

CCA Political Pod Newsletter September 2024

The Political Pod is a group of climate-aware coaches who aim to support politicians and leaders, whether at international, national or local level, to share collective visions and work with concerned voters. We believe that most people, including politicians, care about the climate crisis and want to act, though it is not easy.

We support policymakers to sort their thoughts, clarify their strategies and shift their emphasis. Our coaching can help them focus on what is crucial and how to handle complex situations in a way which includes not just today's voters but future generations. It can help our clients re-vision preferred futures, shape messages and develop sustainable strategies.

The Political Pod, like the CCA, has a truly global membership which is therefore able to draw on different visions and world views (as well as languages and cultural nuances). We have 130 members from all corners of our Earth.

Past events : Thursday 8 August Interview with Coaching in Government co-author Theodora Fitzsimmons

What an unexpected thrill as Theodora joined us live for the session! We're so grateful to her for interrupting her night!

Jackie Arnold had recorded a conversation with Theodora about her recent book *Coaching in Government*, looking at the development of internal coaching in the US Federal Government.

It was great to be able to ask Theodora questions in person. Just imagine being a coach when Donald Trump took over from Barack Obama, and all government diversity and equality programmes were simply cancelled overnight!

She described how the political cycle in the USA often leads to agency heads being replaced every two years, with their second year characterised by an unhelpful numbness. She focussed on building resilience and creating a sense of purpose in her clients.

As a climate conscious coach, Theodora also shared tips on how to carefully get the climate agenda into conversations, having a button in your email signature and a clear statement in your coaching contract.

You can watch the session recording now up on the CCA Past events page: <https://www.climatecoachingalliance.org/event/coaching-inside-government-what-works/>



Coming next : The Political Pod Playbook: an Introduction
Thursday 12 September

8.30 am BST (UTC +1) , 9.30 am CEST (UTC +2), 5.30 AEST (UTC +10)

You're invited to an exclusive **Preview** of the **Political Pod Playbook** as it's being readied for publication. The Playbook is for coaches working with politicians and policy-makers, and it's by far the most ambitious project the Pod has engaged in.

It is the collective effort of dedicated Political Pod members over the past 18 months. They have contributed hours of work creating a practical guide for engaging with the challenge of climate action. with politicians and leaders at at all levels.

The Playbook Team, led by editors Dr Ruby Campbell and Dr Diana Collett are David Bennett, Denise Baden, Jackie Arnold, Jenny Wardle, Lina Lo, Michael Cavanagh, Natalie Nickells, Volker Molthan, Dr Wassim Dbouk and Katarzyna Schubert-Panecka.

The Playbook is a beautiful piece of collaborative work, generously supported by the University of Southampton, and now in the competent hands of digital designers. We need your help to get it out to the widest audience possible.

Join us on Thursday 12 September at 0830 London time.

The Session will be a conversation with Chief Editor Dr Ruby Campbell, Dr Diana Collett and other members of the Playbook team about the key features of the Playbook, starting with the **Six Steps** at the core of the Playbook.

Above all, this is the first opportunity for everyone in the Political Pod to contribute their thoughts on **how to get the Playbook out into the wider world** and into coaches' hands, using our many diverse networks and skills. The team are looking for your input on **how to market and distribute** their work. So please be ready with your ideas which will be the focus for the breakout!

Pre register for the session here: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApc-CqrT0iHtAnKE7Brazj1uNzXoaF_VUe

We will run several sessions to explore how to use and discuss how to publicise the Playbook in the next few months.

**Coming next: Thursday 10 October 0830 London time
Meta-perspectives in Climate Coaching.**

We'll pick right up on Step 2 of the Playbook's Six Steps (STEP 2. Grasping Climate Politics: How to navigate the different systems of governance locally, nationally and internationally).

Katarzyna Schubert Panecka and **Diana Collett** will take a meta look at the fast changing political scene.

Katarzyna says: "When coaching politicians, change agents and other clients we are not only working with the individuals and teams, but with the contexts and systems they are shaped by and are shaping at the same time. Those contexts and systems are both culturally specific and framed globally. To offer

sustainable coaching, we need to endeavour to understand multiple factors, like mega-trends and political flows, as well as the group dynamics and individual approaches, and know the political history of green politics in many countries. We do this because it is interesting and powerful, but also because this engagement and competence is what our clients expect from us. Let's address these meta-perspectives, befriend complexity and reflect on our own contexts and systems as coaches”.

Global CCA News

The ‘Compassion’ Seasonal Heartbeat, starting in September, includes a four-session series of Compassion Retreat Spaces, after which they will launch a Compassion Community of Practice (CCoP) for CCA.

The Compassion Retreat Spaces, and subsequent Compassion Community of Practice, are designed to help CCA members - and by extension, their clients - to turn gently towards where there is numbing, and to kindly meet difficult emotions, wherever participants find themselves in the Cycle.

Check on the CCA Coming Events pages, the first event is on 18 September: <https://www.climatecoachingalliance.org/event/compassion-retreat-spaces-and-compassion-community-of-practice-compassion-retreat-space-1-observe/>

If you have been on the CCA webpage recently you may have spotted the new **Donate to the CCA** button. Now we have a way to contribute to the volunteer-led work of our organisation while honouring our Living Systems philosophy. Please do click on the button or go here <https://www.climatecoachingalliance.org/funding/>

If you have a suggestion for a speaker for our future sessions, please get in touch with us!

We focus on how coaches can work with politicians, whether at international, national or local level.

Email us at political@climatecoachingalliance.org

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CCA Political Pod