Career Day

Finding work in the climate space

Assignments

Keep working on your projects!

Climate change in the news

Climate change in the news

Allbirds touts world's first net-zero carbon shoe

Allbirds is claiming that it has created the world's first net-zero carbon shoe, without the use of offsetting.

The US-based footwear and apparel brand has not yet launched the shoe, called M0.0NSHOT, for purchase, but has provided key information on how design and material innovation have resulted in a net-zero shoe.

Some parts of the shoe's lifecycle do emit carbon, such as transporting the components and the finished pair. However, as all of the key components are certified as carbon negative, Allbirds claims that the emissions which have been created are 'inset' across the lifecycle of the shoe.

The shoe's upper is made using a carbon-negative merino wool from the New Zealand Merino Company, for example. The Company uses regenerative farming methods to enable the soil to draw down carbon. It has been certified as carbon-negative by Toitu Envirocare, a third-party carbon certification business, with carbon sequestration outweighing emissions.

Other carbon-negative elements of the shoe include bioplastic eyelets made using methane-based polymers and sugarcane-based foam midsoles. Allbirds has been using carbon-negative, sugarcane-based foam for soles since 2018 and calls this material SweetFoam. The new shoes include a next-generation version of this material, called SuperLight Foam.

Additionally, the shoes will be housed in sugarcane-derived, carbon-negative packaging which has been light-weighted to minimise emissions from transportation.

The average pair of shoes comes with a life-cycle carbon footprint of 14kg of CO2e, and more than 20 billion pairs of new shoes are manufactured globally each year. Many shoe designs bear a high carbon footprint due to their use of leather and/or synthetic, fossil-based glues, foams and materials.

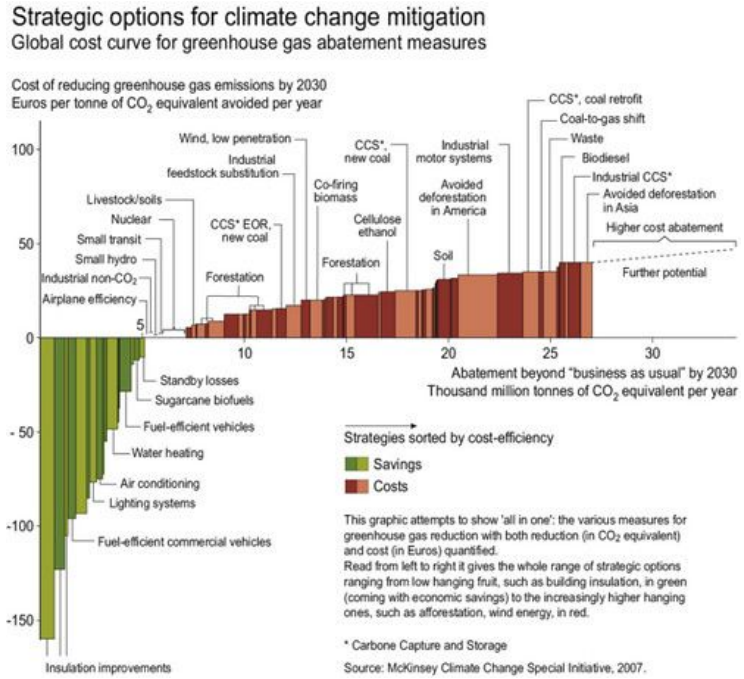
This week, a new scorecard from Stand.earth assessed 43 apparel and footwear companies on their work to descarbonise their value chains. None of the brands received a top grade, and two-thirds received one of the two lowest grades.

One key focus was the use of energy in supply chains, with the conclusion being that many big-name brands, despite publicly stating net-zero ambitions, are doing little to transition suppliers off of coal and on to clean energy. Stand.earth's methodology also covered emissions from shipping, the use of low-carbon and more durable materials, and whether brands were advocating for renewable energy policies.

Brands to have scored one of the two lowest grades include Walmart, Target, Primark, Amazon, Under Armour, Armani, Guess, Chanel, Prada, Boohoo, Shein and Uniqlo's parent company Fast Retailing.

Allbirds only managed to secure a 'D+ grade. It scored highly for its clean energy procurement and commitments but lost marks elsewhere. The top-scoring company overall was H&M Group, closely followed by Levi's and Puma.

