

2021–2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



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RIGHT Greg's voice was featured prominently in "Zeroing In: Carbon Neutral 2050," a TV show produced in Tokyo and New York for NHK World.

COVER Coal mining at dusk against a backdrop of wind turbines.



DEAR FRIENDS,

I once asked former Secretary of Energy Steven Chu how he felt about the prospects of bending carbon curves. "Totally schizophrenic," he shrugged, describing the emotional roller coaster felt by many working on the climate crisis: from exuberance for all the possibilities and solutions, to overwhelm at the scale of our problems.

I have reflected often on that raw and honest answer through the highs and lows of the past year.

During the heady days of 2021, we felt buoyed by President Biden's approach to an equitable climate agenda. But national attention soon shifted to the pandemic and its economic fallout, derailing the President's climate ambitions. I vividly recall collapsing in my seat when I read that Senator Joe Manchin would not vote for Build Back Better.

Today, I'm feeling buoyant again due to groundbreaking legislation — the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, CHIPS and Science Act, and Inflation Reduction Act — which puts serious money and muscle into building a clean energy economy. The U.S. has reached a tipping point for mass adoption of EVs. Enthusiasm for induction cooktops and heat pumps is high. More young people are pursuing

careers in climate innovation than ever before. We can do this!

One personal source of optimism is the talented and dedicated people I have the pleasure of working with every day. We have grown our award-winning production team, who under the energetic direction of Senior Producer Brad Marshland, craft an excellent radio show and podcast every week. In the year ahead, our new Managing Director Jenny Park will be bringing professionalism and structure to building our marketing and fundraising team.



The year marked a period of huge growth, both personal and organizational. I matured enough to realize I need a stronger team and overcame my fears about raising the funding to pay for it. Our audience continues to grow dramatically, and our radio show and podcast now reach 170,000 listeners across the country each week.

Most importantly, we are thrilled to bring live events back at The Commonwealth Club. Nothing replaces being in person together on this learning journey. Our in-the-room audiences are smaller, and that's fine. Intimacy is a virtue in this new world. And we'll always leave a window open for anyone to listen and watch from anywhere in the world.

I am grateful for our donors who have stayed with us through the year's highs and lows. In a world full of uncertainty, I am certain of one thing: We haven't seen the last of this emotional roller coaster. I'm grateful you'll be riding along with us.

Warm regards,

Greg Dalton
Executive Producer and Host
Climate One from The Commonwealth Club

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

MISSION

Climate One from The Commonwealth Club is the premier platform for the conversation about the climate emergency. Through our podcast, national radio show and live convenings for thought leaders and concerned members of the public, we create opportunities for dialogue and inspire a more complete understanding of the current crisis.

VISION

We envision a world where a clear-eyed awareness of the climate crisis shapes decisions ranging from personal behavior to public policy, and where the full spectrum of humanity's wisdom, talent and expertise is marshaled toward the well-being of all life on Earth.

VALUES

- At the forefront
- Scientifically based
- Holistic
- Independent
- Inclusive and respectful
- Inspiring

PIVOTING INTO GROWTH



*Greg interviews
John Doerr and
Ryan Panchadsaram
live from The
Commonwealth Club,
December 2021*

LOOKING FORWARD

EMERGING CHALLENGED AND TRANSFORMED

In a time punctuated by piercing lows and gradual recovery, the past year has challenged communities and deepened our resilience. We've weathered the ups and downs of COVID, Russia's horrific war in Ukraine, and the reopening of our society — hesitantly and hopefully — to the people and places we care most about.

Like many workplaces, our team found creative ways to adapt to the chaos of COVID. Our longstanding focus on radio and podcast uniquely positioned us to take full advantage of a virtual work environment. We pivoted quickly from in-person to remote interviews — we even found it advantageous, tapping into deep insights from climate visionaries in Africa, Europe and Asia with a simple Zoom call. We also grew our editorial team to help bring increasingly diverse voices and nuanced reporting on interconnected climate issues.

In the end, we emerged from COVID challenged and transformed. In the year ahead, we're delighted to welcome you back to our in-person conversations at The Commonwealth Club, knowing that wherever you are in the world, you can also watch live or listen to those conversations through our videos, podcast, and radio show.

