A Webinar for the CLEAN Community

August 27, 2019
PRESENTERS

- **Mark McCaffrey** (co-founder of CLEAN and co-focal point of ECOS)
- **Abby Ruskey** (Acting Chair of ECOS)
- **Laura Weiland** (director of the Omega Center for Sustainable Living)
- **Timothy Damon** (President of GYDI and leader of ECOS Policy Pod)
WHAT IS ECOS?

• We aspire to be:
  
  • An international network of networks for climate literacy and action
  
  • A clearinghouse of climate resources (modeled on CLEAN)
  
  • A community of professional learners and change agents supporting Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and related national/local efforts
A Brief History of Climate ECOS

- 1958 Education Materials on possible impacts of burning fossil fuels conveyed in books, films, television
- 1992- the UNFCCC includes strong language on nations developing education, training and public engagement (Article 6 of the Convention)
- 2012- the Doha Work Programme attempts to revitalize Article 6
- 2015- Article 6 rebranded as ACE- Action for Climate Empowerment
Public and Professionals benefitting from and acting on climate literacy & engagement to reduce risks, increase resilience.
How is ECOS Currently Self Organizing?
Purpose: ECOS aims to optimize the potential for safe, just, regenerative climate action
ECOS 4 P’s

...Once Upon a Time...

From Katowice to Bonn; A Story

People: Any individual or organization concerned about climate change and would like to support informed climate decision-making

Process: Membership and Leadership, Civility and Philosophy, Communication and Participation in order to Form Consensus, Draft Contributions, and Maximize Collective Impact

Product: Awareness raising, educating, tutoring, providing and sharing information, youth empowerment and capacity building
Emerging Climate Change Concerns for Indigenous Peoples

- If business as usual: rise from 2 to 4 degree centigrade by the end of the century, leading to severe, pervasive and irreversible negative impacts of people, ecosystems, biodiversity (IPCC, 2014)
- Nepal: 4th among 170 countries most vulnerable to the impacts of CC (Maplecofrt, 2011)
- Indigenous Communities are forefront to the impacts of climate change though they have been protecting the world’s remaining forest (Tauli-Corpuz et al, 2009)
Sociocracy

1. a circle of equals
   resourceful, connected, clear

2. a structure
   built-in support, transparent, flexible

3. a plan
   emergent, genuine, curious
ECOS new structure and growing ranks

Bylaws utilizing sociocracy

Roles including regional and activity leads and pods

Activities, Events, use of Trello

New logo, website, listserve
What Events Is ECOS Involved With?

- Regional Climate Conference in Bangkok, Sept 2-6
- UN “Raising Ambition” Climate Summit and related events including climate strike, Sept 20-27
- ECOS Event Sept 25- 866 UN Plaza & Online
- International Symposium on ACE in Austria Oct. 13-15
- Drawdown Learn, Oct 18-20, ECOS Retreat Oct 21-23
- COP25 in Santiago, Chile- December 2019
- Subsidiary Body for Implementation in Bonn- June 2020
- COP26 in UK, location TBD’d
Join a fast-growing network of educators, organizations, and individuals of all ages who are implementing a solutions-based approach to climate change in schools & communities.

eOmega.org/Drawdown

Free Online Participation – visit the website or contact Moirad@eOmega.org for more information.
• Jon Foley, Katharine Wilkinson & Chad Frischmann (Drawdown Team)
• Renee Lertzman (Climate Psychologist)
• Rhiana Gunn-Wright (Policy person behind the Green New Deal)
• Alexandria Villasenor, Xiye Bastida and other young climate activists
• Jamie Cloud, Frank Niepold, Jen Kretzer, Abby Ruskey, and many other experienced climate education professionals
• Hank Rogers (Blue Planet Foundation), and others working at the state level (HI, NY, NM & WA examples)-100% Renewable mandates
• Over 50 presenters in total – many to be added to the website soon!
SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Professional development**, strategy conversations, and resources
- **Free live stream** with many great sessions available
- **Satellite viewing sites**: watching the whole weekend or chose specific sessions and/or hosting community conversations
- **Media Zone with Facebook Live** sessions all day on Saturday
- **Special ECOS Session** with UNFCCC Secretariat, ACE-Climate Education, Role of ECOS in achieving Paris Agreement, Article 12
“Demystifying” Action for Climate Empowerment

