



Groundswell News

Newspaper of The Go-Back Club, a Simple-Living/Action Brigade

We Are One Family. These are OUR stories: www.gobackclub.org

Our Motto: Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without.

A Celebration of Youth, Issue No. 46A: January 2019

Iona's Column:

Pick a Project for Alternative Gifts



Dear Reader,

I came up with the idea of getting this issue out early so that people who are trying to figure out alternative holiday gifts which don't involve buying

"things" for people who already have too much, might just love to make donations to needy people in the name of those they love.

Two of my favorite projects are in crisis now: Emmanuel, the amazing tree-planter in Burundi, ran out of money to continue paying his workers, and Ssengendo, an orphan who runs an orphanage for 36 children, has run out of money for their food.

One American dollar goes a long way in Africa. Western Union fees are \$9.99 or #16 depending on the amount sent and the country to which it's sent. I'll be happy to go to WU for you if you want me to save you that trouble.

I had already laid out enough articles to constitute a newspaper but I have more stories coming in so I'm going to do this January issue in two parts. You know that this is the work I love doing more than anything else, so I'll just carry on, hoping nobody minds receiving an extra issue..

I was hoping to get two or even three Assistant Editors to help me work with people who submit great material on Facebook. It's very difficult to get an actual article from all those bits and pieces; however, nobody has come through yet. This has now become more than a one-woman job so I will be doing my best to get everyone in next time. Thank you for your patience and understanding. For the Earth Always,

Iona

'Tis the Season to Open Our Hearts to Those in Need

In her early years of marriage, my musical mother wrote "There is a Yearning in my Heart," which we sang at her funeral. Although she had multiple sclerosis most of her life and became legally blind, her joyful spirit remained to support my sister and me to the end.

Here's her song, which I decided to share after my two weeks of hell trying to help a scammer. My heart is still open to helping people, just not with money. I'm going to be very careful from now on.

One thing I'm still grateful to Mom for is my usually happy spirit. Many people didn't even realize she was mostly blind because she carried on so normally as best as she could, always smiling.

My holiday wish for all my readers is that if they can spare any money and wish to help our environment by making a donation instead of buying a material object, that they will find a project they love in these pages and will contribute to it in the name of someone they love.



Margaret Dyer Norris
1915 - 1998



There is a Yearning in My Heart

By Margaret Dyer Norris

Note from the Editor: This was my mother's belief; if it's not yours, please accept the message in your own way.

There is a yearning in my heart,
To live a nobler way,
To love, to give, to have a part,
In brightening someone's day.

Lord God, I pray,
Lead me Thy Way.
Let me find someone to serve today.

There is a hoping in my mind,
That midst the poor and lone
Some may a little comfort find,
I sharing what I own.

I have a feeling deep inside,
That will not let me rest
'Til we have stayed the growing tide,
Of our world's dark distress.

Lord God, I pray,
Lead me Thy Way.
Let me find someone to serve today.

I have a longing in my soul,
To serve the ones who need.
Despairing, they have lost their goal,
And want a friend to lead.

Lord God, I pray,
Lead me Thy Way.
Let me find someone to serve today.

There is a yearning in my heart,
To live a nobler way,
With love and joy to do my part,
To make a better day.

Lord God, I pray,
Lead me Thy Way.
Let me find someone to serve today.

What on Earth is The Go-Back Club?

A Simple-Living/Action Brigade

Our Motto: *Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without.*

Founder/Editor: Iona Conner

Wire Editor: Allen Hengst

Established: September 2013

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What is The Go-Back Club all about?

We want to change people's hearts. Our members live simply (or try to) so that our collective carbon footprint grows smaller and smaller every day. We are working toward a common goal of reducing our individual impacts on climate change to protect future generations and all life.

Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned about global warming and realize that they are part of the problem but don't know what to do. We invite them to join our Club. Please tell your family and friends about us. They can go to www.gobackclub.org to learn more.

What are we trying to achieve?

Our members are part of the global movement of people who know that global warming is an immediate threat and who want to prevent further harm and even reverse the situation.

We look to others for inspiration.

People are "like a blind man walking randomly toward a cliff. The only thing that will save him is to go backwards." Michael Mann (GBC board member, climate scientist, member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), told us a couple of years ago referring to tipping points on a visit to Penn State, where Mann is director of the Earth Systems Science Center

"Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplify, simplify, simplify! Simplicity of life and elevation of purpose." Henry David Thoreau

Please send me your stories and photos. I rely on our members' contributions. I'm not looking for ugly. I'm not looking for dark. I'm not looking for hatred. I'm looking for the opposites to help raise our readers' spirits. There is enough ugly and dark and hateful in the world. This newspaper provides an antidote – BEAUTY, LIGHT, LOVE. (Funny is OK, too!)

Guidelines for Submissions

Please send stories directly via email to ionaconner@pa.net and include jpg photos with captions and photo credits. Don't worry about grammar or punctuation; I proofread and edit everything without changing the content.

It's very hard for me to work on Facebook, although I find many great stories there. That's why I want you to send everything to me through email. I often will ask questions on Facebook after I receive your material, but that's not how I want to receive your work initially.

Fair Use Law: <http://copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>

Fair use is a legal doctrine that promotes freedom of expression by permitting the unlicensed use of copyright-protected works in certain circumstances. Section 107 of the Copyright Act provides the statutory framework for determining whether something is a fair use and identifies certain types of uses—such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research—as examples of activities that may qualify as fair use. Section 107 calls for consideration of the following four factors in evaluating a question of fair use:

(1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes: Courts look at how the party claiming fair use is using the copyrighted work and are more likely to find that nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair. This does not mean, however, that all nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair and all

commercial uses are not fair; instead, courts will balance the purpose and character of the use against the other factors below. Additionally, "transformative" uses are more likely to be considered fair. Transformative uses are those that add something new, with a further purpose or different character, and do not substitute for the original use of the work.

(2) Nature of the copyrighted work: This factor analyzes the degree to which the work that was used relates to copyright's purpose of encouraging creative expression. . . .

(3) Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole: Under this factor, courts look at both the quantity and quality of the copyrighted material that was used. If the use includes a large portion of the copyrighted work, fair use is less likely to be found; if the use employs only a small amount of copyrighted material, fair use is more likely. . . .

(4) Effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work: Here, courts review whether, and to what extent, the unlicensed use harms the existing or future market for the copyright owner's original work. In assessing this factor, courts consider whether the use is hurting the current market for the original work (for example, by displacing sales of the original) and/or whether the use could cause substantial harm if it were to become widespread. . . .

Please note that the Copyright Office is unable to provide specific legal advice to individual members of the public about questions of fair use. See 37 C.F.R. 201.2(a)(3). For further information, see <https://www.copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>.



Fair Use Logo

Message from TEAM 54 Project CEO Dr. Daniel

8th UNAOC Global Forum, Partnerships for Prevention and Sustaining Peace

Team 54 Project International CEO, Dr. Gbujie Daniel Chidubem, was at the General Assembly Hall of the UN Headquarters in New York City on November 19, 2018. He sent this message to Team 54 members:

We gather at a time when the world is no longer adopting compassionate policies. We must re-commit ourselves and complement all efforts to uplift people, especially vulnerable nations, to achieve Sustainable Development.

We must begin to bridge the gap between the “have nots” and those that “have.” Our world will be more diverse whether we like it or not. That’s why we must promote dialogue and understanding because inter-racial dialogue, great understanding, plus identifying the causative agents that destabilize nations like climate change – all of these will establish peace and better enrich the world.

I want to Thank H.E Nassir Abdulaziz Al -Nasser. I also want to appreciate Archbishop Cardinal John Onaiyekan for the dialogue and deliberations during our discussion. Let me also appreciate the

UNAOCFORUM staff Nihal Saad, Matteo Sestito, and the United Nation for extending this invitation to our organization, team54project.org.

In conclusion, we must now as a race re-draft policy positions on how we should govern, especially laying out guiding civil codes binding to all or even signed as a charter; this policy must also center around compassionate innovation. Personally we are in need of a new economic system built around the principle of compassion, which is the instrumentation that makes us Human.

(a later message for Team 54 members)

As we become the people that change our respective jurisdictions, we must remember that the people that changed the world started out as ordinary people; but what made them extraordinary or what has made them our reference point is the steady, small, elegant, silent actions and words which inspired the few who listened into taking action. That singular sincere action taken by an ordinary person in the interest of others can greatly build and inspire significant change, which in turn changes the way people perceive reality and inspires others to recognize, relate, and respond appropriately.



Photo Courtesy Gbujie Daniel Chidubem
Dr. Gbujie Daniel Chidubem (left) and His Eminence The Head of Catholic Church in Nigeria, Archbishop John Onaiyekan, shortly after speaking truth to power at the 8th UN Alliance of Civilization Summit which was held at the UN Headquarters in New York City.

JOIN TEAM 54 TODAY

1. WWW.TEAM54PROJECT.ORG
SCROLL DOWN TO “APPLY NOW”
2. GET ON THE TEAM 54
FACEBOOK PAGE AT
[HTTP://M.FACEBOOK.COM/
GROUPS/374688422906497](http://M.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/374688422906497)



Message from TEAM 54 Board Chair, Matthew

Submitted by Matthew Bonnstetter, Serbia

“Rosario Dawson and Ron Finley Promote Effort to Go Beyond sustainability and Become ‘Regenerative’ with Climate Victory Gardens.”
(video)

Celebrity Activist and Gangsta Gardener Promote Climate Change Mitigation and Healthy Eating Through Community, Home Gardens. It's Not About “Sustainable” Anymore, It's About Being “Regenerative.”

WASHINGTON, DC – Green America and Kiss the Ground today premiered a new video on Upworthy featuring actress and political activist Rosario Dawson and Gangsta Gardener and “Evolutionary” Artist Ron Finley, touting the “Climate Victory Garden” campaign that encourages Americans to plant “regenerative” backyard or community gardens to help combat climate change. The video is available at www.greenamerica.org/climatevictorygardens.

“Climate Victory Gardens” were inspired by the “Victory Gardens” planted during the first and second World Wars. By 1944, nearly 20 million Victory Gardens produced eight million tons of food, equaling over 40 percent of the fresh fruits and vegetables consumed in the U.S. at the time. These Victory Gardens fed Americans at home, and made more farm-raised food

available for the troops abroad.

Today's Climate Victory Gardens emphasize Regenerative Agriculture practices like no-till, cover crops, and composting that help to build healthy soils. These practices can mitigate carbon emissions and even sequester carbon into the soil while growing non-toxic, nutrient-rich foods.

“Climate Victory Gardens are a great way for the 35 percent of Americans with home or community gardens to engage on the issue of climate change. With simple techniques your garden can play a meaningful part in reversing climate change,” said Dawson. “Regenerative gardening is not about being ‘sustainable,’ it's about rebuilding and restoring the health of our soils while we grow food. It's a different way of thinking.”

“We have communities nationwide that are food prisons that could be producing their own organic food while addressing climate change,” said Finley of The Ron Finley Project. “By educating the public about regeneratively homegrown food, Climate Victory Gardens are raising awareness about one of the biggest global challenges of our time and showing Americans how they can make a difference for themselves, their households, and their communities. Soil Equals Life.”

“If you don't want it in your body, don't put it in your food,” quote from video.

All the resources needed to get started and the video are at <https://kisstheground.com/its-not-about-sustainable-anymore-its-about-being-regenerative/>



Photo Courtesy greenamerica.org

Planting a garden has the power to change the world. Regenerative gardens can help reverse climate change by restoring soil health. We're bringing Victory Gardens back. This time, it's for the climate.

Rosario Dawson is known for her roles in Kids, Rent, and Sin City, and Daredevil, Jessica Jones, Luke Cage, The Defenders, and Iron Fist. Ron Finley is a Los Angeles-based “Evolutionary” and proponent of urban gardening around the planet. He travels the world encouraging the planting of edible gardens. He can be seen in “Can You Dig This?” He is also known for his TED Talks.



By Art Pasquale

This work is here where I live, in San Pedro La Laguna the work is called “still life of fruit” (5 pieces in a puzzle). It's 100x50 inches. The price is \$1,000 and, if I sell it in the U.S., I intend to donate 10% to Team 54. My best wish is that someday I can exhibit my paintings in one of the museums or art galleries of the U.S. I hope to find someone who will support me and help me process my visa and help pay my travel expenses.



Fundraiser for TEAM 54 Project

These three paintings by Art Pasqual are for sale at \$500 each.

Art will donate 10% of his profits to TEAM 54 Project.

Top: view of ant (market day)



Middle: harvest day (tapisca-corn)

Bottom: bird's eye view
(harvest of coffee, flowers and bananas)



I roll my paintings and put them in a plastic tube so that they are very safe. Prices vary depending on the measurements, but the three oil canvases shown are all 24 by 32 inches.

Contact: Art Pasqual at pascual15@hotmail.es, facebook as Art Pasqual Antonio Pur or call +502 55565902 (WhatsApp).

**IF WE ARE TO CHANGE OUR
WORLD VIEW, IMAGES HAVE
TO CHANGE. THE ARTIST NOW
HAS A VERY IMPORTANT JOB
TO DO. HE'S NOT A LITTLE
PERIPHERAL FIGURE
ENTERTAINING RICH PEOPLE,
HE'S REALLY NEEDED.**

- Vaclav Havel -

www.brainyquote.com/quotes/vaclav_havel_120731

Part III: "Greening Burundi" Tree Nursery Being Created by 24-Year-Old and His Team

(Part I ran in our November 2018 issue of Groundswell News and Part II ran in the December issue. If you'd like to see those copies, please email Iona at gobackclub@pa.net.)

By Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze, Burundi
(24 years old)

(10/27/18) We already put in seeds.

(11/6/18) Well growing. Happy for this work I'm running. I took credit to be able to bring this project to success because I will have to work hard and constantly for the good of our dear world and the human lives that are there.

I know that what I do is not for me alone but for everyone. The contribution in preservation is a fact of every person.

(11/22/18) That sounds wonderful to insert that great support from Tyla.

The baby trees are growing well I think you saw it on pictures.

I'm still needing a help to be able to buy fertilizer, watering, and pay the helpers. The means I had is being depleted.

I stay next to the nursery in order to make it good. I built a tent next to this nursery to stay next to it.

I would like to realize this project effectively but my meager means will not allow me to succeed. I would like to plant more than a million trees in three years.

It is a hard work without visible support.

(11/24/18) We are at 10:30 PM.

During the day I worked hard such weeding, watering the baby trees, and I removed the straw.

Now I'm feeling asleep, we will talk tomorrow. I'm very tired. I worked a whole day with my team.

My motto: "Protect our dear planet and preserve our health."

#Burundi

#GreeningBurundiProject

Contact Emmanuel at niyoyabikozeemmanuel@gmail.com.



Photo Courtesy Greening Burundi

Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze poses with watering cans he and his team use to help his 40,000 baby trees grow. The photo below shows one little tree reaching for the sun and starting life in Emmanuel's tree nursery.

ACTION YOU CAN TAKE

EMMANUEL NEEDS MONEY TO KEEP HIS DREAM OF GREENING BURUNDI GOING STRONG. PLEASE SEND A DONATION VIA WESTERN UNION TO EMMANUEL NIYOYABIKOZE IN BURUNDI OR SEND A CHECK TO THE GO-BACK CLUB (ADDRESS ON PAGE 2) AND IONA WILL GET IT TO HIM.



EVERY BLADE OF GRASS HAS ITS ANGEL THAT BENDS OVER IT AND WHISPERS, "GROW, GROW."

- The Talmud-

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/237936-every-blade-of-grass-has-its-angel-that-bends-over>



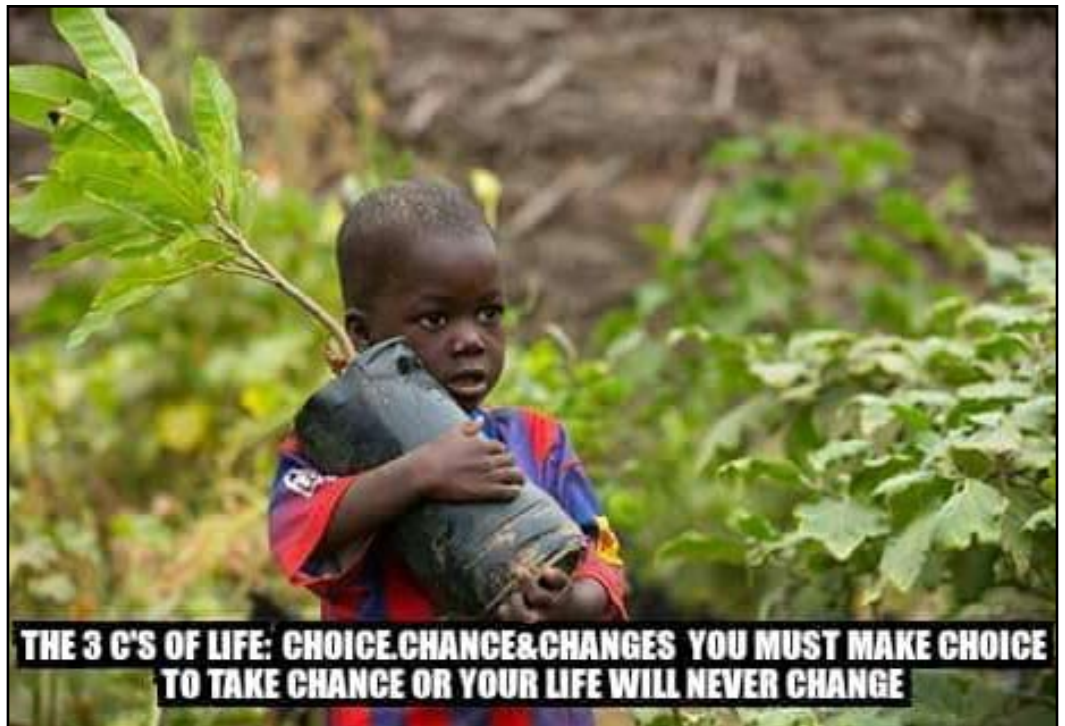
Importance of Planting and Protecting Trees, Starting with Young People



YOU CANNOT PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT UNLESS YOU EMPOWER PEOPLE; YOU INFORM THEM AND YOU HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THAT THESE RESOURCES ARE THEIR OWN, THAT THEY MUST PROTECT THEM.

- Wangari Maathai -

<https://www.azquotes.com/quote/659187>



Submitted by Kromah Usman Socrates II

Posted in PAVON Team Africa, Liberia Mahawa Komala

Our mini silvicultural program (Planting Trees) went well on the weekend with

children of my community. We successfully planted a few fruit trees in an effort to promote the effective management of local trees in our surroundings considering the roles of trees in soil formation and retention, formation of atmospheric oxygen, climate regulations, and recreation.

If you can't plant a tree, please save a tree.

#Eg
#GEF
#Children
#Environment
#ClimateAction



Photo: Ben Britten/Flickr/cc

A group of scientists warned that world governments must focus on ending deforestation as well as cutting carbon emissions in order to stem the climate crisis.

Urging Multi-Pronged Effort to Halt Climate Crisis, Scientists Say Protecting World's Forests as Vital as Cutting Emissions

Submitted by John Conner
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania USA

“Our message as scientists is simple: Our planet’s future climate is inextricably tied to the future of its forests.”

By Julia Conley
Common Dreams, October 4, 2018

A group of scientists warned Thursday that world governments must focus on ending deforestation as well as cutting carbon emissions in order to stem the climate crisis.

With a new statement rejecting the notion that drastically curbing emissions alone is enough to curb the threat of human-caused global warming, a group of scientists are urging world leaders to take immediate action to stop deforestation – calling it a key solution to stem the planetary climate crisis.

Forty scientists from five countries signed a statement days before the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was scheduled to meet in South Korea, warning that stopping deforestation is as urgent as ending the world’s dependence on fossil fuels.

“We must protect and maintain healthy forests to avoid dangerous climate change and to ensure the world’s forests continue to provide services critical for the well-being of the planet and ourselves,” the statement read. “Our message as scientists is simple: Our planet’s future climate is inextricably tied to the future of its forests.”

Because forests absorb about a quarter of the carbon released by human activity, the elimination of forests and jungles around the world would release more than three trillion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere – more than the amount that could be released from all of the world’s oil, gas, and coal reserves.

“The forest piece of the conversation is often lost and I don’t think the IPCC report will highlight it enough,” Deborah

Lawrence, a professor at the University of Virginia who signed the statement, told *The Guardian*.

Deforestation represents a vicious cycle in the fight against the climate crisis. As the burning of fossil fuels leads to a warmer planet, changes in the climate have had multiple effects including wildfires like the ones that have swept through Europe and the U.S. in recent months, contributing to more deforestation, which then releases more carbon.

“We will have a hotter, drier world without these forests” Lawrence told *The Guardian*. “There needs to be an international price on carbon to fund the protection of forests.”

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Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2018/10/04/urging-multi-pronged-effort-halt-climate-crisis-scientists-say-protecting-worlds>

Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage, Uganda

By Ssendendo Yasin Siginalaminat, Uganda

We thank our sister from USA who sent our kids some candies and books for the kids, so whoever is interested in sending a package, this is our mailing address, though it takes about four weeks to reach to Uganda

SSENGENDO YASIN SIGINALAMINAT
P.O.BOX, 428
JINJA UGANDA
+256759273161

Thank you who ever donates to the needy. Faith without deeds is dead!

Some are orphans by one parent and others have no parents; they are total orphans. Others were street kids due to bad or mistreatment by parents! And end up on street.

Currently there are 19 girls and 17 boys ages 2 to 11 living in the Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage. Monthly rent is \$250 and feeding them costs \$400 a month.

Having a stable home for the children is one of our visions so that we end paying rent bills because it is very expensive for us to pay rent bills every month. Having a school/home/orphanage home, it needs us to buy one acre of land where we can construct an orphanage home so that we become rent free and we can still have one acre of land at \$5,800 and this land can be enough for the building and reserved space for the children to play, space for washing their clothes, and a space for the Bible studying or reading.

Today morning I had to go and see the engineers in Jinja town to ask them what it can cost us to have a beautiful home for the children and they were so good because they told me what building we can have on one acre for both boys and girl.

ROOMS NEEDED

- 3 rooms for boys and each room will occupy six kids or boys
- 3 rooms for girls and each room will occupy six girls or kids
- 1 room to work as office where we shall keep our records for the organization
- 1 room to use it as kitchen
- 1 room as the store for the orphanage home and wall fence on the orphanage home for security reasons and to keep the children safe

According to the engineer I met in town, we shall need to have \$22,000 to construct all those structures including painting and roofing, meaning we need \$27,800 includ-



Photos by Ssendendo Yasin Siginalaminat

Children at Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage enjoying new gifts received from a donor in the United States recently. "If we get a serious friend with a giving heart, \$60 can support each kid each month – education, feeding, medical, and clothing – as we wait for big miracles."



Orphans continued on next page

Orphans *continued from previous page*

ing the land purchase to see that children are having what they will call their sweet home for life. The engineer told me he will just need a small labor fee of \$1,000 only to do the work.

Conclusion

Farming program and home construction program in total we need \$47,400 to

see that we start farming and children have sweet home or what they will call their home for life.

If we can get a serious help of at least \$1,500 we could at least manage a few things like Feeding, Clothing, Medical, Rent, Others.

Thank you very much. May God bless you and other well-wishers.

ACTION YOU CAN TAKE

WAVE, MONEY TRANSFER, WORLD REMIT,
MOBILE WALLET OR MONEYGRAM
FIRST NAME: SSENENDO
LAST NAME: YASIN SIGNALAMINAT
CITY: JINJA; COUNTRY: UGANDA
CONTACT: +256778265525
EMAIL: SSENENDO80YASIN80@GMAIL.COM



Photos by Ssendo Yasin Signalaminat

Orphans at the Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage in Uganda, relax outdoors with their adult friends and caregivers. It costs a lot to pay rent and feed these little ones and the orphanage has run out of money. They need help desperately to have adequate nourishment and a rent-free home of their own.

Major Breakthrough For Carbon Pricing in the U.S.

Submitted by Rolly Montpellier, Canada Below2C

Primary Source, CCL Canada @CitizensLobbyCa: December 1, 2018

Canadians celebrate this carbon pricing breakthrough. The following press release was issued by Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada (CCLCanada).

Five members of the U.S. House of Representatives from both parties just introduced the most significant climate change legislation Congress has seen in over a decade.

Sponsored by Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL), Rep. Francis Rooney (R-FL), Rep. Charlie Crist (D-FL), Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Rep. John Delaney (D-MD), the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act is a climate solution that goes further than any national policy to date, creating over two million new jobs, lowering health care costs, promoting energy innovation, and encouraging consumer spending.

It does so by applying a nationwide price on carbon emissions and returning the revenue to people each month.

This approach is a climate change solution long advocated by both economists and climate scientists as the simplest, most effective approach to solving climate change. This bill seeks to lower carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions by at least 33% over the next 10 years.

At a press conference on November 28, sponsors of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act delivered remarks, surrounded by supporters.

"To call this legislation a breakthrough is an understatement," said Citizens' Climate Lobby Executive Director Mark Reynolds. *"Any long-term solution needs buy-in from both Republicans and Democrats. And now that their constituents are feeling the negative effects of climate change firsthand, both sides are more willing to cooperate on a solution that brings about real change."*

Reynolds said the new policy will create 2.1 million new jobs over the next 10 years, based on estimates from a 2014 Regional Economic Models, Inc. study on the effect of a revenue-neutral carbon price on the American economy.

Additionally, implementing this policy will reduce health care costs by cutting pollution, as studies show that poor air quality is responsible for an estimated 60,000 U.S. deaths each year. Thousands more Americans are sickened by toxic air and

Energy Innovation AND Carbon Dividend Act

AMERICA'S CLIMATE SOLUTION

H.R. 7173

This bill will drive down America's carbon pollution and bring climate change under control. It is:

- EFFECTIVE** (checkmark icon)
- GOOD FOR PEOPLE** (family with dog icon)
- GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY** (upward arrow icon)
- REVENUE NEUTRAL** (scales icon)

Republicans and Democrats agree

Graphic: Energy Innovation Act

"To call this legislation a breakthrough is an understatement," says Citizens' Climate Lobby Executive Director Mark Reynolds in a press release. *"It goes further than any national policy to date, creating over two million new jobs, lowering health care costs, promoting energy innovation, and encouraging consumer spending."*

costs from air pollution-related illness are estimated at \$150 billion per year.

