Climathon

POWERED BY: Climate KIC

Climathon Training

Module 1: Climate Change is Systemic

18/06/2025

What is Climathon?

"Tackling climate change from the ground up"

Climathon events **bring citizens together** to **raise awareness and inspire local climate action.**

A Climathon event is **planned and coordinated by independent organisers.**

Climathon is an **in-person event** and it typically **lasts 12-48 hours.**

Climathon has been organised **since 2015** with about **600 organisers, 1,000 events and over 30,000 participants** worldwide.
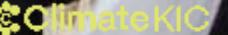
Training overview

Module 1
Climate Crisis is Systemic

Understanding Systems approach

Understanding complexity

Start to identify the right vision for your Climathon

Module 2 (**June 25**)
Creating your challenge

Understanding Systems

Building the Climathon ecosystem

Creating challenge statements

Module 3 (**July 9**)
Hosting your Climathon

Understanding what kind of facilitation is needed

Choosing the right people to support you

Building the blocks of a systems informed Climathon

Module 4 (July 16)
Engaging Citizens

Understanding how best to promote your Climathon

Choosing the target group

Using the branding and brand guidelines

Training methodology

Check-in & out

Theory

Exchange

Reflection

Practice
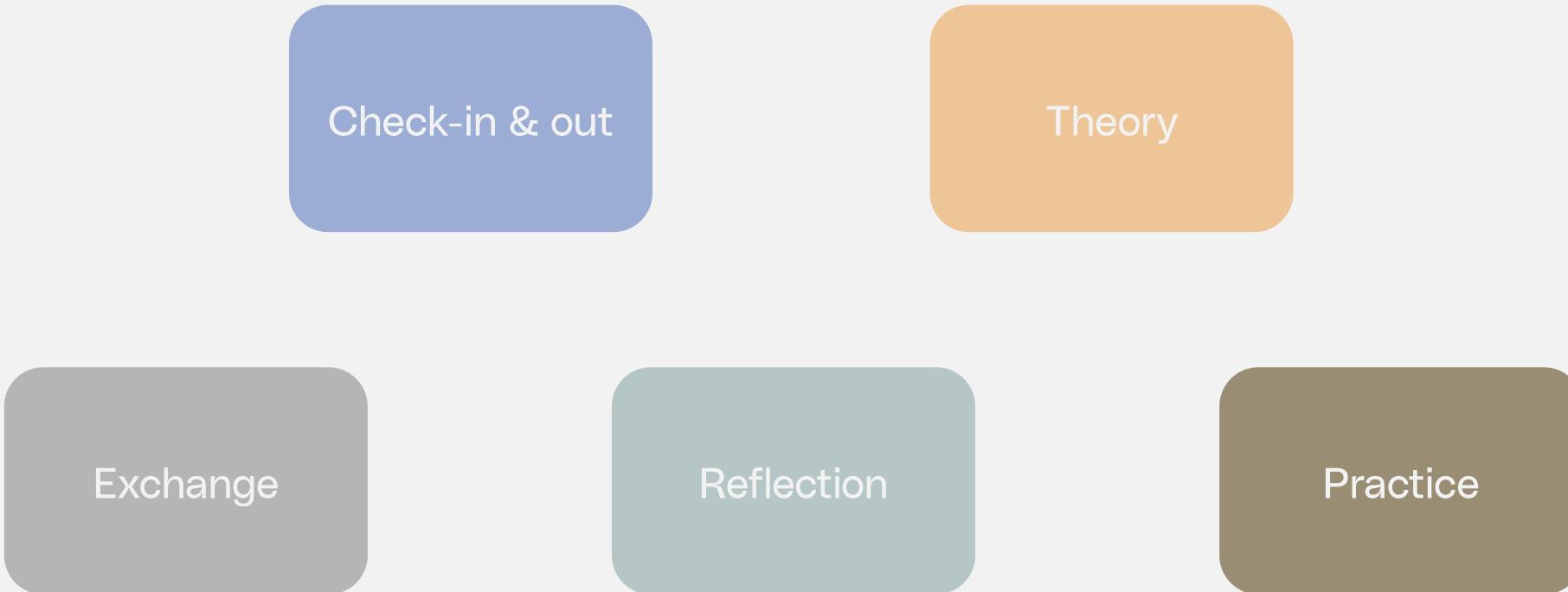
Exchange

Your current reality

How does climate crisis affect your city/location? *Share examples*

What is the role of citizens from your point of view in regard to climate crisis and your city?