Understanding the role of ACE in the UNFCCC and its U.S. context

Timothy Damon
Founder & President
Global Youth Development Institute
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<tr>
<th>ACE</th>
<th>ACTION FOR CLIMATE EMPOWERMENT</th>
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<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td>Education seeks to achieve profound, long-term changes in understanding, particularly among young people. It involves developing educational curricula, training of trainers and teachers and adequate pedagogies. The results of a successful programme would ultimately be a population whose deep-seated appreciation of the climate challenge leads to greater national action and commitment.</td>
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<td><strong>Training</strong></td>
<td>Training programmes seek to spread specific practical skills that can have an immediate practical application. Examples include the ability to gather and interpret climate data, conduct inventories of national emissions, and identify climate-friendly technologies. Training is about learning by doing – individuals, communities and organizations can all benefit from ongoing learning.</td>
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<td><strong>Public awareness</strong></td>
<td>Many governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intergovernmental organizations and UN agencies have already launched major public awareness programmes. But there remains an enormous unmet need for more outreach. Creating a successful outreach programme that truly changes behaviour involves targeted and systematic communications.</td>
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<td><strong>Public access to information</strong></td>
<td>Programmes to engage citizens and CSOs in addressing climate change can be improved by ensuring that information is freely available. This is crucial in order to develop and implement effective policies and to engage people actively in implementing these policies. Technologies such as databases and the internet facilitate the provision of climate information, data and statistics to all citizens.</td>
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<td><strong>Public participation</strong></td>
<td>By ensuring that people can participate effectively in climate change decision-making and implement climate mitigation and adaptation activities, governments should seek to integrate civil society perspectives and mobilize the general public. In some places, this will prompt profound changes to how political leaders and civil servants are accustomed to working and encourage people to be more attentive to policy-making.</td>
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<td><strong>International cooperation</strong></td>
<td>International cooperation and exchange can play a major role in strengthening ACE efforts. Many governments and relevant stakeholders need access to expertise and financial and technical resources so they can develop their own climate change programmes. All countries can benefit from sharing success stories, exchanging personnel and strengthening institutional capacity.</td>
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In this presentation...

• What has been the history of ACE in the UNFCCC?

• What is the current situation for ACE, as of the latest negotiating session (June, 2019; SB50 in Bonn)?

• What is the US context regarding ACE?

• How is ECOS contributing to the current ACE agenda?
The next 10 months are especially crucial for ACE

ACE has been at the core of UNFCCC since 1992

Various milestones have sought to advance it over the years, but many chronic gaps hinder its effectiveness

The United States has done very little to contribute to ACE within the UNFCCC context
The Timeline of ACE

Historical context, present status, and upcoming points of significance
Summary: 1992-2020

1992
Elements of ACE established in Article 6 of the Convention

1997
Kyoto Protocol mandates ACE in Article 10(e)

2002
New Delhi Work Programme on ACE commences

2012
The Doha Work Programme on ACE commences

2015
ACE included as Article 12 of the Paris Agreement

2016
Intermediate Review of DWP conducted

2018
Article 12 text adopted for the “rulebook” for the Paris Agreement

2019
Terms of Reference agreed for the Final Review of the DWP

2020
DWP concludes, Final Review conducted, next steps TBD for ACE
1992: Article 6 of the Convention

Outlines the 6 key elements of ACE:

- Education
- Training
- Awareness Raising
- Public Access to Information
- Public Participation
- International Cooperation on these Matters

Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)
1992: Article 6 of the Convention

- Links ACE to the “ultimate objective”
- National Communications include ACE
- Applies to all Parties irrespective of alignment with specific instruments under UNFCCC (i.e., Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement)
Article 10(e) of the Kyoto Protocol states that all Parties “shall” work to advance the elements of Article 6 of the Convention:

- This never applied to the United States, however, as we have not ratified the KP.
2002: The New Delhi WP

- Adopted at COP8
- Scheduled for 5 years; was extended by 5 until 2012
- Sought to provide a common framework for Parties to follow in implementing Article 6 (included that Parties appoint a National Focal Point for Article 6 activities)
- Recognized the need for financial and technical resources to achieve these goals
2012: The Doha Work Programme

Adopted at COP18

Scheduled for 2012 to 2020

Conducted an intermediate review in 2016

Built upon the NDWP with further details and recommendations
2015: The Paris Agreement

- Article 12 recognizes the importance of ACE:

  Parties shall cooperate in taking measures, as appropriate, to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information, recognizing the importance of these steps with respect to enhancing actions under this Agreement.

- It was the first article to reach consensus during the negotiations in Paris (yay!)

