



# The Declaration of Museums For Future



We are an independent global network of museums, cultural organizations and professionals in fields related to cultural heritage supporting the climate strike movement. We are an alliance formed to support the mutual aim for global climate justice by remaining below the +1.5°C threshold of the Paris Climate Convention not only for this but also for future generations.

## Why we (need to) take action

The concerns of the climate strike movement are justified. Current political and economic measures for protecting the climate, biodiversity, and human health are deeply inadequate. By ratifying the 2015 Paris Agreement<sup>1</sup>, almost all states worldwide have committed to keeping global warming below +2°C above pre-industrial levels. Additionally, following scientific consensus, holding the increase in temperatures below +1.5°C will substantially limit climate-related impacts, growing global inequalities and economic prosperity. Decision-makers worldwide are failing to prevent this approaching Earth Crisis. It is critical to immediately begin a rapid and ambitious reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emissions<sup>2</sup>.

## Our approach

Our contributions to the global climate movement align along with four domains:

### 1. Support of the climate strikes

We participate in the collective actions of Museums For Future. We support climate action movements started by the youth, especially those in our field or local communities. As a non-violent, independent collective we intend to adapt to local conditions and cooperate with law enforcement.

### 2. Communication to the public

As trusted mediators of culture, science, and technology, and the arts, we take responsibility to inform the public and our audiences. We ourselves communicate or support others communicating the scientific principles behind the climate crisis, the effects of anthropogenic global warming to nature and society. We convey the necessary actions<sup>3</sup> and how our survival as humans and that of biodiverse life depends on them. This duty we seize in various ways fitting to our institutions, organizations, and individual capabilities, such as through environmental education, youth-led citizen projects, exhibitions, and more.

### 3. Transformation of our institutions

Everybody must act upon their respective responsibility for climate action. Museums are trusted and respected because they aspire to be scientifically rigorous and disciplined. We understand that our activities and buildings contribute to climate change and are committed to becoming emission neutral by 2040<sup>4</sup>. We take active steps towards this objective, for instance, with footprint evaluation and a roadmap to sustainability. We commit to transparency in that process to encourage bravery in others.

### 4. Awareness-raising in our networks

With tens of thousands of museums worldwide, we are aware of our considerable potential impact, not only on our visitors but also on critical stakeholders. We use our voices to spread awareness about the necessity of immediate climate actions amongst other museum organizations, their employees and management, but also amongst decision-makers of all other fields, particularly politics.

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[1] <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>, 11.02.2021

[2] G. Hagedorn et al.: Concerns of young protesters are justified. *Science* 364 (6436), 139-140.

[3] Policies are needed to make climate-friendly and sustainable action simple and cost-effective and make climate-damaging action unattractive and expensive. Examples include effective CO<sub>2</sub> prices and regulations; cessation of subsidies for climate-damaging actions and products; efficiency standards; social innovations; and massive, directed investment in solutions such as renewable energy, cross-sector electrification, public transport infrastructure, and demand reduction. A socially fair distribution of the costs and benefits of climate action will require deliberate attention, but it is both possible and essential. - IPCC, *Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report: Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri, L.A. Meyer, Eds. (IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 2014).

[4] The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has assessed that halving CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030 (relative to 2010 levels) and globally achieving net-zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050 would allow a 50% chance of staying below +1.5°C of warming. Considering that industrialized countries produced more of and benefited more from previous emissions, they have an ethical responsibility to achieve this transition more quickly than the world as a whole. - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, "Decision 1/CP.21: Adoption of the Paris Agreement," (Paris, France, 2015); [https://unfccc.int/files/essential\\_background/convention/application/pdf/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf). - C. Kolstad et al., in *Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change: Contribution of Working Group III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, O. Edenhofer et al., Eds. (Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge, UK, 2014).