Dire Fourth National Climate Assessment

The Fourth National Climate Assessment estimated that the impact of climate change could reduce the size of the American economy 10 percent by end of the century.

"Unless steps are taken to dramatically reduce heat-trapping emissions, climate change will do irreparable harm to Americans," said Reynolds. *"This bipartisan solution comes not a moment too soon."*

"This aggressive carbon pricing scheme introduced by members from both parties marks an important opportunity to begin to seriously address the immediate threat of climate change," said Congressman Deutch. *"The status quo is unsustainable; the time to act is right now."*

Revenue from the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act will be returned equally to all American households on a monthly basis, also known as "carbon dividends." This ensures the program is revenue neutral and does not grow the size of government.

In a paper prepared for Columbia

University, economist Noah Kaufman said the legislation "would provide a substantial boost to low carbon generation sources including solar, wind, and nuclear energy, and virtually eliminate the use of coal in the U.S. electricity system by 2030." Kaufman's paper also said, *"The rebates received by the average low- and middle-income households would exceed the additional expenditures of these households due to the higher prices caused by the carbon tax."*

Canada and U.S. Linked by Carbon Pricing

"We welcome this development," says Cathy Orlando, National Director at Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada. *"The Canadian and USA energy and climate policies are de facto linked together. With the predictable market signal from carbon pricing, Canada and the USA will be well-poised to capitalize on the \$26 trillion in business opportunities in clean technologies without burdening the taxpayer."*

Congressman Rooney stated, *"To let the free market price out coal, we should consider value pricing carbon. A revenue-neutral carbon fee is an efficient, market-driven*

Carbon Pricing *continued on next page*

More States Opt to Phase Out Oil Production

Cutting fossil fuel supply can help to limit demand, and more governments are deciding to phase out oil production, new study finds.

By Alex Kirby
Climate News Network: November 29, 2018

LONDON – A growing number of governments are choosing to phase out oil production, reasoning that cutting the availability of fossil fuels can help to cut the demand for them.

The world needs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as fast as possible, yes? And one of the main causes of the emissions is the burning of fuels such as oil, gas, and coal? Right again. So the simple and obvious answer, these governments are deciding, is to stop the drilling and mining which extract fossil fuels.

That's the argument examined in a report by researchers from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). There's already a growing movement to leave fossil fuels in the ground. But their study concentrates specifically on governments.

They say phasing out oil production could be the next big step in climate policy, thanks to an initial group of first-movers who've already taken the plunge.

One is Spain, which announced this month that it plans to completely decarbonise its electricity system by mid-century, a move which includes a total ban on all oil and gas exploration.

“Limiting fossil fuel production is an important complement to limiting demand.”

The SEI team outlines its findings in the journal *Nature Climate Change*. The authors were to present their results in greater detail in the Polish city of Katowice on December 5 at this year's UN global climate summit, COP24.



They focus on California as the possible next addition to this growing list of governments choosing to forego oil extraction. The study finds numerous benefits to restricting production, including not only reducing global emissions but also helping to revoke the “social licence” of fossil fuel producers – the public acceptance of their activities.

“Countries like France, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Belize, and – just last week, Spain – are sending a clear signal by phasing out oil production,” said Georgia Pigot, an SEI sociologist and co-author of the study. “The fossil fuel era needs to end soon, and governments need to have clear plans in place to ensure an orderly and fair transition.”

With California as a case study, the SEI report points to a resolution by the state's Air Resources Board to “evaluate and explore” reducing the production of petroleum.

Boosting Environmental Justice

It finds that phasing out oil in California would reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by roughly the same amount as many of the other climate policies currently planned by the state. And, because most oil drilling there happens in the most pollution-vulnerable communities, phasing it out would have important environmental justice benefits as well.

“Gradually phasing down oil production is a reasonable approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions,” said SEI senior scientist

Peter Erickson, the study's lead author.

“California is one of the top oil-producing states in the U.S., but it is also a climate leader. Restricting oil production would complement the state's flagship policies, such as strengthened standards for clean power or energy efficiency.”

The study's lessons apply to other states, too. It concludes that governments that aim to demonstrate leadership and meet the Paris Agreement goals have “a number of policy options that can limit future production of oil and other fossil fuels, while delivering important global emissions and local environmental benefits.”

Limiting Temperature Rise

The Paris Agreement settled on a target that global temperatures should increase by no more than 2°C above their pre-industrial levels, with governments striving to keep the rise to just 1.5°C.

Peter Erickson told the Climate News Network that the scenarios published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with its recent report *Global Warming of 1.5°C* provided guideposts to the SEI's work.

He said, “The median results of those scenarios suggest that global oil production (and consumption) needs to decline more than 40% between 2020 and 2030 to meet a 1.5°C target, global coal production (and consumption) more than 80%, and global gas production (and consumption) by more than 40% (the declines are rather less for meeting a 2°C goal).”

“These declines could be accomplished most effectively with both demand- and supply-side measures. That is our central point – that limiting fossil fuel production is an important complement to limiting demand.”

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Carbon Pricing *continued from previous page*
incentive to move toward natural gas and away from coal, and to support emerging alternative sources of energy.”

Speaking at a press conference Wednesday, Congressman Crist said, “Since organizing Florida's first national climate

change summit more than 10 years ago, it's clear that reducing our carbon dependency is the key to winning this fight. The devastating findings released in last week's report show that the clock is ticking and continued inaction would be catastrophic – for our environment, our economy, and people's health. We are taking an historic step with

the introduction of this bipartisan legislation: Congress must act with the urgency this crisis demands.”

Source: <https://below2c.org/2018/12/major-breakthrough-for-carbon-pricing-in-the-u-s/>

Team 54 Member One of Six Recognized as Defender of the Planet

Eclectic Northeast: November 2018

From the time he was a little boy, Rituraj Phukan was always eager to observe nature and simple things like the blooming of flowers, birds flying around, and the like. He shares, “*Conservation is not a career for me, it is a childhood fascination that has grown into a lifelong engagement.*” He gave up his well-paying and secure government job to pursue a career in conservation. He is associated with multiple organizations. He is the Secretary General of Green Guard Nature Organization, a grassroots-based nature conservation NGO.

“*I work with fringe forest communities to explore and establish sustainable solutions for management of man/animal conflict. Recently, we were one of the three organizations from India globally recognized as ‘Elephant Champions.’*” He is also the Chief Operating Officer of Walk for Water, a Hyderabad-based organization, working with the most water stressed communities in India. “*My mission is to ensure that World Water Day emerges as the most important day on the environment calendar after World Environment Day and Earth Day.*” Rituraj is also a Climate Reality Leader, trained under Nobel Laureate Al Gore.

He serves as a Mentor and District Manager with The Climate Reality Project. But that is not all. He is also the Assam Coordinator for Kids For Tigers, the Sanctuary Tiger program. “*I work with middle school students to facilitate an understanding that connects conservation of the primary forest habitats with water security and climate change mitigation.*” He is also the Ambassador for the Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary, which is a proposal to protect all the areas north of the Arctic Circle.

Of course, working in conservation is not a cakewalk and he has had to face quite a few challenges along the way. “*The most challenging thing has to be working with people! We believe that the real measure of success is the involvement of local communities in conservation and that, by itself, is the biggest challenge, as it is very difficult to keep people motivated. There are so many emotions involved and so much energy in a group of people, to keep them focused on the goals and objectives are difficult.*”

But he still feels that we can all do our bit for the environment. “*I believe in making a personal commitment and therefore, I have been a vegan for two years now. The wastage of food and water, littering of public space and the use of single-use plastics can be signifi-*



Photo Courtesy Raj Phukan

Rituraj is raising funds to participate in the carbon-neutral Climate Force Expedition to the Arctic frontiers next year, where he will gain insights about polar melting and global weather for his book, and also more credibility for his speaking engagements around India. See the Action box below for donation details.

cantly reduced if the masses are made aware of the harmful effects and consequences. In many countries, social transformation has been achieved by inducing behavioral change and media plays a critical role in nudging people towards imbibing environmentally conscious habits.”

He feels that we can never have too many conservationists. “*We should have a conservationist in every house who will ensure that there is no wastage in the household! We need young conservationists in every locality to ensure that there are no heaps of litter in the neighborhood! Single-use plastics have transformed once pristine villages into unsightly dumps. We need a conservationist in every village so that the neat and clean rural countrysides of our childhood days are restored.*”

Presently, Rituraj is working to build up a Citizens Climate Lobby team for India. “*That way, we have a consensus among policy makers for a carbon tax regime after the next general elections. The importance of a carbon tax has been magnified by the new Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, which gives us a small window of 10 to 12 years for decisive action in order to avoid a temperature rise of 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels. In other words, the time to save our future generations from catastrophic climate change is now!*”

He will also travel to the north polar region, as part of the Climate Force Arctic expedition. “*The global team of scientists, experts and activists on the expedition will document Arctic warming as well as brainstorm on the road map for sustainable development.*”

He is also working on biodiversity impact chapter in a new book that will soon be published in the US. “*I am also looking forward to the completion of two other book projects and building up on my writing engagements.*” Another future project is the Nature Needs Half movement. “*The movement believes that we need to leave half the planet alone for sustaining its life systems. The movement has slowly built up collaborative networks for protection of 50% of wild nature by 2050; Green Guard Nature Organization and Walk for Water are partners in this endeavor.*”


Source: <https://www.magzter.com/IN/Eclectic/Eclectic-Northeast/News/313867>

ACTION YOU CAN TAKE
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How to Talk About Hurricanes Now

Submitted by C.B.
Pennsylvania, USA

GBC Board member and world-renowned climate scientist Michael Mann (@MichaelEMann) posted this in the article: “I prefer ‘unnatural disaster’ when talking about impacts that have been exacerbated by climate change.”

By John D. Sutter 
CNN: October 11, 2018

Hurricane Michael isn't a truly “natural disaster.”

Neither was Harvey in Houston.
Nor Maria in Puerto Rico.

Yet we continue to use that term.

Doing so – especially in the era of climate change – is misleading if not dangerous, according to several disaster experts and climate scientists I reached by phone and on Twitter.

“The phrase ‘natural disaster’ is an attempt to lay blame where blame really doesn't rest,” said Kerry A. Emanuel, a professor of atmospheric science at MIT and a global expert on hurricanes.

It's not about semantics, said Ksenia Chmutina, a lecturer at Loughborough University in the United Kingdom. She and colleagues issued a news release this year asking journalists to banish the phrase from our lexicon. “By blaming nature on disasters, we're saying there is nothing we can do about this – we can't do anything to reduce the risks. Which is not the case.”

So, what should we say instead?

And where, if not with nature, should we place the blame?

You have to consider climate change.

There are essentially two big answers to the blame question.

One is climate change.

Humans are burning fossil fuels – coal, oil, gas – at an alarming rate, putting heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere. In this manner, we've raised global temperatures about 1 degree Celsius since the Industrial Revolution, according to a landmark report released this week by a UN organization, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The air is warmer and so are the oceans. The storms that form in this now-changed environment are different than



Photo Courtesy CNN 

Hurricane Michael strikes Florida Panhandle. Storm-damaged boats are piled up in Panama City, Florida, on October 11, 2018.

they were before.

“I prefer ‘unnatural disaster’ when talking about impacts that have been exacerbated by climate change (<https://t.co/pV1dJdNJvm>),” said Michael E. Mann on October 10, 2018.

“The best scientific info we have now is that the probabilities of these intense hurricanes – from the point of view of both wind and water – are going up in many places because of global warming,” Emanuel said.

Rain associated with these storms is getting more intense, he said, because, “Warmer air holds more water vapor than cooler air.” Sea levels are rising as the oceans warm and as land-based ice in the Arctic, for example, melts into the ocean -- and that means more damage, and likely death, associated with storm surges and coastal flooding. Plus, hurricanes are expected to intensify more rapidly in a warming world, making them more difficult to forecast.

“There is a pretty strong consensus [among scientists] that the frequency of the high category events like Michael, in most parts of the world, should go up as a result of climate warming,” Emanuel said.

Natural and man-made are both true. The real problem is the impact these disasters have on ecology, environment, economies, and societies. The most vulnerable are as always hit hardest. Example, when a storm hits it hits true industrial zones and water becomes toxic.

— **Henk Ovink** (@henkovink) October 10, 2018: Hurricanes aren't new. But storms like Hurricane Michael occur in the context of this macro trend. Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that humans are

driving global warming, according to a NASA summary of peer-reviewed science. And the sobering report the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released this month says the world must cut emissions of carbon dioxide about in half by 2030 – a dozen years from now – and become carbon-neutral (meaning no net pollution of that heat-trapping gas) by 2050 in order to possibly meet the strictest global climate goals and avoid some of the very worst consequences of warming.

“The climate is changing, and that means that weather is impacted by the current state of the climate. There's a human fingerprint on that,” said Kevin A. Reed, an assistant professor in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University. “So, to some extent, there's a human fingerprint on individual weather events.”

Scientists are getting better at looking for human ‘fingerprints.’

Increasingly, researchers like Reed are able to analyze how human-induced warming affects individual storms. This is somewhat new. (I wrote about the history in an article about the 2016 floods in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.) And this “climate attribution” science helps the public answer questions about how climate change is making storms, heat waves, floods, and the like, different – and often more dangerous.

Earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes – are traditionally “Acts of God” on Insurance Forms. But as climate-change continues,

Hurricanes *continued on next page*

Hurricanes *continued from previous page*

and coastal flooding from hurricanes worsens, the Forms might now include “Acts of Humans.”

— **Neil deGrasse Tyson** (@neiltyson) October 10, 2018: Reed, for example, conducted an assessment of Hurricane Florence as it headed for the Carolina coast of the United States last month. Reed and colleagues found that the forecast storm was likely to be about 50 miles wider and drop about 50% more rain in certain areas than it would have without human-caused climate change.

That’s a preliminary assessment Reed is following up with more research now. But the point is that we can’t pretend climate change is a distant threat, he said.

“Climate change is here now, and it’s impacting storms now,” he told me by phone. “The impacts of climate change are very, very real.”

Where people live also matters – as does preparedness.

The other big answer to the blame question is much older – like back-to-Rousseau older. And that’s the fact that we humans don’t prepare well for hazards like floods and hurricanes. In doing so, we create risk.

“The hazard is a natural one, but you don’t get a disaster if there aren’t people/buildings in harm’s way,” Andrea Thompson, an associate editor at *Scientific American*, wrote on Twitter. “Climate change is a component, most clearly with sea level rise, but coastal population explosion means a lot more potential for disaster.”

I use this figure in every class I teach to explain that disaster is the result of three things: the hazard itself, who/what is exposed to it, and how prepared/vulnerable they are. If a hurricane never makes landfall, it’s not a disaster! pic.twitter.com/EU-42nzn1b

— **Katharine Hayhoe** (@KHayhoe) October 10, 2018: Emanuel, the hurricane expert at MIT, says the global population exposed to hurricane risks has tripled since the 1970s as more people move toward coastal regions and hurricane-prone areas.

“The problem in the United States is that we not only stop adaptation but we actual-

ly engaged in what you might call a ‘negative adaptation’ to the risks posed by storms and climate change,” Emanuel said. “The government – both at the state and federal level – has strong policies in place that encourage people to live and build in risky places.”

Examples, he said, include the National Flood Insurance Program, which is funded by taxpayers, and state-level policies that put a cap on the amount people pay for flood insurance.

The way governments response to disasters is also related. I spent much of the last year in Puerto Rico writing about Hurricane Maria. A colleague of mine, Omayra Sosa Pascual from the Center for Investigative Journalism, wrote in an email that it would be a mistake to call Maria a “natural disaster” because the federal and territorial governments neglected infrastructure projects before the storm and then responded with painful slowness after it hit the island last year.

Yes, as @KHayhoe said, the hazard is a natural one, but you don’t get a disaster if there aren’t people/buildings in harm’s way. Climate change is a component, most clearly with sea level rise, but coastal population explosion means a lot more potential for disaster.

— **Andrea Thompson** (@AndreaTWeather) October 10, 2018: Even very simple changes to construction standards and zoning could make a difference in terms of preparedness, said Chmutina, the lecturer in the UK. Putting power outlets higher on walls, for instance, reduces the chance of power going out during a flood, she said. But largely, people and governments do not opt for these preventative measures because they’re slightly more expensive up-front, she said, even though some adaptations could save money and lives.

“When we’re saying this phrase, ‘natural disaster,’ we pretend we are not responsible for creating disaster,” she told me. “We blame everything on nature. We make nature responsible for disasters, and that is not the case.”

The philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, she pointed out, famously made this point in the 1700s.

“[N]ature did not construct twenty thousand houses of six to seven stories there,” he wrote in a letter responding to debate about a deadly earthquake in Lisbon, Portugal. “[I]f the inhabitants of this great city had been more equally spread out and more lightly lodged, the damage would have been much less and perhaps of no account.”

What should we say instead?

OK, so if you concede that these disasters and their fallout are no longer truly “natural” (and never really were), then what’s the best term to use instead?

John Upton, a writer at Climate Central, suggested dropping the term “natural” in favor of just “disaster.”

I think we can just skip over the ‘natural’ part and say “disaster.”

We build homes where wildfires burn and waters swell, then rebuild after they’re trashed. We don’t help the poor or working class weather or escape effects of storms. Evacuation routes are often limited. etc.

— **John Upton** (@johnupton) October 10, 2018: Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist at Texas Tech, had a longer turn of phrase, suggesting that we call them “what used to be entirely natural disasters ... now amplified or exacerbated by human-induced change.”

“I know it’s a mouthful,” she wrote on Twitter, “but I think it’s worth it, because it addresses the misconception and presents the facts, all in one.”

I call them “what used to be entirely natural disasters” ... and if I have another 5s, I add: “now amplified or exacerbated by human-induced change.” I know it’s a mouthful but I think it’s worth it, because it addresses the misconception and presents the facts, all in one.

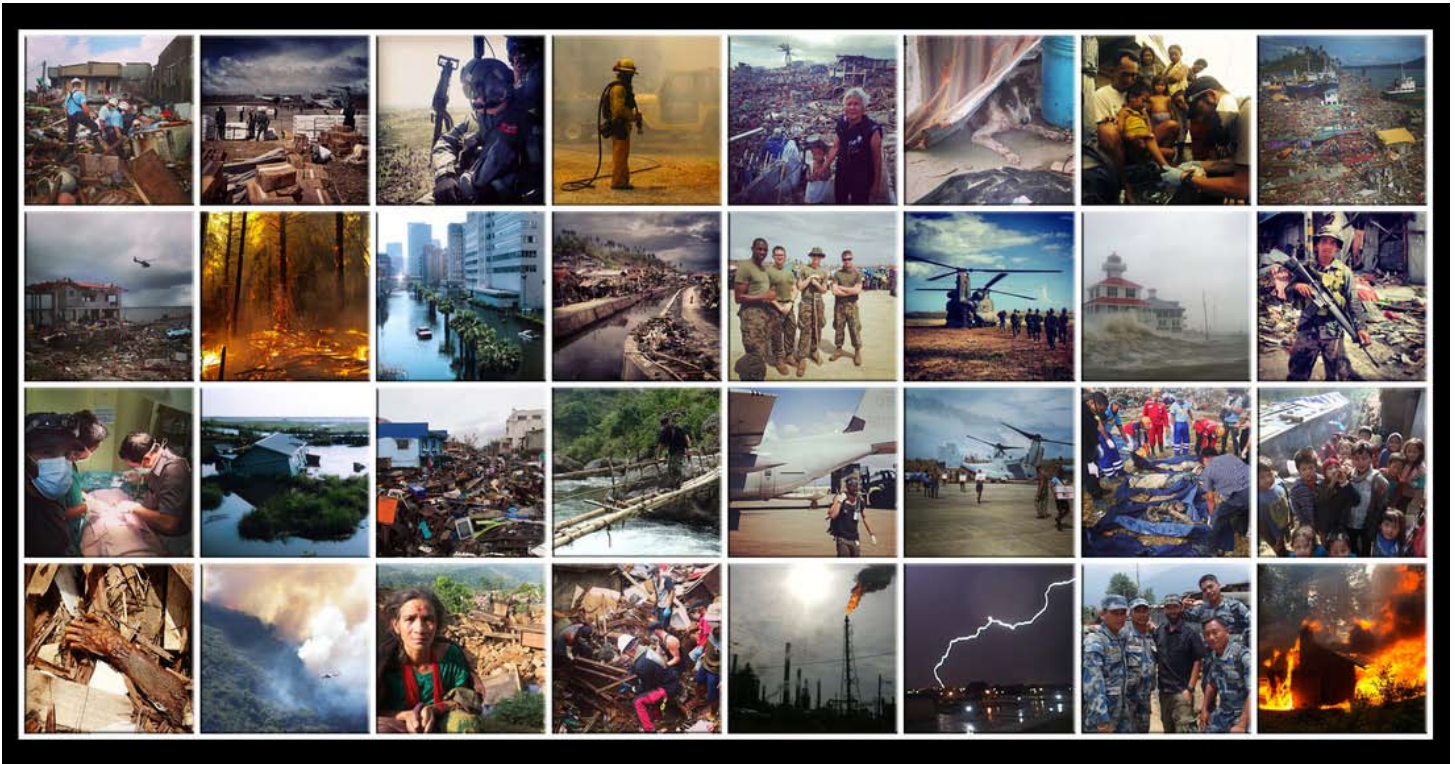
— **Katharine Hayhoe** (@KHayhoe) October 10, 2018: Reed, the Stony Brook professor, suggested simply “extreme events.” The important thing, experts said, is that we humans accept some blame. And then use that knowledge to prevent suffering associated with storms yet to come.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/10/10/health/sutter-natural-disaster-hurricane-michael/index.html>

THE FUTURE IS NOT SOME PLACE WE ARE GOING, BUT ONE WE ARE CREATING. THE PATHS ARE NOT TO BE FOUND, BUT MADE. AND THE ACTIVITY OF MAKING THEM CHANGES BOTH THE MAKER AND THEIR DESTINATION.

- John Schaar -

<http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/4633.html>



Global Hero Writes Resource Guide to Solve Urgent Global Issues

By Alekz Londos, Santa Cruz, California USA

Please understand that we are at a critical point in History and I must prioritize conveying my information to the largest audience possible – speeches, news interviews, radio shows, video projects, my book, Facebook posts, etc.

I embedded an interactive Facebook commenting section on the Resource Guide portion of my website. I strongly encourage utilizing it to networking with others of similar interest, post topics on related issues, resourceful links, personal projects, ideas, and sustainable solutions. <http://www.advanceddisasterrelief.com/resource-guide.html>.

Your participation in my Envirolize Facebook group is also appreciated! <https://m.facebook.com/groups/581855418626896>

If you have any further question, you can always contact one of my interns; Kasey Baltz compassandtravelers@gmail.com or Akanksha Gautam aakankshagautam19971@gmail.com.

Resource Guide to Solve Urgent Global Issues

Introduction, excerpt

I am Alekz Londos, the C.E.O. of Advanced Disaster Relief. I have 16 years of ex-

perience as a photojournalist. After being a witness to so much destruction, death, mass suffering, and failed humanitarian responses, I was driven to make a difference and became involved in emergency services. I have independently provided international disaster relief support and immediate medical care to critical areas before the military and multinational organizations arrived. I have done search and rescue, body recovery, psychological debriefing, debris removal, risk mitigation, and rebuilt infrastructures. I focus my mission objectives on benefiting humanity and our environment. I then write inspiring stories and utilize mass media to help raise awareness and compassion towards tragic events.

I began my career working for major TV news stations in Reno, Nevada before becoming an independent, freelance photojournalist in 2002. My images have been featured on CNN, NBC, CBS, FOX, ABC, KSBW, Associated Press (AP), World News (WN), Philippine National News, and many other news outlets. I have been published in newspapers 34 times: *The Huffington Post*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *LA Times*, *Aptos Times*, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, *Mercury News*, *Reno Gazette Journal*, *Santa Cruz Good Times*, and *Reno News & Review*. I have been interviewed by Anonymous (the international cyber hacking group) as well as

KSCO, KTOK, and KRXA radio stations.

I took a variety of courses at Cabrillo College in 2008 and years later had accumulated 81 units. I mostly studied emergency medical training, environmental science, horticulture, sustainability, and renewable energy and resources, all of which I could apply to my career. I completed the Red Cross course in Santa Cruz and became a disaster relief volunteer in 2009. I also completed the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) course at the Felton Fire Station in 2010. I now consider myself a hybrid photojournalist, environmentalist, humanitarian, and activist.

I self-deployed to hazmat cleanups, lightning storms, wildfires, floods, sinkholes, landslides, snowstorms, car accidents, and a commuter train crash. I was in New Orleans during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the Philippines during the aftermath of Super Typhoon Haiyan. I have been through three other hurricanes as well: Gustav in 2008, as well as Isaac and Sandy in 2013. I also went tornado chasing in Oklahoma in 2013. I was in Ghana during the peak of the Ebola outbreak in 2014. I volunteered in Nepal during the earthquake aftermath of 2015. I lived in the epicenter for a month on my own while treating medical patients and helping the community recover. I went

Global Hero continued on next page

Young Local Hero Saves Village After Earthquake in Nepal

Submitted by Anup Khadka, Nepal

October 11, 2018: Message from TEAM 54 Project International (Climate Change Global Quest) member Anup Khadka: *Suman Khadka is my brother who is also the country Director of Bye Bye Plastic Bags Nepal as well as environmental and social activist. You can look at this article published in 2015 in an Australian newspaper. Now he started a new social enterprise called SPAN (Sustainable Projects Across Nepal) Foundation which works on Environment, Health, Education, Entrepreneurship, SDG's. And he is working as Board of Directors and CEO of SPAN foundation.*

The Nepalese teen who saved his village: "I couldn't just stand by with so many people in trouble, I had to help," says Nepalese environmental activist Suman Khadka.

By Alison Bone 
SBS: April 22, 2016 (Earth Day)

On April 25, 2016, Nepal was devastated by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. While lack

Global Hero *continued from previous page* to Erbil, Iraq in 2016, where I brought supplies to the Peshmerga military, distributed medical aid to the clinics, and volunteered in Syrian refugee camps. I

n 2017, I flew to Houston, Texas right after Hurricane Harvey and volunteered. A week later I flew to the Florida Keys to help residents evacuate [just two days] before Hurricane Irma made landfall. I also evacuated and made it to Fort Lauderdale. I was out on the streets helping people during the actual hurricane. As soon as the storm had passed, I traveled back to the Florida Keys and conducted a variety of disaster relief projects. A few weeks after that, I traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico. I arrived 12 days after hurricane Maria had made landfall. I traveled to Fajardo, took a ferry to the remote island of Vieques, and volunteered independently for over two months.