Recap



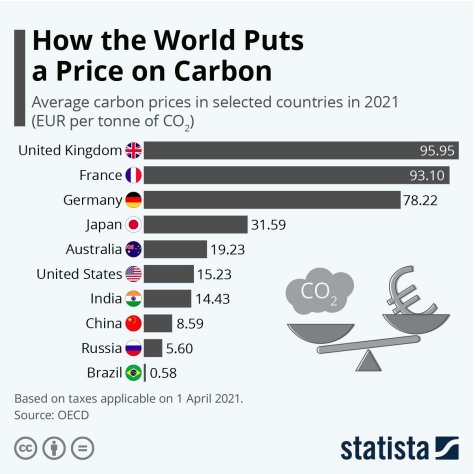


Table 1: Examples of Question-Answer pairs from our corpus

TCFD Question	Answer Passage
Does the organization describe the board's (or board committee's) oversight of climate-related risks and/or opportunities?	*The Company's Audit Committee has the delegated risk management oversight responsibility and receives updates on the risk management processes and key risk factors on a quarterly basis.*
Does the organization describe the climate-related risks or opportunities the organization has identified?	*The availability and price of these commodities are subject to factors such as changes in weather conditions, plantings, and government policies*

Alex Steffen, Climate Writer - *The Snap Forward*

> “We don’t get to choose whether the context of all our work is an unprecedented, all-encompassing planetary crisis. It simply is. There is nowhere to stand outside of it. We can pretend that’s not true — insist that our lives or work or special concerns will remain untouched by ecological catastrophe and societal upheaval — but in the long run, we’re just fooling ourselves.”

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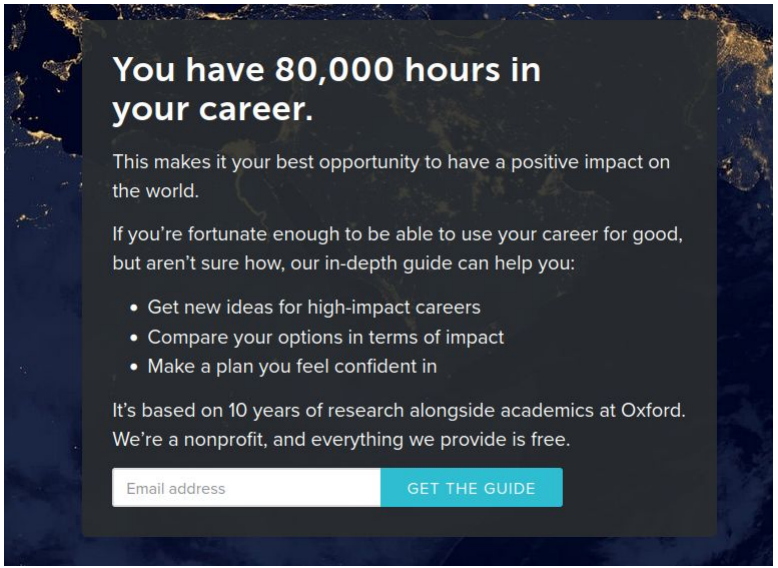
Your career is your biggest chance to make an impact



https://80000hours.org/

Climate career pathways

- Regardless of your job, engage in climate action and activism
- Work directly on something else but bring awareness and action on climate to your job
- Work directly on climate change

Climate action outside of work

Non-profits working on climate issues

- Clean Air Task Force
- Earthjustice
- Conservation International
- CarbonFund
- Environmental Defense Fund
- many more!

Climate action outside of work

Political organizing

- Citizens' Climate Lobby
- League of Conservation Voters
- Extinction Rebellion
- People's Climate Movement

ANNALS OF A WARMING PLANET

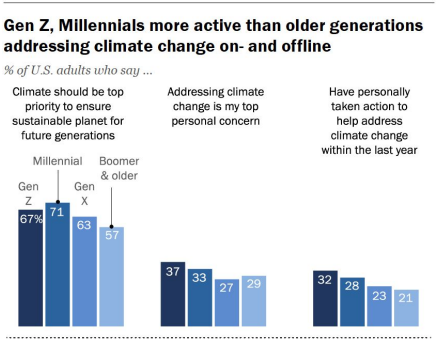
THE ANSWER TO CLIMATE CHANGE IS ORGANIZING

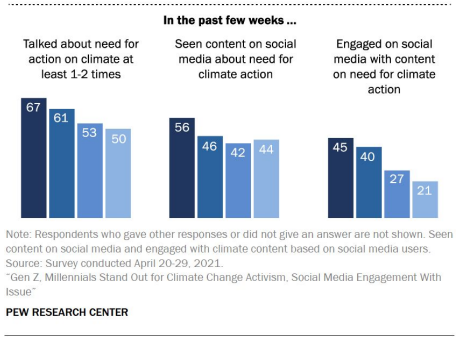
Dealing with global warming is always going to be about the balance of power.

By Bill McKibben
September 1, 2021

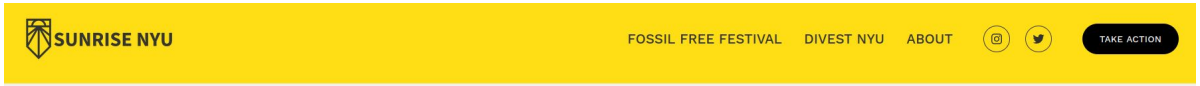
REPORT | MAY 26, 2021

Gen Z, Millennials Stand Out for Climate Change Activism, Social Media Engagement With Issue





Climate action outside of work



Sunrise NYU is a community of powerful young people fighting for a Green New Deal.

