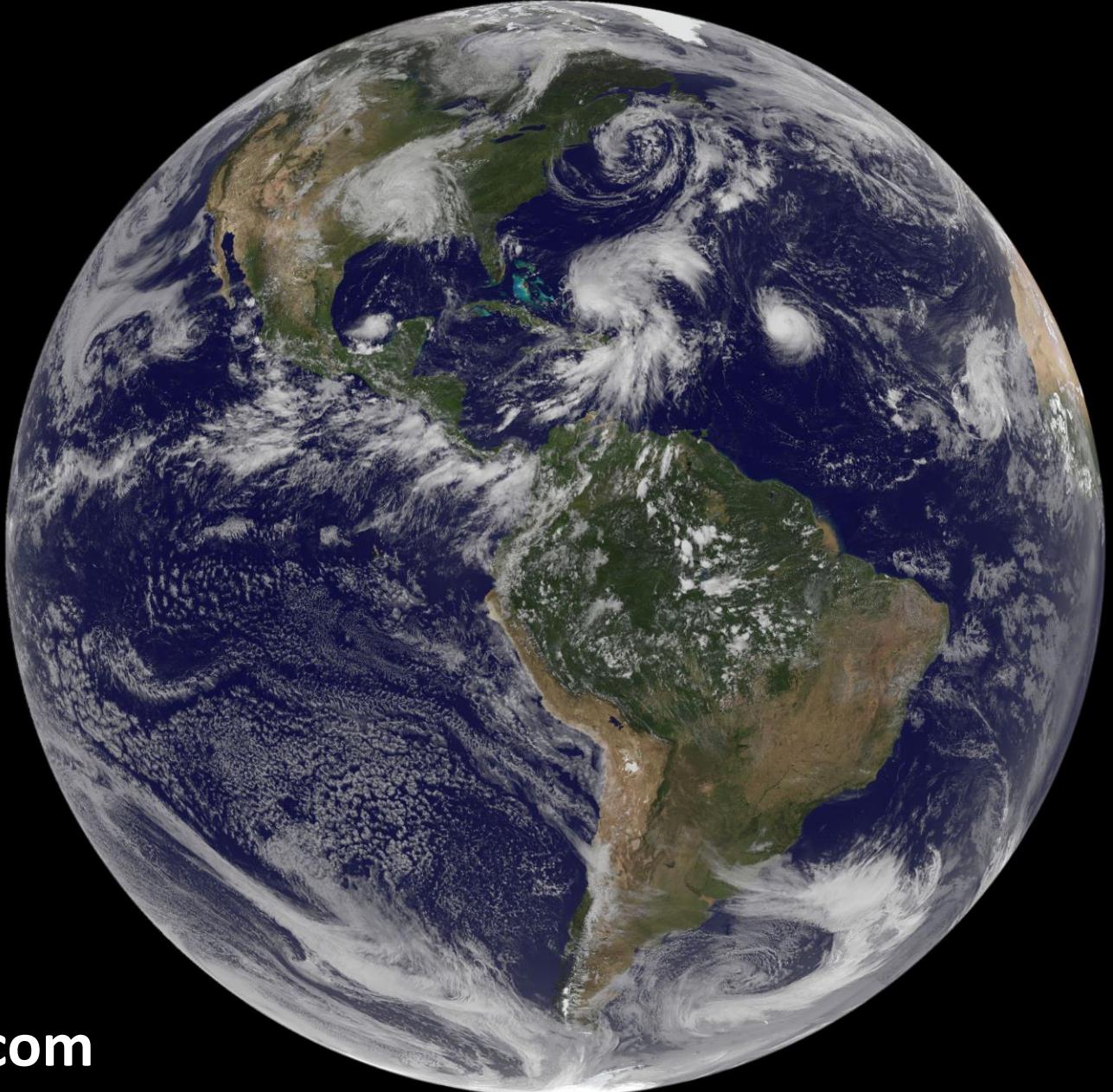


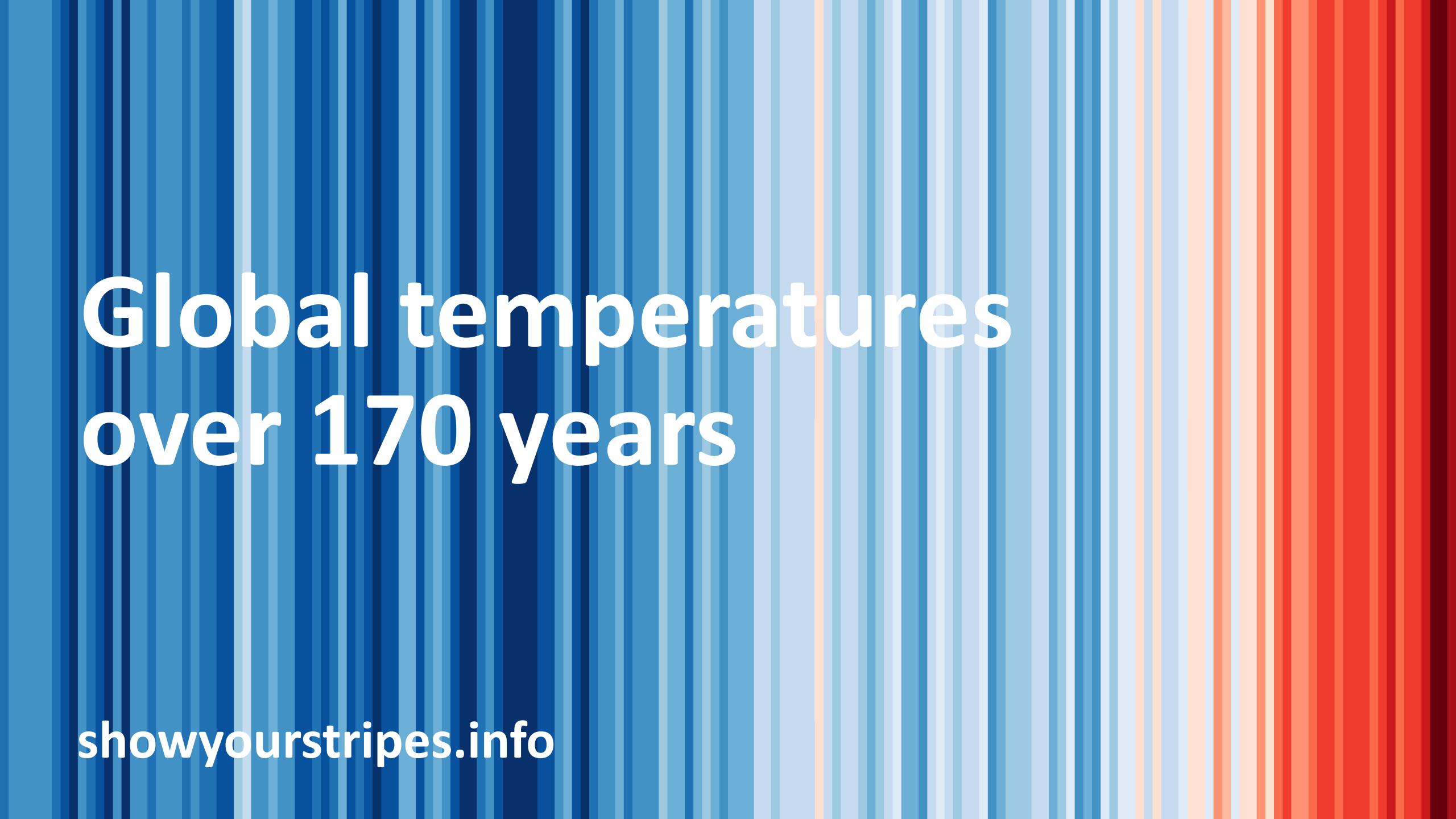
# What kind of museum is possible in a Planetary Emergency?

