



GREENER VISION

Setting the Challenge

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Preamble



“The level of threat we live with is greater than ever, but the mindset that got us into this predicament won’t get us out of it.

If we want to change behaviours, we need to change the premises which led to them. We need to change how we think.”

Claire Haigh, CEO of Greener Vision
& Creator of *The Tabula Project*, 1st May 2026

This week more than 50 countries gathered in Colombia for the first international conference ever to discuss how to move beyond fossil fuels¹. It is a sign of abject failure that despite all the years of effort and hard work, UN climate talks have consistently failed to tackle oil, gas and coal production directly.

Our addiction to fossil fuels is a blind spot that is not only driving the climate crisis but also threatening our energy security, exposing us to escalating oil and prices and damaging the world economy. Fatih Birol of the International Energy Association has described the oil crisis triggered by the Iran War and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz as the “biggest energy security threat in history”. There are fears that any further escalation will trigger a global recession.

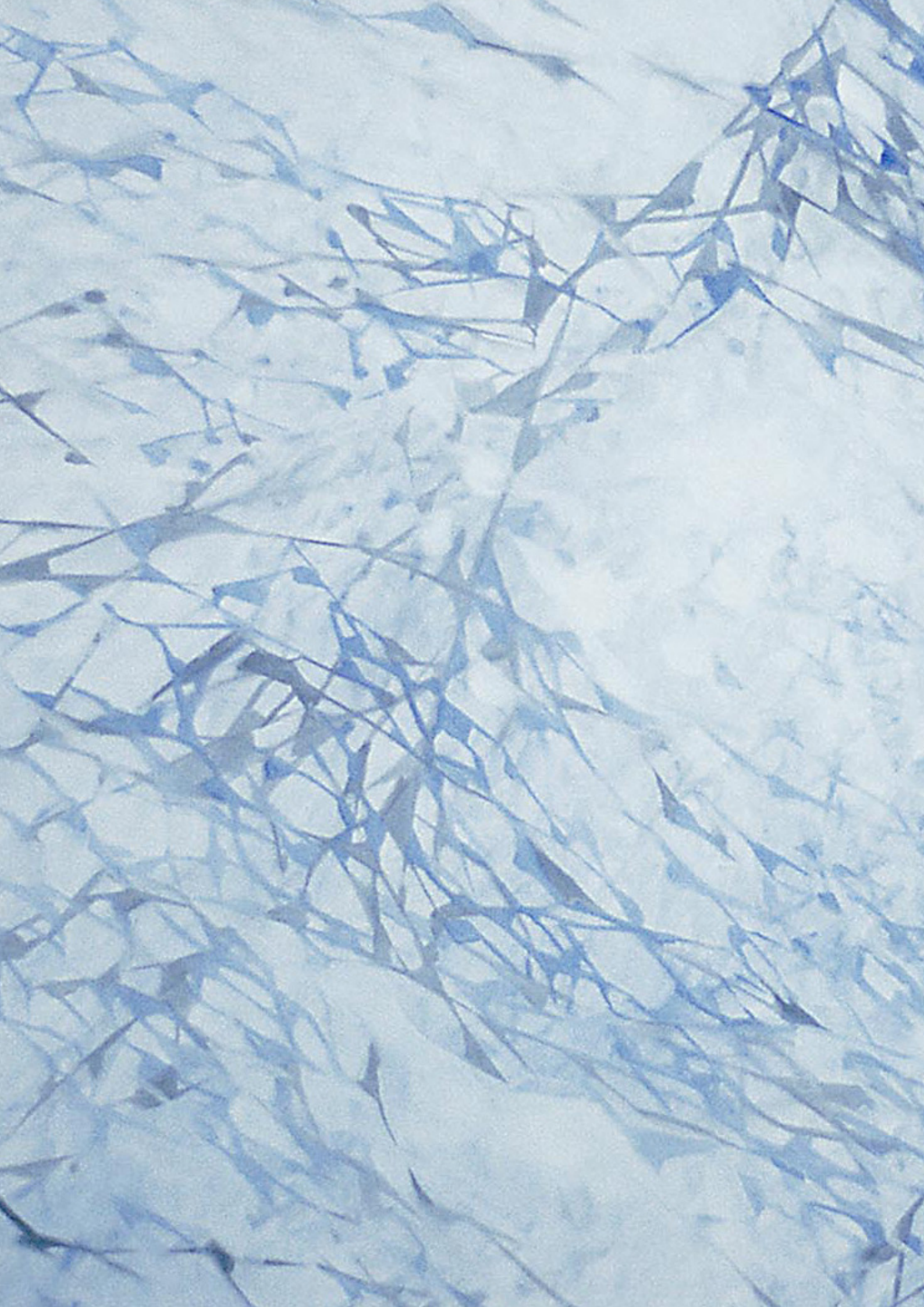
Accelerating climate impacts are meanwhile pushing the world into dangerous and uncharted territory. UN Secretary General António Guterres has declared, “The state of the climate is in a state of emergency. Planet Earth is being pushed beyond its limits. Every key indicator is flashing red.”²

