

CLIMATE ACTION NOW



ACTS CONFERENCE 2020

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Hosted by the University of Tasmania
18 – 20 November 2020 | Hobart, TA

CLIMATE ACTION NOW

There is no denying it. We are in the midst of a climate crisis, which is accelerating faster than most scientists anticipated. As greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise and disrupt the planet's natural systems, the climate is changing at unprecedented rates and we are experiencing the impacts firsthand; extreme temperatures, longer drought, intensifying bushfires, dying coral reefs and much more. This is the reality of anthropogenic climate change and the future we will pass on to generations to come.

There are positive steps being taken to decarbonise our economy, fast-track sustainable technology and innovations, and convert high-polluting industries. But we need more ambitious plans and immediate action to transform global society in order to mitigate climate change, stem the wave of mass extinctions, and create a just and equitable future for all.

Every element of society has a vital part to play – educational institutions included. It is our responsibility as **educators**, researchers and community leaders to champion sustainable development and shape a motivated generation of citizens with the knowledge, capabilities and skills to overcome the critical environmental, economic and socio-political challenges we face. We must continue to collaborate and build capacity throughout all sectors in order to foster greater awareness and inspire wide-spread action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And most importantly of all, we must do this NOW.

The ACTS Conference 2020: Climate Action Now will provide the opportunity for practitioners, students and cross-sector partners working in all areas of sustainability to foster collaborative learning and exchange ideas on climate action and sustainable development. Working together, we can strengthen our contributions towards real and meaningful solutions for a better world.

The ACTS Conference Committee is now inviting proposal submissions for sessions from an academic, operational and student perspective on the conference theme. Presenters are invited to explore the biggest issues facing campuses today as part of their proposal submission:

- **Are the SDGs an overarching institution vision or an underpinning to support a holistic view of sustainability?**
- **How do campuses utilise students as a driving force for sustainability, whilst managing their expectations for institutions to be politically driven on climate issues?**
- **What does serious structural and process change for a climate resilient campus look like?**
- **How do we rapidly decarbonise?**
- **How do we tackle travel emissions as globally connected campuses?**
- **How are campuses planning to adapt to the impacts of climate change?**
- **What role does circular economy play to rethink the way we procure?**
- **How do we overcome sustainable procurement challenges with a constant stream of new and emerging greenwashed “solutions” (would you like a recycled coffee cup with that?).**
- **How do institutions ensure that sustainable campuses are truly just and equitable?**
- **Do recent events, such as the devastating Australian bushfires, move the business case for climate action firmly towards risk mitigation and insurance cost reduction?**

WHY PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE?

- Share your knowledge! Drive thought leadership thought leader at the most highly regarded, longest running sustainability event for education in Australasia.
- Help advance sustainability throughout the education sector! From engaging and networking with attendees, you can empower others with knowledge and tools - actively creating a stronger sustainability community.
- Save on registration! Accepted presenters receive a discount on their full conference registration.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The annual ACTS Conference is the longest running sustainability event developed by the sector, for the sector. In 2020 we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the conference and its continued success as a platform for collaborative learning, transformative thinking and networking for sustainability practitioners, educators, researchers, students and cross-sector partners.

This year the conference returns to the beautiful city of Hobart to be hosted by the University of Tasmania on the 18 – 20 November 2020. The 3 day program will feature a wide range of learning and knowledge sharing opportunities: plenary sessions; inspirational case study presentations; site tours, and; facilitated networking events.

The event attracts participants from all areas of campus life that are engaged in sustainable initiatives, such as:

- Senior Directors and managers
- Environmental and sustainability **practitioners**
- **Energy, procurement, transport and waste professionals**
- **Engagement professionals**
- Academics, researchers and lecturers
- Students and student leaders
- Government and NGO representatives
- Sector support and NFP representatives
- Vendors and consultants

ACTS CONFERENCE 2020: GOALS

This year the conference will explore the delivery of selected online sessions, providing delegates the opportunity to participate in a virtual, low carbon capacity. The focus for all sessions, regardless of delivery method, is to actively engage attendees in interactive learning relevant to the conference theme – Climate Action Now.

