

# TCLP WORKING DEFINITION OF TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

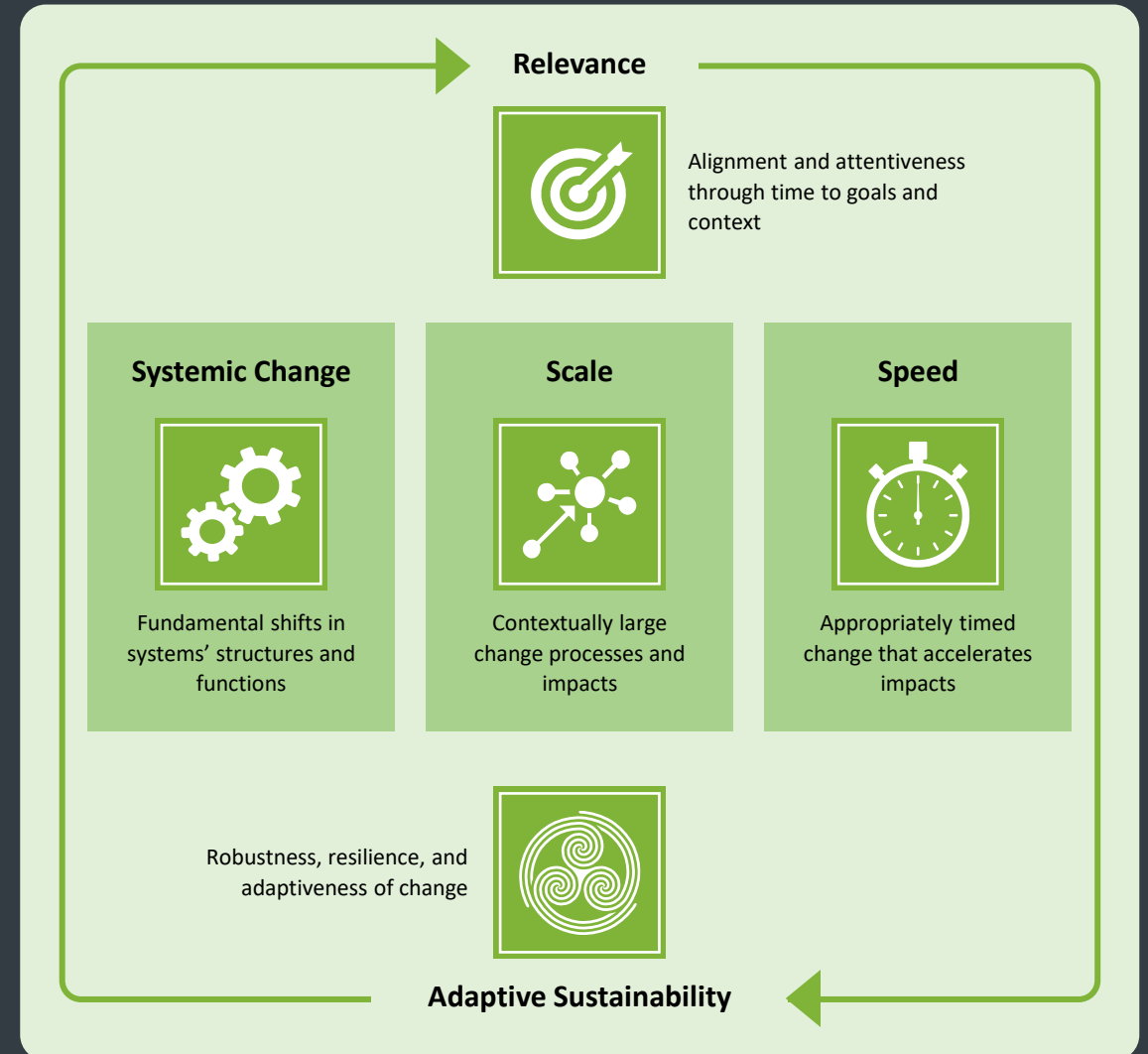
The TCLP has developed the following definition of Transformational Change for Climate Action:

**Fundamental change in systems relevant to climate action with large-scale positive impacts that shift and accelerate the trajectory of progress towards inclusive, climate neutral, resilient, and sustainable development pathways.**

*Broadly defined, transformational change is a deep and fundamental change in a system's form, function, or processes. The concept of transformational change is agnostic to normative goals or values and transformational changes can have both positive and negative impacts. In the context of the climate crisis, addressing climate change requires transformation.*

# DIMENSIONS OF TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE IN CLIMATE ACTION

Transformational change dimensions are attributes of change in systems to address climate change. The five dimensions—Relevance, Systemic Change, Scale, Speed, and Adaptive Sustainability—vary in emphasis and significance based on context and timing, but all must be attended to or present to some extent for confidence that climate actions are transformational.