Our response to the climate crisis is falling far short of what is required. Powerful vested interests are stymying progress, but the problem goes deeper. Our thinking needs to change if we are to rise to the scale of the challenge.

Greener Vision is today launching a wide-ranging consultation. Discussions with politicians from all political parties, business leaders and other experts will explore how we might develop a new approach. The long-term aim is to help foster a realignment that would be beneficial not only in the context of climate policy, but more broadly for governments, businesses and across all parts of society.

¹ <https://transitionawayconference.com/>

² <https://wmo.int/news/media-centre/earths-climate-swings-increasingly-out-of-balance>



A New Perspective

If we consider the many self-created challenges we face it is not unreasonable to conclude that there is something fundamentally wrong with our thinking.

Social injustices and inequalities, widening extremes of wealth and poverty, inhumane treatment of each other and other species, wars and acts of terrorism, unsustainable plundering of the planet's resources. The list goes on. These are all examples of suffering which seem destined to continue in different guises indefinitely, but which are within our gift to change. Yet for each generation the same patterns repeat.

The question is, why do we keep making the same mistakes? What can we do to change things for the better? How do we avoid the threat of extinction?

We need to change how we think. We need a shift in mindset from one where we are narrowly focused on immediate self-interest, inward looking, preoccupied by our own repetitive thoughts and unable to live in the present to one where we operate from a higher level of consciousness, at one with our society, our environment and the world around us.

The Tabula Project aims to provide a new perspective on the mind, so that we might evolve as individuals and as a society.

Greener Vision applies insights from *The Tabula Project* to the challenge of tackling climate change.

*The Tabula Project*³ is a creative endeavour spanning more than three decades that began with the assumption that we won't solve our most intractable problems with the same thinking that created them. The paintings depict states of thought and consciousness, and fundamental questions are explored in the workshops.

The paintings are grouped under three sections. 'Examining Thought' explores current predominant thought forms. 'Clearing the Mind' is about achieving a state of consciousness without thought. 'Building a New Framework' points to a new integrated framework for thought where the whole mind is in balance.



**EXAMINING
THOUGHT**



**CLEARING
THE MIND**



**BUILDING A NEW
FRAMEWORK**

In applying insights from *The Tabula Project* to climate change, Greener Vision proposes a more open and self-reflective approach. The report *The Art of Seeing*⁴ recommends that we start with an honest appraisal of how we view the problem. *Pathways to Net Zero*⁵ recommends a new mindset and a whole systems approach to achieving net zero, including a radical shift in policy on decarbonising transport.

In 2025, Greener Vision partnered with the Centre for Energy Ethics-University of St Andrews on *The Tabula Project 2025* exhibition and roundtable discussion series to explore new approaches to addressing anthropogenic climate change.

³ <https://thetabulaproject.com>

⁴ <https://greener-vision.com/publication/greener-vision-the-art-of-seeing/>

⁵ <https://greener-vision.com/publication/greener-vision-pathways-to-net-zero/>



The Tabula Project: A Blueprint for Change⁶ was published to coincide with the exhibition and roundtable discussion series and sets out how our thinking needs to change if we are to rise to the scale of the challenge.

Climate policy would benefit from more holistic thinking and an approach that creates unity rather than division. The report recommends that policy is underpinned by five ‘**Pillars of Unity**’.

