

Call for Papers
Tijdschrift voor Communicatiewetenschap
Special issue on Climate and Media

Submission deadline: January 15, 2026

Publication: Fall 2026

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Author guidelines: www.tijdschriftvoorcommunicatiewetenschap.nl

Submit via: tcw@aup.nl

The climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, and depletion of natural resources are urgent societal challenges. At the same time, we see that media and communication are playing an increasingly crucial role in this – as a catalyst for awareness, as a platform for action, but also as a source of doubt, conflict, or even passivity. In this context, it is time for a special issue on the **complex, sometimes contradictory role of media, communication, and behavior in climate issues**.

How does communication contribute to behavioral change towards a sustainable society? How are climate change and ecological problems framed in news, politics, advertising, social media, or popular culture? What is the influence of interventions, interpersonal conversations, and influencers on how people think about their own role in the ecological crisis? And how can we use communication not only to inform people, but also to activate, engage, and connect them in a fair way?

Important research themes include:

- Framing and (de)polarization in public debate and political communication about sustainability.
- The role of journalism in the climate crisis: watchdog, facilitator, or catalyst?
- Social media as a platform for hope, activism, or disinformation.
- The role of AI, entertainment media, and influencers in sustainability communication.
- Communication about sustainable innovations and technology (such as energy transition, circular economy, food innovation, and mobility).
- Constructive dialogue, interpersonal communication, and depolarization: how can we have conversations about sustainability without them degenerating into conflict or indifference?
- Participatory communication and citizen engagement (e.g., citizen science, climate panels, deliberative democracy).
- Communicative aspects of climate governance: how governments and international organizations communicate and implement climate policy.

- The effects of interventions on knowledge, attitudes, and (un)sustainable behavior.
- Dealing with resistance and avoidance: psychological and communicative strategies for addressing difficult target groups.
- Visual communication, storytelling, and current discourse on climate and ecology.
- The role of advertising in (un)sustainable consumer behavior: how do green claims, purpose marketing, and greenwashing influence consumers' perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors?
- Sustainable food choices and the role of packaging.
- Communication ethics: hope vs. fear, urgency vs. overload, honesty vs. effectiveness.

We invite researchers from communication science, psychology, sociology, media and cultural studies, political science, journalism, sustainability research, behavioral sciences, and related fields to submit a contribution.

All types of methods are welcome, such as experiments, surveys, qualitative research, mixed-method studies, content analyses, discourse analyses, meta-analyses, case studies, and theoretical reflections. Interdisciplinary and practice-oriented research is strongly encouraged.

Important dates:

- Deadline for paper submission: January 15, 2026
- Review period: February – May 2026
- Publication of special issue: third quarter of 2026

If you have any questions or would like to discuss a possible contribution, please feel free to contact the guest editors at tcw@aup.nl.

We look forward to receiving inspiring contributions that further deepen and broaden the intersection of media, communication, and climate.