What is the biggest challenge/challenges in your location to address climate crisis?

How will you use your Climathon to address this challenge/these challenges?

1. **Framing climate change as a solvable problem**

   ○ Linear problem-solving vs. navigating uncertainty & complexity

2. **Short-term vs. long-term systemic impact**

   ○ Innovation sprints vs. deep, slow change

3. **The illusion of market-driven climate solutions**

   ○ Green capitalism vs. deeper economic reform

4. **Overemphasis on innovation and tech solutions**

   ○ Tech fixes vs. systemic change

Theory

What do you see?

Think for a moment and type the answer in the chat.

THEORY

This is one possible option

The acorn is the seed for a new tree, over time.

Cities are complex systems
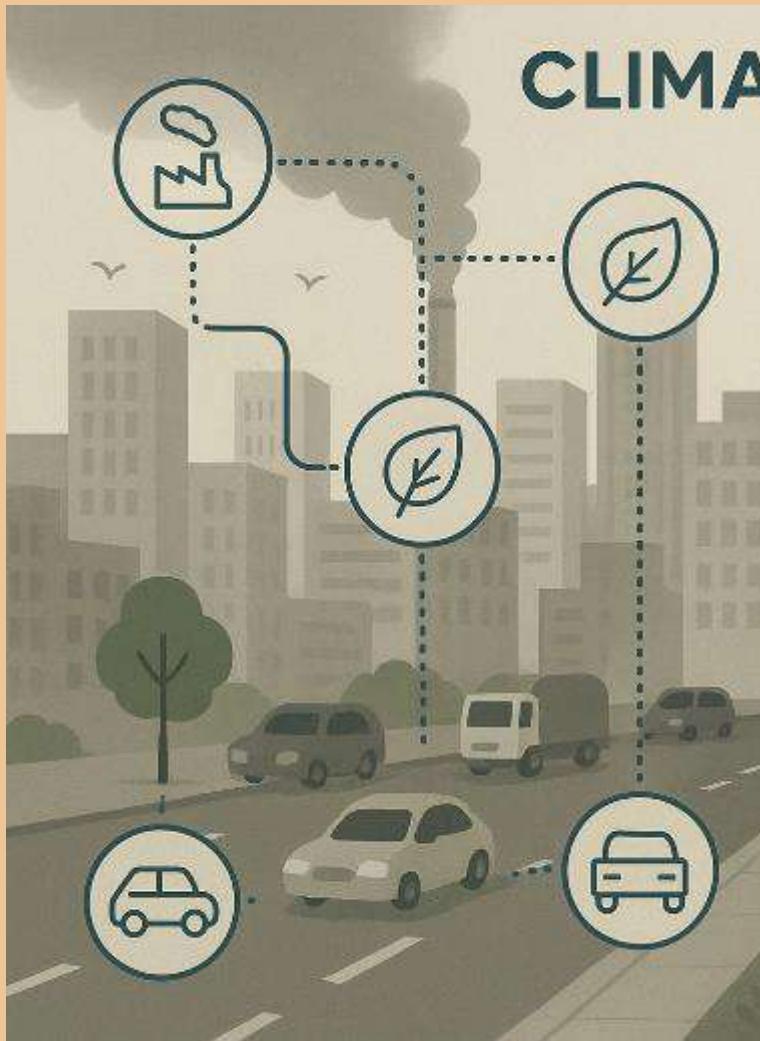
Vision can guide you through complexity