- I – Seeing the whole picture**
- II – Integrating heart and mind**
- III – Being at one with nature**
- IV – Healing the whole system**
- V – Becoming citizens of ‘One World’**

The Tabula Project roundtable discussions highlighted policy priorities, governance and institutional issues and tactics for engaging with the public on climate change⁷.

As part of strengthening the public debate on net zero there needs to be a clearer distinction between fact and fiction in the media. We need greater transparency and democratic accountability given the considerable influence yielded in Westminster by funded interests. Policy priorities should include ensuring a fair and just transition to net zero, prioritising growth that addresses our climate and nature crises and pricing properly for carbon. The climate crisis must be treated as an emergency. We need to engage with the public through positively orientated storytelling.

A central theme of *The Tabula Project* is the sanctity of truth.

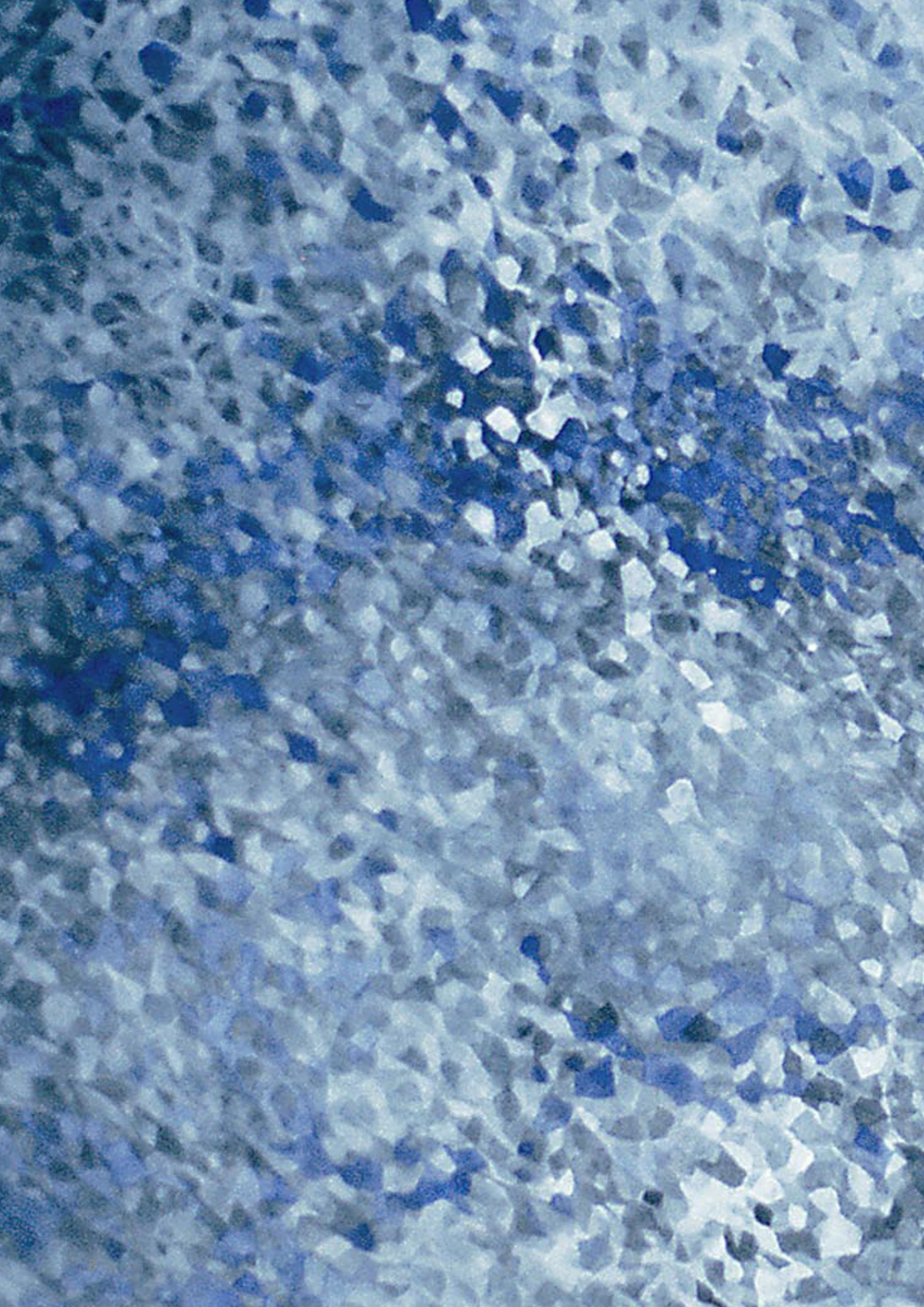
This is an essential prerequisite both for a healthy mind and a healthy society. The imperative has come into ever sharper focus with the rise in populism, where opinions are increasingly based on emotions and beliefs rather than facts.

