

Melbourne Climate Futures

Strategic Plan
2021 - 2025



Contents

• Our purpose, vision & goals	3
• Our strategy	4
• Platform - leveraging UoM research to accelerate action	5
• Portal - expertise & knowledge translation	6
• Pathway - future leaders & leadership	7
• Our priorities:	8
• Accelerating the transition	9
• Building the next generation	11
• Walking the talk	12
• Our team	13
• Connect with us	14

Melbourne Climate Futures acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work, learn and live.

Our purpose, vision & goals



Purpose

MCF's purpose is to drive UoM's leadership role on one of the greatest and urgent global challenges of our time – the future of our planet, and our society, with climate change.

Vision

We will accelerate the transition to a positive climate future, focusing our efforts both nationally and globally, with particular attention to serving our growing Indo-Pacific region.

Goals

We will become a leading voice in Australia, the Indo-Pacific region and globally, that brings about greater action on climate change by:

- Leveraging UoM's research capability and expertise, convening power and partnerships for meaningful impact
- Creating and sharing research, knowledge, and leadership on climate to external stakeholders and end-users
- Building and empowering the next generation of climate students and researchers to become leaders with the skills, knowledge, and networks to address the climate challenge

Our strategy



MCF supports UoM's *Advancing Melbourne 2030 Strategy's* ambitions, spanning all five themes: Place, Community, Discovery, Education, Global.

MCF has three strategic objectives.

- **Platform:** leveraging the breadth and depth of UoM's climate research capability, convening power and partnerships for meaningful impact
- **Portal:** enabling access to UoM climate research and expertise for external stakeholders and research end-users to collaborate, including in the Indo-Pacific region
- **Pathway:** empowering the next generation of researchers and students to strive for a sustainable climate future, while also working with UoM to ensure it is a world leader in decarbonisation

Platform - leveraging UoM research to accelerate action



MCF is a platform that connects, profiles and amplifies UoM's climate research, which extends across *all* faculties, schools, and departments.

How we will enable this:

- **Research themes:** collaborating with leadership from UoM faculty-based researchers to enable MCF's 10 thematic research programs
- **UoM institutes/centres:** partnering with UoM institutes and centres for energy, Indigenous knowledge, community resilience, creative arts and leadership
- **Climate Futures Research Cluster:** growing the Cluster over time as a community
- **Climate Research Accelerator (CRX):** funding the CRX program to support new climate research and research end-users
- **Health Environment Research & Action (HERA) Collaborative:** supporting research into the health effects of climate change
- **Engagement:** amplifying this work through web content, publications, media, podcasts, seminars and strategic events

Portal - expertise & knowledge translation



MCF is a portal for external stakeholders and research end-users to access UoM climate research and expertise for collaboration, with a focus on the Indo Pacific region.

How we will enable this:

- **Indo-Pacific Climate Adaptation Hub:** creating a Hub to enable research, knowledge-sharing and leadership on adaptation, resilience and justice in the Indo-Pacific region
- **Sustainable Finance program:** building sustainable finance tools and pathways to mobilise finance for low-carbon economic transition
- **Australian and Pacific Climate Change Litigation Database:** tracking Australian and regional climate litigation to inform decision-makers in the public, private and non-government sectors
- **Engagement:** amplifying this work through web content, publications, media, podcasts, seminars and strategic events

Pathway - future leaders & leadership



MCF is a pathway to develop and empower the next generation of researchers and students to strive for a sustainable climate future, and work alongside UoM itself to ensure the institution is a world leader in decarbonisation.