Bridget McKenzie  
[aboutbridgetmckenzie.wordpress.com](http://aboutbridgetmckenzie.wordpress.com)



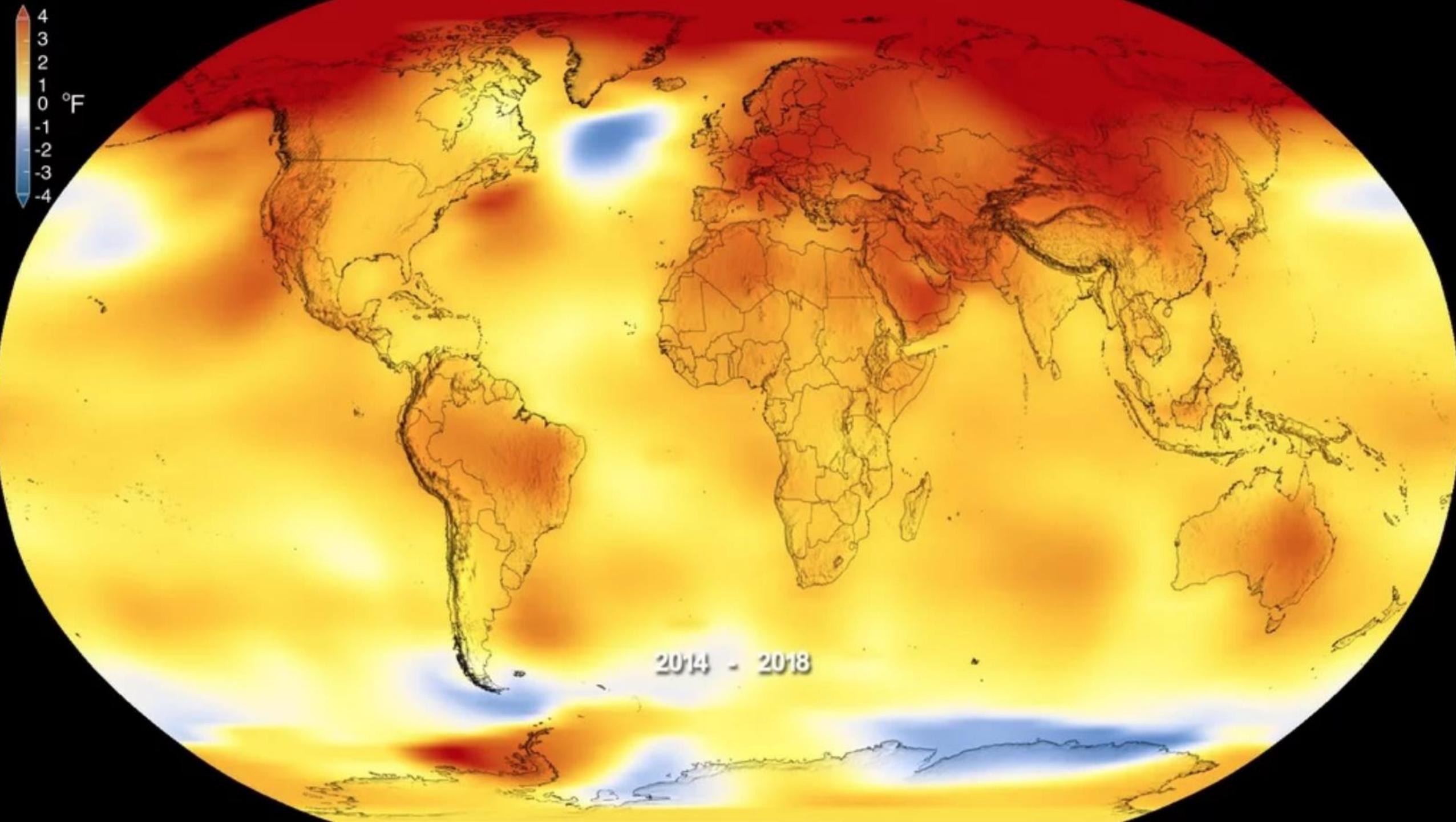
# I hope to give you inspiration for tackling the Emergency

- Some frames for thinking
- Some movements in the cultural sector
- Some inspiring museums
- Climate Museum UK as an experiment
- Conclusion – ways to be a First Responder museum



Global temperatures  
over 170 years

[showyourstripes.info](http://showyourstripes.info)





# "Our house is on fire"

...so all the art, museums and heritage are on fire too.

What can culture do when the world is on fire?

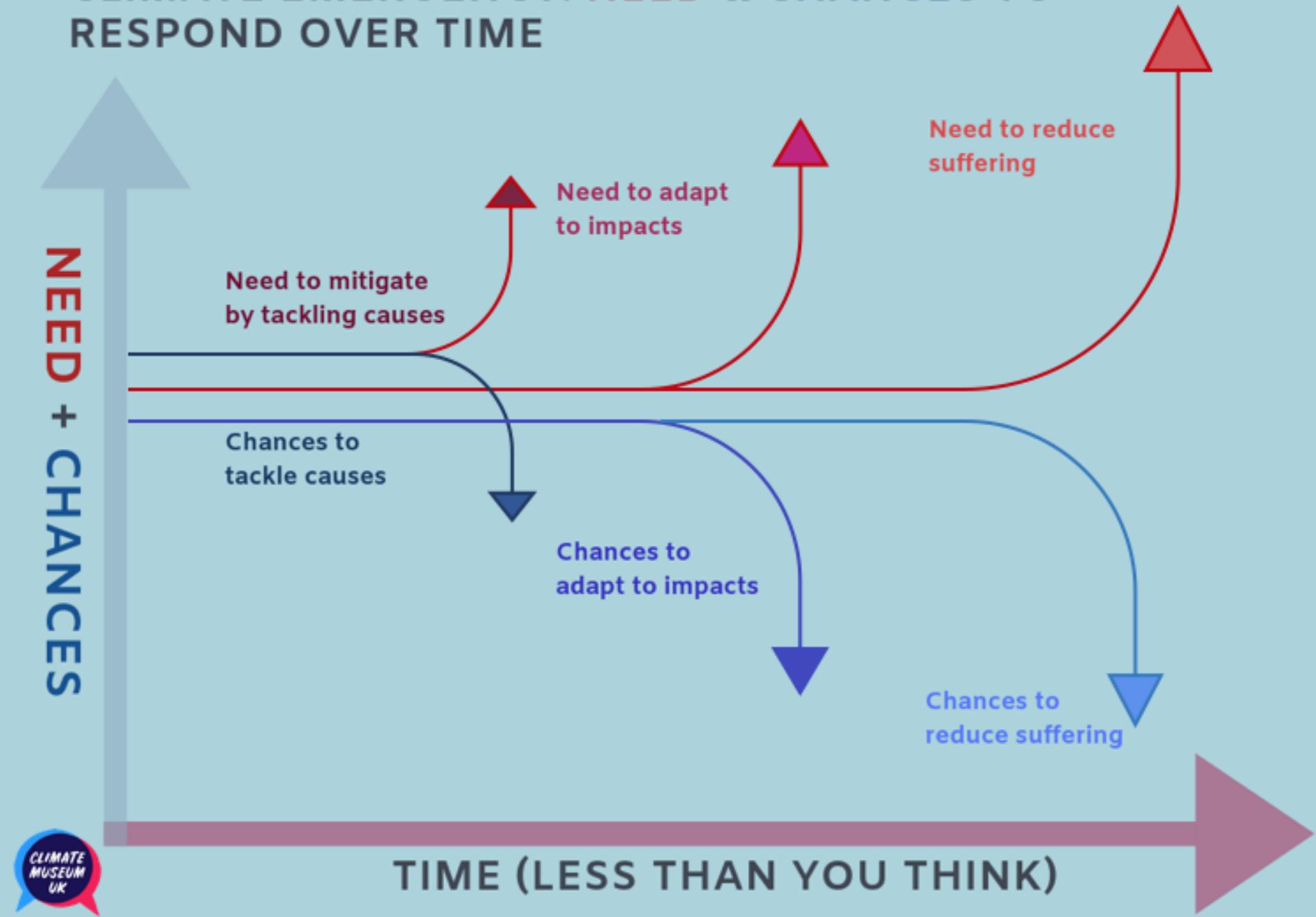
Can it help to:

- alert us to danger?
- create a safer world?
- care for those affected?