Anthropogenic climate change is not the only peril we face. We are living through a period of heightened geopolitical tension. The old underpinnings of the world order are being replaced by extraordinary levels of volatility and confusion. Wars in Ukraine and the Middle East are bringing ever greater dangers. There is growing concern about the potential existential risk posed by artificial intelligence.

A new mindset will be needed if we are to rise to the major challenges we face. We are currently witnessing an erosion of our capacity to think at a very time when new threats are emerging with the potential to wipe us out.

⁶ <https://greener-vision.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/THE-TABULA-PROJECT-A-Blueprint-for-Change.pdf>

⁷ <https://greener-vision.com/publication/the-tabula-project-roundtable-discussions-autumn-2025/>



Current State of Play

This is a watershed moment. The last 11 years were the hottest on record ⁸. Seven out of nine planetary boundaries have been breached ⁹.

The world must deliver drastic greenhouse gas emissions reductions at a time of rising geopolitical tensions and in the context of a global backlash against net zero. However, the growth in renewables is a major success story. The value of the green economy is expected to exceed \$7 trillion a year by 2030 ¹⁰. Events in the Middle East underline still further just how critical the net zero transition is for our energy security and to protect consumers from escalating oil and gas prices.

This moment calls for leadership.

The UK has a strong track record on climate change, but the once strong cross-party political consensus on net zero has fractured. We need to rebuild the consensus that enabled the UK to halve its emissions whilst the economy grew by 80% ¹¹. And we urgently need an informed, evidence-based and balanced public debate.

⁸ <https://wmo.int/news/media-centre/earths-climate-swings-increasingly-out-of-balance>

⁹ <https://www.planetaryhealthcheck.org/>

¹⁰ <https://www.weforum.org/press/2025/12/the-multi-trillion-dollar-growth-opportunity-new-report-shows-green-economy-expected-to-surpass-7-trillion-in-annual-value-by-2030/>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-first-major-economy-to-halve-emissions>

Every key indicator is flashing red

The Earth's climate is further out of balance than at any time in history.

2025 was a record-breaking year for climate disasters. More than 200 events impacted 87.8 million people.¹² Natural disasters caused losses of US\$ 320 billion in 2024¹³. The price of foods hit by extreme weather is rising four times faster than other foods¹⁴. UK farmers lost £800 million in production in 2025 after heat and drought caused one of the worst ever harvests on record¹⁵. The climate crisis could make whole regions uninsurable. Aviva research has indicated that entire UK towns could be lost through climate impacts.

Climate rollbacks are threatening the transition. There is uncertainty around ESG investing, but the real risk for nations and businesses is of falling behind on net zero.

President Trump has withdrawn from international climate bodies and treaties, attempted to stall renewable projects and promoted the global expansion of fossil fuels production including a military intervention in Venezuela. Some blows have been dealt to the European Green Deal. While the headline figure remains, EU leaders have voted to scale back 2040 targets due to added "flexibility mechanisms".¹⁶ To mitigate political risks, several major banks left the Net-Zero Banking Alliance, which subsequently formally dissolved.

However, there is a gulf between the rhetoric of some of the world's politicians and reality of the world economy. The green economy is the fastest growing sector behind only the tech sector¹⁷. Renewables will be the world's top power source by 2026¹⁸. China increasingly dominates the EV market and global manufacturing of crucial clean technologies producing over 90% of solar panels, more than 70% of lithium batteries, and 65% of wind turbines¹⁹.

The window to avoid irreversible climate impacts is closing.

