

## How does Open Access help the cause of climate justice?

Climate justice is a far-reaching issue that already affects the lives of all people on Earth. At its core, climate justice is about the equitable distribution of responsibility to shoulder the burden of climate action. That includes open and free access to information

Worldwide, actionable change on human habits that are affecting the climate are not the sole domain of academia.

It is the domain of the grassroots organisation trying to figure out which patch of wetland to try protecting for migratory shorebirds

It is the domain of local governments, desperately trying to anticipate exactly how bad the next wet season could be

It is the domain of the curious individual, doing their own research on renewable energy

It is the domain of the legal teams who are fighting for Indigenous voices to be heard on how resources are extracted from country.

(It is the domain of my father, the retired petroleum engineer with enough time on his hands now, finally to look into this climate change nonsense his hippie daughter keeps harping on about)

Open access information across ALL aspects of climate justice shows people just how pervasive this issue is to the continued quality and existence of human life

From the ways continued bleaching of coral in the Great Barrier Reef will affect a multi-billion-dollar tourism industry

To how reduction in air quality shortens the human life span

To how increasing ocean temperatures will change the distributions of marine species relied upon for subsistence living

To more intense natural disasters like storms, droughts, and wildfires

To how the sea will rise and completely cover some island nations

And on and on and on...

Climate justice is **for** everyone **by** everyone and cannot occur without open access to the information needed. Climate justice and open access are at their core about equity; the former cannot succeed without the latter. Campaigning for and adopting the tenets of open access in science and research can only help the cause of climate justice.