The Conference Committee will be asking the following questions when reviewing proposal submissions:

- Does the session relate to the conference theme – Climate Action Now?
- Will the session deliver high-quality, participatory and interactive content in a professional manner?
- Will the session inspire, motivate and empower attendees?
- Will attendees have the opportunity to develop new skills to help create meaningful change at their own institution or organisation?
- Are presented learnings, tools and ideas replicable?

DEADLINES AND IMPORTANT DATES*

Deadline for proposal submissions.	26 May 2020
All submission will notification of acceptance into the conference program.	1 July 2020
One presenter must register to receive the presenter discount.	26 August 2020
All presenters must register to guarantee inclusion in the program.	22 September 2020

*Dates and deadlines are subject to change

WHO CAN PRESENT?

The ACTS Conference Committee invites proposal submissions from campus based staff and students, Not-For-Profit (NFP) representatives and government agency representatives, which deliver academic, operational and/or student perspectives to the conference theme.

BUSINESS & CORPORATE PROPOSALS

ACTS, and our members, work closely with a large number of affiliate business and corporate organisations to undertake research, deliver products and services and develop innovative solutions for the education and sustainability sectors. To support and share the outcomes of these collaborations, ACTS provides the opportunity for a limited number of sponsored presentations from businesses or corporate organisations to be included in the program.

Sponsored presentations are the only channel for for-profit organisations to be included in the program. These sessions must focus on results and/or outcome driven case studies that are relevant to sustainability practitioners, researchers and educators. Discounted opportunities are available for those that co-present directly a representative from an ACTS member institution.

Proposals from business or corporate organisations submitted via the standard Call for Proposals online platform will not be reviewed by the ACTS Conference Committee. For further information on available opportunities please contact ACTS' General Manager Rhiannon Boyd rboyd@acts.asn.au.

BREAKOUT STREAMS

The program provides opportunity for four breakout streams to run concurrently on Day 1 and Day 2 of the conference and are based on the priority areas of the Learning in Future Environments (LiFE) framework. Proposals must nominate at least one stream that is most relevant for their session:

Leadership & Governance	This stream incorporates aspects of leadership, staff engagement and human resources. With the increasing responsibilities being placed on senior management, there are further demands for governing bodies to review the non-financial risks and opportunities that may impact on an institution. Leadership and Governance examines and encourages not only ambitious strategic intent but also focuses on building capacity through human capital and development.
Partnership & Engagement	This stream incorporates aspects of business and industry interface, community and public engagement and procurement and suppliers. It is widely accepted that educational institutions, and especially those which are publicly funded, have a civic duty or social responsibility to engage with the wider community. Partnerships and Engagement considers external engagement but also considers the importance of internal communities and how these can be supported and developed to the benefit of the individual and the institution.
Learning, Teaching & Research	This stream incorporates aspects of learning, teaching and research. Through formal and informal curricula, skills training and development, knowledge transfer and research, institutions will have a significant, positive long-term impact on society. Ensuring students are exposed to learning experiences that maximise their opportunities to graduate as sustainability-literate citizens is arguably the most important step towards a sustainable future.
Facilities & Operations	This stream incorporates aspects of biodiversity, sustainable ICT, utilities, travel, transport, construction and renovation, resource efficiency and waste. The Facilities and Operations stream provides an opportunity for institutions to demonstrate how they are planning, managing and implementing measures through sustainable development and addressing social responsibility across campus and the built environment.

BREAKOUT SESSION FORMATS

Proposals are invited for breakout session in the following formats:

Case study 30/45/60 minutes	Presentation sharing good practices and experiences on a broadly applicable and replicable topic. Proposals must demonstrate how the presentation will actively engage participants in interactive learning.
Workshop 60 minutes	Workshops provide participants with professional development opportunities by presenting hands-on tools and/or resources. Interactive sessions are structured with small group learning activities.
Roundtable/Panel	Chaired topical discussion; that may have a panel of experts. The session can address multiple perspectives on a project, topic, or initiative fostering conversation and brainstorming with the audience.
Virtual presentation	New for 2020! Virtual presentations will be delivered to an online global audience from the conference venue. They will be adapted from standard case study sessions, condensed to a 20 minute highlight presentation and delivered by a single presenter.
Poster	Visual presentations of practice or research to be displayed during conference. A poster session will take place allowing the author to give a short overview of their poster and answer any questions. It is the responsibility of the author to bring their poster and mount it before the conference begins. (Presentation size A2).
Professional Development	Interactive Professional Development sessions must be delivered by presenters with experience in leading and facilitating outcome driven workshops. Two concurrent three hour PD sessions are available in the program.