The rate of global heating is almost doubling²⁰. The planet's "first catastrophic tipping point" has been reached with coral reefs facing widespread dieback. Other potentially catastrophic tipping points would further supercharge global heating.²¹ The rate of global heating is at risk of further increases with the wider adoption of AI which uses vast amounts of energy.

Nature loss is threatening the global economy and underestimates in global heating are posing greater climate and financial risks than governments and markets are planning for²². The "undervaluing" of nature by businesses is fuelling its decline. Fewer than 1% of publicly reporting companies mention their impacts on biodiversity in their reports. Global financial flows of more than \$7tn had direct negative impacts on nature in 2023.²³

¹² <https://news.mongabay.com/short-article/2026/01/more-than-87m-people-impacted-by-climate-related-disasters-in-2025/>

¹³ <https://www.munichre.com/en/company/media-relations/media-information-and-corporate-news/media-information/2025/natural-disaster-figures-2024.html>

¹⁴ <https://eciu.net/media/press-releases/2025/why-food-prices-are-still-rising-butter-beef-and-milk-to-blame>

¹⁵ <https://eciu.net/media/press-releases/2025/summer-drought-costs-uk-arable-farmers-over-800m-new-analysis>

¹⁶ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/03/05/2040-climate-target-council-gives-final-green-light/>

¹⁷ <https://www.esgtoday.com/green-economy-outperforms-global-market-over-past-10-years-second-only-to-tech-lseg/>

¹⁸ <https://www.carbonbrief.org/iea-renewables-will-be-worlds-top-power-source-by-2026/>

¹⁹ <https://www.inet.ox.ac.uk/publications/china-leads-the-net-zero-transition-heres-what-we-can-learn-from-its-progress-in-beijing-and-hong-kong>

²⁰ <https://www.pik-potsdam.de/en/news/latest-news/significant-acceleration-of-global-warming-since-2015>

²¹ <https://www.carbonbrief.org/tipping-points-window-to-avoid-irreversible-climate-impacts-is-rapidly-closing/>

²² <https://news.exeter.ac.uk/faculty-of-environment-science-and-economy/underestimates-in-global-warming-pose-major-climate-and-financial-risks/>

²³ <https://www.carbonbrief.org/ipbes-four-key-takeaways-on-how-nature-loss-threatens-the-global-economy/>

We must harness the forces pushing forward

The business case for accelerating climate action is overwhelming.

It has been clear since the Stern Review that delaying action makes it more expensive in the long run.²⁴ Climate Change Committee (CCC) has compared the cost of decarbonisation with the wider benefits of avoiding dangerous climate change, as well as other “co-benefits”, such as cleaner air and healthier diets. CCC concludes that the net benefits of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 are an average of £110 billion per year from 2025 to 2050. Every £1 invested in net-zero yields up to £4 in wider economic benefits.²⁵

Equity must be at the heart of the transition to a sustainable economy.

The transition to net zero must both be fair and perceived to be fair. In their assessment of CCC’s advice for the UK’s Seventh Carbon Budget (7CB), Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) has warned that failure to deliver fair, equal public benefits could jeopardise public support²⁶. If the public does not trust policies, it can lead to a backlash. The ‘gilet jaunes’ in France successfully mobilised against attempts to increase taxes on fuel. Alternative for Germany successfully mobilised against a push to require installation of heat pumps.

Governments should commit to mitigating negative impacts on displaced workers, affected communities and low-income households. Growth should be prioritised according to its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals²⁷ rather than strictly linear GDP. Greater emphasis should be given to improving health and well-being, enhancing biodiversity, creating jobs, reducing poverty, stabilizing the economy, increasing resilience and the ability to adapt to climate change.²⁸ Wealthier countries should decarbonise more quickly than poorer ones. A key principle should be “equitable access to sustainable development”.²⁹

The major challenges the world faces are interconnected. We must embrace a whole systems approach.

