

# Report from the Bolin Centre – Partnership for Anthropocene Solutions Climate Arena Workshop 9th Workshop “Envisioning the Future We Want to Create”

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Bolin Centre Climate Arena is a meeting place for researchers, companies, the public sector, and other organisations which aims to facilitate collaboration and an exchange of knowledge, experience, and creative ideas, so that we can together increase our society’s resilience to climate change. By gathering organisations with different needs and a wide range of expertise, the arena can lay the foundation for joint efforts and sustainable societal change. The Climate Arena was founded in May 2018 at Stockholm University.

The Bolin Centre for Climate Research is an umbrella organisation with more than 400 people who conduct research in areas related to the Earth's climate. The centre was established by Stockholm University, KTH and SMHI, and is named after Professor Bert Bolin, a pioneer in climate research and founder of the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The Climate Arena is an initiative for thematic collaboration in arena format. It has been established within the framework of the project Methodology for the Development of Collaboration Arenas (Metodik för Utveckling av Samverkansarenor, MUSA).

For further information:

[www.bolin.su.se](http://www.bolin.su.se)

<https://bolin.su.se/popular-science/climate-arena>

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Bolin Centre Climate Arena conducted a hybrid workshop on “Envisioning the Future We Want to Create”. In total, 20 participants from 13 different organisations joined the meeting, which was hosted by the Stockholm Environmental Institute (see Annex A for an overview of participating organisations).

An introductory presentation was made by **Kevin Noone** from **Stockholm University**. The participants were informed that the Bolin Centre – Partnership for Anthropocene Solutions Climate Arena is now funded by FORMAS.

Please see Annex B, workshop program, for an overview.

This was the 9<sup>th</sup> workshop in the Climate Arena since the initiative was established in March 2018. Previous workshops have treated the transition to a carbon neutral society in a broad perspective, as well as certain specific topics, such as calculations of organisations’ carbon footprints and the role of the finance sector in the climate transition. In this workshop we set our purpose in co-creating a series of images or visions of the future that are real and compelling enough to motivate and guide people toward focusing their efforts on achieving climate responsibility.

After the initial presentation, a reflecting team exercise was started with two 4-minute pitches about “a global, just and flourishing society in 2050” done by **Natalya Yakusheva Jarlebring (Milkywire)** and **Alasdair Skelton (Stockholm University)**. A panel formed by **Gofi Aldstam (Stockholm Vatten och Avfall)**, **Matilda Ågren-Hernvald (Stockholm University)** and **Paul Glantz (Stockholm University)** reflected and elaborated on the pitches. Afterwards, the participants reflected on these scenarios and the presenters had a chance to contemplate the discussions. These visions of the future provided a point of departure for the subsequent group visioning discussions.

There was a good deal of consensus between the presenters, the panel and the rest of participants about how this future society will look and what needs to change to achieve it. This society will be based in sustainable consumption and production, a global citizenship, affordable, renewable and sustainable energy sources, green and global transportation, and a new economic model to create wellbeing for individuals and the environment. It can be captured with the phrase “enough is enough”. In order to reach this climate-responsible society, our participants unanimously believe is necessary a change in the fundamental way of thinking in the social and economic sector. It was also raised the need to preserve culture in a global world without borders.

The complete pitches are available on request.

Following the reflecting team exercise, group discussions were carried out around three main questions:

- What does a global, just, flourishing, climate-responsible society look like in 2050? What are your dreams for this society?
- What are the essential systems supporting this desired climate-responsible society? (e.g., economic system, political systems, etc.)? What are the “must haves”?
- In this global picture, how does Sweden demonstrate it is a climate-responsible society in 2050?

Below is a summary of some of the main points that were highlighted during the discussions.

#### Summary of plenary discussion

- ***What does a global, just, flourishing, climate-responsible society look like in 2050? What are your dreams for this society?***

There was a general agreement on the importance of thinking as a global community instead of as individual countries and citizens. Among the most important changes that our society needs to become global, just, flourishing, climate-responsible by 2050, the participants remarked the need of having a deliberative democracy; a legal system that embraces equality and sustainability; sustainable and renewable energy sources; a new economic system that supports the wellbeing and a turnaround on how success is evaluated by finding an index that concerns humanity instead of economic growth.

By having a regenerative economic system which fulfils our needs and replenishes Earth, we will be able to reverse the process by giving back what we cherished, having sustainable ecosystems, understanding we are part of nature and reversing the damage of globalization on local cultures.

- ***What are the essential systems supporting this desired climate-responsible society? (e.g., economic system, political systems, etc.)? What are the “must haves”?***

It was a common realization between the Climate Arena participants the urgency to change the economic system to one that fulfils our needs and at the same time re-flourishes Earth as the core for the desired climate-responsible society to be a reality. This will require new systems in education, legislation, politics, communication, culture, food production, energy, etc. All these transformations require work, effort, communication and understanding by all of the parties involved. And all are equally necessary to reach our dream climate-responsible society.

- ***In this global picture, how does Sweden demonstrate it is a climate-responsible society in 2050?***

Sweden must lead by example showing it is possible to be a good welfare state at the same time as being a climate neutral society by (among other things) taking responsibility for their own emissions, being a role model with informed political parties, supporting other countries, having strong ecosystems and communities, restructuring the welfare system, having strong and reliable institutions, regulating key sectors and actors.

## Annex A – Participating organizations

Future Earth  
Husustainability AB  
Klimatbyrån  
Klimatriksdagen  
KTH Students for Sustainability (KTH SforS)  
Linköping University  
Milkywire  
Perpetuum Energi & Miljö  
SEI  
Stockholm University  
Stockholm Vatten och Avfall  
Svenska Ekomodernisterna  
Swedavia AB

## Annex B – Workshop program

# **Bolin Centre – Partnership for Anthropocene Solutions Climate Arena Workshop 9th Workshop “Envisioning the Future We Want to Create”**

## Agenda

<b>12:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>12:30 – 12:45</b>	<b>Welcome and purpose of workshop series</b>
<b>12:45 – 13.30</b>	<b>Reflecting Teams</b>
<b>13:30 – 13:45</b>	<b>Coffee/tea/refreshments</b>
<b>13:45 – 14:45</b>	<b>Break-out group discussions</b>
<b>14:45 – 15:30</b>	<b>Plenary discussion</b>
<b>15:30 – 15:45</b>	<b>Look forward to the next workshop</b>
<b>15:45 – 16:00</b>	<b>Any other business; adjourn</b>