How we will enable this:

- **MCF Academy:** building the Academy to nurture the next generation of climate experts and leaders through a diverse intellectual and interdisciplinary community
- **UoM carbon targets:** leading by example with ambitious UoM carbon targets, advising on the UoM Sustainability Plan 2030, and using the campus as a living lab for innovation on decarbonisation
- **Partnering on key climate projects:** working with and supporting the Climate Reality Project and the Wattle Fellowship program
- **Engagement:** amplifying this work through web content, publications, media, podcasts, seminars and strategic events

Our priority areas



MCF key priorities fall under the following three domains:

1. Accelerating the transition
2. Building the next generation
3. Walking the talk

Accelerating the transition



Indo-Pacific Climate Adaptation Hub

By 2025, MCF will create a hub for enabling research, knowledge-sharing and leadership on adaptation, resilience, and justice in the Indo-Pacific region to realise a positive climate future.

Closer engagement with Indo-Pacific countries is key to transforming towards positive climate futures. Australia has an opportunity to take a leading role in this collaboration. The Hub will be a resource for all countries to share experiences and knowledge for urgent action in this decade.

The Hub will adopt co-design principles to identify and implement the activities within each of these focus areas. This co-design approach will support the sustainability of efforts and enable genuine partnerships.

Accelerating the transition (cont.)

Climate Futures Research Cluster

The Climate Futures Research Cluster cultivates a network of cross-disciplinary climate change researchers across UoM and connects climate change practitioners, researchers, and the broader public.

The Climate Futures Research Cluster has the following objectives:

- Strengthen relations within and between UoM faculties and research institutes on climate-related research
- Create a network of cross-disciplinary climate change researchers for collaborative research grant development
- Connect researchers at UoM to external research funding partners (academic, industry and government)
- Provide a portal and focal point for climate change practitioners, the public, and academics both at and beyond UoM
- Support research training and early career researchers at UoM

Climate Research Accelerator (CRX)

MCF's Climate Research Accelerator (CRX) has awarded 'sapling' funding in 2021 to eight diverse projects that bring together interdisciplinary teams from across the University with a range of external partners.

The CRX is designed to support projects that have a level of establishment and can demonstrate high likelihood of making an immediate impact on the climate problem.

CRX projects are led by researchers from faculties right across UoM.

Building the next generation



MCF Academy and doctoral program

The MCF Academy is an international team of early career researchers that conduct climate and energy systems research in an interdisciplinary research hub.

The MCF Academy's doctoral program will offering strategic scholarships for MCF-supported PhD students recruited in priority areas.

The MCF Academy will form a more diverse intellectual and interdisciplinary community, drawing from all areas across the UoM disciplines and faculties, promoting a rich exchange of ideas.

The MCF Academy is based in Melbourne Connect.

Wattle Fellowship (partner)

The Wattle Fellowship is UoM's co-curricula program for students to foster leadership on global sustainability.

The fellowship focuses on multidisciplinary approaches, transformative leadership, and practical skills development.

Climate Reality Project (partner)

Launched in 2006, the Climate Reality Project aims to catalyse a global solution to the climate crisis.

The Australia, New Zealand and Pacific branch works to turn the growing awareness of the danger of climate change in the region into support for action.

Walking the talk



UoM Sustainability Plan

MCF works with the UoM Sustainability Group to develop new carbon targets and coordinate inputs for the *UoM Sustainability Plan 2030*.

MCF continues to participate in implementation of the Sustainability Plan, particularly its decarbonisation strategies.

UoM Green Impact

MCF is also participating team in the University-wide Green Impact engagement program, which encourages teams to drive the sustainability agenda across our campuses through collectively making real change and achieving the targets in the Sustainability Plan.

Our team



- Director – **Professor Jackie Peel**
(climate & environmental law)
- Deputy Director, Knowledge Translation & Policy Impact –
Professor Kathryn Bowen (public health & climate)
- Deputy Director, Strategic Partnerships & Community Impact –
Associate Professor Ben Neville
(sustainable business & corporate social responsibility)
- Research Fellow – **Rebekkah Markey-Towler**
(climate & corporate law)
- Research Fellow – **Annabelle Workman**
(air quality & energy transitions)

Connect with us



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twitter.com/MCFunimelb



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(search 'Melbourne Climate Futures')



www.unimelb.edu.au/climate/cop26/podcast-climate-talks