**We must act fast AND accept change is happening**

- Mitigation
  - Adaptation
  - Reduce Suffering & Seek Justice

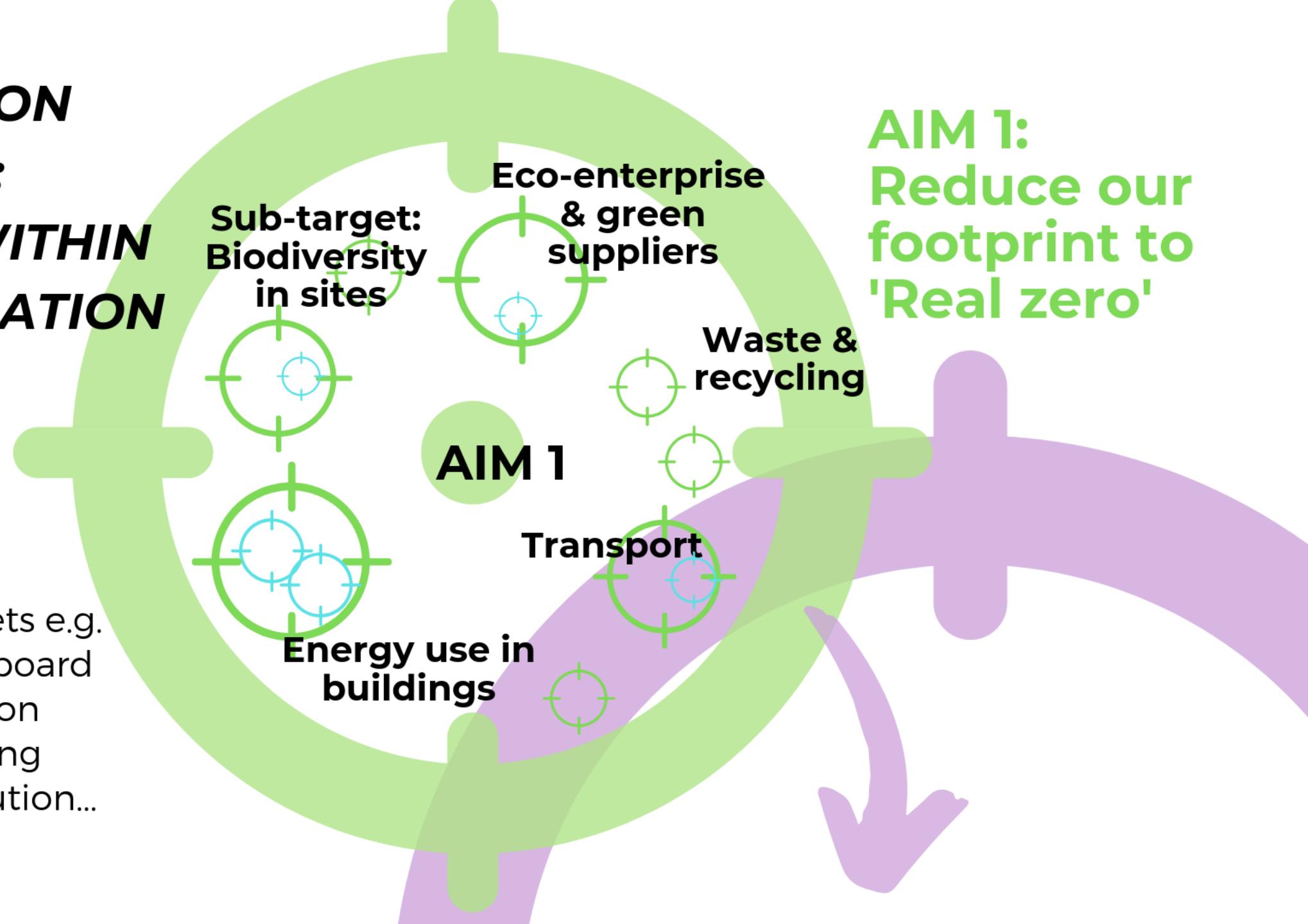
# CLIMATE EMERGENCY: NEED & CHANCES TO RESPOND OVER TIME



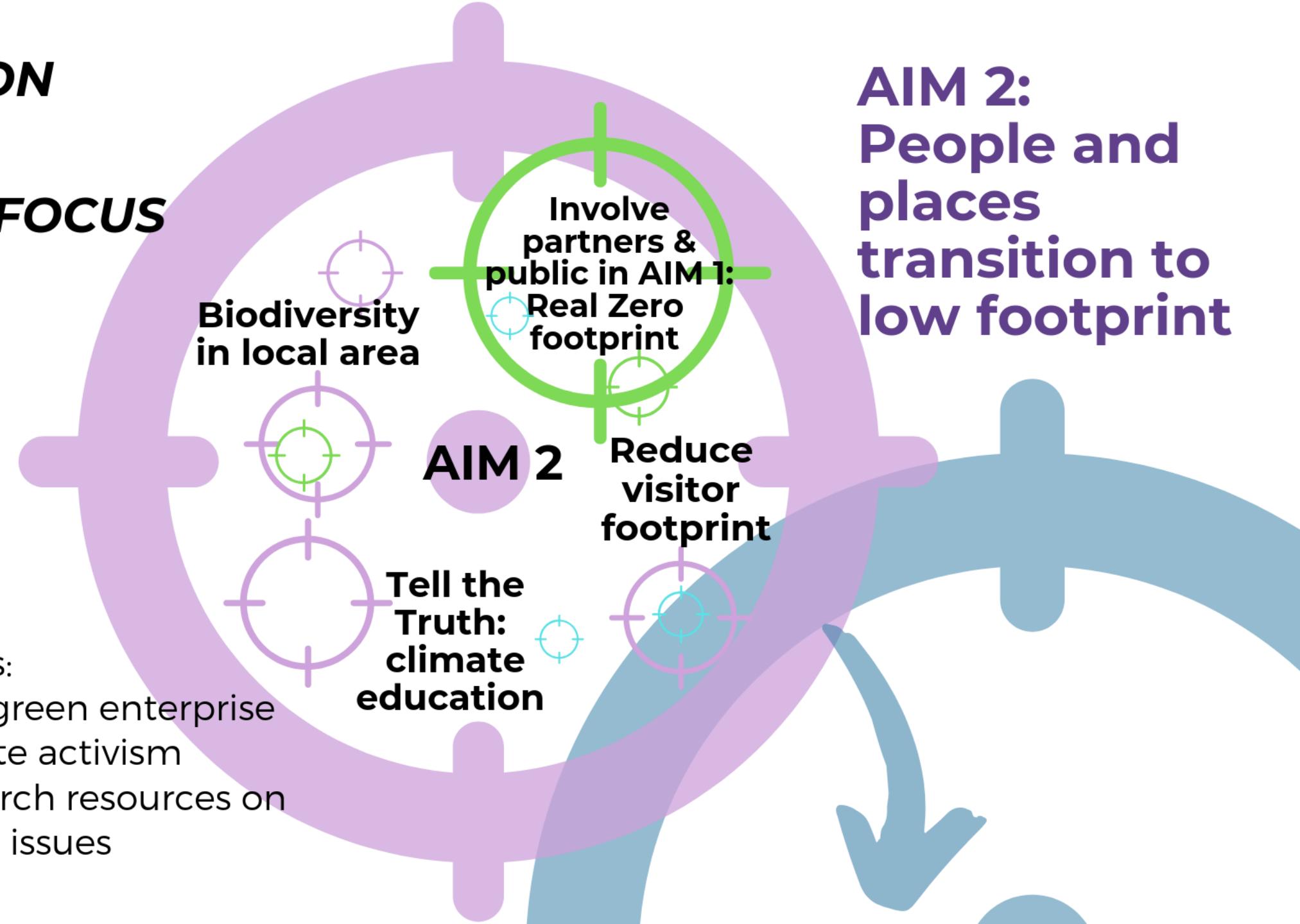
# **MITIGATION ACTIONS: FOCUS WITHIN ORGANISATION**

Other sub-targets e.g.