We might need to take a step back and ask ourselves....
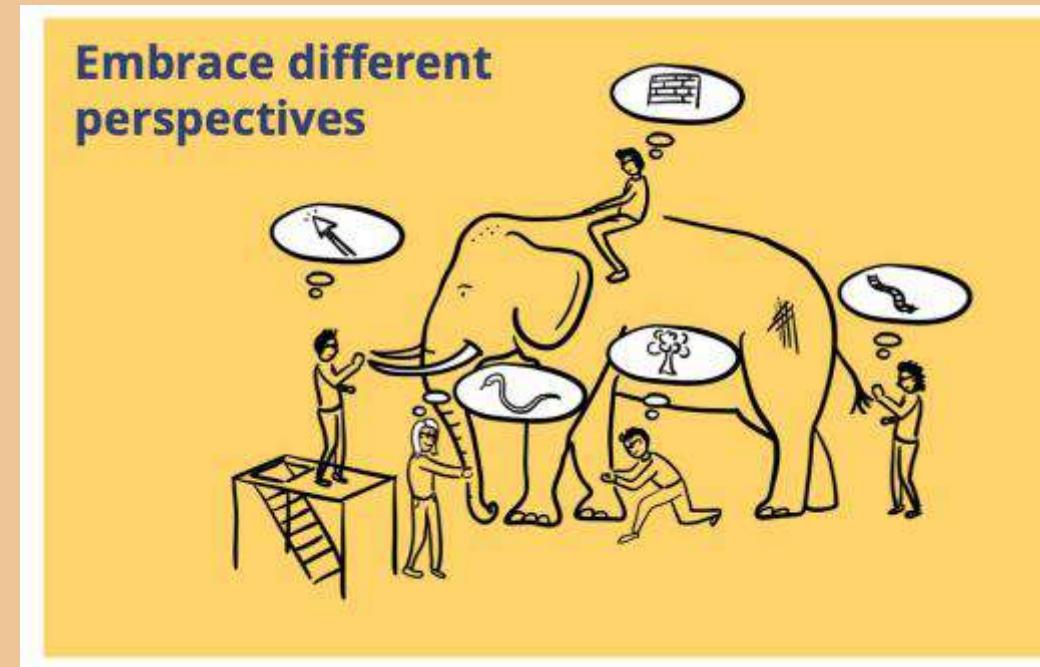
...what type of problem are we trying to solve?

Broaden our perspective
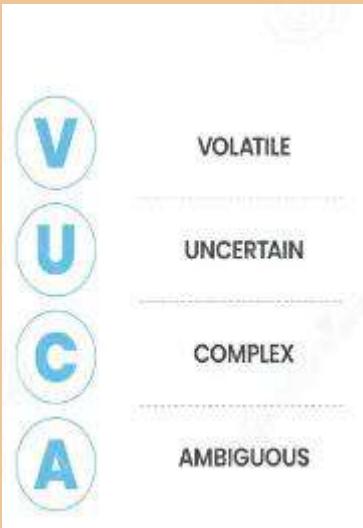
Wicked problems
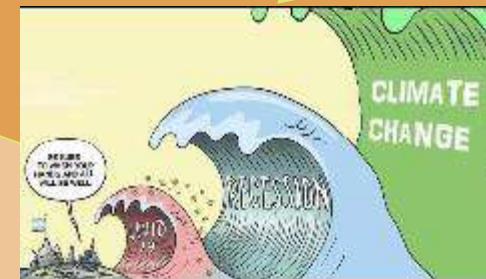
Wicked problems

What is climate change?

