

ANTARCTIC CLIMATE EXPEDITION 2023



SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENTS IN SOLVING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

WRITTEN BY NATASHA ABHAYAWICKRAMA

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION BY
THE PRINCIPAL EXPEDITION TEAM

THE ANTARCTIC CLIMATE EXPEDITION 2023 (ACE 2023)

Aims to bring about public and government awareness of the importance and the splendor of the Antarctic, to address the warming climate and loss of ice in the southern polar region as a direct threat to the future of human life on this planet.

The purpose of this Expedition is to confront the consequences and develop creative strategies for everyone to radically reduce carbon emissions, with the goal that each one of us will take more active ownership of our carbon footprint, then find ways to reduce and offset their emissions.

Hence the primary mission is for the ACE 2023 Team to propose and champion 23 Resolutions to reduce and offset emissions within our lives, communities, and countries to pace up in reaching Net Zero.

The principal expedition team for this important climate summit will comprise conservationists, celebrities, and ocean luminaries. 100 people will be selected to be part of ACE 2023. You can be one of them. Find out more [here](#).

#ACE2023, #AntarcticClimateEpic, #AntarcticClimate,
#OceanGeographic, #ACETEAM

We have seen numerous reports which have given us targets, or moreso deadlines of when we need to be cutting emissions in order to lessen the impacts of the climate crisis and we now know that we must reach 100% emissions reduction by 2035 in order to prevent and mitigate some of the worst impacts of the climate crisis. The biggest contributor to the climate crisis is the role of governments in funding and subsidising the fossil fuel industry, which is the number 1 contributor to the climate crisis.

Governments have met time and time again to make agreements on emission reduction targets as a global effort to combat the climate crisis. However, as a young person I have continuously been disappointed in the inaction and the “talk” but no action from world leaders. The most recent meeting of COP26 (which has been summarised in a previous article) led to many initiatives including financing for a net-zero economy, and increasing the pace of the Paris Climate Agreement. Yet, we have already reached 1.5 degrees celsius, and many key countries are still failing to meet these targets.

Government action must be taken globally as the climate crisis is a global issue. What is also important to note is that countries that have contributed the least to global warming are often impacted the most. This specifically includes Pacific Island Nations who often live sustainably and have small communities. However, their islands are getting smaller and it is anticipated for some to be completely underwater by 2035. It is the responsibility and duty of wealthier nations to take a leading step in fixing the climate crisis. But, historically this is not what has happened. However, particularly with the recent events of COP26, it gives some hope to note that now influential nations have been trying to take a lead in combating the climate crisis and reaching net zero-emission targets.



Images from Author

Governments have an extremely important role in providing aid and support for communities who are already experiencing impacts of the climate crisis and to stop funding the fossil fuel industry and support a just transition into a green economy. Many countries have started to plan and enact this transition. That said, there are still many countries that are far behind.



Images from Author

Unfortunately, like many other global issues, instead of being treated like a humanitarian issue, climate change is seen to be treated as a much more political issue. Many governments globally seem to have long-lasting ties and a reluctance to move away from an economy that is built upon coal, oil, and gas. The International Energy Agency has also said that we must move away from fossil fuels as fast as we can, alongside many experts who have said transitioning to a global green economy will benefit our society much more both in the short and long term.

Although there are still many countries who are behind, and not moving towards climate-based solutions, there is still time. Many experts have laid out plans in place to transition and act on climate smoothly. It is now up to leaders to make the right decisions.

In terms of policy, scientists and experts have given governments both on a global and national level a clear path to meeting and beating emission targets to stop the climate crisis. However, governments need to listen and act immediately. Time is finite and solutions have been available and ready for decades. The common myth of fossil fuels provide jobs and are good for the economy can no longer be argued as many economists now side with the fact that an economy that relies on fossil fuel industry will no longer be able to sustain us both environmentally and economically for much longer.

It is clear that we need to transition to a green economy and leaders must act immediately.

Governments also have a responsibility to lead the way towards a renewable economy as privatisation rises cause an increase in prices for renewable energy. It is also important to note that corporations and businesses are responsible for a large proportion of global emissions. Governments can instigate laws and disapprove of fossil fuel projects to pressure and turn corporations to move towards sustainable practices.

Overall, it has taken a long journey for governments to acknowledge climate change, and begin to act on it. There is still a long way to go, with the current plans being insufficient to both mitigate and prevent the impacts of the climate crisis. However, as a youth activist, this is why it is now more important than ever to bring the community together to place pressure on governments. The most important role of the governments is to listen to the people they represent, and as a youth activist, although young people are unable to vote, it is important that our concerns are listened to. The power I have felt as a young person in pressuring Australian leaders, in particular, has been inspiring, and although there is still a long way to go, leaders have seen us and they have felt the pressure and will continue to feel the pressure until we are able to get proper policies on climate.



Images from Author

In summary, the role of governments is essential in mitigating and solving the climate crisis as they have the power to tangibly cut emissions and boost a green economy. Governments currently have the power to make groundbreaking progress to move towards green solutions however it is the question of when they will start to listen to the experts. With more and more evidence as reports come out and we are hit by worse and worse natural disasters alongside the pressure of activists and the public, we will be able to pressure world leaders to instigate the positive change we need to see now.

In the next issue, we will go into the role corporates in solving Climate Crisis.