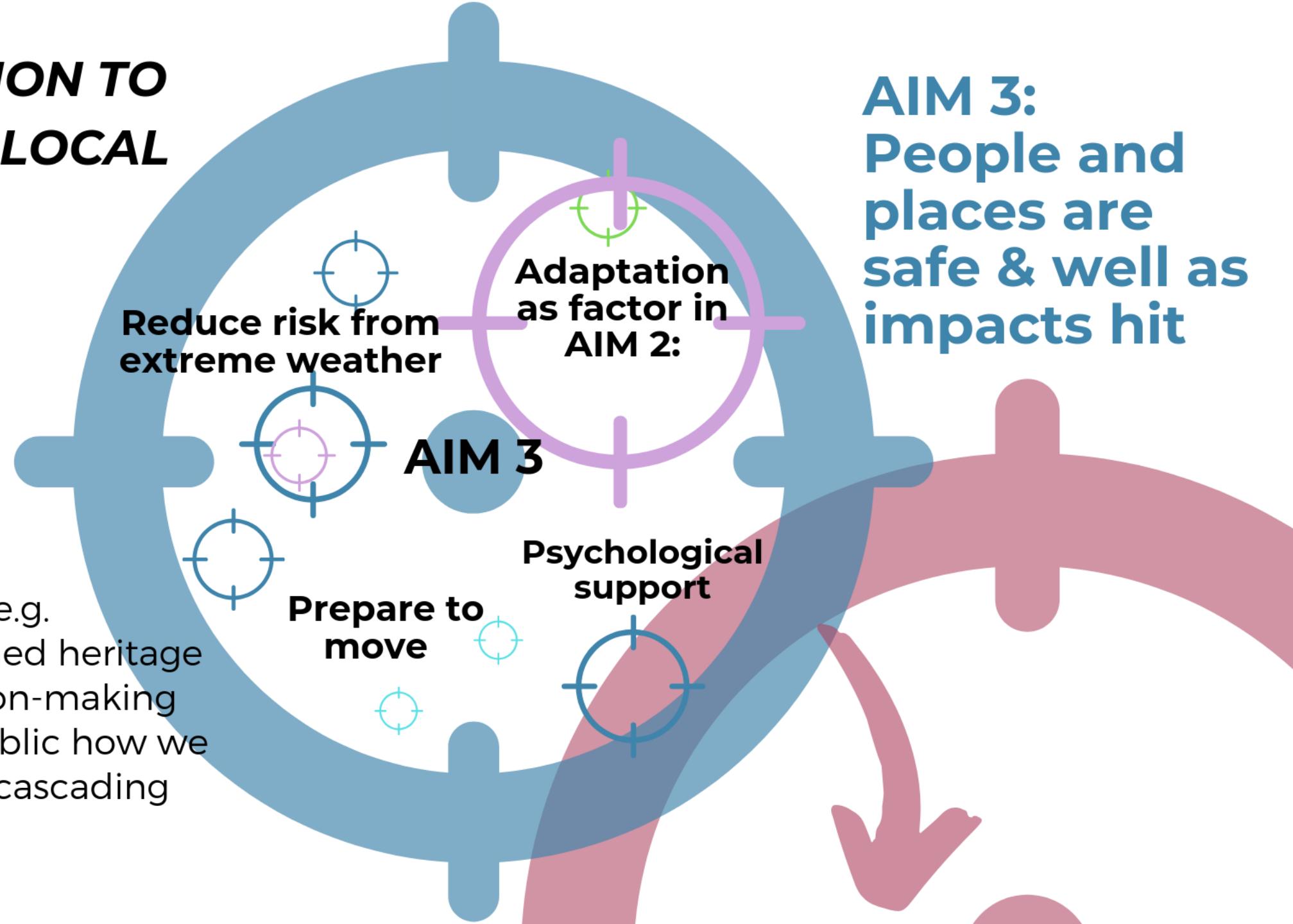
- Buy-in from board
- Staff education
- Ethical funding
- Reduce pollution...



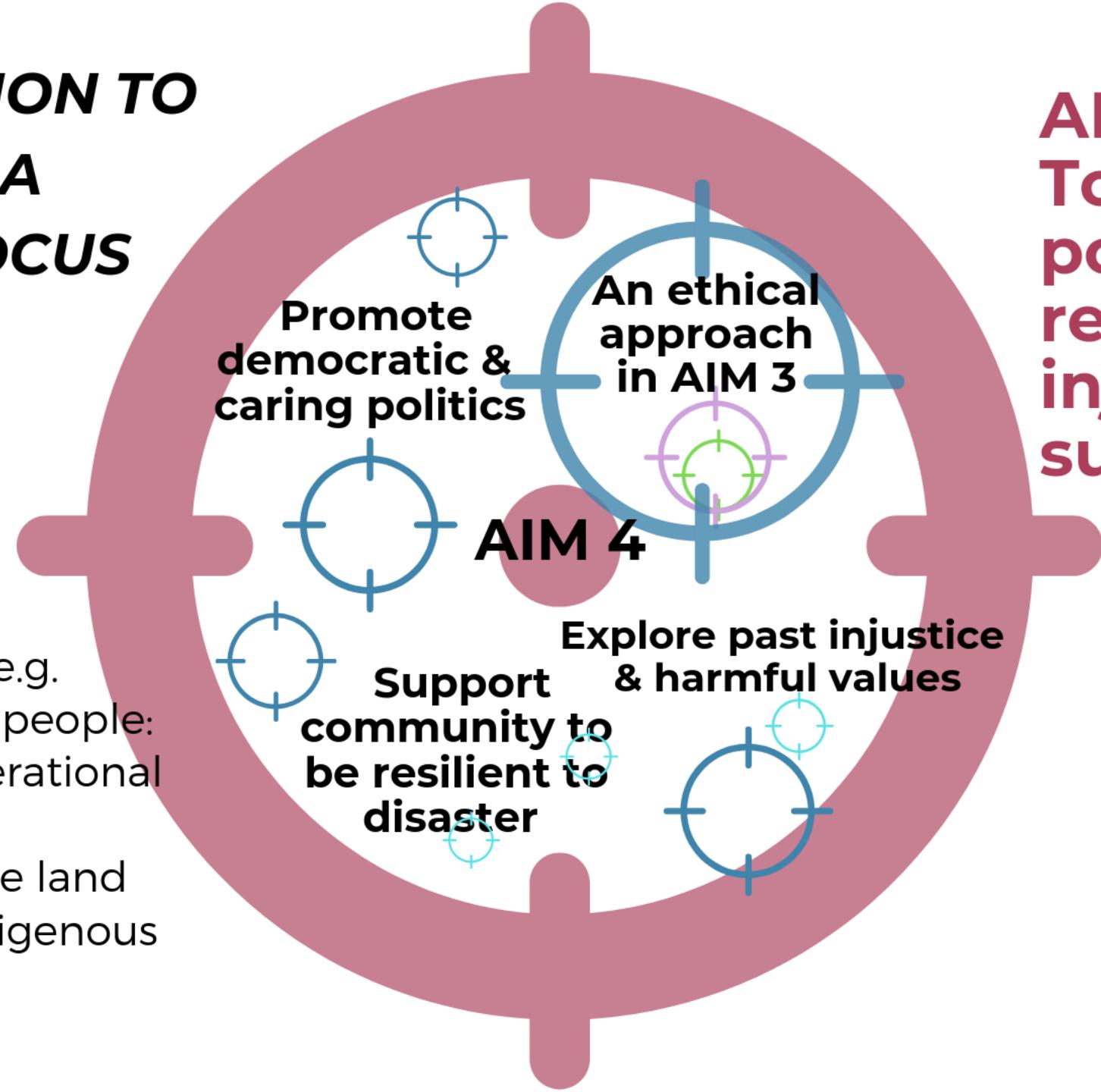
# **MITIGATION ACTIONS: A WIDER FOCUS**



# **ADAPTATION TO IMPACTS: LOCAL FOCUS**



# **ADAPTATION TO IMPACTS: A WIDER FOCUS**



Other sub-targets e.g.