# DIMENSION: RELEVANCE



**Alignment with context and opportunities to advance transformational change goals.**

**Relevance is an action-oriented framing dimension that illuminates the on-going, dynamic relationship of desired goals to context and opportunity. At the systems level, change can be assessed for its relevance or alignment to key goals (signaling “where we need to go”).**

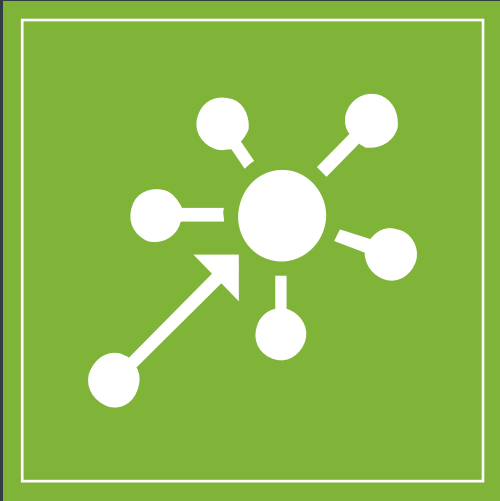
# DIMENSION: SYSTEMIC CHANGE



**Fundamental shifts in system structures and functions.**

Systemic changes involve shifting the structures, functions, and interrelationships of elements within systems that produce or shape outputs and outcomes relevant to climate action. Systemic changes provide the enabling conditions for transformation in key economic, social, governance, and technological systems by removing entrenched barriers, opening new opportunities or pathways, and shifting power dynamics.

# DIMENSION: SCALE



**Contextually large transformational change processes and impacts.**

Scale involves expansion within and across levels, scaling up and/or out at increasing magnitudes. In some cases, scale expansion begins small or local, at the individual, household, organizational/institutional, community, or sub-sector levels and builds up and out over time as decisions, actions, or adoption of practices or technologies diffuse. In other cases, scale may start at higher levels and have impacts at other levels, such as through large-scale nationally determined plans and investments.

## DIMENSION: SPEED



**Appropriately timed to catalyze and/or accelerate transformational change processes and impacts.**

The urgency of the climate crisis necessitates consideration of the timing, speed, and pace of change. The continued increases in global greenhouse gas emissions and temperatures, the rapidly intensifying adverse impacts of climate change, and the closing window of time to meet Paris Agreement commitments all point to the urgency of action and progress. The speed of change is typically affected by the alignment of systemic changes, scaling pathways, and shifts in other systems.

# DIMENSION: ADAPTIVE SUSTAINABILITY



## **Robustness, resilience, and adaptiveness of change.**

**Sustainable transformational change relevant to climate action is robust, resilient, and lasting—not fleeting, reliant on external dependencies, or unable to withstand pressures and emerging challenges. In this context, transformational change leads to a new equilibrium or “new normal” in systems that advance climate action progress. Sustainability also requires adaptiveness amidst evolving contexts and the dynamic balancing of social, economic, and environmental factors.**