LEADING BY LISTENING

WHOM WE ARE REACHING

Now in our 15th year, Climate One is one of the longest-running podcasts and radio shows on the climate crisis. We've interviewed more than 1,000 experts working at the intersection of advocacy, policy, science and business — and it's taught us that when changing hearts and minds, facts are only one part of the equation. Finding shared values that connect our unique experiences dealing with climate is at the core of what we do, and why we do it.

Radio continues to reach more Americans than any other form of media, and continues to be our fastest-growing audience. We wrapped up Fiscal Year 2022 reaching 170,000 listeners weekly between radio and podcast — a 40 percent increase from the year before.

In an age of information overload, it's now more important to us than ever to produce engaging and insightful conversations with leaders working at the forefront of climate change. Our long-format explorations of the personal and systemic dimensions of the climate conundrum are accessible for free to a broad radio and podcast audience.

Climate One listeners share their feedback.

My Go-To Source for Climate...

LMacDonaldDC

★★★★★

Greg Dalton has just the right touch and all the right guests for understanding the climate emergency and building the courage and spirit to keep on fighting to address it. I listen when I am out walking and come home refreshed and ready to do more.



Shannon Gibson

Associate Professor (Teaching) of International Relations and Environmental Studies, University of Southern California

This Climate One podcast is a MUST listen. Adding it to my syllabus now.



Elizabeth Sturcken

Managing Director, Corporate Partnerships, Environmental Defense Fund

You are an amazing and insightful journalist Greg Dalton. The way you bring your humanity and deep listening to this challenge we are facing makes you so special.



Matt Schlegel

Consultant, Author, and Listener

Climate One is truly a must-listen for everyone, especially now that climate change has become a central issue for society at all levels — local, national and global. It is an outstanding source of information on topics that most commercial media studiously avoid. I appreciate Greg's approach, the breadth of topics and guests, and how he centers human emotions in our response to the climate crisis.



This show gives me hope

caffc

★★★★★

Despite all the terrifying and enraging info presented, the guests and the subjects give me hope. It feels like I'm getting the truth, bad and good.



not what you might be expecting

NikAndreas

★★★★★

If you think this is going to be a knee-jerk reaction to whatever is supposed to be "pro-environmental", you'll be surprised. It's really thoughtful and I always learn a lot. I appreciate that the guests have different kinds of backgrounds, and that they keep it focused on the practical (but they get the theoretical grounding in there too).



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Heather McGhee, political strategist and author

“It’s not just about cleaning up rivers and preserving charismatic animals. This is about humans and our relationship to power and how we own our power, and use our power.”



EPISODES

6 AUG 2021
[Jay Inslee, BP and Washington’s Climate Story](#)

20 AUG 2021
[Which Way Are Swing Voters Swinging on Climate?](#)

22 APR 2022
[Climate & Democracy With Jamie Raskin, Heather McGhee and Rebecca Willis](#)

29 APR 2022
[Dismantling White Supremacy to Address the Climate Crisis](#)

13 MAY 2022
[Russ Feingold on Biodiversity, Climate and the Courts](#)

EMPOWERING CONVERSATIONS

CLIMATE, DEMOCRACY AND JUSTICE

A fundamental injustice of the climate crisis is that those who have contributed to it least are already bearing the brunt of the impacts. This disparity will almost certainly continue as global temperatures rise. Like many other environmental and societal challenges, we can’t make real progress if certain groups are left behind. And so our climate and democratic systems are inextricably linked — and both are under threat.

As U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin tells Greg Dalton, “The struggle for democracy is the struggle for the truth, and for science, and to save us from climate disaster.”

In the U.S., we’ve become accustomed to climate — like nearly everything else — being politicized. But it doesn’t have to be that way. Climate One puts *people* at the center of our conversations, whether they are Democratic governors like Jay Inslee, deep thinkers like Heather McGhee, or oil industry executives like BP’s Tom Wolf.

SOLUTIONS

FINDING THE WAYS THAT WORK

The last time the atmospheric carbon dioxide level was as high as it is today was more than 3 million years ago. Back then, sea levels were 50 to 80 feet above where they are now, and temperatures were 2°–3°C higher than in the pre-industrial era. Even if we stop burning all fossil fuels immediately, humans have already emitted enough carbon that we'll continue experiencing extreme weather events for years to come.

