

# ZERO DEGREE ECONOMY AND GLOBAL CULTURAL SHIFT

## VISION

Realign Time, Temperature, and Capital for Living a Prosperous Zero Degree Life

## MISSION

Radical Philanthropic Innovation for a Value Conscious Cooler Economy

## ABOUT

The Zero Degree Project creates opportunities for philanthropic capital to co-create the net zero economy by catalyzing **radical innovations** that ensure continuity of life on earth with **maximum possible certainty**. We accelerate radical innovations by engaging the **next generation** of students and scholars as innovators and entrepreneurs at the 25,000 plus educational institutions globally. The Zero Degree Project solutions will be aimed to go beyond to augment what everyone else is already attempting to address climate change and will specifically nurture **timely breakthroughs** in how human beings live, think, and are self-conscious at the convergence of the **sacred and science** to co-create a **cooler economy**.

## Shifting Towards a Net Zero Degree Goal

The latest IPCC special report<sup>1</sup> conveys that “net global CO2 emissions need to fall by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach “**net zero**” by around 2050” in order to limit climate warming to **1.5° C**.

However, these **66% probability targets** understate the risk of fat tails and other catastrophic probabilities.<sup>2</sup> We need to improve these odds of **blind planetary gamble**<sup>3</sup> now with radical innovation. We’d rather not play **evolutionary roulette** and wait 12 years to find out that we should have catalyzed the untapped potential of **human ingenuity** to its fullest while time was still not too late to target the **maximum probability of mitigating catastrophic risks** that are outside of the popular “debate” as depicted in figure one.<sup>4</sup> What if we don’t get it right 12 years from now? We’d be in no win situation then and wished we were prudent when time was our ally to achieve it with the **highest possible safe probability**.

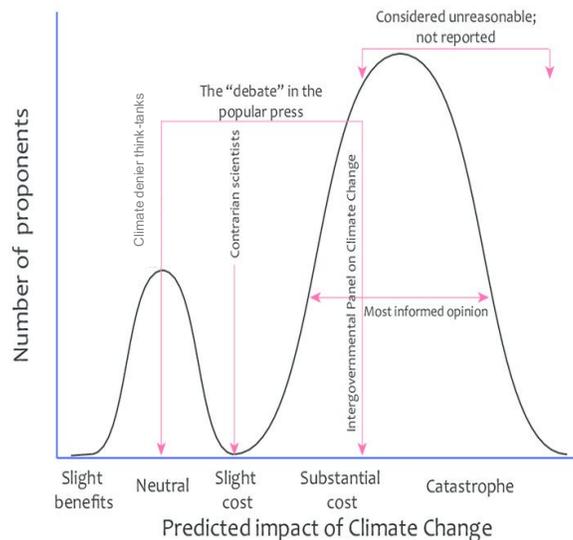


Figure 1: Distribution of professional opinion on anthropogenic climate change

<sup>1</sup> The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report. 2018. (<https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>)

<sup>2</sup> What Lies Beneath: The Understatement of Existential Climate Risk. Spratt & Dunlop. Breakthrough, National Centre for Climate Restoration, Australia. 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Climate Shock: The Economic Consequences of a Hotter Planet. Wagner & Weitzman. Princeton University Press. Princeton and Oxford. 2015.

<sup>4</sup> <https://twitter.com/mtobis/status/950521874437591040>

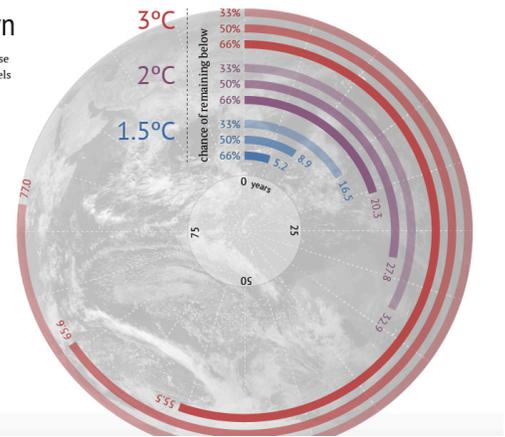
## Radical Innovation to Achieve a Maximum Probability of Climate Safety

We believe in **human ingenuity** to navigate climate change as a unique opportunity for **human evolution**.

The Zero Degree Project engages in **radical innovation** for reaching net zero emissions **starting in 2020** to enhance the probability of keeping the climate temperature below 1.5°C<sup>4</sup> with **maximum achievable safe probability** from 2030 onwards.