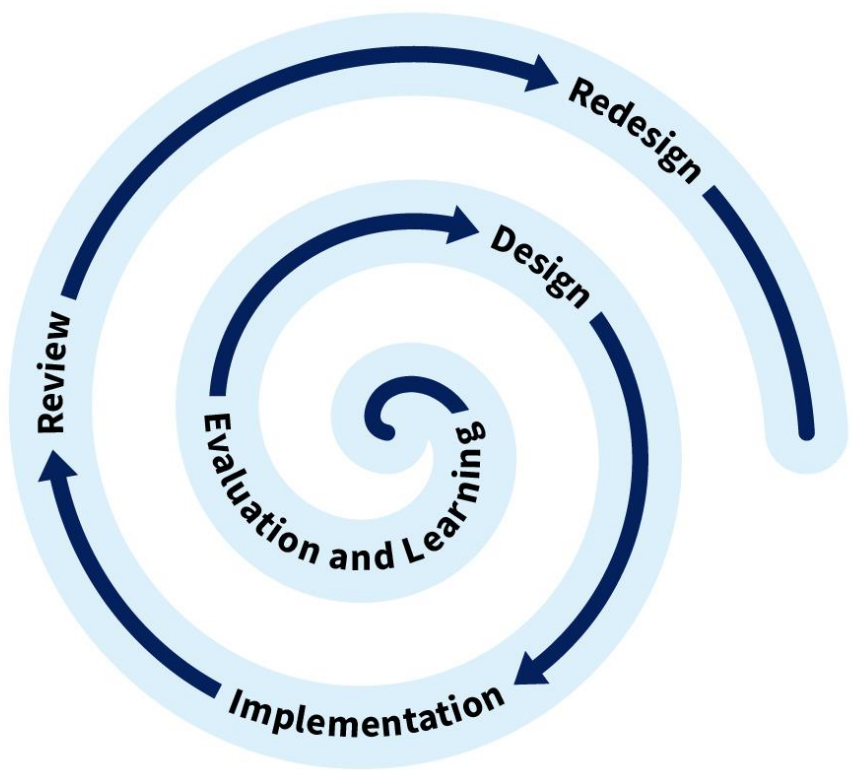
# Definition of a Signal of Transformational Change in Climate Action

How will we know we are making progress toward transformational change in climate action?

**Signals are ways of observing progress toward transformational change in climate action.**



# Uses of Signals Throughout the Programmatic Lifecycle



## Design/Redesign

- Portfolio design
- Theories of transformational change
- Transformational ambition
- Barrier, risk, vulnerability and stakeholder analysis
- Dynamic baselines

## Implementation

- Monitoring and reporting systems for transformational change progress
- Adaptive management for ongoing transformational relevance and agility to address unforeseen barriers and path dependencies

## Evaluation and Learning/Review

- Evaluation methods
- Assessment of progress toward transformational change
- Learning and insights on catalyzing transformation