As we look for ways to stop emitting greenhouse gases as soon as possible, we also need to look for other solutions — for adaptation and for accelerating the removal of the carbon that humans have been spewing into the air for centuries. With forests burning faster than we can grow them, nature-based solutions may not be enough. What role might tech-based solutions play? Can they be implemented in a just, equitable way that does not give license for fossil fuel interests to continue business as usual?

Fortunately, there are viable options available now. In the past year, Climate One has looked at everything from replacing gas furnaces with heat pumps to the carbon storage capacity of peat and kelp.

EPISODES

5 NOV 2021

[Geoengineering:
Who Should Control
Our Atmosphere?](#)

23 DEC 2021

[Managed Retreat:
When Climate Hits
Home](#)

29 OCT 2021

[Electrify Everything](#)

7 JAN 2022

[John Doerr and Ryan
Panchadsaram: An
Action Plan for
Solving Our Climate
Crisis Now](#)

4 MAR 2022

[Peat, Kelp and Trees:
Nature-Based
Carbon Capture](#)

11 MAR 2022

[Turning Air Into
Stone: Tech-Based
Carbon Removal](#)



Edward Struzik, research fellow and author, photographs a mountain peatland in the Rockies.

“Peatlands, which represent only about 3 percent of the world’s terrestrial surface, store twice as much carbon as all the world’s forests combined. So, as carbon storage reservoirs they’re unmatched.”

Jessica Hernandez,
scientist and author

“In order for us to create more justice and just solutions that are more holistic and will address our past histories, it’s important to incorporate those lived experiences, to incorporate those stories.”



EPISODES

27 AUG 2021

[Should We Have Children in a Climate Emergency?](#)

1 OCT 2021

[Katharine Hayhoe on Hope and Healing](#)

15 OCT 2021

[Zen and Coping With Climate](#)

25 MAR 2022

[Coping With COVID and Climate Fatigue](#)

20 MAY 2022

[Coping With Climate Through Music](#)

27 MAY 2022

[Indigenous Insights on Healing Land and Sky](#)

CONNECTING PERSONALLY

FINDING THE HEART TO TALK ABOUT CLIMATE

How do we manage our anxiety around an uncertain climate future — let alone help our children work through their feelings and fears? Climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe says we should start conversations from the heart, not the head, in order to drive action on climate change.

“If we begin a conversation by esteeming the other person rather than implicitly judging them, like so many conversations begin today, that conversation starts off with so much potential and can end in an incredibly surprising place,” Hayhoe says.

From simple, human interactions to zen practices to creating music to learning from Indigenous knowledge, there is no shortage of deeply resonant touchpoints that can help us deal with uncertainty, fear and grief. In every Climate One conversation, we aim to connect the personal to the systemic — and back to the personal. It all begins with forming connections and speaking from the heart.

SURPRISING CONNECTIONS

CLIMATE TOUCHES EVERYTHING

A central premise of Climate One is that climate touches everything. It's why we can talk about sustainable aviation fuels one week and cow poop the next. We live in an inherently interconnected world, where every human action may have both intended and unintended consequences. In connecting all aspects of the climate crisis, we routinely delve into thorny questions such as "Should We Have Children in a Climate Emergency?" and "Can We Get Clean Energy Without Dirty Mines?"

The answers aren't always easy. "You can't tell someone who's been working ... over 25 years, trained to work in a [fossil fuel] plant, oh, you're gonna go build a wind farm. It doesn't work that way," says Yvette Pena-O'Sullivan with the Laborers' International Union of North America.

And yet, by connecting the ideas of electrification to environmental justice, the advertising industry to the shifting climate narrative, and hiking to capitalism, for example, we deepen our audience's understanding of the most critical issue of our time.

EPISODES

12 NOV 2021

[Climbing, Conservation and Capitalism](#)

28 JAN 2022

[State of the Unions: Navigating Job Creation and Destruction](#)

11 FEB 2022

[The Enablers: The Firms Behind Fossil Fuel Falsehoods](#)

25 FEB 2022

[Cow Poop and Compost: Digesting the Methane Menace](#)

8 APR 2022

[Can Can We Get Clean Energy Without Dirty Mines?](#)

15 APR 2022

[Breaking Down Climate Misinformation With Amy Westervelt and John Cook](#)



Maureen Penjueli, coordinator, Pacific Network on Globalisation (front), paddles in a Va'a, a traditional Polynesian canoe race. Penjueli's team, the Deep Sea Minders, used the occasion to raise awareness about ocean health and threats from deep sea mining.