### Carbon Countdown

How many years of current emissions would use up the IPCC's carbon budgets for different levels of warming?



CarbonBrief

## 7.6 Billion Zeronauts and Global Cultural Shift

A **global cultural shift** is at the essence of the Zero Degree Project to evolve **human consciousness** for our flourishing as species. Climate change is the world's most pressing problem today. Yet, the **current economy is self-limiting** for climate change. Currently, the better the economy does, the worst the planet suffers.

Zero Degree Project is practicing **global consciousness shift**. It requires, **waking up each and all of us**, all 7.6 billion of us, to engage, collaborate and contribute to the solution, i.e. we suggest **Zero Degree Days**. A new cooler world economy needs to be created. Zero Degree Project creates **measurable feedback** for every citizen to contribute.

## Zero Degree Day Collectives at the Universities

We believe **organized widescale** radically innovative action is a make or break opportunity for our species, and such action can be efficacious only if it is timely. The **least latent timely action** to reduce the current climate change risks are through **individual actions**, enacting with the freedom we already have to align the power of our capital (time and money) for living a **Zero Degree life**. We believe students are brilliant and apt to meet this challenge at the grassroots level for **rapid scale**. Our initiative, alongside other climate efforts, is to make the **inconceivable possible** to push us to be pioneering innovators. Situating innovative practices at universities ensures the **rigor, mentorship and supervision** under the protocol for research which is **efficacious, scalable and safe**.

We plan to begin at **five founding universities** in 2019 and aim to scale Zero Degree Collectives to 25,000 academic centers around the globe, and to invite Zoom as a strategic business partner. The invited academic partners include Stanford University, University of California, Santa Cruz, University of California, Berkeley, University of Hawaii at Hilo, and Global Center for Advanced Studies.



Stanford  
University



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
HILO



Berkeley  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

THE GLOBAL CENTER  
FOR ADVANCED STUDIES



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
SANTA CRUZ

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-only-five-years-left-before-one-point-five-c-budget-is-blown>

## Worrying History of Capping Climate Temperature

History reminds us that top down, institutionally and organizationally coordinated and led approaches **haven't yet worked**. Since the 1997 Kyoto Protocol (Treaty), 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and 2015 Paris Accord, **the planet is continuing to heat**.

In spite of the best efforts of our dedicated leaders, we have not seen these efforts give us assurance that we can make and keep a promise of cooling the earth going forward with any **degree of certainty** humanity can bank on. There is no way of knowing we can be below the **safe target temperature** with the sufficient degree of safety and certainty for the planet before it's too late.



## The Hedged Portfolio to Address Fat Tails of Climate Risk

As an **insurance to complement** the already virtuous efforts of our global policy makers and leaders and those engaged in the sustainability movement and green businesses, we need to create and implement an **expedient initiative** that taps into the flexibility we have as human beings to act on the solutions with our innate **freedom and motivation** to implement as **concerned global citizens**. We don't have to wait for permission or decisions by institutions that govern and lead us.

## Zero Degree Project Components

- Zero Degree Feedback Mechanisms
- Design of Zero Degree Day Practices
- Prototype of Cooler Economies at Field Sites
- Synthesize Best Radically Innovative Practices
- Cooler Economy Technology Platform
- Zero Degree Asset Value Creation
- Zero Degree Index/Indices
- Global Zero Degree Day Challenge

## Zero Degree Project History

Zero Degree Project is the front line initiative of The Kozmetsky Global Collaboratory at Stanford which has built relationships with research field sites, industry partners, and academic institutions all over the globe for more than 20 years in a mission to accelerate the **creation of sharable global prosperity**.

### THEORY OF CHANGE

Philanthropy → Radical Innovations → Zero Degree Day Asset/Index Creation → Cooler Economy

### OFFERING

We're inviting philanthropists to convert capital gifts into Zero Degree Days.

Our goal is to create measurable Zero Degree Days so 7.6 billion people can prototype a **cooler economy**.

"Philanthropy, unlike the family, can play three important roles in **promoting justice for future generations**. It can, first, **complement political institutions** that aim to secure the reproduction of social capital over time. Second, it can supplement political institutions in fulfilling, as a **hedge against remote, low-probability but highly consequential risks** (such as potentially cataclysmic natural disasters). Third ... the intergenerational existence and potential long-time-horizon outlook of private philanthropic foundations can counteract built-in features of short-termism and presentism in the democratic process."

– Professor Rob Reich, Stanford