When people rise up they can be an unstoppable force for good. We are the official Sunrise Movement hub for New York University; a diverse group of dedicated students pushing for change.

Affordability Steering Committee
Academic Space Projects
2040 Now
- 2040 Now Events Calendar
- Apply Now
- 2040 Now Center
- Resources & More
- NYU's Commitment

NYU in Brooklyn
NYUWomxn100

Be a climate optimist!

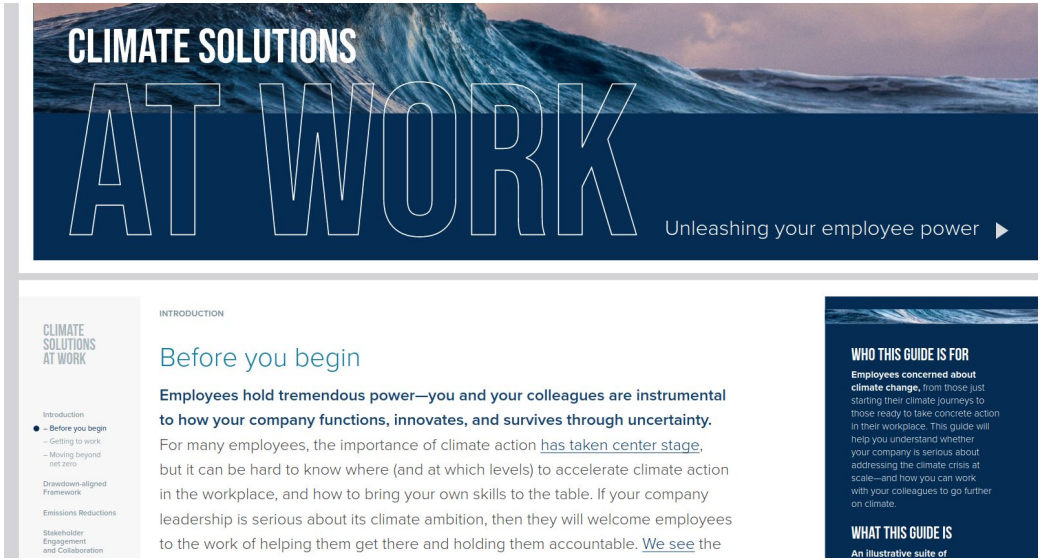
2040 NOW Take Climate Action

NYU plans to be climate neutral by 2040. Join us April 17-21 for ***2040 Now***—a University-wide initiative where we explore our community response to the challenge of climate change through community challenges, big events, exhibitions, competitions, and much more.

Through meaningful climate action, including both individual choices and societal involvement, our community can help create a climate-stable future, be healthier and happier, and have fun making change—together.

Sustainability is not a spectator sport. We hope to see you at one of the many events and programs below!

“Every job is a climate job”



https://drawdown.org/publications/climate-solutions-at-work

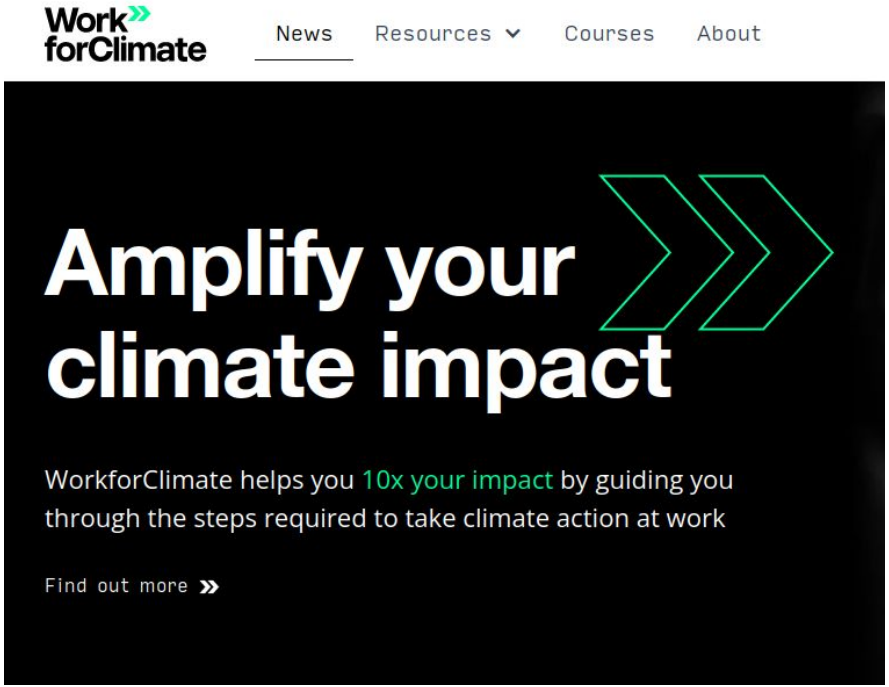
“Every job is a climate job”