Throughout my missions, I have been a witness to the unimaginable, widespread destruction of catastrophic man-made and natural disasters. I have discovered and exposed horrific environmental cover-ups



Photo Supplied

Suman Khadka: "I couldn't just stand by with so many people in trouble, I had to help."

of organization and infrastructure delayed relief efforts, real life heroes such as 19-year-old Suman Khadka emerged from the wreckage. Determined to help the people of his village, he put out a desperate plea on Facebook. Far away in Bali, teenage sisters answered his call for help.

Suman Khadka was waiting for a bus in his small mountain village of Palchok when

a massive earthquake ripped across Nepal. Houses and buildings collapsed all around him, trapping people in the rubble. The air filled with dust and then the sound of screaming. Making his way through streets that now looked like a war zone, Suman helped to pull people out of the wreckage. His parents were alive, but many families

Local Hero *continued on next page*

and several illegal dumps. I am extremely saddened by the egotism, greed, and lack of compassion by both people and corrupt corporations that are contributing to the destructive impact of industrialized nations.

In this moment, we are all witnessing the rapid disruption and alteration of our planet's biosphere and we are still carelessly wasting resources and destroying the Earth's fragile ecosystems. The exponential rate of man-made climate change is the collective result of our selfish, repetitive actions, our over-consuming society, and profit-based, consumerist world economy wasting resources and destroying our Earth's fragile ecosystems. Inherently, we have the responsibility to take initiative in being accepting and supportive of our transition towards an ecologically-sustainable global society.

I have been contacted by scientists, geologists, environmentalists, activists, even CEO's of major corporations regarding the future challenges we face. I was overwhelmed by the large volume of Facebook messages, comments, and emails to where I couldn't respond back to everyone. I realized unified

global action was necessary. I began writing this comprehensive "Resource Guide to Solve Urgent Global Issues" document as an educational text of my knowledge, experience, and yet another desperate attempt to present society with compelling solutions. It details a wide range of subjects that will not only benefit those working in emergency services and government-appointed positions, but also the general public.

This document is decipherable in 91 written languages on the website with a built-in English audiobook reader. The English MP3 and English PDF are also downloadable for free. <http://www.advanceddisasterrelief.com/resource-guide.html>

The 6X9-inch paperback book and PDF is 200 pages with 167 charts, graphs, and extraordinary color pictures. The book is available at Santa Cruz Book Shop and on Amazon. Even if you don't purchase the book from Amazon, you're still able to download the free PDF, read the content, and leave an Amazon rating or review. Every 5-star rating and positive review will help this book reach a larger audience. . . .

Local Hero *continued from previous page*

were less fortunate, and the few houses that were left standing were dangerously cracked and uninhabitable.

Survivors spent the evening huddled together in a large tent in one of the fields. “There were lots of people injured and the roads to Kathmandu were closed by landslides. We were scared. We just stayed in the tent and prayed,” says 19-year old Suman, an environmental activist. Three days later the road reopened and he made his way to Kathmandu. “I couldn’t just stand by with so many people in trouble, I had to help,” he says. Aid was already pouring into the country but poor organization meant that remoter villages like his were forgotten.

Managing to get on Facebook he sent messages to everyone he could think of saying, “People are dead, houses are collapsed, we have no food. There is no one to help us.” Fourteen-year old Melati Wijnsden happened to be online in Bali. They had never met in person but had struck up a cyber friendship when he discovered Bye Bye Plastic Bags, a campaign led by Melati and her 12-year-old sister Isabel, to ban plastic bags in Bali. Their group of teenage volunteers immediately agreed to help. “It was one of the happiest moments of my life,” Suman tells SBS.

The kids from Bye Bye Plastic Bags and their parents, a mix of locals and expats living on the island, raised U.S. \$10,000 in the first two days, so Suman was able to lease trucks and buy emergency supplies to take back to his village. With the help of Rotary Club Canggu, the group in Bali collected online donations, raising tens of thousands of dollars in just over a week. Melati and Isabel’s father, Eko Riyanto, volunteered to take the money to Nepal, along with other parents of the team, including health worker, Nicola Hennigan, who treated hundreds of people in a makeshift clinic they set up on arrival in Palchok. “Everyone wanted to do something to help Nepal,” she says, “and because they knew us they knew the money would go direct to the village.”

The team visited three times over the coming month, distributing emergency food packages, 70 tons of rice, tarpaulins, and water filters. 600 chickens were bought to set up a chicken farm.

Mike King, a UK journalist who was covering the humanitarian crisis in Nepal following the quake, joined the team. Frustrated by official relief efforts he could see that, “Direct aid, on this occasion, was the only guaranteed way of reaching the people who needed it most.” Setting up a Facebook Page Suman’s Story - Direct Aid for Nepal, linked to a Go Fund Me campaign, he arrived in Palchok with a second round of donations. Suman was waiting for him. “We have enough food for our village for six weeks, now we need to help others,” the teen told him. “He was trying to do what his government and NGO’s couldn’t,” King tells SBS. “Suman and his friends could have helped any of their friends’ families nearby, or in other villages, but instead they just chose the region that needed it most.

The selflessness was humbling. The team traversed the ravaged landscape of the remote Dolakha district, bringing life-saving supplies to three more villages that had been completely isolated in the weeks since the quake. “People were weeping when we arrived with trucks of rice,” says King. He was joined by friend Paul Winslow, who describes Suman as a legend. “It was amazing to see a group of young people so dedicated to helping others and while we tried to help as and when we could, this really was an example of empowering them to do great deeds.”

The team of volunteers is still raising money through the Go Fund Me campaign with the intention of building a permanent clinic



Photos Courtesy SBS

(above) Suman creates drinking water with filters brought by the Bali team.
(below) Suman, Mike, and Paul distributing rice in the Dolakha Region.

for Palchok, and a nurse was recently enlisted to run a temporary clinic. Suman continues to help his village and the people of Nepal, recently starting an NGO named Dynamic Hands to work with environmental issues, tourism, and education in remote regions of Nepal. He is looking for sponsors and volunteers.

Source: <https://www.sbs.com.au/topics/life/culture/article/2016/04/22/nepalese-teen-who-saved-his-village>



Photos supplied by Author

An ecological civilization would be based on the principles that sustain all living systems.

We Need an Ecological Civilization Before It's Too Late

By Jeremy Lent
Originally published by *Patterns of Meaning*
October 11, 2018

In the face of climate breakdown and ecological overshoot, alluring promises of “green growth” are no more than magical thinking. We need to restructure the fundamentals of our global cultural/economic system to cultivate an “Ecological Civilization,” one that prioritizes the health of living systems over short-term wealth production.

We’ve now been warned by the world’s leading climate scientists that we have just 12 years to limit climate catastrophe. The UN’s International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has put the world on notice that going from a 1.5° to 2.0°C rise in temperature above preindustrial levels would have disastrous consequences across the board, with unprecedented flooding, drought, ocean devastation, and famine.

Meanwhile, the world’s current policies have us on track for more than 3° increase by the end of this century, and climate sci-

entists publish dire warnings that amplifying feedbacks could make things far worse than even these projections, and thus place at risk the very continuation of our civilization. We need, according to the IPCC, “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society.” But what exactly does that mean?

Last month, at the Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS) in San Francisco, luminaries such as Governor Jerry Brown, Michael Bloomberg, and Al Gore gave their version of what’s needed with an ambitious report entitled, “Unlocking the Inclusive Growth Story of the 21st Century by the New Climate Economy.” It trumpets a New Growth Agenda: through enlightened strategic initiatives, they claim, it’s possible to transition to a low-carbon economy that could generate millions more jobs, raise trillions of dollars for green investment, and lead to higher global GDP growth.

But these buoyant projections by mainstream leaders, while overwhelmingly preferable to the Republican Party’s malfeasance, are utterly insufficient to respond

to the crisis facing our civilization. In promising that the current system can fix itself with a few adjustments, they are turning a blind eye to the fundamental drivers propelling civilization toward collapse. By offering false hope, they deflect attention from the profound structural changes that our global economic system must make if we hope to bequeath a flourishing society to future generations.

Ecological Overshoot

That’s because even the climate emergency is merely a harbinger of other existential threats looming over humanity as a result of ecological overshoot – the fact that we’re depleting the Earth’s natural resources at a faster rate than they can be replenished.

As long as government policies emphasize growing GDP as a national priority, and as long as transnational corporations relentlessly pursue greater shareholder returns by ransacking the Earth, we will continue accelerating toward global catastrophe.

Civilization *continued on next page*



(left) A global crisis of famine and mass starvation looms unless we can turn around the trajectory of our civilization through building an Earth Home. (right) By 2050, there is projected to be more plastic than fish in the ocean.

Civilization continued from previous page

Currently, our civilization is running at 40% above its sustainable capacity. We're rapidly depleting the Earth's forests, animals, insects, fish, freshwater, even the topsoil we require to grow our crops. We've already transgressed three of the nine planetary boundaries that define humanity's safe operating space, and yet global GDP is expected to more than double by mid-century, with potentially irreversible and devastating consequences. By 2050, it's estimated, there will be more plastic in the world's oceans than fish. Last year, over fifteen thousand scientists from 184 countries issued an ominous warning to humanity that time is running out: "Soon it will be too late," they wrote, "to shift course away from our failing trajectory."

Techno-optimists, including many of the GCAS dignitaries, like to dismiss these warnings with talk of "green growth" – essentially decoupling GDP growth from increased use of resources. While that would be a laudable goal, a number of studies have shown that it's simply not feasible. Even the most wildly aggressive assumptions for greater efficiency would still result in consuming global resources at double the sustainable capacity by mid-century.

A desperate situation indeed, but one that need not lead to despair. In fact, there is a scenario where we can turn around this rush to the precipice and redirect humanity to a thriving future on a regenerated Earth. It would, however, require us to rethink some of the sacrosanct beliefs of our modern world, beginning with the unquestioning reliance on perpetual economic growth within a global capitalist system directed by transnational corporations driven exclusively by the need to increase shareholder value for their investors.

In short, we need to change the basis of our global civilization. We must move from a civilization based on wealth produc-

tion to one based on the health of living systems: an Ecological Civilization.

An Ecological Civilization

The crucial idea behind an Ecological Civilization is that our society needs to change at a level far deeper than most people realize. It's not just a matter of investing in renewables, eating less meat, and driving an electric car. The intrinsic framework of our global social and economic organization needs to be transformed. And this will only happen when enough people recognize the destructive nature of our current mainstream culture and reject it for one that is life-affirming – embracing values that emphasize growth in the quality of life rather than in the consumption of goods and services.

A change of such magnitude would be an epochal event. There have been only two occasions in history when radical dislocations led to a transformation of virtually every aspect of the human experience: the Agricultural Revolution that began about 12,000 years ago, and the Scientific Revolution of the 17th century. If our civilization is to survive and prosper through the looming crises of this century, we will need a transformation of our values, goals, and collective behavior on a similar scale.

An Ecological Civilization would be based on the core principles that sustain living systems coexisting stably in natural ecologies. Insights into how ecologies self-organize offer a model for how we could organize human society in ways that could permit sustainable abundance.

Organisms prosper when they develop multiple symbiotic relationships, wherein each party to a relationship both takes and gives reciprocally. In an ecology, energy flows are balanced and one species' waste matter becomes nourishment for another. Entities within an ecology scale fractally,

with microsystems existing as integral parts of larger systems to form a coherent whole.

In a well-functioning ecosystem, each organism thrives by optimizing for its own existence within a network of relationships that enhances the common good. The inherent resilience caused by these dynamics means that – without human disruption – ecosystems can maintain their integrity for many thousands, and sometimes millions, of years.

In practice, transitioning to an Ecological Civilization would mean restructuring some of the fundamental institutions driving our current civilization to destruction. In place of an economy based on perpetual growth in GDP, it would institute one that emphasized quality of life, using alternative measures such as a Genuine Progress Indicator to gauge success. Economic systems would be based on respect for individual dignity and fairly rewarding each person's contribution to the greater good, while ensuring that nutritional, housing, health-care, and educational needs were fully met for everyone.

Transnational corporations would be fundamentally reorganized and made accountable to the communities they purportedly serve, to optimize human and environmental wellbeing rather than shareholder profits. Locally-owned cooperatives would become the default organizational structure. Food systems would be designed to emphasize local production using state-of-the-art, agro-ecology practices in place of fossil fuel-based fertilizer and pesticides, while manufacturing would prioritize circular flows where efficient re-use of waste products is built into the process from the outset.

In an Ecological Civilization, the local community would be the basic building block of society. Face-to-face interaction

Civilization continued on next page

Global Commitment to Eliminate Plastic Pollution at Its Source

'A line in the sand' – Global Commitment to Eliminate Plastic Pollution at Its Source

A Global Commitment to eradicate plastic waste and pollution at the source has been signed by 290+ organizations, representing 20% of all plastic packaging produced globally. The Commitment was officially unveiled by Ellen MacArthur at the Our Ocean Conference in Bali, on October 29th.