THE SCHNEIDER AWARD



ABOVE Top: 2021 Schneider Award winner Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson.
Bottom: Dr. Stephen H. Schneider, a pioneering communicator of climate change science who clearly explained the effects of climate disruption while contributing much of the foundational science through which we understand climate change today.

ABOUT THE AWARD

THE STEPHEN H. SCHNEIDER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CLIMATE SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

In 2011, Climate One founded the annual Stephen H. Schneider Award for Outstanding Science Communication. Named in honor of Dr. Stephen H. Schneider (1945–2010), the \$15,000 award recognizes a natural or social scientist who has made extraordinary scientific contributions and communicated that knowledge to the public in a clear and compelling fashion.

Amid an increasing surge in misinformation, now is the time to bring clear, scientific climate communication to the forefront. Climate One has had the honor of elevating a cohort of science communicators over the last 10 years. We look forward to continuing the tradition into the next decade and beyond.

2021 AWARD WINNER

DR. AYANA ELIZABETH JOHNSON

Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson is a marine biologist, policy expert, writer, and Brooklyn native. She is co-founder of Urban Ocean Lab. *Outside* magazine called her “the most influential marine biologist of our time.” Her mission is to build community around solutions to our climate crisis.

We are thrilled to present this year’s award to Dr. Johnson, who exemplifies the rare combination of superb scientist and powerful communicator in the legacy of Stephen Schneider.

11 YEARS OF SCHNEIDER AWARD WINNERS



2021
Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson
Marine Biologist;
Co-founder, The All We Can Save Project



2020
Dr. Anthony Leiserowitz
Director and Senior Research Scientist, Yale Program on Climate Change Communication



2020
Dr. Edward Maibach
Director, George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication



2019
Dr. Robert Bullard
Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy, Texas Southern University



2018
Dr. Katharine Hayhoe
Professor and Director, Climate Center, Texas Tech University



2017
Dr. Michael Mann
Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science, Penn State University



2016
Dr. Naomi Oreskes
Professor of History of Science and Affiliated Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Harvard University



2015
Dr. Chris Field
Director Emeritus, Department of Global Ecology, Carnegie Institution for Science



2014
Dr. Jane Lubchenco,
Distinguished Professor, Oregon State University



2013
Dr. Nicholas Stern
Chair, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change, The London School of Economics and Political Science



2012
Dr. James Hansen
Director, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies



2011
Dr. Richard Alley
Professor of Geosciences, Penn State University

BY THE NUMBERS

2021–2022 FISCAL YEAR

CLIMATE ONE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB



INCOME



EXPENSE



Climate One fiscal year July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022

*Due to GAAP accounting rules, the timing of multiyear grants can cause deficits or surpluses in certain fiscal years.

SUPPORTERS AND TEAM

STEWARDS

- Anonymous
- Larry Birenbaum
- Peter Boyer and Terry Gamble Boyer
- Tom Burns and Nora Machado
- Al Davis
- Bill and Kate Duhamel
- Mike Haas
- Mike Krautkramer and Dorian Daley
- Mark Kriss
- Paul Klingenstein and Kathleen Bole
- Dee Lawrence
- Noel Perry
- Toni Rembe
- Arthur Rock
- Tony Stayner

CLIMATE RIDERS

- Thank you for riding with team Climate One!*
- Stephen Ames
- Emma-Louise Anderson
- Christina Beckmann
- Dave Howes
- David Marsland
- Charlie Vogelheim
- Katherine Wendelsdorf
- Mark Woollen