Efforts to tackle climate change must align with efforts to eradicate poverty, hunger, social injustices and the causes of conflict. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025 calls for urgent renewed multilateralism³⁰. The nature and climate crises must be treated as a single, interconnected crisis. Restoring nature boosts biodiversity and ecosystems that can rapidly and cheaply absorb carbon emissions.³¹

A long-term solution to the climate crisis requires a whole systems approach which will necessitate a paradigm shift in terms of how we think about economic planning and policy making. Greener Vision recommends a whole systems transition that reflects the shift to digital connectivity, and the integration of transport with land-use planning, energy, green finance and all the trip generating sectors such as health, education and employment.³²

²⁴ <https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/explainers/what-is-the-stern-review/>

²⁵ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/supplementary-analysis-of-the-seventh-carbon-budget/>

²⁶ <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/62/environmental-audit-committee/news/212267/>

²⁷ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

²⁸ Nicolas Stern, Why are we waiting 2016 <https://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262529983/why-are-we-waiting/>

²⁹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1595TheNewClimateEconomyReport.pdf>

³⁰ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2025/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2025.pdf>

³¹ <https://www.ipbes.net/events/ipbes-ipcc-co-sponsored-workshop-biodiversity-and-climate-change>

³² <https://greener-vision.com/publication/greener-vision-pathways-to-net-zero/>

A stable policy environment is essential

Policy certainty and consistency are vital for business and public support

The decision by the previous UK Government to rollback some of the UK's major net zero commitments³³ was widely criticized by businesses for putting the UK's future economic prosperity and energy security at risk and increasing costs of meeting net zero³⁴. Kemi Badenoch's pledge to repeal the Climate Change Act was widely criticised, including by members of her own party, as going against the national interest³⁵. Reform UK has pledged to scrap net zero and cut all renewable subsidies.

The current UK Government should be applauded for its firm commitment to net zero. The Carbon Budget and Growth Delivery Plan³⁶ reaffirms the UK's commitment to decarbonise UK's electricity supply by 2030 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions drastically by 2037 and puts Britain on course for transitioning to clean power, electric vehicles and clean heat over the 2030s. However, the politics of climate change are full of vexed contradictions and progress can be impeded by conflicting policy goals.

In their advice to the UK Government, EAC warn that public and investor confidence could be damaged by mixed signals on policy direction such as green lighting several airport expansion projects. Ministers should set out clearly how 7CB will prevent offshoring of emissions and support domestic decarbonisation in energy intensive and trade-exposed sectors. EAC also highlight the vital need to repair the fractured climate consensus.

The breakdown of political consensus is a major impediment to progress.

A recent survey shows that although 64% of British public still supports the 2050 net zero target, there is a sharp decline in support for high impact climate policies. 68% of Reform UK voters and 49% of Conservative voters have seen the biggest swings in support towards parties slowing down action on climate change.³⁷ The term "net zero" has been politicised. ECIU analysis shows the British media is divorcing net zero from climate change. Articles about net zero increasingly omit any reference to climate crisis despite their inherent link³⁸. Carbon Brief shows that nearly 100 newspaper editorials opposed climate action in 2025³⁹.

Climate action is being obstructed and delayed by false and misleading information funded by fossil fuels companies and other vested interests.⁴⁰ A new form of denial through delay on climate action has emerged. Far right parties have gained ground across Europe aided by the Heartland Institute, a US think tank.⁴¹ They make fighting climate policy a priority and their influence is leading to a new go-slow consensus.

³³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-recommits-uk-to-net-zero-by-2050-and-pledges-a-fairer-path-to-achieving-target-to-ease-the-financial-burden-on-british-families>

³⁴ <https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4127227/delay-400-businesses-urge-prime-minister-weaken-climate-policies>

³⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/oct/02/kemi-badenoch-vow-to-repeal-climate-change-act-senior-tories-dismayed>

³⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/carbon-budget-and-growth-delivery-plan-2025>

³⁷ <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/uks-sense-of-urgency-on-net-zero-and-support-for-climate-policies-falls-sharply-study-finds>

³⁸ <https://eciu.net/media/press-releases/british-media-divorcing-net-zero-from-climate-change-analysis>

³⁹ <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-uk-newspaper-editorial-opposition-to-climate-action-overtakes-support-for-first-time/>

⁴⁰ <https://www.ipie.info/news/press-release-climate-misinformation-threatens-global-action-says-ipie-assessment>

⁴¹ <https://www.dailyclimate.org/heartland-institute-teams-up-with-far-right-european-politicians-to-fight-climate-policies-2670987485.html>



Rising to the Challenge

Our world is fragmented, disordered and chaotic.

