

# TED Talk: Eco-Edition Climate Change Activism and Engagement

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**Institute for Sustainability,  
Energy, and Environment (iSEE)**

- Senior in Civil and Environmental Engineering at UIUC
  - Primary in Water Resources Science and Engineering
  - Secondary in Energy, Water, Environmental Sustainability
  - Minor in International Engineering Spanish Studies
- Sustainability Intern at iSEE since 2020
  - Organize Earth Month (April) and Campus Sustainability Month (October) month-long challenges and other events (trash pickups, Kindness Rocks, etc.)
  - Facilitate monthly TED Talk: Eco-Edition discussion series
  - Execute various projects (UIUC AASHE Stars Certification, campus UN Sustainable Development Goals project, Sustainable New Year's Resolutions, etc.)





Host:

Per Espen Stoknes,  
Economist and  
Psychologist from Oslo,  
Norway

Date:

November 2017

[How to transform apocalypse fatigue into action on global warming | Per Espen Stoknes - YouTube](#)

# The case for stubborn optimism on climate (3:08-6:53)



## Host:

Christiana Figueres,  
Executive Secretary of the  
United Nations Framework  
Convention on Climate  
Change (UNFCCC) from  
2010-2016, shaped the 2015  
Paris Agreement

## Date:

October 2020

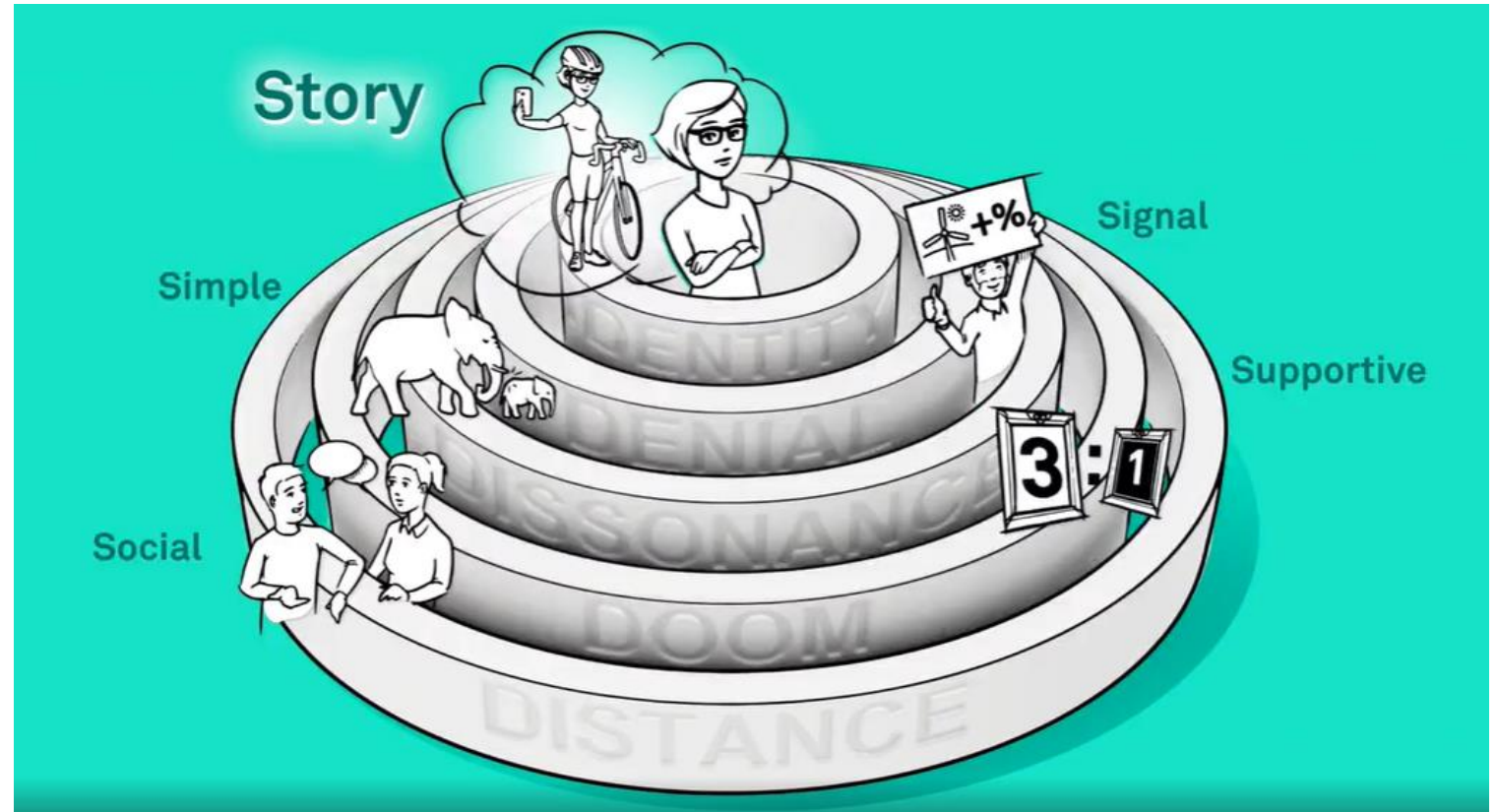


[The case for stubborn optimism on climate | Christiana Figueres - YouTube](#)