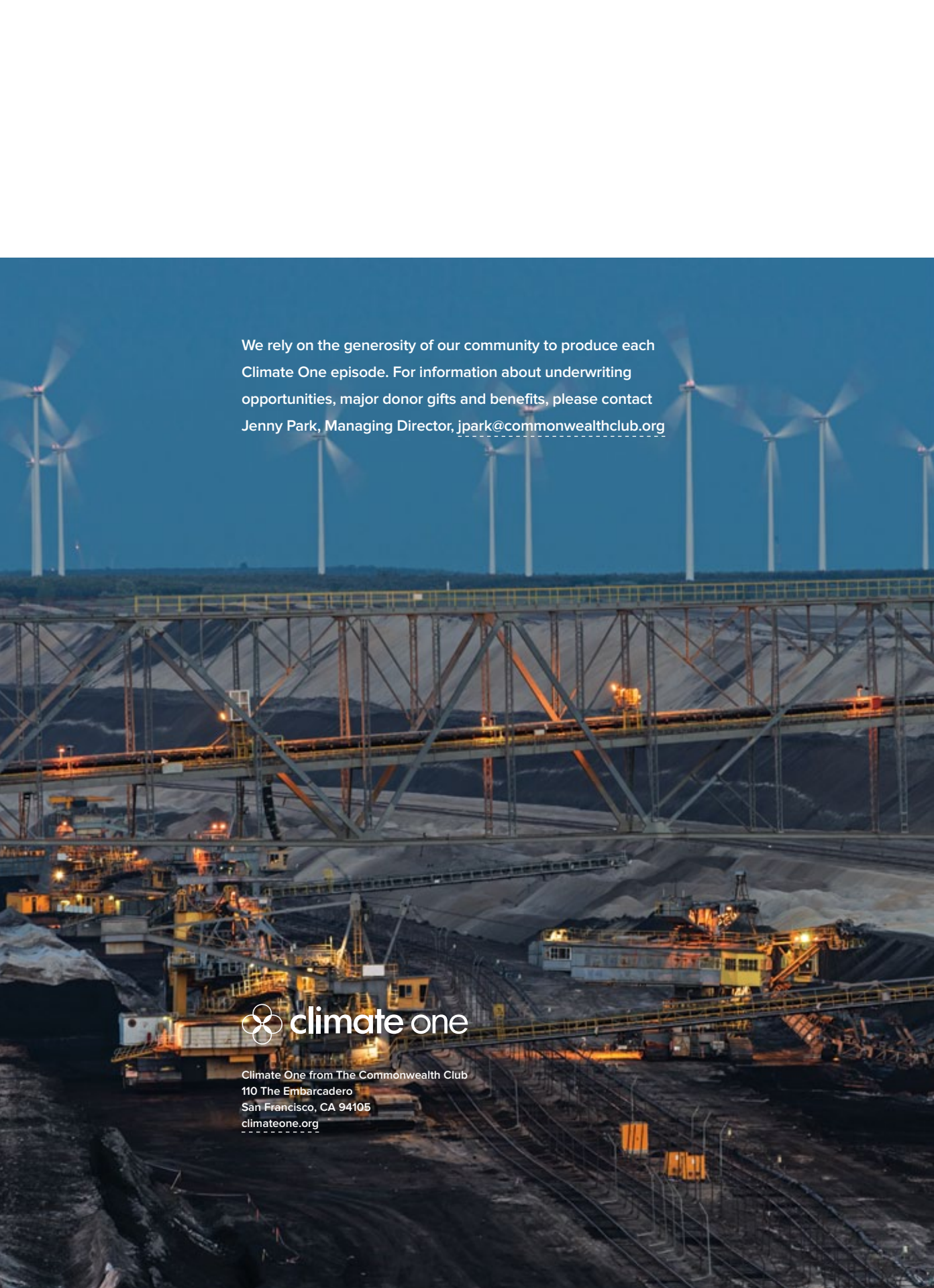
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- Resources Legacy Fund
- Seed Fund
- Sempercor Foundation
- Sidney E. Frank Foundation
- Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation

TEAM

- CLIMATE ONE
- Megan Bisciegli
Production Manager
- Ariana Brocious
Producer and Editor
- Austin Colón
Audio Editor and Producer
- Greg Dalton
Founder and Host
- Brad Marshland
Senior Producer
- Jenny Park
Managing Director
- THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB
- Dr. Gloria Duffy
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- Matt Webber

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We rely on the generosity of our community to produce each Climate One episode. For information about underwriting opportunities, major donor gifts and benefits, please contact Jenny Park, Managing Director, jpark@commonwealthclub.org



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