The New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, in collaboration with UN Environment, includes signatories from many of the world's largest packaging producers, brands, retailers, and recyclers, as well as governments and NGOs.

Signatories include well-known consumer businesses such as Danone, H&M Group, L'Oreal, Mars, Incorporated, PepsiCo, The Coca-Cola Company, and Unilever; major packaging producers such as Amcor; plastics producers including Novamont; and resource management specialist Veolia.

Overview

The New Plastics Economy Global Commitment unites businesses, governments,



and other organizations behind a common vision and targets to address plastic waste and pollution at its source.

Signatories include companies representing 20% of all plastic packaging produced globally, as well as governments, NGOs, universities, industry associations, investors, and other organizations.

The New Plastics Economy Global Commitment is led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, in collaboration with UN Environment.

Vision

At the heart of the Global Commitment is a vision of a circular economy for plastic in which it never becomes waste.

Signatories commit to three actions to realize this vision:

1. Eliminate all problematic and unnecessary plastic items.

2. Innovate to ensure that the plastics we do need are reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

3. Circulate all the plastic items we use to keep them in the economy and out of the environment.

Business Path: How to be Involved

Businesses representing 20% of plastic packaging produced globally are already onboard, so don't miss the train to what is fast becoming the new normal for plastic packaging. Join the Global Commitment and embark on a race to the top to help make plastic pollution a thing of the past.

Source: <https://mailchi.mp/ellenmacarthurfoundation/1m-circular-design-challenge-winners-rescom-concludes-dif-2017-jobs-289123>

Civilization *continued from previous page*

would regain ascendance as a crucial part of human flourishing, and each community's relationship with others would be based on principles of mutual respect, learning, and reciprocity. Technological innovation would still be encouraged, but would be prized for its effectiveness in enhancing the vitality of living systems rather than minting billionaires. The driving principle of enterprise would be that we are all interconnected in the web of life – and long-term human prosperity is therefore founded on a healthy Earth.

Cultivating a Flourishing Future

While this vision may seem a distant dream to those who are transfixed by the daily frenzy of current events, innumerable pioneering organizations around the world are already planting the seeds for this cultural metamorphosis.

In China, President Xi Jinping has declared an Ecological Civilization to be a central part of his long-term vision for the country. In Bolivia and Ecuador, the related values of *buen vivir* and *sumak*

kawsay ("good living") are written into the constitution, and in Africa the concept of *ubuntu* ("I am because we are") is a widely-discussed principle of human relations. In Europe, hundreds of scientists, politicians, and policy-makers recently co-authored a call for the EU to plan for a sustainable future in which human and ecological wellbeing is prioritized over GDP.

Examples of large-scale thriving co-operatives, such as Mondragon in Spain, demonstrate that it's possible for companies to provide effectively for human needs without utilizing a shareholder-based profit model. Think tanks such as The Next System Project, The Global Citizens Initiative, and the P2P Foundation are laying down parameters for the political, economic, and social organization of an Ecological Civilization. Meanwhile, visionary authors such as Kate Raworth and David Korten have written extensively on how to reframe the way we think about our economic and political path forward.

As the mainstream juggernaut drives our current civilization inexorably toward

breaking point, it's easy to dismiss these steps toward a new form of civilization as too insignificant to make a difference.

However, as the current system begins to break down in the coming years, increasing numbers of people around the world will come to realize that a fundamentally different alternative is needed. Whether they turn to movements based on prejudice and fear or join in a vision for a better future for humanity depends, to a large extent, on the ideas available to them.

One way or another, humanity is headed for the third great transformation in its history: either in the form of global collapse or a metamorphosis to a new foundation for sustainable flourishing. An Ecological Civilization offers a path forward that may be the only true hope for our descendants to thrive on Earth into the distant future.

Reprinted with permission from the author.

Source: <https://patternsofmeaning.com/2018/10/10/we-need-an-ecological-civilization-before-its-too-late/>

WHAT SOCIETY WANTS YOU TO FOCUS ON

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

CELEBRITIES AND GOSSIP

NEGATIVE NEWS MEDIA

SOCIAL DRAMA

WHAT YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON

TAKING ACTION TOWARDS YOUR GOALS

IMPLEMENTING WHAT YOU LEARN

KNOWLEDGE OF SELF+OTHERS

SKILLS AND HOBBIES

SOCIAL EXPERIENCE

Submitted by Ahmed Vasco Diallo, CEO at Light International School System, Liberia

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Credit: Matt Gentry/The Roanoke Times via AP

The vibrant rainbow-colored fish that lives in a handful of Appalachian streams has been listed as “endangered” under the Endangered Species Act, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said November 20, 2018.

Rainbow-Colored Candy Darter Fish Listed as Endangered

By Ben Finley 
Associated Press: November 20, 2018 FU

This August 7, 2017 photo, shows a candy darter in interior Virginia. The vibrant rainbow-colored fish that lives in a handful of Appalachian streams has been listed as “endangered” under the Endangered Species Act, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said.

A rainbow-colored fish that’s considered among the world’s most beautiful in freshwater and found only in picturesque Appalachian streams has been listed as “endangered,” the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced November 20th.

The federal agency said the candy darter has lost nearly half its population since the 1930s, which is when it was identified in parts of southern West Virginia and western Virginia. The seldom-seen fish are about the size of a cigar and often lined with vibrant bands of teal, red, and orange.

“It looks like an ornamental fish that you’d buy at the pet store from some exotic region of the world,” said Jordan Richard, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist who studies the candy darter. “But people don’t realize they’re a native fish in their backyard streams,” he said. “They’re kind of cryptic. They hide under

rocks and they’re hard to find.”

The candy darters’ population first took a hit last century from logging and other human endeavors that had pushed dirt into the water, Richard said. The sediment filled open spaces between rocks in stream beds where candy darters live and feed on bugs. The dirt also disturbed the sandy areas where eggs are laid.

But the biggest threat to the species is what’s known as “hybridization.” Another species of darter fish, the variegate, was somehow introduced into sections of streams where candy darter live. The variegate darters, which are more orange-and-black colored, have been mating with the candy darters.

Richard said the exact cause of the hybridization hasn’t been determined. But he said a fisherman could have dumped out a bait bucket containing variegate darters into streams where candy darters live. The two species are often separated by natural barriers such as a waterfall.

The variegate darters are mating with the candy darters in the watershed of West Virginia’s Greenbrier River. And they’re threatening to enter streams connected to the Gauley River, also in West Virginia. So far, a dam seems to be keeping them out.

“They’ve made it all the way up to the castle wall and they’re knocking,” Richard said. In Virginia, candy darters are found in only four places, all of which are in the New River watershed. Those areas have not been infiltrated by the variegate species.

The listing under the Endangered Species Act means that more resources will be dedicated to protecting the fish.

For instance, more money could be available to fund research to possibly address the hybridization problem. And it could boost programs to breed the fish and reintroduce them to streams where they’ve disappeared.

The Center for Biological Diversity and other environmental groups had petitioned for federal protection of the fish in 2010. The Center said it then sued for protection in 2015.

“They’re kind of like the Nemo of the freshwater world,” said Tierra Curry, a senior scientist at the Center, in reference to “Finding Nemo,” the 2003 animated film about a colorful clownfish.

Source: https://www.roanoke.com/news/nation/wire/rainbow-colored-candy-darter-fish-listed-as-endangered/article_2f05274f-f27f-53eb-8b77-d097bb920b9e.html

CLUB OF ROME* LAUNCHES CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN

Submitted by Rolly Montpellier, Canada

Climate change is the most pressing global challenge, constituting an existential threat to humanity. The Club of Rome Climate Emergency Plan sets out 10 priority actions for all sectors and governments, and is an urgent wake up call. On December 4th 2018, Club of Rome Co-President Sandrine Dixson-Declève presented the Plan at the European Parliament (EP) to representatives from the EP, the European Commission, business and NGO leaders. The event was co-hosted by Heidi Hautala (MEP, VP EP) and Jo Leinen (MEP).

The recent IPCC report emphasizes that climate-related risks are significantly more dangerous to human life and to the systems that sustain us at 2°C warming compared with 1.5°C. Yet global action is lagging, stymied by political meandering. To avoid the worst outcomes, global carbon emissions must be cut by half by 2030 and to zero by 2050 – an unprecedented task which requires bold and compelling action. The Club of Rome Climate Emergency Plan proposes 10 action points to achieve the goal set by the historic Paris Agreement, aligned with science and economic pragmatism, to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C.

To avoid further collapse of environmental, political, and socio-economic systems, urgent leadership is required now from governments, industry and citizens. Climate change is no longer a future threat. It is already affecting billions of people across the globe and every economy. Annual losses for the U.S. alone will reach hundreds of billions of dollars by the end of the century, according to the new U.S. Climate Assessment and continued climate related impacts could create 140 million climate migrants globally by 2050.

“The ravages of a rapidly warming climate are happening every day and will only get worse, especially for the world’s most vulnerable”, says Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Co-President of the Club of Rome. *“Transformational climate action is an opportunity for a societal renaissance of the proportions never seen before. This is a global emergency plan for a shared and just future. We have the technology and capital but most NDC’s and industry efforts are not ambitious enough. The only option now is adopting an emergency plan! Time is not going to be forgiving.”*

“40 years ago the first report to the Club of Rome, The Limits to Growth, alerted the world to the environmental and demographic challenges ahead. Today, we see that decades of exponential growth in both population and consumption are now colliding with the limits of Earth’s biosphere. Emergency action is more



necessary than ever. We cannot turn a blind eye to the dual tipping points of species extinction and climate change,” said Anders Wijkman, Honorary President of the Club of Rome.

“As Members of the European Parliament, we are proud to host the launch of the Club of Rome’s Climate Emergency Plan and fully support the Club of Rome’s call for urgency. All leaders worldwide have a moral obligation to show climate leadership and secure this planet for future generations. As elected European leaders, we have a special responsibility to strive for ambitious European and global net zero goals by 2050,” said Heidi Hautala, MEP, VP European Parliament and Jo Leinen, MEP.

10 Priority Actions:

1. Halt fossil fuel expansion and fossil fuel subsidies by 2020: No new investments in coal, oil, and gas exploration and development after 2020 and a phase-out of the existing fossil fuel industry by 2050. Phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies by 2020.
2. Triple annual investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and low-carbon technologies for high-emitting sectors before 2025: Give priority to developing countries to avoid lock-in to the carbon economy.
3. Put a price on carbon to reflect the true cost of fossil fuel use and embedded carbon by 2020: Introduce carbon floor prices. Tax embedded carbon through targeted consumption taxes. Direct tax revenues to research, development, and innovation for low-carbon solutions, cutting other taxes or supporting the welfare state.
4. Replace GDP growth as the main objective for societal progress and adopt new indicators that accurately measure welfare and wellbeing rather than production growth.
5. Improve refrigerant management by 2020. Adopt ambitious standards and policy to control leakages of refrigerants from existing appliances through better management practices and recovery, recycling, and destruction of refrigerants at the end of life.

6. Encourage exponential technology development by 2020: Create an International Task Force to explore alignment of exponential technologies and business models with the Paris Agreement to promote technology disruption in sectors where carbon emissions have been difficult to eliminate.

7. Ensure greater materials efficiency and circularity by 2025: Significantly reduce the impact of basic materials e.g. steel, cement, aluminum, and plastics from almost 20% of global carbon emissions today by the early introduction of innovation, materials substitution, energy efficiency, renewable energy supply, and circular material flows.

8. Accelerate regenerative land use policies and adaptation: Triple annual investments in large-scale REDD+ (United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) reforestation and estuarine marshland initiatives in developing countries. Compensate farmers for building carbon in the soils and promote forestry sequestration. Support efforts to restore degraded lands. Implement adaptive risk management procedures in every state, industry, city, or community.

9. Ensure that population growth is kept under control by giving priority to education and health services for girls and women. Promote reproductive health and rights, including family planning programs.

10. Provide for a just transition in all affected communities: Establish funding and re-training programs for displaced workers and communities. Provide assistance in the diversification of higher carbon industries to lower carbon production. Call upon the top 10% earners of the world to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by half till 2030. Together with its national chapters and partners across the globe, the Club of Rome will work with all stakeholders to translate thought leadership into action in implementing the Emergency Plan and realizing a positive vision of the future. . . .

Source: <https://www.clubofrome.org/2018/12/03/the-club-of-rome-launches-the-first-climate-emergency-plan>

**From Wikipedia: The Club of Rome describes itself as “an organization of individuals who share a common concern for the future of humanity and strive to make a difference. Our mission is to promote understanding of the global challenges facing humanity and to propose solutions through scientific analysis, communication and advocacy.” The Club of Rome consists of current and former heads of state, UN bureaucrats, high-level politicians, and government officials, diplomats, scientists, economists, and business leaders from around the globe.*

Book Review About Land Grab of Native Lands in Canada

Review: *At the Mouth of a Cannon: Conquest and Cupidity on Canada's West Coast*

By Brian Sharpe
www.createospace.com/7997500
(Amazon, January 2018)

In this, his 13th book, *At the Mouth of a Cannon*, Kevin Annett has once again gone where no-one, and especially no Canadian, has gone before. His subject is what he calls The Octopus: The “unholy trinity” of Church, State and Big Money that violently seized and still occupies Canada's west coast by eradicating most of its original inhabitants, with the help of some of the native people themselves.