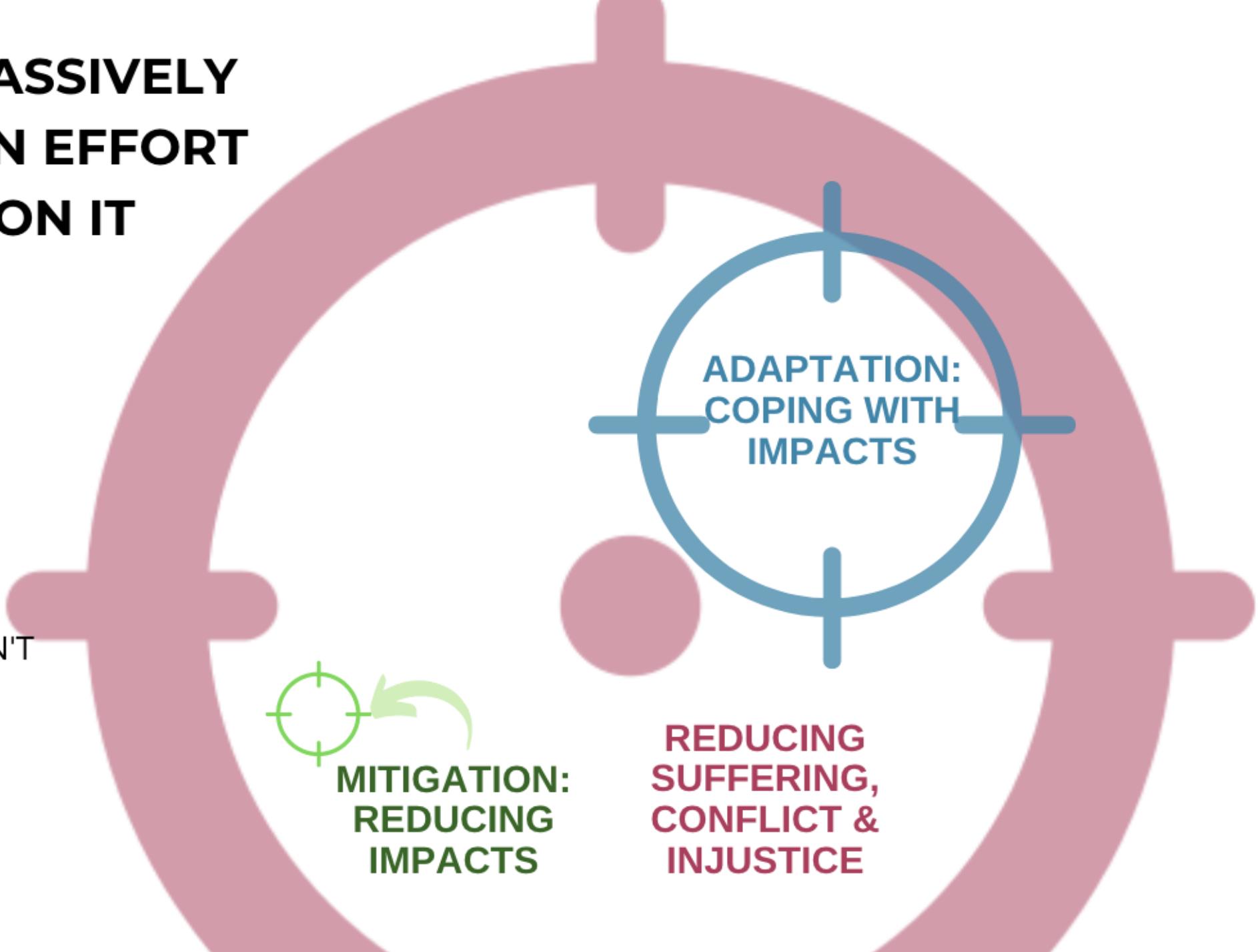
- Prioritise young people: tackle intergenerational injustice
- Support frontline land defenders & indigenous people

**EACH AIM MASSIVELY  
INCREASES IN EFFORT  
& IMAGINATION IT  
REQUIRES**

**THIS IS THE  
ONLY AIM WE  
TALK ABOUT**



BECAUSE IF WE DON'T  
DO  
THEN  
AND  
ARE EVEN HARDER



# We believe



that the escalating climate crisis is the defining issue of our lifetimes and that the planet is in the grip of an emergency. We know that our readers and supporters around the world care passionately about this too, as so many of you have told us

Tue 15 Oct 2019 15.00 BST

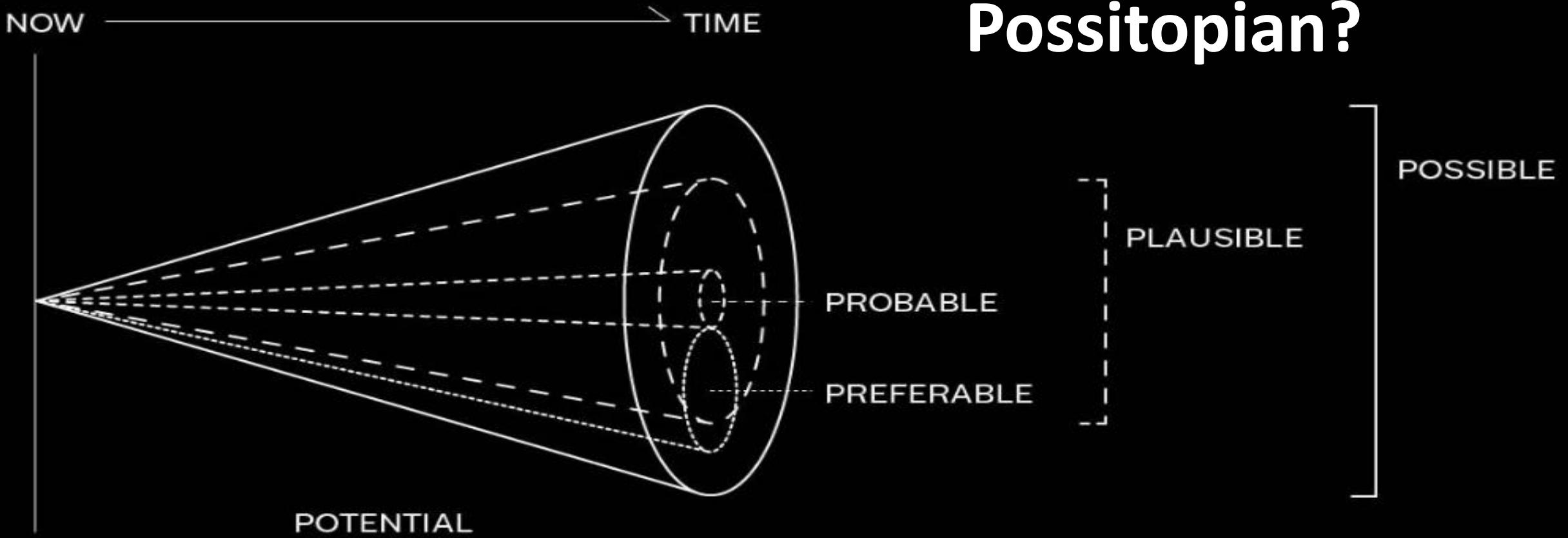


We want the Guardian to play a leading role in reporting on the environmental catastrophe. So today

# The Guardian's climate crisis pledge

- We will continue our longstanding record of powerful environmental reporting, which is known around the world for its quality and independence.
- We will report on how environmental collapse is already affecting people around the world, including during natural disasters and extreme weather events.
- We will use language that recognises the severity of the crisis we're in.
- The Guardian will achieve net zero emissions by 2030.
- We will be transparent with our progress.

# Possitopian?

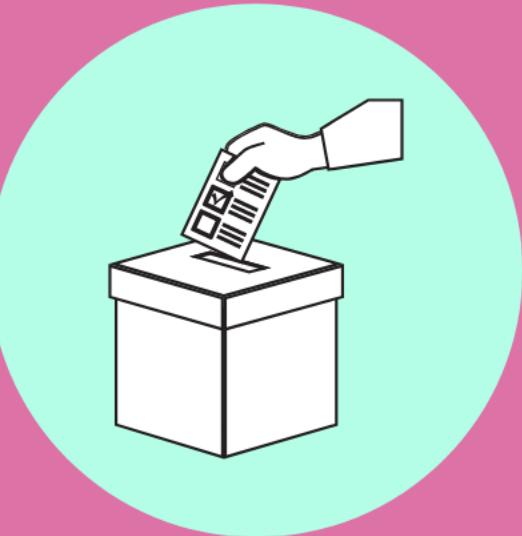


**Not stuck in Utopian or Dystopian positions: Both are impossible, and people are polarised.**



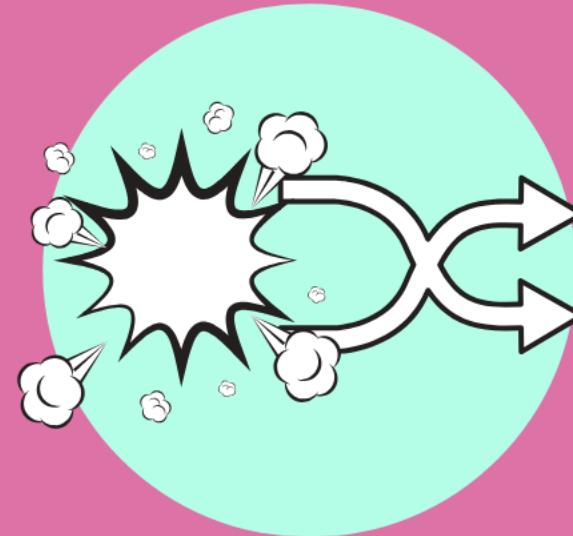
## Consumer

- Consume less
- Don't be defined by what you consume
- Don't feel guilty or accuse others
- Don't stop at single actions
- Boycott harmful products



## Citizen

- Learn about systems
- Speak your own truth and for the unheard
- Take non violent direct action to stop harm
- Be an ecological citizen - care for all beings



## System changer

- Restore or rewild nature
- Encourage divestment
- Be an eco-entrepreneur
- Collaborate across disciplines
- Change mindsets: Tell new stories of a greener future