**What are the
interconnections here?**

Climate change is complex
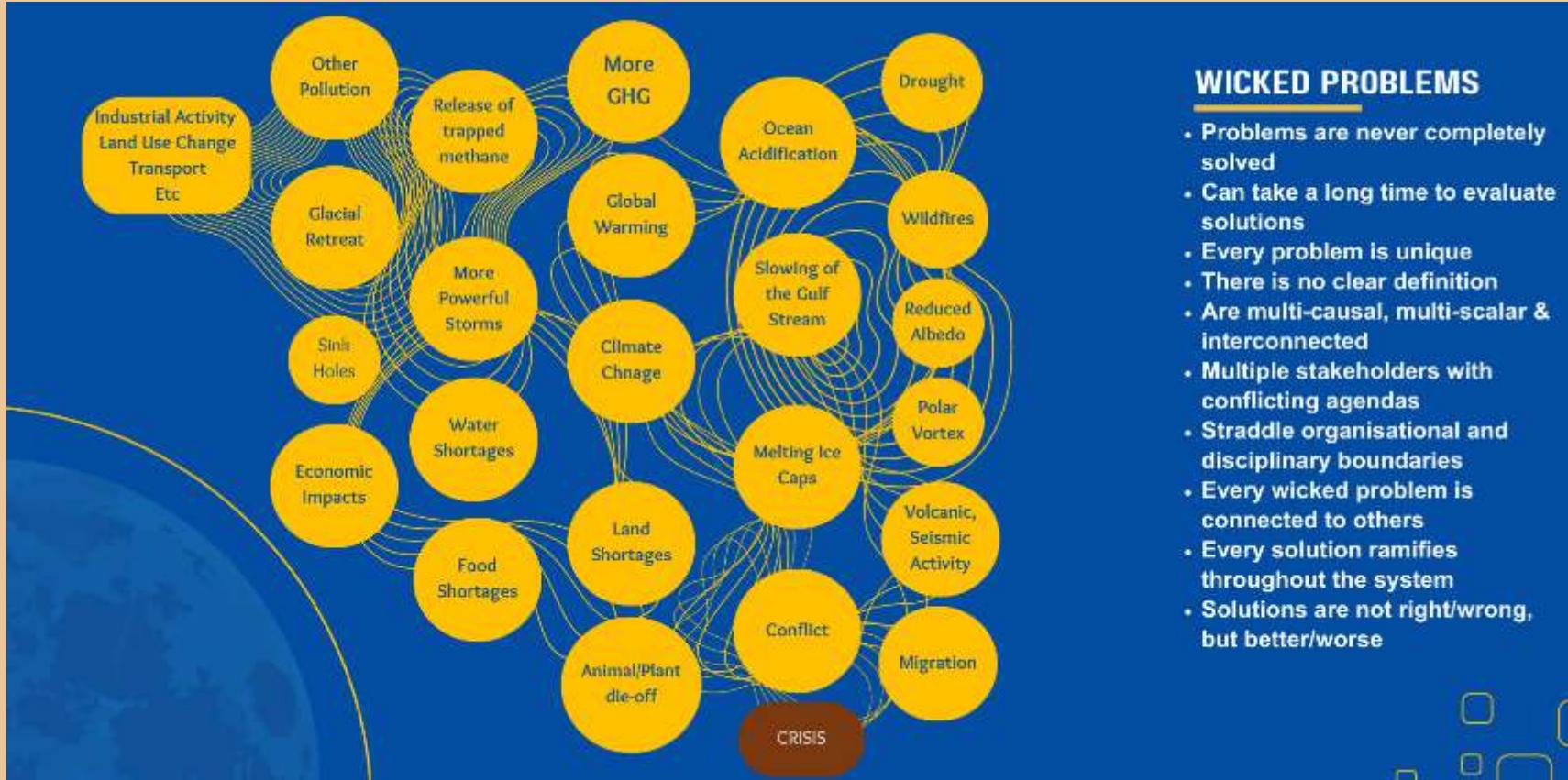
What's needed?

We are acting without a sense for the effects in the system
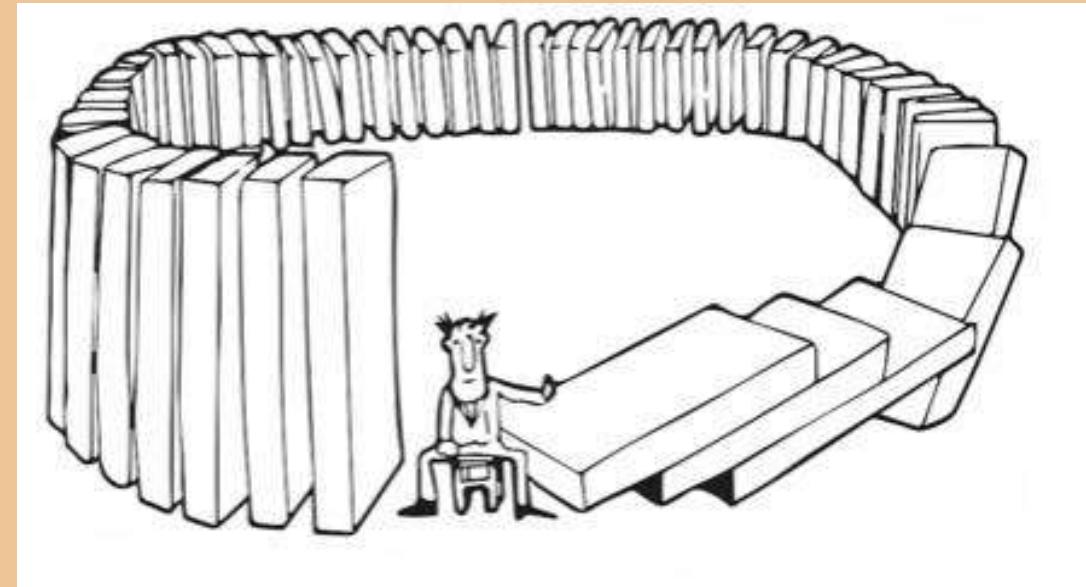
Unintended consequences

THEORY

These interventions aimed to make things better...