- But, at only 37 words, it does not detail anything about how they will implement ACE or use it under the Paris Agreement…
2016: Intermediate Review of DWP

• Parties assessed their progress so far on the DWP
• Noted a need for additional financial resources (again)
• Adopted “Action for Climate Empowerment” (ACE) as a new name to refer to actions under Article 6 (1992)
• Suggested the “Education Day” be a recurring theme during the annual COP (first was at COP22, that year)
2018: Elaborating on Article 12

- The so-called “rulebook” for the Paris Agreement included a text on implementing Article 12

- Formally linked actions on Article 6 (1992) with actions under Article 12 (2015)

- The name “ACE” will apply to actions under both articles

- Provided more basic recommendations on ACE

- Also, the first-ever youth forum on ACE was organized in Bonn, in conjunction with the SB48 session
2019: Preparing for End of DWP

• At SB50 (June), Parties agreed on how they will conduct the final review of the DWP in 2020

• Some Parties reluctant to discuss actions that will follow the DWP yet (such as another WP on ACE)

• COP25 (December) will host an Education Day and other side events, but no further ACE negotiations yet (though the SB50 text will be formally adopted there)
2020: The Future for ACE?

- **15 Feb.** Deadline for Parties and stakeholders to make submissions on the DWP final review & next steps
- **June** SB52 (Bonn) will conduct final review of DWP and negotiate the next framework for ACE
- **November** COP26 will adopt the (anticipated) outcomes from SB52

- **2020–2030** Ideally a new WP will then guide, and drastically enhance, ACE action for the 2020-2030 period
ACE and the UNFCCC

Key reflections, UNFCCC political context, the US context, and way forward for ACE
Key Reflections

Chronic lack of financial resources (at all levels)

Not a priority for most Parties during the conferences

Varying degrees of priority and organization at home

Tiny staff and budget within the UNFCCC Secretariat
Key Reflections (continued)

- Absence of tangible metrics or quantifiable targets for evaluating progress on ACE
- Insufficient linkages between Parties and stakeholders
- Lacking connection of ACE into other agenda items within the UNFCCC (finance, capacity building, global stocktaking…)}
Parties’ Positions on ACE

**Champions:**
- Dominican Republic (for G77 and China)
- Senegal (for African Group and Least Developed Countries)
- Fiji (during their mandate as the COP23 Presidency)

**Less proactive:**
- United States
- Australia
- Japan (follows lead of the other two)
ACE and the US Delegation

HAS NEVER APPOINTED A NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR ACE

TYPICALLY SENDS THEIR ROOKIE DELEGATE TO COVER ACE NEGOTIATIONS = INEXPERIENCED AND POOR CONSISTENCY

LACKING IN BASIC AWARENESS ABOUT ACE REQUIREMENTS
ACE and the US (continued)

HISTORICALLY HAS SUBTLY TRIED TO KEEP ACE FROM BECOMING MORE AMBITIOUS (E.G., WEAKER LANGUAGE)

IN 2018, THEY SPECIFICALLY BLOCKED THE ARTICLE 12 TEXT FROM MAKING LINKAGES TO OTHER RELEVANT AGENDA ITEMS (E.G., THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKING AND CLIMATE FINANCE)
More about ACE and the US…

- The US did not include ACE in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

- The US has not adopted a national strategy for ACE

- By contrast, other Parties have (e.g., the Dominican Republic’s NDC and National Development Strategy):

| Capacity Building and Youth | Recognizing the challenge, in terms of development, represented by the vision of a low emissions and resilient society, the Dominican Republic has developed a strategy, articulated in the NDS, to strengthen human resources, with emphasis on youth and future generations. To date, it has initiated the training of program trainers (120) and teachers (1200), as well as measuring the impact of the effectiveness of the strategy. |


ECOS and the ACE Agenda

ECOS will prepare a comprehensive submission on:

- Our evaluation of the DWP for the Final Review
- Our views on the ACE framework to follow the DWP

ECOS will promote this agenda through upcoming events and forge alliances with Parties & stakeholders
Enhancing ACE: The Way Forward

Need to address all the observed gaps regarding ACE

Take specific actions:
- Making robust submissions for 2020 (ECOS is on it)
- Supporting ACE champions & building political will
- Ensuring the US will not hinder progress at SB52

Should enhance cooperation within the US and strengthen our linkage to the “international cooperation” element

Host a big ACE conference in the US before SB52 (2020)?
Additional Resources

- **ECOS Website** [http://climateecos.org/](http://climateecos.org/)
- **Documents from GYDI (available upon request):**
  - “Tackling Climate Change in the Intergovernmental Arena: An Essential Primer on the UNFCCC” (GYDI, 2018)
  - “ACE Debriefing Note from SB50” (GYDI, 2019)
- **Selected Links:**
  - [Terms of Reference for the Final review of the DWP](#) (2019)
  - [Synthesis Report by UNFCCC Secretariat on ACE progress for the Intermediate Review of the DWP](#) (2016)
  - [Text of the Doha Work Programme](#) (2012)
Thank you for the Opportunity to Present

Are there any Questions, Comments or Suggestions?