	STATUS QUO	DRAWDOWN–ALIGNED
Emissions Reductions	Promises distant “net zero by 2050” commitment with reliance on offsets and no interim targets.	Moves on an accelerated timeline with interim targets and reduced reliance on offsets.
Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration	Internal climate work is limited to sustainability teams and external engagement is primarily focused on investors.	Employees, communities, board members, and more are included.
Products, Partnerships, and Procurement	Products, partnerships, and procurement (the three Ps) are misaligned with climate commitments.	The three Ps are aligned with a company’s sustainability strategy.
Investments and Financing	Corporate investments and employee retirement plans are misaligned with climate goals.	Business is fully divested from fossil fuels and invested in climate solutions.
Climate Disclosures	A lack of transparency on emissions and climate-related risks is the norm.	Public emissions and climate risk disclosures occur on a regular basis.
Climate Policy Advocacy	Corporate and trade associations are known to lobby against climate policy.	Lobbying and contributions support bold climate policy, including alignment from trade associations.
Business Model Transformation	Sustainability is an under-resourced add-on to the core business of the company.	Business models always shift center on scaling climate solutions.
Long-term Thinking	Business is focused on growth and quarterly returns.	Uses business influence to promote justice and shift economic paradigms to fit within planetary boundaries.

Where we are and where we need to go

Private-sector climate targets need to meet the global climate crisis at scale. Companies can become “drawdown-aligned” by meeting all of the requirements outlined in this guide.

“Every job is a climate job”



CLIMATE CHANGEMAKERS

Case study: How one employee got a climate-friendly option added to her company’s 401(k)

When Camille Smith realised that her company's default 401(k) portfolio (essentially, the American version of a superannuation fund) was lacking in environmentally conscious fund options, she decided to do something about it. Here's how her persistence paid off in making climate-friendly investing available to everyone at her company.

GETTING STARTED

4 pressing climate questions to ask your CEO right now

Ask questions. Get your boss to take climate action seriously. Simple.

https://www.workforclimate.org/

“Every job is a climate job”

Neuron
NeuroView

How Can Neuroscientists Respond to the Climate Emergency?

Adam R. Aron,[1,*] Richard B. Ivry,[2] Kate J. Jeffery,[3] Russell A. Poldrack,[4] Robert Schmidt,[5] Christopher Summerfield,[6,*] and Anne E. Urai[7]
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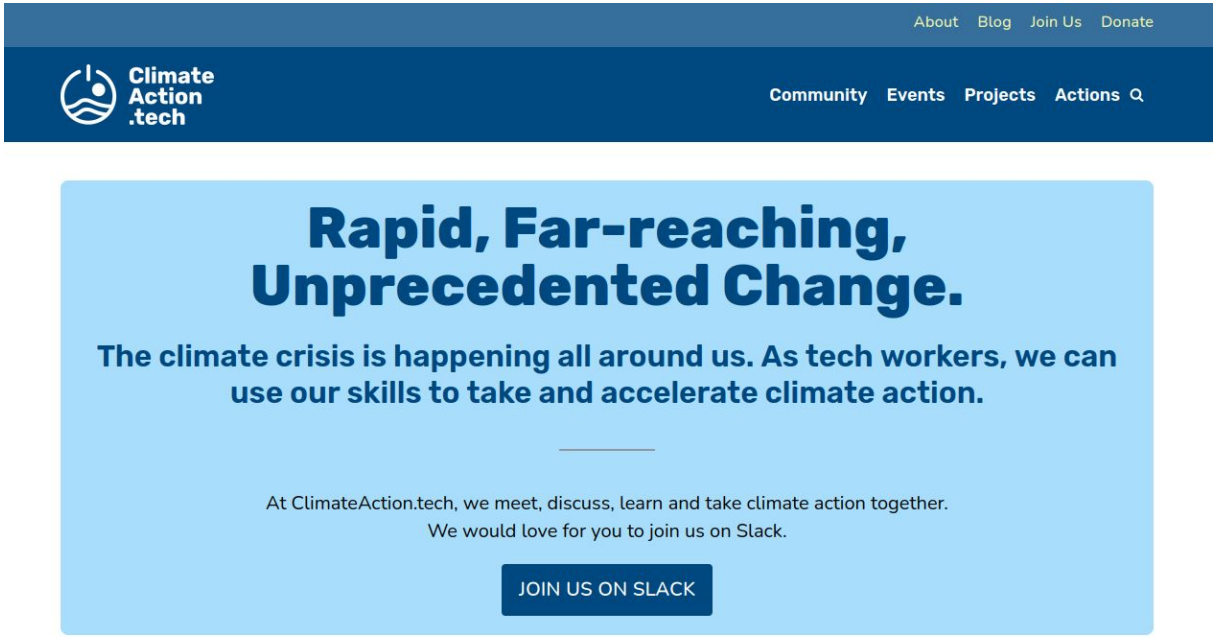
[7]Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA
*Correspondence: adamaron@ucsd.edu (A.R.A.), christopher.summerfield@psy.ox.ac.uk (C.S.)
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2020.02.019