If we are to rise to the challenge of addressing our most serious social, environmental and systemic problems we must start by looking at ourselves. We need a radical realignment of how we perceive ourselves in relation to others and the environment on which we depend. We are wired to focus on immediate self-interest, but the result is a lack of systemic wisdom. We need to think and act in a global long-term context.

The next decade will determine whether we face climate, biodiversity, and economic catastrophe, or can unlock a new era of sustainable, resilient and inclusive growth. Nicholas Stern challenges the idea that we must choose between climate action and development and presents the case for transformation that delivers both prosperity and a healthier planet⁴¹.

There is everything still to play for. Even after years of insufficient action, the world can still return to well below 1.5°C of warming this century if countries pursue the “highest possible ambition” in climate action⁴². But first we must stomach some uncomfortable truths and navigate some tough political choices.

⁴¹ <https://press.lse.ac.uk/books/m/10.31389/lsepress.tgs>

⁴² <https://climateanalytics.org/press-releases/world-can-still-rescue-1-5-c-says-new-analysis-mapping-the-highest-ambition-path>

‘The Pillars of Unity’ offer a new perspective on climate policy

‘The Pillars of Unity’ point to a way of seeing which would enable us to lead more authentic, purposeful and meaningful lives.

Applying the ‘Pillars of Unity’ concept to conclusions from *The Tabula Project 2025* roundtable discussion series highlighted a range of policy priorities, governance and institutional changes and tactics for engaging with the public on net zero⁴⁴.

Greener Vision is consulting with policymakers, business leaders, academics, key stakeholders and politicians from all political parties on how the concept might help to bring about a realignment and strengthen efforts to tackle the climate crisis.



Too often the lens through which we perceive is faulty. We should seek to **see the whole picture**. We need to become more honest and self-aware about our decision-making.

- **Evidence-based decisions.** We are part of the problem if we persist with the illusion that ‘business as usual’ will achieve net zero. Are the assumptions underpinning our response to the climate crisis fit for purpose?
- **Separate fact from fiction.** Public support for net zero is being undermined by inaccuracies and untruths in the media. How do we ensure a relevant and proportionate response to misinformation and disinformation?

Integration of thoughts and feelings will be critical to tackling climate change. We need to engage our emotional as well as rational brains. This is a battle for hearts and minds.

- **Harness people power.** How can we encourage and/or develop public-focused, positively oriented storytelling to inspire people to support the net zero transition and get involved as change agents?
- **Tell the truth.** How do we balance messaging of hope and fear? How do we sell the co-benefits of the transition whilst also fostering a recognition that the climate crisis must be treated as an emergency?

⁴⁴ <https://greener-vision.com/publication/the-tabula-project-roundtable-discussions-autumn-2025/>

We must be **at one with nature**. We need to create fairer and more equitable systems that allow humans and the environment to thrive. Protection of nature is protection of ourselves.

- **Fairer economic models.** How can we prioritise growth that heals our climate and nature crisis and supports the Sustainable Development Goals rather than strictly linear GDP growth?
- **Tackle rising inequality.** How can we ensure an equitable transition to net zero, and that the transition is understood to be fair and just? How can we maximize the co-benefits of the transition for all parts of society?

Too much attention tends to be given to treating the symptoms of problems and not enough to the system. **Healing the whole system** means addressing the root causes of our problems.

- **Price properly for carbon.** We need to ensure the cost of goods and services covers their true environmental impact. How can pricing be used to catalyse positive change whilst ensuring that people on low incomes are not penalised?
- **A whole systems approach.** How can we simultaneously address the climate and nature crises and build a sustainable economy? How do we breakdown government silos to ensure sufficient cross-departmental working?

We should strive to **become citizens of ‘One World’**. Climate change is a global intergenerational problem requiring unprecedented levels of international cooperation.

- **A new mindset.** How can people be appealed to as citizens not just consumers? How can we move beyond polarisation and ideological thinking and promote intrinsic and ‘bigger than self’ values?
- **One World.** More than 8 out of 10 people want to see their countries set aside their differences and work together on climate change⁴⁵. How can we foster greater cooperation at a time when geopolitical alliances are under threat?

