

THE VOICE TO ADVOCATE FOR CULTURE IN EVERY CLIMATE CONVERSATION WITH SARAH SUTTON

In this session, Sarah Sutton shares her thoughts on advocacy (why and how we should do this together). Sarah gives some examples based on her work context in the United States and shows some other relevant initiatives that make people take the lead on the climate change agenda. Sarah also explains the idea behind transparency and agency and speaks about how to work with others at different levels to make sure everyone is on board with the work towards Net Zero.

Session Structure

Mission
Strengthening and broadening the cultural sector's environmental leadership
ecprs.org

Capacity Building
Engagement
Representation
Environmental Leadership

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Minute 0'30": what should we do as culture professionals?

The focus today is on you, not on climate



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1': Find your place on this discussion

Guiding Principles

1. No one goes green all at once.
2. No one goes all green, yet.
3. Let go of guilt; it interferes with progress.
4. It's different for everyone.
5. First: start where you can.
6. Next: tell the others, and work with them.






2': Guiding principles to focus on the task

Agency

Individual
The ability to create change within your personal means

Collective
Pooling knowledge and skills to act together

Proxy
Influencing others to act on your behalf

3': The different types of agency – individual/collective/proxy

Look Out For "Cognitive Holes"

For a Conservation Professional




- The object is my primary responsibility.
- I know this way works, I can't risk a new way.
- I use such small amounts.
- We're not the problem, Big Oil is.

About Climate Change

- The climate has changed before.
- Not all the scientists agree it's happening anyway.

About Taking Action



- It costs too much.
- I don't have time.
- I don't know what to do or how to do it.

4': Things that keep you from working towards the right steps

Why Change Our Practice?

- Climate Change is Real
- It's Happening Now
- The World is Not on Track

4'30": Why change our practice?

This is Climate Governance

- We are Capable
- We Care
- We have a Voice



Alaska Burning, 2016: Parker Brophy


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5': Climate Governance

Fifth U.S. National Climate Assessment (NCA5)

KEY MESSAGE **1** Human Activities Have Caused the Observed Global Warming

Human activities—primarily emissions of greenhouse gases from fossil fuel use—have unequivocally caused the global warming observed over the industrial era. Changes in natural climate drivers had globally small and regionally variable long-term effects over that period.



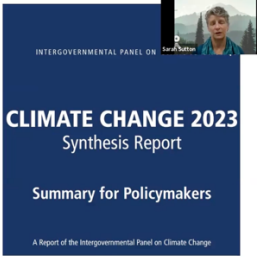
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5'30": Example based on the Fifth US National Climate Assessment

"Most observed adaptation responses are fragmented, incremental, sector-specific and unequally distributed across regions. Despite progress, adaptation gaps exist across sectors and regions, and will continue to grow under current levels of implementation, with the largest adaptation gaps among lower income groups."

"Effective and equitable climate governance builds on engagement with civil society actors, political actors, businesses, youth, labour, media, Indigenous Peoples and local communities."



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6': Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change response

"Pruning the Dystopiary"

"...the longstanding concern that talking about adapting to climate change would diminish momentum to avoid it seems to have faded. We'll need to have both hands working at the same time; every tenth of a degree of warming that we can avoid is vital, while we simultaneously prepare for inevitable impacts."

- Jason Anderson, Climate Works Foundation
Afterward, *The Climate Action Almanac*



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7'20": Why do we need to step up for this work collectively

But Why Us? (*Why Not?* She Says)

- Climate change is an Everyone problem.
- Other sectors are stepping up.
- Other parts of the cultural sector are taking steps.
- The tools are getting better.
- The more we all do, the better our result will be.
- Doing this work is good for your health and the health of everyone and everything around you.
- And, to make it so that everyone and everything on the Planet can thrive.



Snow Man, Art Group, New Zealand

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7'30: Why do we need to do it?



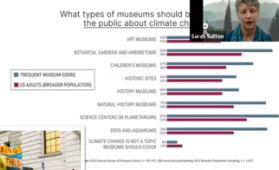
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8': Transparency is important and helps everyone. Examples.

CARBON INVENTORY PROJECT

What types of museums should be the public about climate change?



■ PRESENT MUSEUM CARBON
■ RE-ASPECT MUSEUM POPULATION

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9'30": Cultural sector and the work towards climate change in the United States

US CULTURE ASSOCIATIONS AGREE TO CLIMATE COLLABORATION

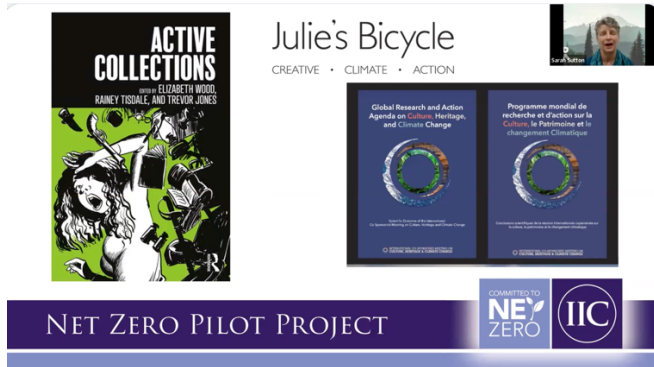
These professional membership associations for museums, aquariums, historic sites, and performing arts organizations have agreed to collaborate on a joint commitment to the cultural and historic sector's engagement, education, and resilience work.