The world faces a climate emergency. Here, we consider the actions that can be taken by neuroscientists to tackle climate change. We encourage neuroscientists to put emissions reductions at the center of their everyday professional activities.

Profession-specific resources are becoming more common

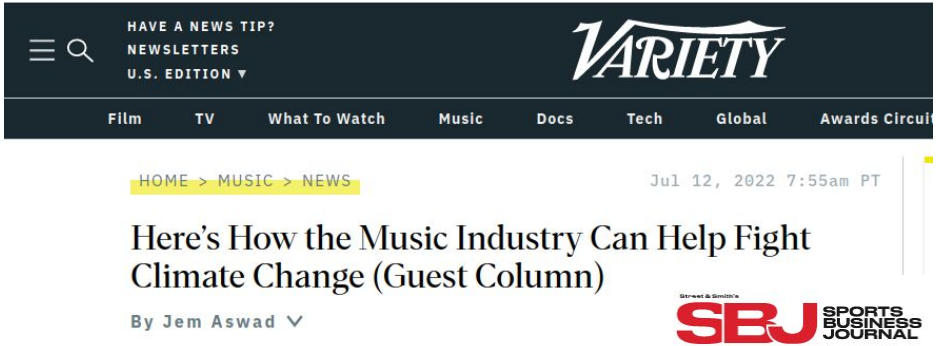
“Every job is a climate job”



Profession-specific resources are becoming more common

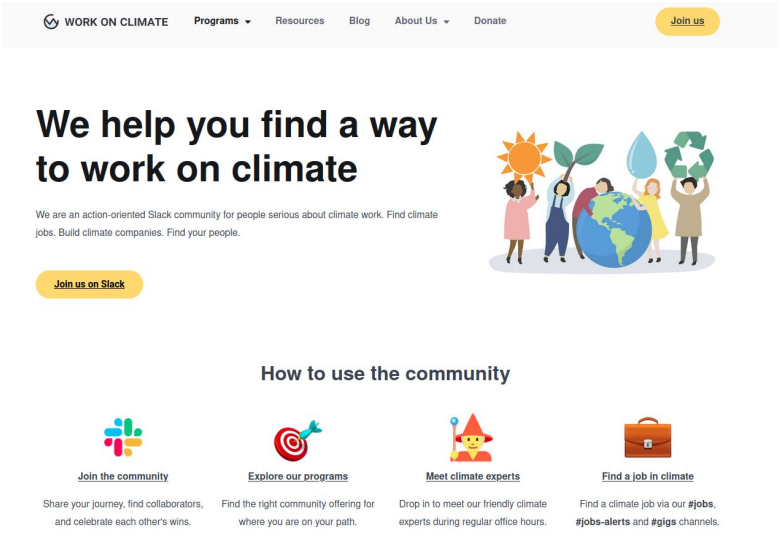
https://climateaction.tech/

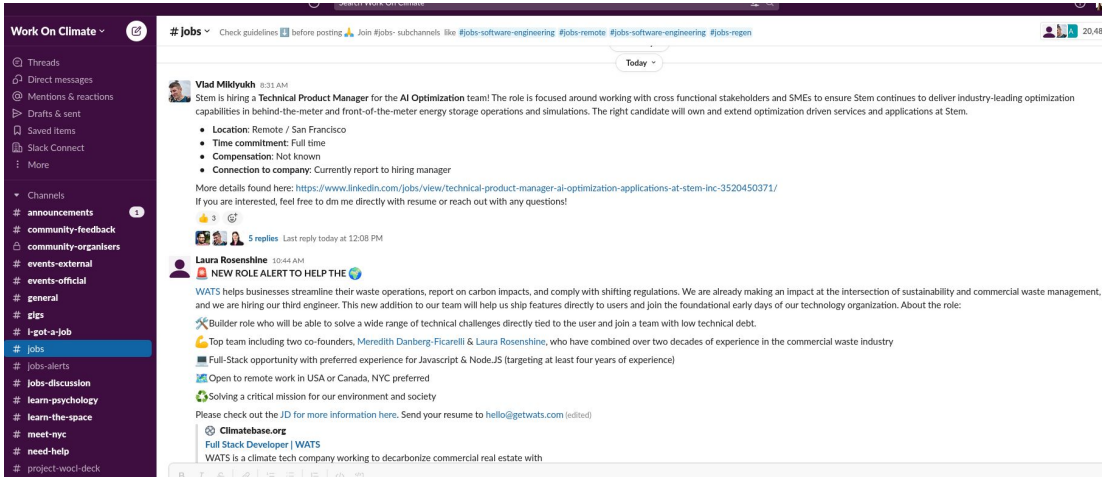
“Every job is a climate job”