With his typically engaging prose and precise documentation, Annett spares no sacred cow as he follows the money behind genocide. If Evil has an address, Annett's book not only names it but describes its inhabitants in detail.

The book is subtitled “A Personal Account,” a fact that makes it all the more captivating a read. For the author discovered the Octopus quite unintentionally, as he tripped over its tentacles in the coastal lumber mill town of Port Alberni, British Columbia, where he was stationed as a neophyte United Church clergyman – or, in his words, as “an innocent in the abattoir.”

Annett learned quickly from the local Indians how his church had not only killed off countless of their children in its local Alberni Indian residential school, but did so as part of its grabbing of lucrative, timber-filled lands of the Ahousaht Nation.

Annett wrote a letter of concern about it to his church bosses, and for his efforts he was promptly fired and eventually stripped

of his family and livelihood.

For what the pastor didn't know was that he inadvertently exposed the big money that was at work behind the scenes, involving not only the United Church but the government, the biggest timber multinational in the world, and the local puppet native politicians.

Personally, I found this aspect of Annett's book – the collusion of a local aboriginal elite in sordid backroom deals to log off the last of the old growth forests – the most compelling. For in the present, contrived halcyon-atmosphere of “reconciliation” between whites and Indians, none of us are allowed to see the real deal, or the rise of what Annett calls “an aboriginal bourgeoisie” who are integral to the corporate exploitation of Canadian natural resources.

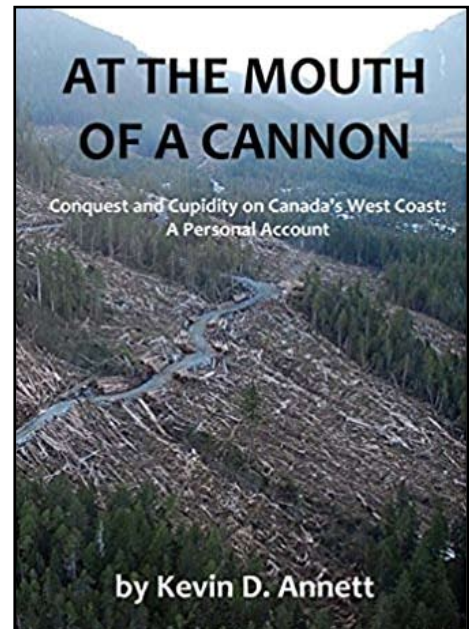
Indeed, according to the author, “The aboriginal comprador elites have been the primary means by which the pale genocide has increasingly wiped out the lingering remnants of indigenous culture and their occupation of the land.”

This is yet another moving and gripping first-hand account by Kevin Annett of the history and “Group Crimes” we're not to know about, and of how a few souls refuse to go along with the bloody arrangement. If money calls the tune, the author is one of those who refuses to dance. Get this book.

To order *At the Mouth of a Cannon*, see www.createospace.com/7997500 or write to Kevin Annett at thecommonland@gmail.com.

The reviewer, Brian Sharpe, is a retired psychologist and teacher in Vancouver, Canada.

<http://kevinannett.com/2018/03/11/review-of-at-the-mouth-of-a-cannon-conquest-and-cupidity-on-canadas-west-coast-by-kevin-annett-3/>



Kevin Annett was re-nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015. Messages for him can be left at thecommonland@gmail.com or 386-323-5774 (USA). See the evidence of genocide in Canada at www.murderbydecree.com and www.itccs.org. Kevin's other books can be ordered at the following sites: *Unrelenting*: <https://www.createospace.com/6052421>; *Murder by Decree: The Crime of Genocide in Canada: A Counter Report to the "Truth and Reconciliation Commission"*, paperback, 2016 <https://www.createospace.com/6085632>; *Truth Tellers' Shield, A Manual for Whistle Blowers & Hell Raisers: The Theory & Practice of Letting Your Truth & The Truth Prevail*, paperback, 2016, <https://www.createospace.com/6534773>.

Crusader for Genocide of Canadian Children Releases New Website

The quarter-century campaign to expose and prosecute genocide and child killing in Canada and around the world takes another step forward in this new promo-



tional site featuring the books, videos, and campaigns of Kevin Annett. Go to www.patreon.com/kevindanielannett for more information.

Now you can subscribe and become patrons of this historic and vital movement by pledging a regular donation in return for receiving

the latest educational videos, books and lectures of Kevin and other front line truth warriors. Be sure to post the above link and help sustain our movement. At stake are the lives of children and our future as free people. Sponsored by The International Tribunal of Crimes of Church and State (www.itccs.org).

<http://itccs.org/2018/11/20/keeping-the-truth-and-our-movement-alive-a-new-promotional-site-is-launched/>



Photo Scott G Winterton, *Deseret News*

EcoWatch, September 20, 2016 by Dan Zukowski: “Federal Bill Seeks First Native American Land Grab in 100 Years. Even as the Dakota Access Pipeline protest in Standing Rock has galvanized Native Americans across the U.S., a bill introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Utah Republican Congressmen Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz seeks to take 100,000 acres of Ute tribal lands and hand them over to oil and mining companies. . . .”

U.S. Petition: Tell Congress to Stop the Native American Land Grab

Submitted by Susan Britton Seyler
Pennsylvania USA

CREDO Action, a publication of Working Assets,
credomobile.com

We’ve reached 74% or 112,424 of our goal of 150,000 as of December 4, 2018. Sign the petition at https://act.credoaction.com/sign/land_grab_2018

The Petition to Congress Reads:

“Reject any legislation, including the Emery County Public Land Management Act, that undermines tribal sovereignty or strips land away from Native people.”

name (required)
email (required)
us zipcode (required)
Sign Petition

You’ll receive periodic updates on offers and activism opportunities.

Tell Congress: Stop the Native American Land Grab

It’s absolutely deplorable: Western-state Republicans are once again attempting to rip sovereign tribal land away from Native Americans in Utah and give it to the fossil fuel industry.¹

After failed attempts in 2016 to strip lands from the Ute tribe, which more than 150,000 CREDO members opposed,

Rep. Rob Bishop and Sen. Orrin Hatch are pushing hard for Congress to pass legislation once again to hand over Native reservation land to extractive industries during the lame-duck session just before Democrats take control of the House.

Their bill is not only a huge giveaway to the fossil fuel industry, it would also be the first Native American land grab in over 100 years. We must demand that Congress prevent this bill from ever getting a vote in Congress.

Tell Congress: Stop the Native American Land Grab in Utah.

This legislation is just the latest attempt by Rep. Bishop and other enemies of Native and public lands to undermine sovereign land and water rights. In 2016, Bishop introduced legislation that would have stripped away protections for 100,000 acres of Ute tribal lands to allow for oil drilling and uranium mining and would have prevented then-President Obama from designating 18 million acres of unprotected land at Bears Ears, a national monument.²

And it’s no surprise why: After becoming chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Rep. Bishop got a massive payout to his campaign, receiving hundreds of thousands in contributions from the energy, agribusiness, and oil and gas industries.³

In addition to stealing indigenous tribal

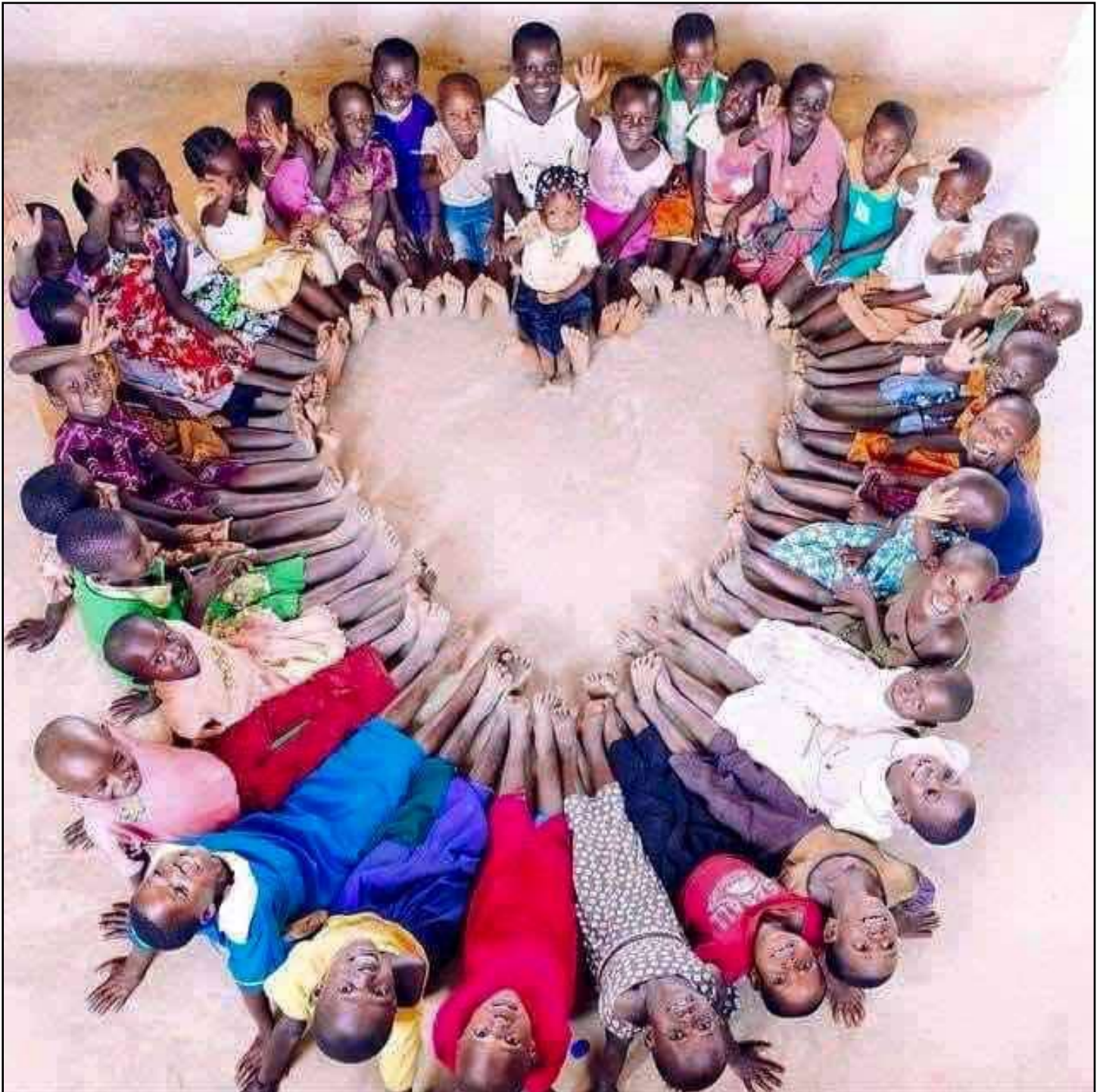
lands, this Republican bill, dubbed the Emery County Public Land Management Act, would neglect to protect more than 1 million acres of public lands, transfer public lands to the state of Utah, and allow for destructive, motorized recreational use. And according to the Grand Canyon Trust, “Native American tribes were totally excluded from deliberations” and, “Countless important rock art panels and other cultural sites are left available for oil and gas drilling, and that’s just unacceptable.”⁴

We stopped Republican efforts to steal Native lands before, and we can do it again. We must act now before the end of the congressional session to demand that Congress stop this modern-day Native American land grab.

Thanks for everything you do.

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4. Grand Canyon Trust, “The Grand Canyon Trust opposes the Emery County Public Land Management Act of 2018,” June 28, 2018.



Submitted by Abdoulaya Congo of Burkina Faso, who is studying economics at the University of Ouagadougou 2.
He wants to be an ambassador of fight climate change in the world.

Empower New Jersey: Stop Fossil Fuel Campaign Launch

Press Release, Delaware Riverkeeper Network
December 5, 2018

Over 50 environmental, citizen, faith, and progressive groups in New Jersey are calling on Governor Murphy to enact a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects in New Jersey until there are rules in place to achieve our 100% clean energy goals.

There are currently five new proposed gas-fired power plants like the Meadowlands power plant and seven new major natural gas pipelines in New Jersey. We are entering a climate crisis and feeling it first hand in New Jersey. That is why we need to call on Governor Murphy to act quickly on climate change by stopping fossil fuel projects and their greenhouse emissions.

“Reports show that we are in a climate crisis in this country and internationally. New Jersey is seeing these impacts first hand from major flooding to a rise in health impacts like Lyme disease and asthma attacks. Our campaign urges Governor Murphy to put a moratorium on fossil fuel infrastructure until our state has the rules and standards in place to achieve our 100% clean energy goals. Other governors like Governor Byrnes, Kean, and Florio have all implemented a moratorium to protect public health. We are in a climate emergency and Governor Murphy has to take drastic action now,” said Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club.

We’re already seeing the impacts of climate change in NJ and it’s getting worse. Fish are already living in storm drains in Long Beach Island. Some roads go underwater every time there’s a full moon and we’re losing coastal wetlands at an alarming rate. Many homeowners face rising insurance rates and high costs to elevate their structures. Our low reservoir levels have led to an increased threat of salt water intrusion, further threatening our water supply. Many inland cities such as Hoboken also see frequent flooding.