# Changing the Five Inner Defenses



Distance → Social  
Doom → Supportive  
Dissonance → Actions  
Denial → Signals  
Identity → Stories



(Espen Stoknes, 2017)

“It is clear, however, that individual solutions are not sufficient to solving climate change alone, but they do build stronger bottom-up support for policies and solutions that can. That is why engaging people is so crucial.”

– Espen Stoknes

(United Nations, 2018)

Stubborn Optimist: “[someone] with a fierce conviction that no matter how difficult, must and can rise to the challenge.”

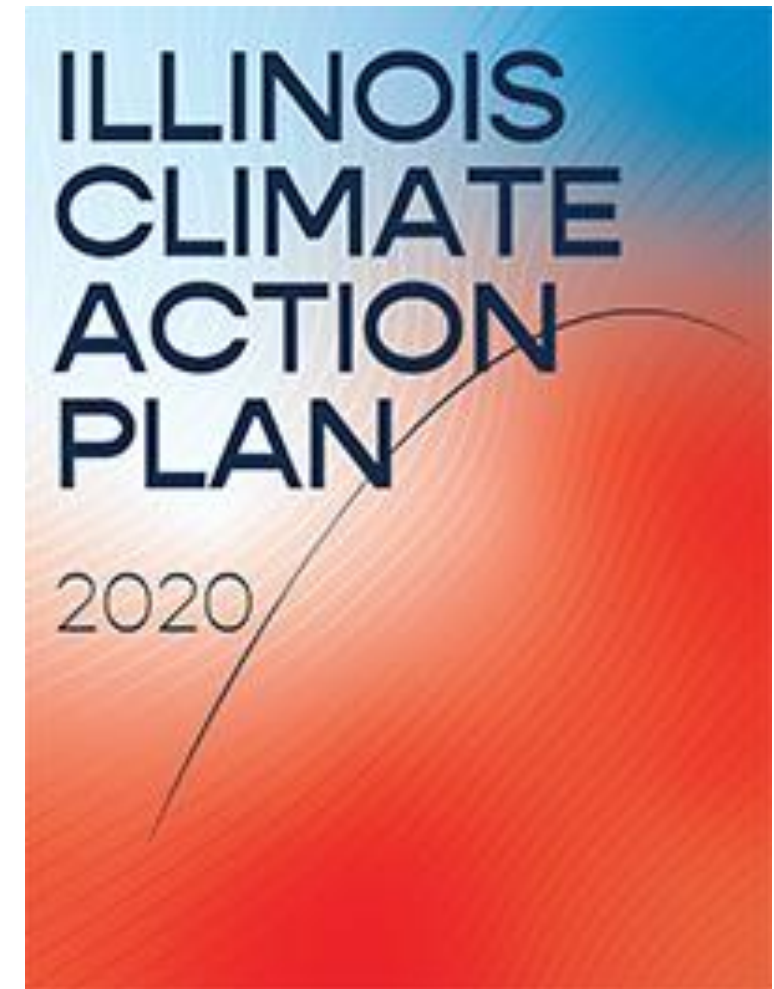
Foolishness: “blindly ignoring the realities that surround us.”

Irresponsibility: “naïve faith that everything will take care of itself, even if we do nothing.”

# What is the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign doing to engage its community on climate change?



- iCAP Portal and iCAP Teams
- Portion of tuition funds Student Sustainability Committee
- Research (ex: CABBI)
- Chancellor Jones' presence at environmental events (ex: iSEE Congress during Earth Month)
- Independent RSO events (ex: SECS Earth Day strike)
- Physical sustainability presence on campus (ex: compost at Presby, anaerobic digester at dining halls)





1. What inspires you to be a stubborn optimist when it comes to climate change?
2. Which of the “changed” five inner defenses (Distance → Social, Doom → Supportive, Dissonance → Actions, Denial → Signals, Identity → Stories) could you or could campus implement? How could you go about doing so?
3. What do you find most difficult about engaging your peers in climate change activism?
4. Do you think UIUC is doing a good job in engaging campus on climate change? What do you want to see UIUC improve regarding climate change engagement?

**Thank you!**  
**Are there**  
**any questions?**



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