# Three ways to be in an Emergency

# Inspiring movements...



The  
Guardian

# Art Not Oil coalition

Long history of Extractivism has led us here. Now, democracies are corrupted by 'pollutocrats' to enable:

- Predatory delay
- Ecocide
- Parasitic globalism
- Impossible futurism

Sponsorship gives them social license to operate



**OIL  
SPONSORSHIP  
FREE**

*Pledge kitemark*

*Direct action & creative protest*





# Culture Declares Emergency

# what is culture declares?

We are a growing global community of arts & culture practitioners declaring a climate & ecological emergency

We tell and face the Truth, take Action to seek Justice in response to the emergency



# What does it offer?

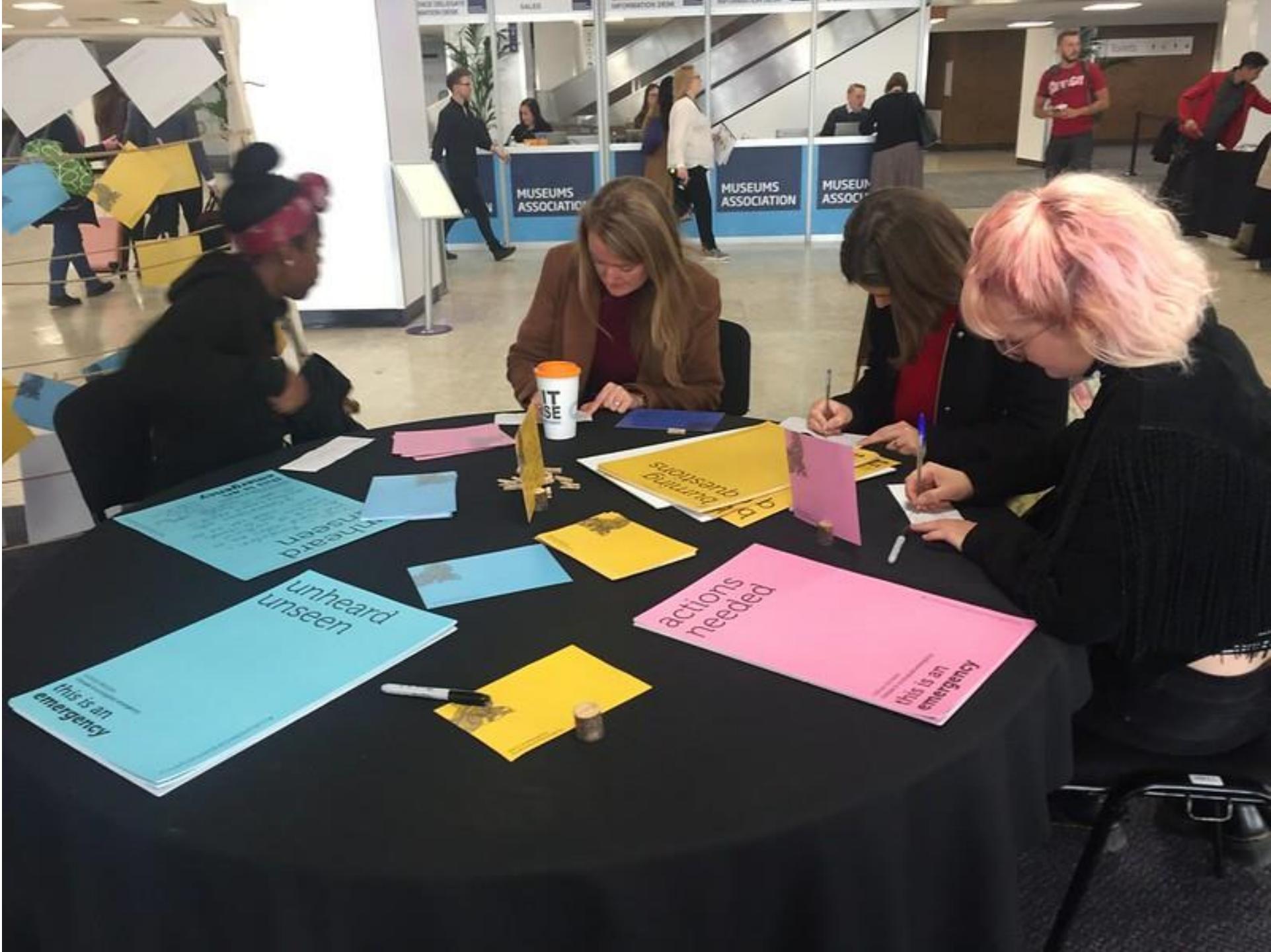
- A sign-up form and public list of declarers
- Toolkit to help you pledge, promote & take action
- Kite marks, banner, leaflets and sash designs
- Community networking, events and creative projects
- Local self-organising groups (France & Germany etc.)
- Strategic advocacy

[www.cultureddeclares.org](http://www.cultureddeclares.org) @CultureDeclares

# A Rally for the Imagination: Support for the Global Climate Strike



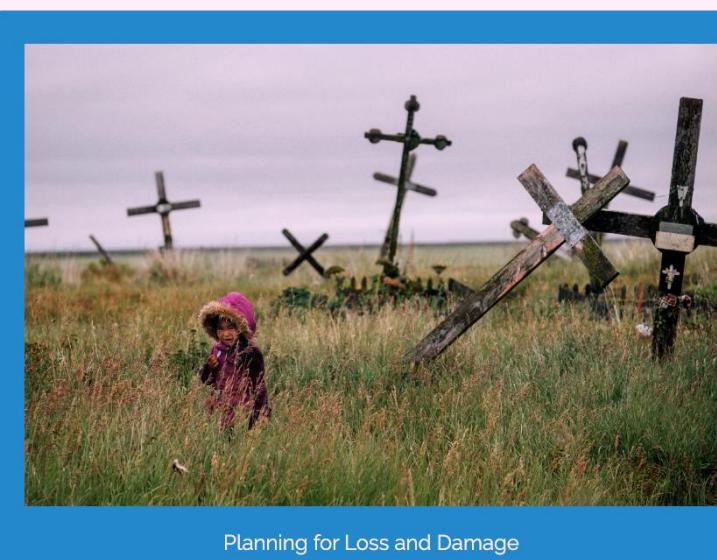
# Festival of Change at Museums Association conference



# Climate Heritage Network

Standards,  
data sharing &  
communication on Cultural  
Heritage as:

- Threatened by...
  - Cause of...
  - Offering solutions to...
- climate change



# Inspiring museums tackling the Emergency

University of Cambridge  
museums: Climate Hack in  
2018, and now  
commissioning games



# Supporting activism

Oxford's  
Museum of  
Natural History

Let's Talk About  
Climate

Young people are  
given skills to  
speak truth to  
power.



Have we reached the point of no return?

Delve into the evidence that human activity is changing climate and the far reaching effects it is having on people and places, both close to home and further afield.



Let's science the s\*\*\* out of this!

How can technology solve the climate change problem? In this session we explain both existing and potential technologies to remove and store excess carbon from the atmosphere.



If I ruled the world

Reduce our emissions? Store carbon dioxide? Or maybe just let the world burn? What's the solution to the climate change conundrum?



Biodiversity is key

Biodiversity and healthy ecosystems provide key services to humans, including mitigation (storing carbon) and protection from climate change impacts (eg. protect from flooding).



Blame game or game changer? Spreading the climate change word

You were born into a world where climate is changing rapidly, but it's not your fault. And even if you wanted to do something, how can one person's action change the course of ...



Lend me your ears, please!

Put Let's Talk About Climate to the test by presenting your climate message to friends, family, local businesses, councillors and our MP.