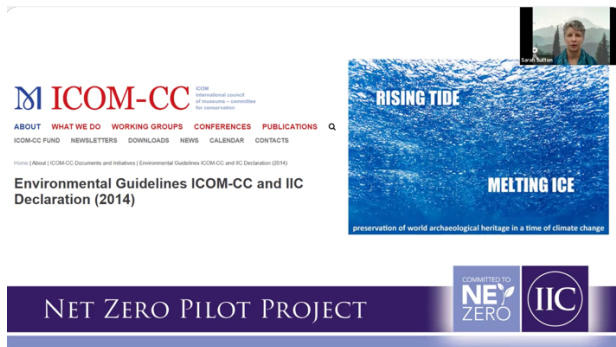
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10': Collaboration is key to make this happen



10'30": What are we collecting and organizations that are supporting the transition to Net Zero



11': work done by ICOM-CC and IIC on the reality of how we operate our buildings



12': STICH – Sustainability tools in Cultural Heritage Carbon Calculator



14': Mechanical operation and how to manage buildings better

UK Museums and Heritage Sustainable Packaging Group (b. 2021)

Pandemic shortages "...led institutions to rethink their current practices, concentrating on what they need to do differently in their daily work, taking on board new ideas, new terminology, new techniques, new ways of describing what is done as well as looking at practices that need to be remodeled..."



January 2024 Study Day at the National Gallery (UK)
Photo by Lynne Harrison, captured from IIC website



15'45": Example UK Museums and Heritage Sustainable Package group

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No One Does This Work Alone, At Least Not

"Early on I shied away from the idea of looking at packing cases from a sustainability perspective, because it seems like such a massive task. I can't honestly say that I chose to do this. I was asked to investigate it, and I'm very happy to say that after the first couple of meetings [I] realized I was surrounded by colleagues with the same challenges—the same concerns—so that we could help each other. I don't think the task is any less big, but it feels a bit more manageable."

- Lynne Harrison, paintings conservator, National Gallery, London



17': No one does the work alone, it's a group work

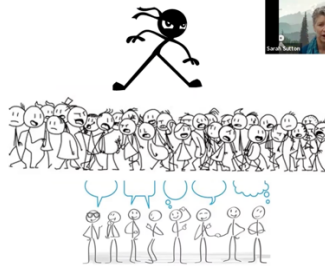
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Agency

Individual
The ability to create change within your personal means

Collective
Pooling knowledge and skills to act together

Proxy
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18': Agency is very important

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Examples of Agency

Individual Agency The ability to create change within your personal means	Collective Agency Pooling knowledge and skills to act together	Proxy Agency Influencing others to act on your behalf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search sustainable options for your own responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create or Join a group of seekers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your association to help you find training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell researchers what items and case studies you need to learn about. Join them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host or contribute to programs sharing ideas and practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your funders you need support for this research and for new practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build your own go-to resources for calculating impacts or buying materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and consolidate purchasing to decrease deliveries and increase bulk savings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand that vendors improve selection of high quality, low-impact materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share your climate action activities and plans with peers in meetings and on social media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create cooperative funding applications to scale change and distribute support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your professional association that it's important to you that this is part of standards



19': Examples of Agency

Climate Messages to advocates



If you use materials for care, exhibits, and transportation:

- Learn all you can
- Join a group or create one to tackle an area of interest to you
- Say yes when invited to join a group or lead one
- Reuse and borrow, and adapt found materials to reduce impacts
- Create preferred purchases lists using certifications, STICH, and shared learning
- Specify materials in RFQs and treatments that are good for us, not only objects and buildings
- Demand that providers and manufacturers to do better

21'35": Things to say to your peers when they do not what to do

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Climate Messages for advocates



If you use fossil energy:

- Manage buildings better
 - Tighten and insulate buildings
 - Improve T/RH and controls policies
 - Adopt passive systems for cooling, warmth and lighting
- Spend energy savings on green exhibit and collections materials
- Plan now for any future changes to be clean and renewable
- Share solutions to create a vision of what a clean energy future can look like

22': Things to say to your helpers to do for the cultural sector

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Climate Messages to Advocates



- My future matters and so does yours. And things are bad enough that no one is exempt from doing what they are can to relieve climate burdens from us all today and far into the future.
- Why bother saving all these buildings, objects, and cultural lifeways now if by the end of the century there's no safe place for it?
- Those same communities that museums and collectors have colonized are feeling climate change worse than most. It's our responsibility, too.
- Doing this work starts by thinking differently. What got us into this mess won't get us out. So I'm starting with the work I do everyday, and I'm learning how to do it well *and differently* for a better outcome.

23': Things to say to the agency and government professionals about the work you are doing

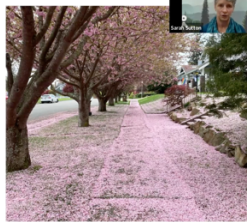
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Conclusion

By 2030, I want to have done as much as I can to erase my impact and to secure the future of others.

And I want to see a global cultural sector that has standardized climate action as a mission-driven priority, and normalized climate practices in our work, so that there is no need for presentations like today's.



24'30": Sarah's personal mantra for climate change

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