... but there were unintended consequences that made things worse

Biofuels leading to Deforestation & Food Crises

These interventions aimed to make things better...

... but there were unintended consequences that made things worse

Scooters and bike sharing in Cities cause multiple issues in cities

These interventions aimed to

make things better...

... but there were unintended

consequences that made things worse

Energy efficient buildings create heat island in cities

Systems change — The role of complexity

Systems change – Three types of complexity

| Social Complexity	Generative Complexity	Dynamic Complexity
Actors have diverse perspectives and interests	Future is unfamiliar and undetermined	Cause and effect are apart in space and time
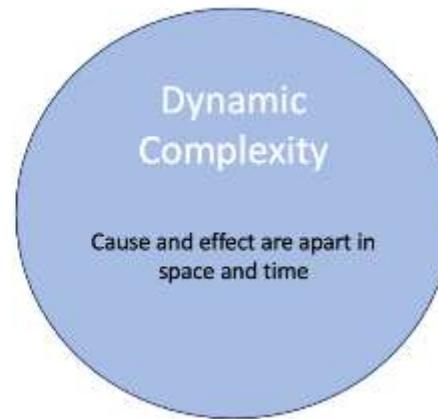
How to navigate solutions with diverging interest and power structures?

- social complexity can be a powerful barrier to successful collaboration
- diverse perspectives and interests in a particular system
- they do not agree on the solutions or even on their definition of the problem

How to design sustainable cities when change is unpredictable?

- no roadmaps, precedents, or best practices exist to guide the way forward
- people looking to intervene in a problem area are left to their own devices to navigate an unknown terrain
- the terrain itself appears to change and shift as the group works with the problem at hand

How to approach challenges with interdependencies and delays?

- Dynamic complexity is what we normally refer to when we talk about complexity
- cause and effect are far apart in time and space
- cause and effect are also interdependent
- effects of our actions feeding back into the system, amplifying the system's behaviour

Systems change – Three types of complexity

When we see these types of complexity
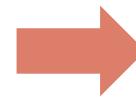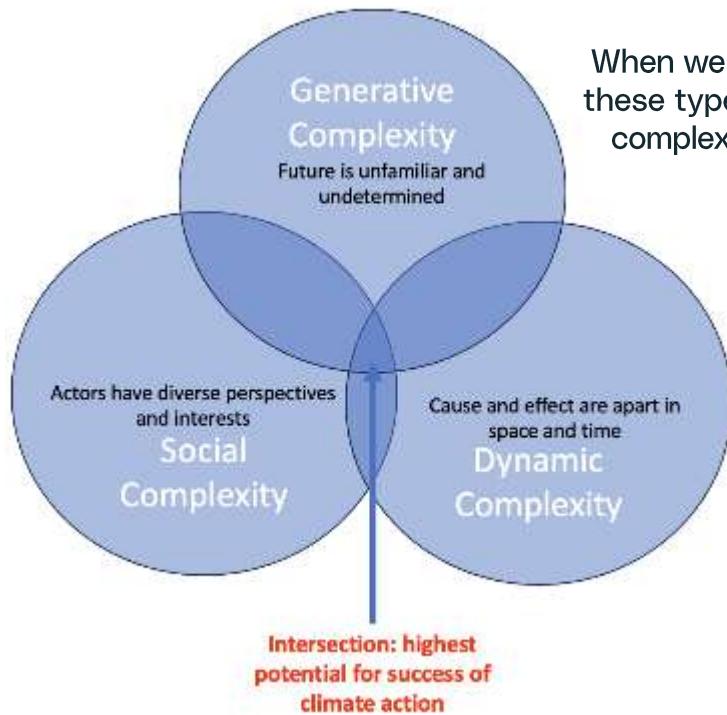
These methodologies can be used to respond

Generative Complexity
Future is unfamiliar and undetermined

Social Complexity
Actors have diverse perspectives and interests

Dynamic Complexity
Cause and effect are apart in space and time

Intersection: highest potential for success of climate action

Emergent Methodology
Create conditions tap into stakeholders creative potential

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Participatory Approach
Include all relevant stakeholders into the process

Systemic Understanding
Address root causes not symptoms of the challenge

Intersection: highest potential for success of climate action

Reflection

What new things are you learning/taking away?

What is surprising you?

What resonates with you?