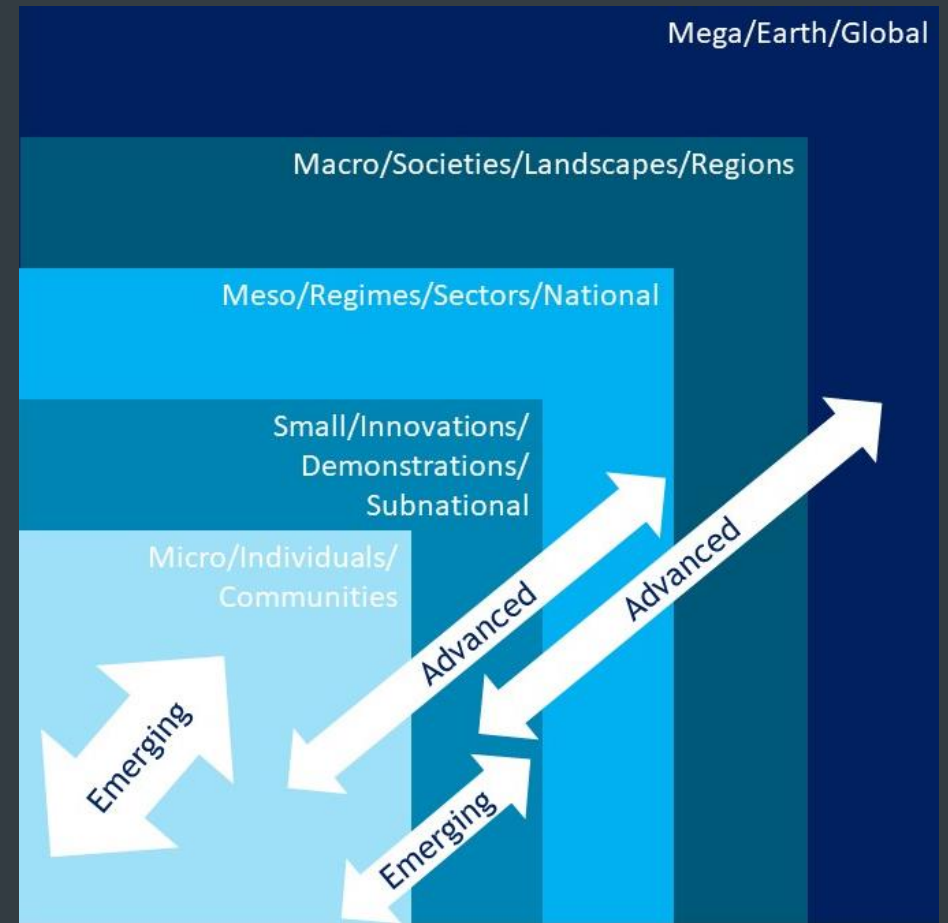
# Key Insights for Signals

Signals of transformation can be broadly mapped to the five dimensions.

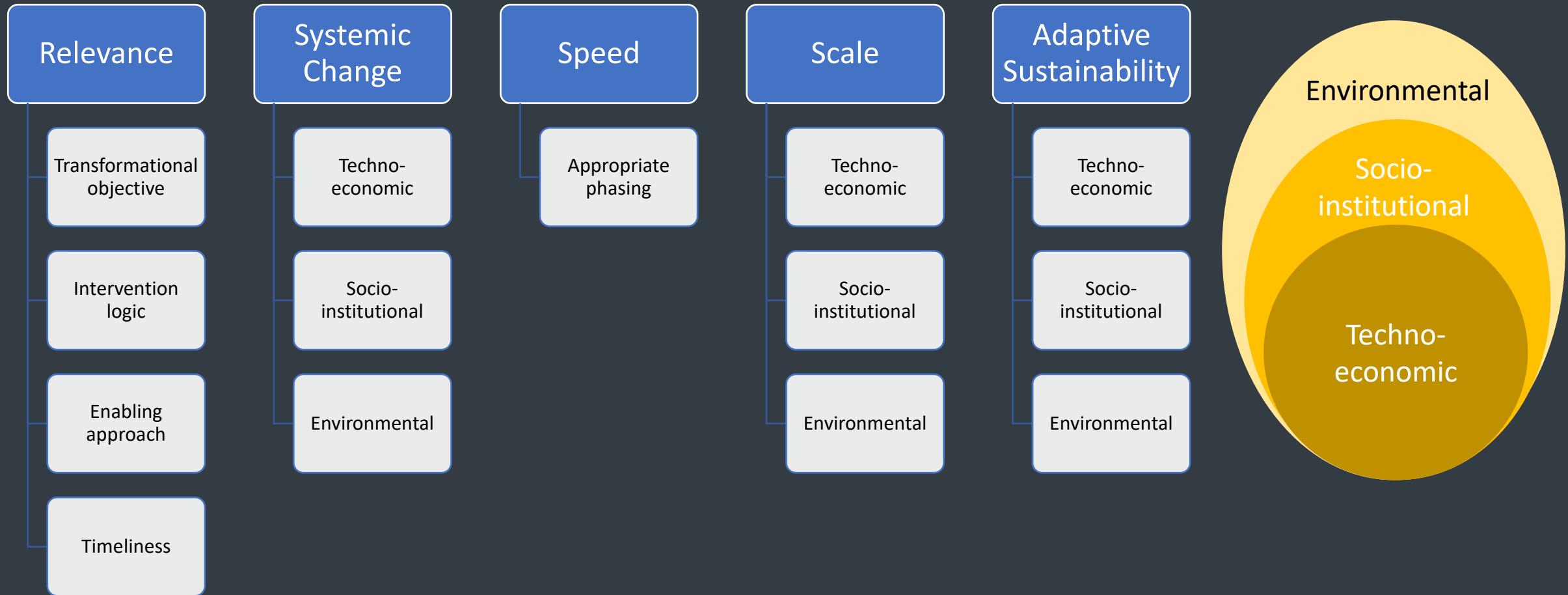
Signals of transformation can be identified at and across multiple levels.

Signals should capture linkages among arenas of transformation (economic, social, environmental).

Signals of transformation can be found in both outcomes and processes.



# Types of Signals



# Stages: From Emerging to Advanced Signals