Profession-specific resources are becoming more common

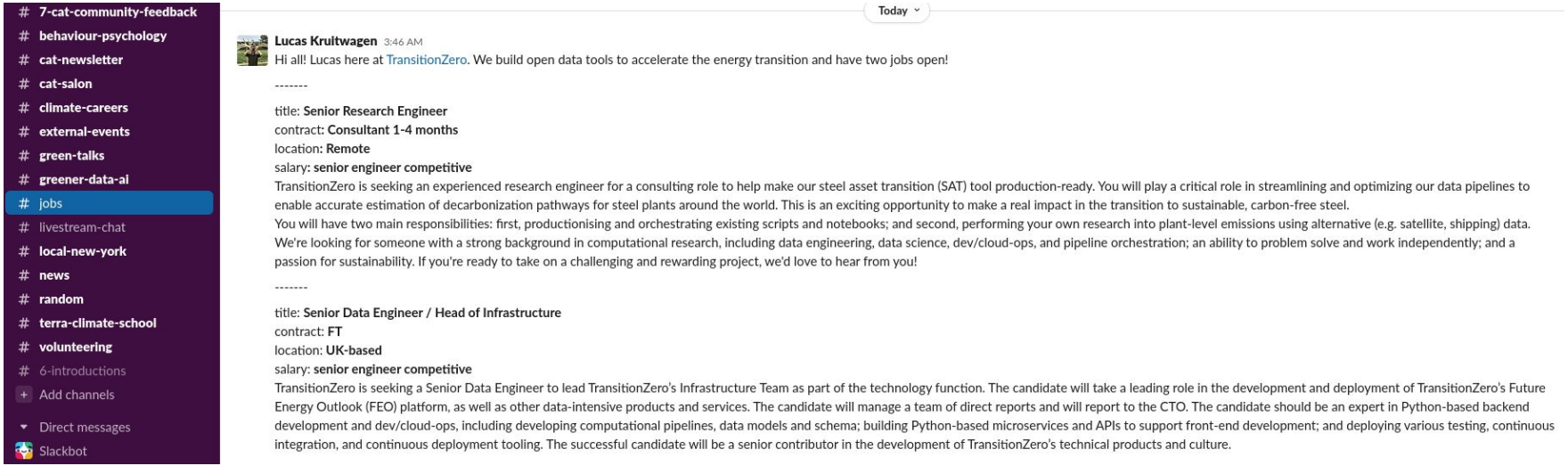
Working on climate





Central Hub: https://workonclimate.org/

Working on climate



https://climateaction.tech/

Working on climate

Job boards:

https://climatebase.org/

https://terra.do/climate-jobs/job-board/

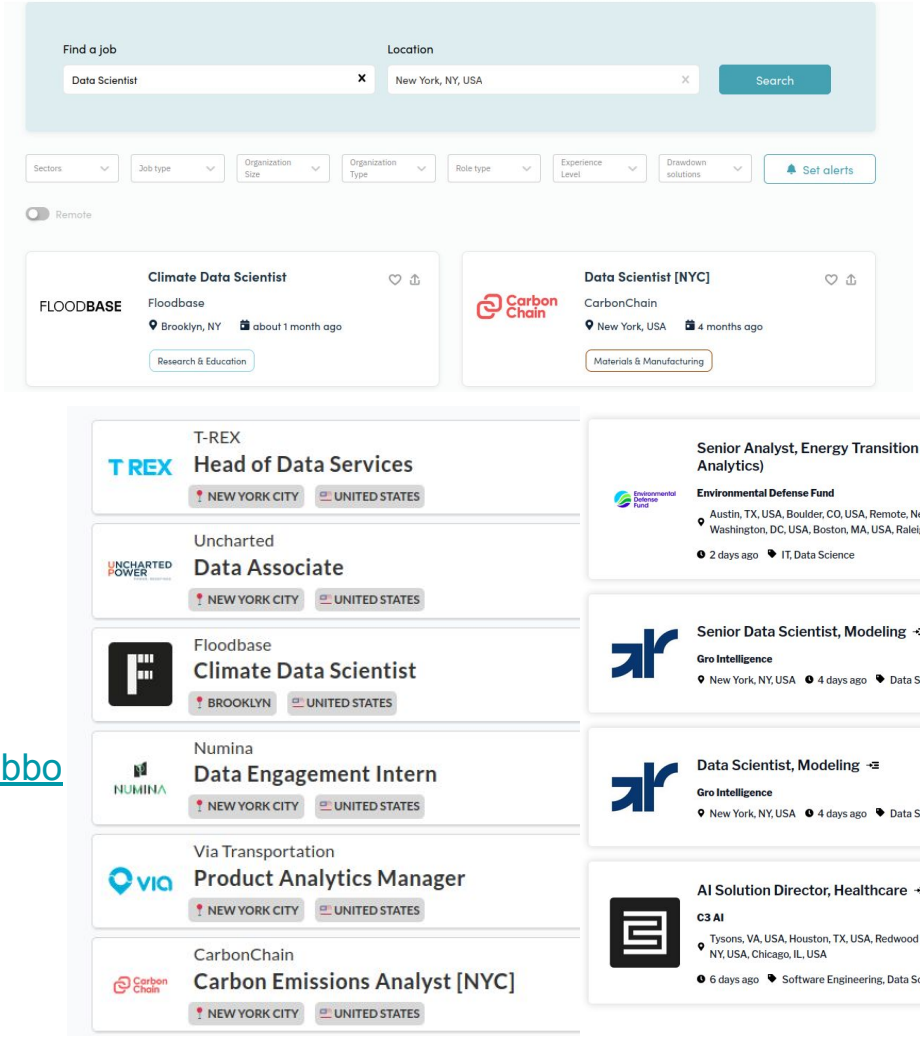
https://www.climatejobslist.com

https://www.climatepeople.com/

Freelance: https://www.leafr.work/

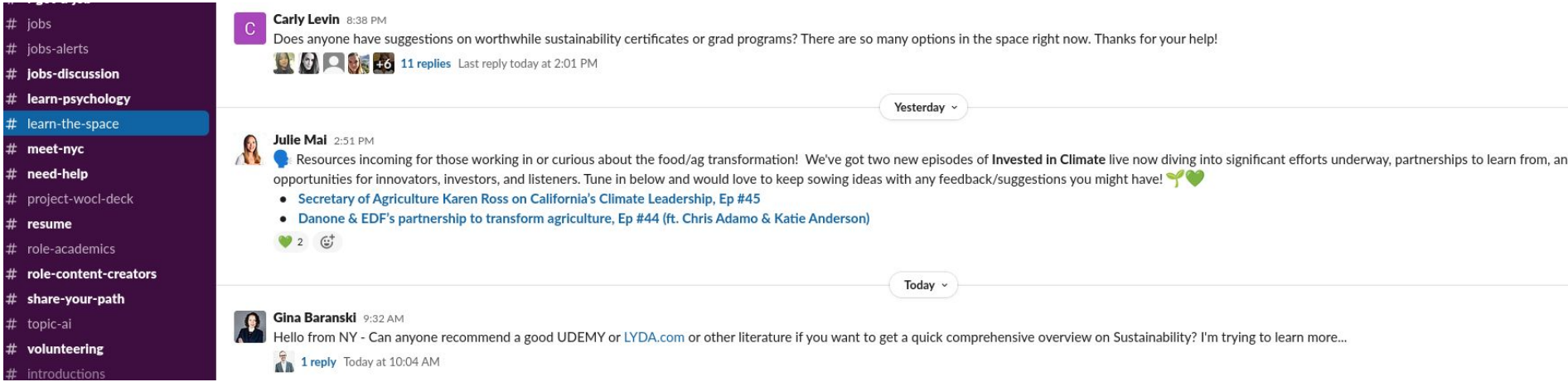
and more!