LEVEL OF PRESENTATIONS

Those submitting proposals are asked to objectively evaluate the content you're presenting and to select the most appropriate level as defined below:

Just starting	Content covered is introductory and/or foundational and attendees require no background knowledge or competencies.
Intermediate	Content is moderately advanced, and attendees will require working knowledge or experience in the topic.
Advanced	Content is advanced and attendees will require detailed knowledge of the topic and specific experience applying or using this knowledge.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

All proposal submissions will be asked to identify which SDGs their session's content most closely relates to. Furthermore, proposals that demonstrate objectives aimed at understanding, committing to and/or delivering the SDGs will be highly regarded in consideration for the conference program.

Visit the [UN SDG Knowledge Platform](#) for more detailed information on each of the 17 goals.

PRESENTER GUIDELINES

Thank you for your interest in presenting at the ACTS Conference! The conference would not be a success without the contributions and support from sustainability leaders like you. Please review the following presenter guidelines before submitting your proposal, to ensure you understand the expectations from the ACTS Conference Committee:

- Proposals will only be accepted via the 'Conference proposal application form', uploaded to conference.acts.asn.au within the submission deadlines as outlined on page 2.
- Deadlines are set. Late or incomplete proposals will not be considered.
- All proposed presenters must be listed on the application form. An individual is limited to two (2) conference presentations within the confirmed program, however there is no limit to the number of proposals that may be submitted by any eligible institution or organisation during the call for proposals.
- All proposed presenters must be able and willing to present at the conference between 18 - 20 November 2020. Please do not list contributors who are not planning to attend.
- All presenters must be registered by September 22, 2020. Presenters who do not register by the deadline risk having their presentation removed from the program.
- Accepted presenters who are not able to attend the conference must notify ACTS staff immediately. Registered presenters who are not able to attend can send a substitute for their presentation if change is made by October 16, 2020. Changes after this deadline are not guaranteed. Canceled registrations incur cancellation fees per ACTS's registration policies.
- All costs to attend the ACTS Conference - including registration, travel and accommodation - are the responsibility of each presenter. Presenters who are not registered by September 22, 2020 risk having their session removed from the program.
- As thanks for contributing content to the ACTS Conference, presenters will receive a 10% discount on a full conference registration. Presenters must register by August 26, 2020 to receive this discount.
- Current ACTS members receive additional discounts for conference registration. Membership extends to every person at a member institution or organisation. Not a member? [Learn about ACTS membership](#) and sign up today to take advantage of discounted conference rates and a multitude of other benefits.
- Proposals from for-profit organisations will not be accepted.
- Presentations cannot be sales pitches. Advertisements of a product, service or memberships to outside organisations are not allowed and will be not accepted.
- Presenters must be prepared to accept recommendations from the ACTS Conference Committee regarding any revisions that are deemed to be appropriate for the final session.
- Presenters will have the opportunity to make minor edits to accepted sessions until October 16, 2020. No edits will be accepted after this deadline.
- Acceptance of a proposal is deemed to have the approval of all presenters for uploading on the ACTS conference website. Authors retain all copyright of their materials.
- All presenters are required to complete a 2-page case study (template provided) in conjunction with their presentation, to be shared as a resource with the ACTS network.
- ACTS generally discourages using printed handouts during sessions and are happy to assist with the distribution of online resources and materials. Presenters are responsible for bringing any handouts or physical resources they wish to distribute.
- The decisions of the ACTS Conference Committee on the acceptance of proposals is final.