# Putting Earth & its crisis at the core

Norwich Castle Museum  
has integrated the  
environment into all its  
policies & activities



ClimateMuseumUK  
@ClimateMuseumUK

Following

What if your Sustainability Committee or Environmental Policy Group was renamed an Emergency Response group? Would it change its agenda and who takes part?  
[@CultureDeclares #ClimateHeritage](#)  
[#Museums4Climate](#)

10:32 AM - 13 Sep 2019

5 Retweets 12 Likes



5



12



# Helping people deal with climate emotions

VarldsKulturMuseerna,  
Gothenburg

*Human Nature: About  
consumption and the  
future of the planet*



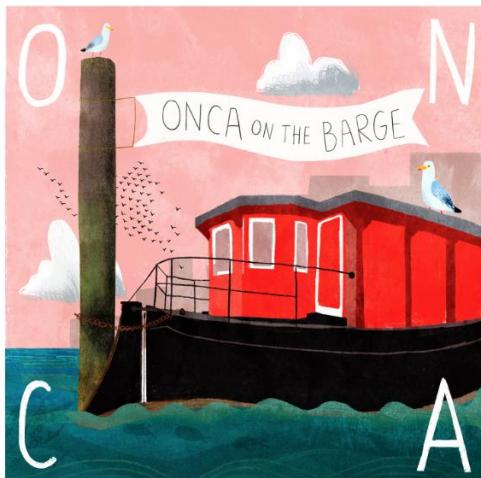
# ...educating about planetary systems



# Refuse Fossil Fuel Sponsorship

○

ONCA in  
Brighton is oil  
sponsorship  
free



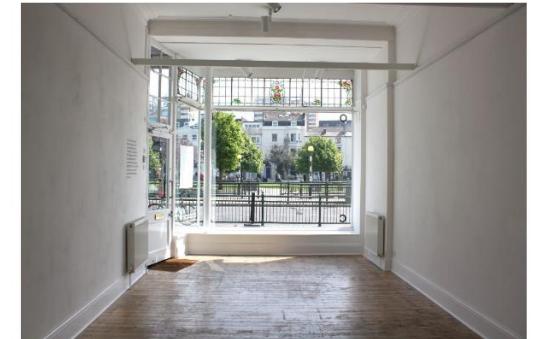
ONCA BARGE

C



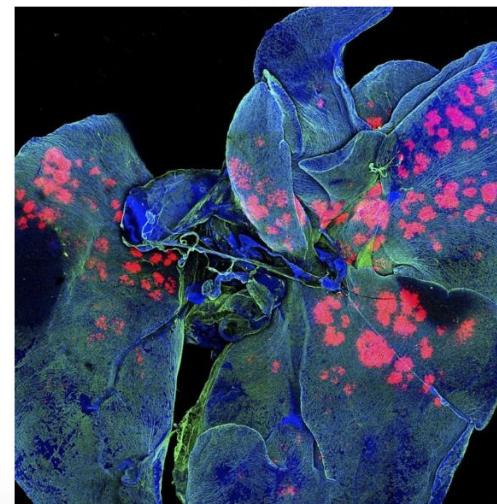
ABOUT US

Creating Space for Change



ONCA GALLERY

Hire our Space



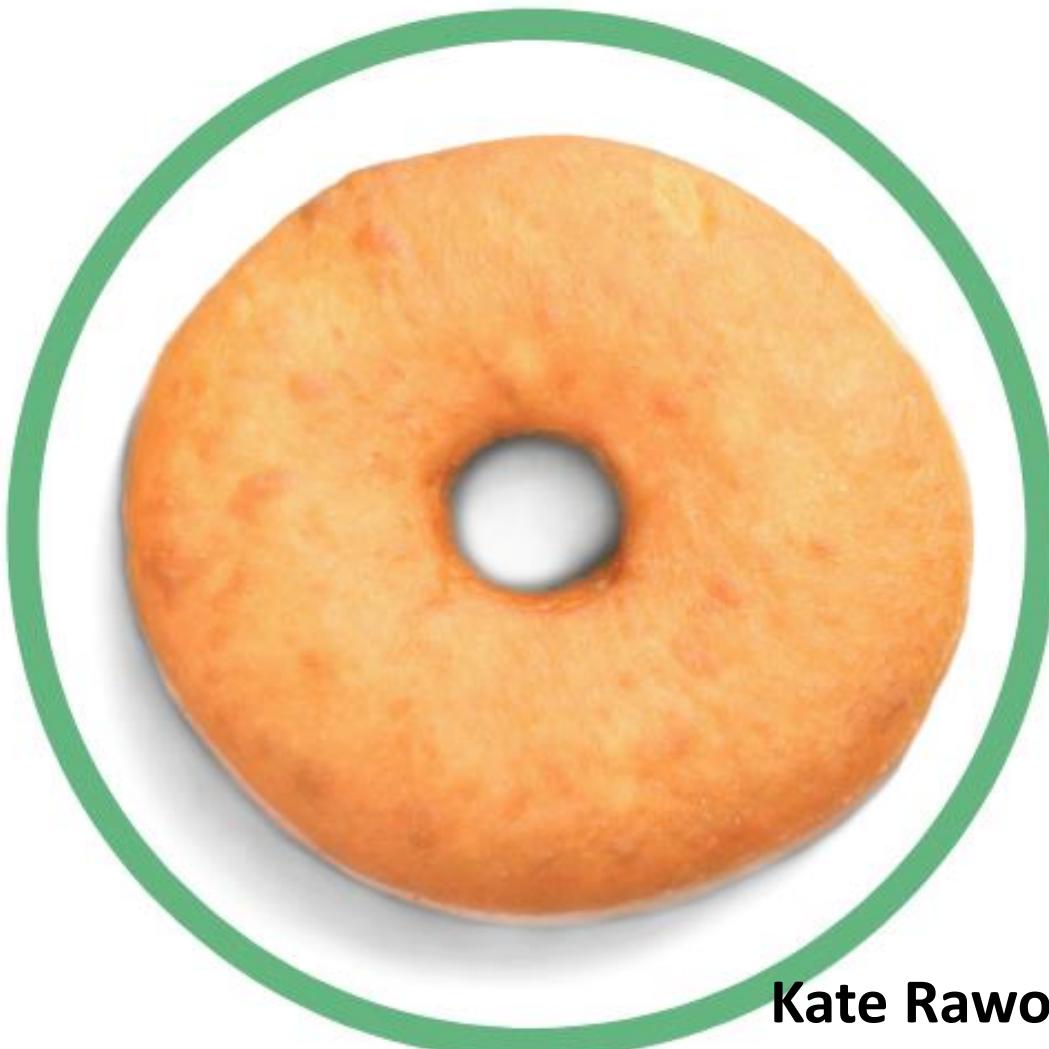
# Be eco-centric: Grow care for all beings