https://www.climatetechcareers.com/#jobboards



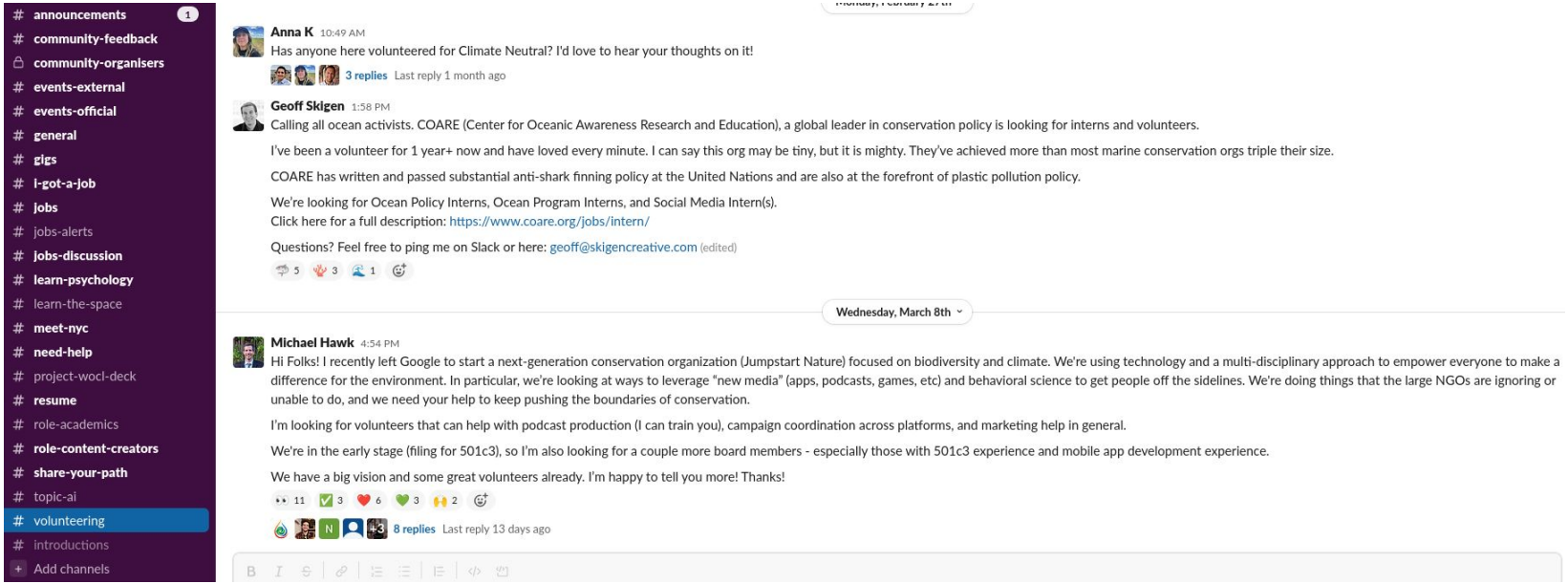
Working on climate

Communities help with resumes, interviews, skill learning etc.



Working on climate

You can also look for volunteer or internship opportunities to skill up



Learning more and networking

Terra.do School - https://terra.do/

One Point Five Academy - https://www.opf.degree/opf-academy

Airminers Boot-up - https://airminers.org/learn

Climatematch Academy - https://academy.climatematch.io/

Climate Change AI summer school - https://www.climatechange.ai/events/summer_school

Starting a company

My Climate Journey community and podcast: https://www.mcjcollective.com/

Subak fellowship and accelerator: https://subak.org/get-involved

Resources for all stages: https://climatefounder.org/

Career Panel

Vivek Ramavajjala is the founder of Excarta, a startup using AI to improve weather forecasting accuracy. Previously, he worked at DeepMind and Google Research, working on applying ML to real-world problems like improving search results for low-volume languages, and more efficient usage of datacenters. He enjoys working on problems where AI research can be applied to have tangible benefits, and that AI can contribute greatly to tackling climate change.

Emma Greer and Bishoy Kaleny work at Climateflux. At Climateflux, we work at the intersection of microclimatology and urban studies, employing data science to study outdoor comfort and its dynamics in high spatiotemporal resolution. Our team of architects, data engineers, and machine learning specialists combines data-driven and human-centred workflows to understand and improve the urban microclimate and quality of the urban experience. Our clients - architects, city planners, real estate developers, municipalities and policy makers - turn to us for performance-oriented design solutions supported by data-based modelling techniques. Emma's background is in architecture and is leading Climateflux's Climate Action Strategy. Bishoy's background is in mathematics and is a Software Engineer at Climateflux.

Deval Pandya is the Head of AI Engineering at The Vector Institute. He is recognized as one of the 100 global Future Energy Leaders at the World Energy Council and Top 50 Innovators in AI by World Summit AI. He is passionate about using AI and ML to address climate change and energy transition. Deval has vast experience in building end to end AI and ML capabilities for delivering value in larger organizations, startups as well as non-profits.

Yusuf Jameel, is a Associate Scientist at Project Drawdown where focuses on a broad range of solutions at the intersection of climate, food, energy, water, social equity, and finance. He is the author of the landmark report published last year on climate and poverty that shows how climate solutions can also generate benefits for human well-being in Africa and South Asia. Yusuf obtained his Ph.D. in water resources from the University of Utah and has previously worked as a researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of Florida where he led several projects focused on the food-energy-water nexus.

Constantine E. Kontokosta is an Associate Professor of Urban Science and Planning and the Director of the Civic Analytics program at the NYU Marron Institute of Urban Management, associated (core) faculty and Director of the Urban Intelligence Lab at the NYU Center for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP), associated faculty in the Department of Civil and Urban Engineering, and affiliated faculty at the Wagner School of Public Service. His research is focused on using large-scale data and computational methods to better model, understand, and, ultimately, take action on issues of climate change, urban resilience, neighborhood inequality, and fairness and bias in algorithmic decision-making.