⁴⁵ <https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/80-percent-people-globally-want-stronger-climate-action-governments-according-un>

Further information

Claire Haigh MA Oxon, FRSA, FCILT is the Founder & CEO of Greener Vision. She chairs the Independent Review Panel for the Joint Air Quality Unit (Defra/DfT), is Co-convenor of the Council for the Future and is Executive Director of the Transport Knowledge Hub.

Claire is also an artist inspired by a deep desire for positive change, and a belief that for real and lasting change to occur we need to begin with ourselves. In the 1990s she began exploring the nature of thought and consciousness through art, believing that paintings could provide a new window of understanding. This led to her embarking upon ***The Tabula Project***.

She has had five solo exhibitions in central London*. Her paintings have been bought by private and corporate collectors including NatWest, Marks & Spencer and the Boston Consulting Group. She has completed many portrait commissions including the actor and director Laurence Olivier, Transport Minister Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill (CBE), and former Mayor of London, Ken Livingston.

Greener Vision is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to encouraging the switch to a greener future, and applies insights from ***The Tabula Project*** to tackling climate change. In 2025 Greener Vision partnered with Centre for Energy Ethics-University of St Andrews on ***The Tabula Project 2025*** exhibition and discussion series exploring new approaches to addressing one of the most urgent and profound challenges facing humanity today.

If you would like more information about Greener Vision please email:
info@greener-vision.com
or visit **www.greener-vision.com**

If you would like more information about ***The Tabula Project*** please email:
contact@thetabulaproject.com
or visit **www.thetabulaproject.com**

*Turtle Key Arts Centre 1992, Smith's Gallery Covent Garden, 1993, Mall Galleries 1993, The Boston Consulting Group 1996, The Troubadour Gallery 2007



Metamorphosis

Metamorphosis explores the fluidity of the self and the infinitely malleable and changeable nature of consciousness. The paintings are based on a poem and depict states of awareness, and a range of sensations of pain and pleasure which could be experienced by any sentient being.

1993, 15 paintings, oil on canvas, each 96x106 cm

PART I

Arms and legs rest peacefully,
deadened by a long sleep,
but the skin now tingles with new delight.
I gaze in awe,
as I am gently covered by a soft and glistening blanket.
Peering closer, I marvel at its intricacy.
Hundreds and thousands of tiny segments
all shining like stars and shimmering as one.
Effortlessly I succumb,
until in cold dead panic
I detect the unmistakable glow of worms.
Tender caress becomes piercing pain as
countless creatures burrow deeper inside.
I choke in horror and try to resist,
but leaden limbs won't respond.
I open my lips but no scream can be found.
Maggots chew forward,
multiplying in my mouth
filling my throat.
Desperate eyes search for help
but find only a few rays of light
as the thick film descends here too.
In my mind's eye they are crawling forward
edging into the centre.
But as they start to consume my consciousness
I am once more overwhelmed by their splendour.
Gladly I give them what I no longer need,
and as they relieve me of the burden
I melt into their radiance.

PART II

I am enveloped by a grainy substance.
Pressing against it,
I wriggle through in sideways thrusts.
I discover harsh grit and brittle soil
which scratch and tear and burn my skin.
At last I happen upon a cool moisture
which soothes and seduces and draws me inside
and deeper I slide into a dark recess.
But craving for light forces me back.
I struggle through clawing dryness until hard
clumps fall away and my skin can bask in the warm
light of day.
This pleasure is suddenly and brutally terminated
by a fierce and slicing pain.
I twist and writhe in agony
until my body has completely disintegrated.
No more pain now.
I am flying through the air with a flock of birds.
We are heading for the sky.

PART III

We are seeking what lies in the blue beyond.
The cold ascent numbs our wings,
but soft clouds beckon us higher.
As we arrive,
we become entangled in an intricate white web.
Duplicitous clouds
once so pure and enticing are now
bent on our destruction.
Through thickening fog we catch a glimpse of blue,
but trapped in white fury
we are tossed from side to side
until anger bursts though in electric rage
and blazes out our hearts.
New light seeps through thick mist
Clouds melt away revealing a sea of blue
and we know we are going home.

Front cover
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A Glimpse of Blue
The Cold Ascent
Easing the Burden of Consciousness
Electric Rage