Bristol Museum has put funeral shrouds on extinct or endangered species

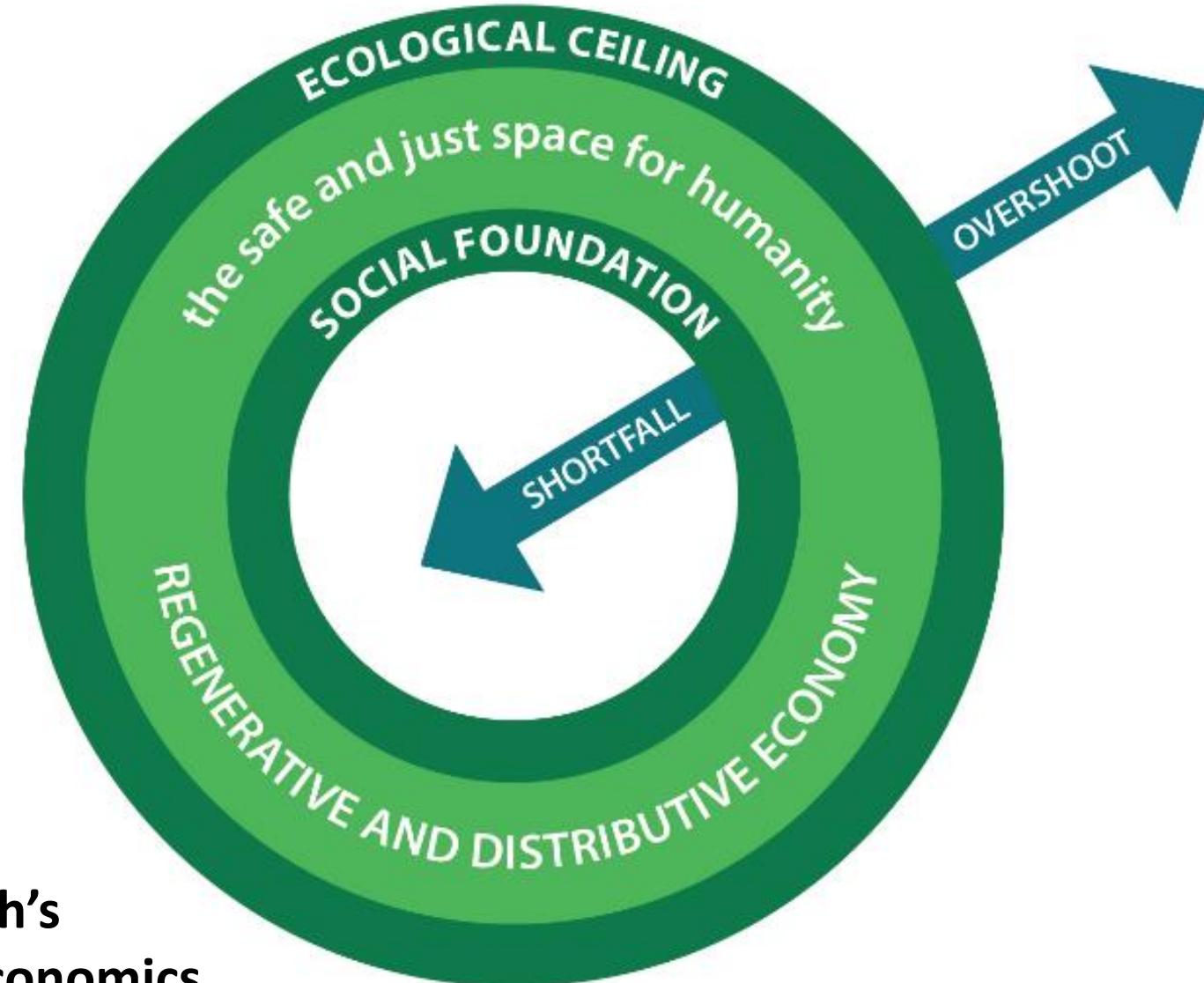
*Curator in image:  
Rhian Rowson*



# Place social wellbeing within ecological limits



Kate Raworth's  
Doughnut Economics



The Happy Museum Project looks at how the museum sector can respond to the challenge of creating a more sustainable future.

It supports museum practice that places wellbeing within an environmental and future-facing frame, rethinking the role that museums can play in creating more resilient people, places and planet. Through action research, academic research, peer networking and training it supports institutional and community wellbeing and resilience in the face of global challenges.

*'Our own happiness is short-lived if we achieve wellbeing for our generation at the environmental expense of future generations.'*

*Happy Museum Project*

# Can a museum be a First Responder to the Emergency?

In 2018, I decided to set up a museum to test the idea.



# Climate Museum UK is a mobile & digital museum stirring and collecting responses to the Climate & Ecological Emergency

Framing climate in histories of colonialism, racism & patriarchy. Including other species in definitions of community.



INTERSECTIONAL

"The first rule of Climate Museum UK is *talk about climate change*"



POSSITOPIAN

A key aim is to support cultural & civic workers to help their communities grasp and tackle climate change

Offering support for people to talk about feelings and experiences as things change. Increasing care for one another.



COMPASSIONATE

Avoiding harm and waste in our activities. Refusing fossil fuel funding.



PLANET-KIND

What do you want us to be?



CONSULTATIVE

The environment is not a single issue, separate from others. It's the whole living planet and all its inhabitants...in crisis.

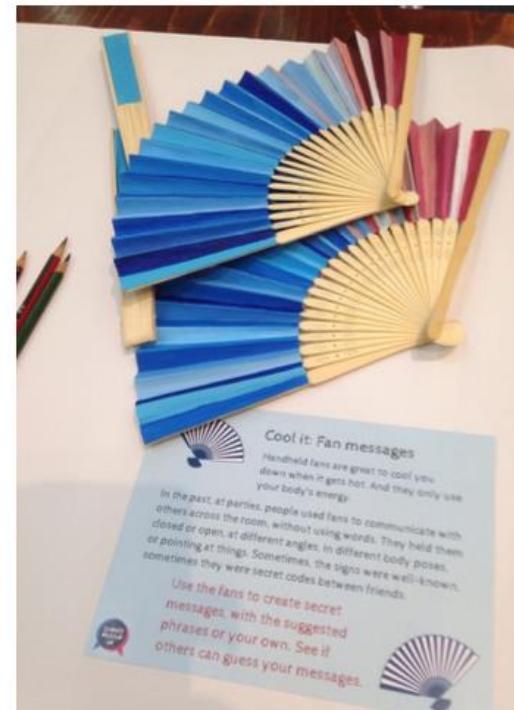
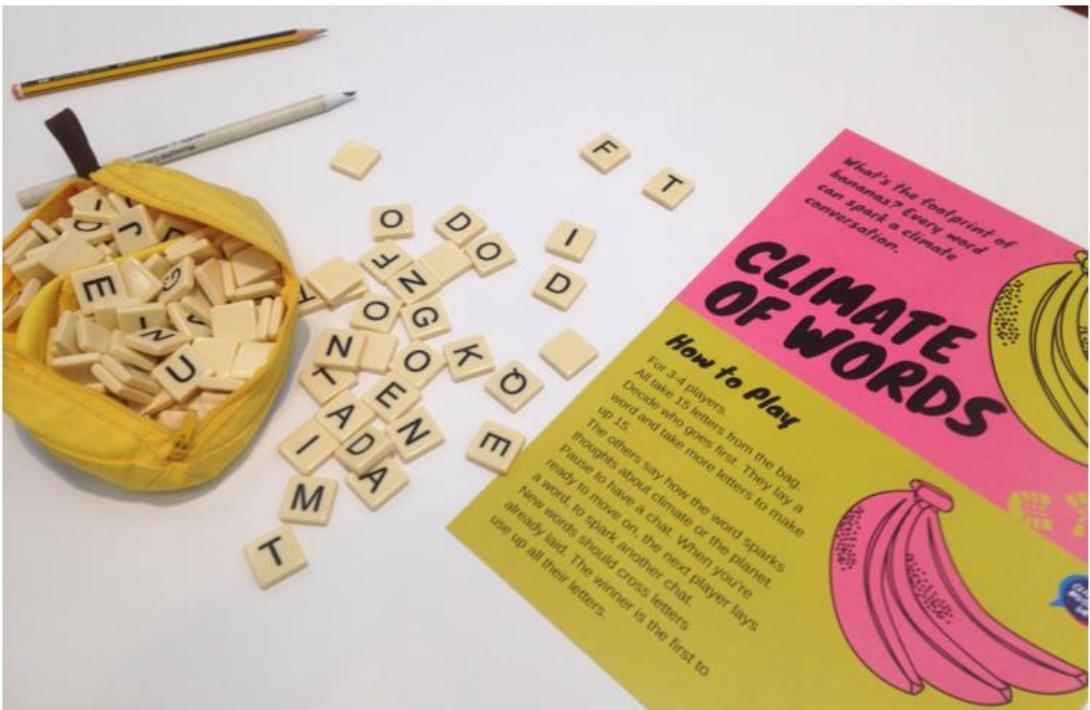


HOLISTIC

Our pop-up museum is a kit of 'loose parts': Games, curious objects & activities, adapting to fit different interests and needs.



## SOME OF THE 25 TOOLS



We pop up for workshops and longer exhibitions

Workshop tools or games. Library. Artworks. Ephemera. Creative materials.



# Our first exhibition



CLIMATE MUSEUM UK PRESENTS...

## CLIMATE TALKS

ART AND PLAYFUL WAYS TO  
TALK ABOUT THE CLIMATE  
EMERGENCY



ONCA GALLERY

FOR MORE INFO: CLIMATEMUSEUMUK.ORG

14, ST GEORGE PLACE  
BRIGHTON  
BN1 4GB

2-6 OCTOBER 2019  
12-6PM  
CLOSES 4PM SUNDAY 6TH



# Being a First Responder museum

- Recognise the **truth of the Emergency!**
- Do more **Anticipatory work**, more often, rigorously and imaginatively and more with your public. Be **Possitopian**
- Environmental work is all-encompassing: it needs us to have an **expanded perspective**
- **Use your assets:** collections & histories can show beneficial connections between humans & ecosystems, and where this has gone wrong

# Being a First Responder museum

- Apply the **Precautionary Principle**: ask, can we be sure this activity won't cause harm in future?
- Transform Learning programmes: from giving skills to continue 'Business as Usual' towards wisdom needed to continue **thrivability of the living planet**.
- Promote **ecological enterprise & innovation** as a way for the museum to thrive.
- **Aim to act across the spectrum of:** Mitigation, Adaptation and to Reduce Suffering

# Finally...

Don't go it alone

Inspire others

Form and join movements

Connect across disciplines and divides



**More about me**

[aboutbridgetmckenzie.wordpress.com](http://aboutbridgetmckenzie.wordpress.com)

@bridgetmck

**And my three hats:**

[climatemuseumuk.org](http://climatemuseumuk.org)

@ClimateMuseumUK

[culturedeclares.org](http://culturedeclares.org)

@CultureDeclares

[flowassociates.com](http://flowassociates.com)

@flowassociates



**CULTURE  
DECLARER**



**FIOW**