“Limiting carbon emissions is an economic and moral imperative. So is Governor Murphy’s goal of 100% clean energy by 2050. The Governor should immediately use every tool in his toolbox to stop new fossil fuel plants and pipelines. Otherwise his lofty clean energy promises will amount to nothing but diversionary talk,” said John Reichman, Blue Wave, New Jersey.

Since 2005, the NJDEP has had the authority to regulate greenhouse gases and carbon under the New Jersey Air Pollution Control Act and through Title V permits. The Department’s determination



is based on compelling scientific evidence of existing and projected adverse impacts due to climate change on the environment, ecosystems, wildlife, human health, and enjoyment of property in the State.

“Like most people, I never gave much (if any) thought to fossil fuel infrastructure and its impact. When you get a letter describing a compressor station being built within ½ mile of your home, you start thinking about it a lot and none of those thoughts are comforting. I started this fight in 2016, with the singular thought of stopping a compressor station from being built near my community. After 2 1/2 years of involvement, I have come to the conclusion that the people of New Jersey will suffer permanent and irreparable harm from any pipeline project in our state,” said Barry Kutch, President of Central Jersey Safe Energy Coalition, Inc.

There are seven natural gas projects underway in New Jersey. Southern Reliability Link Pipeline, PennEast Pipeline, and the South Jersey Gas Pipeline are pipeline projects that will destroy sensitive ecosystems harming wildlife and public safety. Williams Transco is already threatening New Jersey with other gas pipelines and infrastructure.

“Setting strong clean energy goals while also approving fossil fuel expansion projects would leave New Jersey standing still in the race against climate destruction. Governor Murphy has the authority to stop dirty energy projects, and for the sake of our state and the planet he must show the leadership that the climate crisis demands,” said Matt Smith, Senior Organizer, Food & Water Watch.

Governor Murphy promised to rejoin

the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and has signed an Executive Order to do this, however there are concerns that it will take two years to implement. Meanwhile the new proposed natural gas powerplants may blow through the RGGI cap.

“New Jerseyans clamor for a thriving economy and affordable healthcare and cry out against rising taxes. Our legislature is tackling issues ranging from the legalization of marijuana to common sense gun laws and sexual harassment policies. But, all of this is inconsequential if we don’t have a safe, clean place to inhabit. We need to act yesterday to preserve our environment. I have two young daughters and I’ll be damned if I’ll sit back and watch our New Jersey government neglect the land that keeps and feeds its families,” said Elizabeth Meyer, founder of Women’s March on New Jersey.

We are more than 11 months into the Murphy Administration and they have not proposed one rule, regulation, or standard at the DEP.

“Over the last three years we have written hundreds of letters and gathered thousands of petitions opposing a massive new fracked-gas pipeline through our Pinelands communities. We’ve attended hearings and spoken in front of commissions, we’ve marched and we’ve protested. And we did all this with the hope that a new Governor could begin to undo the damage caused by Christie and his fossil fuel cronies. Governor Murphy, you ran for office with a commitment to fight climate change and protect our health and environment. We need you to live up to your promises by enacting an immediate moratorium on all fossil fuel projects in New Jersey,” said Agnes Marsala, founder of People Over Pipelines.

The new U.S climate report by 13 federal agencies and hundreds of scientists show that climate change is getting worse and happening faster. The study projects a hefty cost of \$291 billion from heat-related deaths, sea level rise, and infrastructure damage all due to climate change.

“The climate science couldn’t be clearer that we have limited time to dramatically reduce carbon emissions. The first step to reduce emissions is to stop expanding endless fossil fuel infrastructure projects. We strongly support Governor Murphy’s call to reach 100% clean energy by 2050 but that won’t be possible if we continue to permit and build fossil fuel infrastructure. The road to climate

New Jersey continued on next page

New Jersey continued from previous page
action needs to both embrace clean, renewable energy technologies like off-shore wind, energy efficiency, and solar and end expansion of unnecessary fossil fuel projects foisted upon us by fossil fuel companies," said Doug O'Malley, Director of Environment New Jersey. "This coalition is a grassroots effort stretching across the state demanding we act on climate science to protect our most vulnerable communities now and into the future. The time to start ending our fossil fuel addiction is now."

In New Jersey there have been five new natural gas power plant proposals such as the Meadowlands, Musconetcong, BL England, and Keasbey Plant that would emit a combined 5 million metric tons of CO₂ per year.

"A clean energy economy with an end to fossil fuel expansion is the only path out of the climate crisis. This can be the path out of poverty for New Jersey's most economically disadvantaged families and communities. By breaking our addiction to fossil fuels, New Jersey's most vulnerable communities can look forward to rapidly expanding, new economic opportunities rather than more pollution and devastation from climate change," said Dena Mottola Jaborska, Associate Director at New Jersey Citizen Action.

The PennEast Pipeline threatens the open space, farmland, and drinking water for too many people. Any day, a federal court will issue a ruling on the granting of eminent domain for PennEast Pipeline. The ruling will allow PennEast to do surveys on homeowner's property in order to get information they need to reapply for permits with the DEP. With this court ruling, the battle is now with Governor Murphy and his Administration, who will need to deny these new permit applications to stop this

unnecessary project from being built.

"We are waiting any day for the court to rule on eminent domain giving PennEast power to come on to our land. Because so many people have said No to PennEast, DEP has denied their permits twice. Now they want to get on our land to do surveys to apply for a DEP permit. We believe this is not only abusive power but their pipeline is unneeded and dangerous. Governor Murphy should keep his word on stopping PennEast and put a moratorium on stopping fossil fuel infrastructure," said Dante DiPirro, Sourlands Conservancy, PennEast Activist.

Empower NJ- Stop Fossil Fuel Projects will be launching a grassroots campaign to call on Governor Murphy for a moratorium on fossil fuel projects in New Jersey until there is a plan and rules in place to achieve Murphy's 100% clean energy goals. Other Governors in New Jersey like Governors Byrne, Kean, and Florio have all successfully enacted moratoriums in the past to protect public health and the environment.

"The climate crisis is impacting New Jersey directly through natural disasters and sea level rise, harming the environment, the economy, and public health. New Jersey can address the climate crisis by the choices it makes regarding the sources of energy it uses to provide electricity and the projects it supports. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is critical and the Governor and his Administration must do all in their power to replace dirty fossil fuel projects with clean renewable energy," said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

New Jersey has been impacted by climate change more than many other states. We're seeing disruptions in seasons, worse air pollution (including ground level ozone), and more severe storms like Hurricane

Sandy. With the Trump Administration's hostility to climate action and embrace of fossil fuels, it's more important than ever that New Jersey becomes a leader on clean energy and builds a green economy.

"New Jersey needs to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, not be undermined by more gas infrastructure approvals. Communities with low-income people and those of color need relief from fossil fuel costs, pollution, and siting impacts, not be disproportionately exposed to more of the perils of climate change," said Amy Goldsmith, New Jersey State Director, Clean Water Action. "If as the governor stated, we are going to grow a 'stronger, fairer' green economy and its corresponding jobs, then we need to take our foot off the gas and ensure high speed investment in wind, solar, energy efficiency, conservation, community solar, electric vehicles/fleets, and public transit."

Contacts:

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Elizabeth Meyer, Women's March on NJ, 551-804-4596

John Reichman, Blue Wave NJ, 917-626-8025

Dena Mottola Jaborska, New Jersey Citizen Action, 609-540-6609

Source: <https://www.cleanwateraction.org/releases/empower-nj-stop-fossil-fuel-campaign-launch>



Photo by Georgia Harris

Life will break you. Nobody can protect you from that, and living alone won't either, for solitude will also break you with its yearning. You have to love. You have to feel. It is the reason you are here on Earth. You are here to risk your heart. You are here to be swallowed up. And when it happens that you are broken, or betrayed, or left, or hurt, or death brushes near, let yourself sit by an apple tree and listen to the apples falling all around you in heaps, wasting their sweetness. Tell yourself you tasted as many as you could.

Louise Erdrich

Submitted by Sairey Lutermann, Grief Support

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/8706-life-will-break-you-nobody-can-protect-you-from-that>

Printernet/*Groundswell News* Partnership

By Iona Conner

Printernet Project of Canada: Michael Josefowicz, with 35 years in the printing business, is creating newsletters, which are being printed and distributed in the States and African communities. Printernet is now partnered with *Groundswell News*. We will be sharing stories and sending them

out to new people on both continents. The image below shows one of his nearly-finished products.

I actually published Michael's story about a great project he was working on in our November issue called "Help Plant 60,000 Trees in Uganda." He had made a small donation to help Atwongyeire Joseph. Joseph went on to build an Internet cafe, which

brings in a little money to plant trees and create micro-loans for other local projects.

Michael even published my dancing story and the Rags and Hankies story on the following pages. It's an extremely exciting project and I'm sure Michael will be picking up other stories from *Groundswell News* in the future.



Can Printernet change life of its partners?

This question can be asked by anyone. Young people use

this social media for a variety of purposes. The reality is that there are all kinds of people using it. When you're connected to your Facebook friend, the conversation lets you know who you're talking to. This led you to make a choice. This choice will lead you to success.

This story is about Joseph Atwongyeire.

It's a Ugandan. Through Facebook, he had the opportunity to connect to Printernet New York, an initiative of the Global Study of Social Enterprise, 501c3. Menya Magazine interviewed him to ask how things started.

He told Menya, « I was connected to Facebook, I used this account to publish what I'm doing, and at the beginning I was involved in tree planting, which I still do. One Facebook friend of mine told me about the Printernet cafe and the internet connection, he told me that we can change our community with the internet. The first time i never accepted because i was totally interested in planting trees, but not cafe. At a given time, I realized it can help. He started guiding me, telling me how it works.

He sent the funds. I used it to buy two computers, a router and other things.

The growth of the project

The Nyarushanje cafe in Uganda started with Wi-Fi powered by solar power, two computers and two months of telecom billing. Today, it has seven computers, a TV connected to the Internet and a small printer in a comfortable environment and in a rented space. He is now making a profit per hour billed for cyber-time, a three-week course on computers, cafe making and printing copies.



Printernet Cafe combines the power of the Internet with the power of print to create a friendly editing and learning center. The first step was to install a wifi village and two computers.

Once installed, GCSSE provides real-time business coaching via Facebook and Messenger thread.

Printernet's income in tree planting

The revenues we got went to tree planting. I manage both Printernet Cafe and Greening Uganda (environmental protection).



Micro Loans

Cafe profits are used to finance a micro-credit, a program run by Printernet cafe. In August 2018, six micro loans were granted



to a bricklaying company, a furniture manufacturer and a chicken producer, among others. Today Joseph is working on establishing a Village Bank to expand the micro finance program.



Facebook

Many people think that Facebook is a fake social media. What I can say is that Facebook is a place of interesting innovation that can make things happen. If it was not Facebook, I would not have met Michael or any other person. He can connect the world to be a good place to live.

By Canon Felix
Gitega Burudi
Menya Foundation
Menya Magazine
You can reach out by calling us at +257 79326155 or emailing us at menyafoundation2018@mail.com

Space for
advertisement
and community
announcements

Space for
advertisement
and community
announcements

Making My Dancing Dreams Come True

Heel dig spank shuffle heel dig spank.
Remember to smile. Heel dig spank heel
shuffle dig step. Faster! Faster!

This refrain followed my feet during the past three months as I tried to catch up to my classmates in an adult tap dancing class. We were working on our dance for the recital last month at the Weinberg Center for the Arts.

At 55, I was preparing for my first tap recital.

My dance history is brief.

When I was seven, I took a modern dance class with my six-year-old sister. When it was time for the recital, they cast my sister as celery and me as a plump tomato, crushing my self-image.

Three decades later, I signed up for an adult ballet class. There was no recital. And then, when I was 51, I saw Riverdance. I wanted more than anything to do that.

The closest I came was adult beginner tap for a three-month summer class. Again there was no recital.

Then I found an Irish Step Dancing class, which I joined immediately, although late. Thankfully, one woman offered to help me learn the steps I had missed.

Ecstasy! This was the dance of my soul, my roots. We were learning how to dance in our hard shoes like the Riverdance cast (well, hardly). Interesting footwork, vigorous exercise and oh, such FUN!

That was until my knee crippled me for a few months and made it painful even to walk. My knee knew that a 202-pound, 52-year-old woman was abusing it. The That was until my knee crippled me for a few months and made it painful even to



"The Printernet is a global network of Publishing Centers. Each Publishing Center is an independent social enterprise. A social enterprise earns money by delivering services to increase capacity in a community."

.walk. My knee knew that a 202-pound, 52-year-old woman was abusing it. The doctor diagnosed arthritis, spurs and floating kneecaps

Gradually, with intervention, my knee healed. We moved from Columbia, Maryland to Frederick and I celebrated my 53rd birthday.

I signed up for adult ballet at the "Y." A gentle return to dance. But only two signed up so that class was canceled. I called my former Irish Step Dance teacher to see if I could return to his class. It was OK with him so I started practicing the Irish jig and reel religiously before showing up again.

While my friends were glad to see me, it was frightening to me to see how advanced they had become in my two-year absence.

But I didn't have to worry for long because my other knee gave a shriek and I had to quit again. Darn! Where to dance? What to do? Time was passing. I was 54. While walking through Frederick one Summer day, I spotted signs for a local dance studio but it wasn't open for business yet.

I kept checking until, one day, the instructor was there getting her new studio ready to teach the Isadora Duncan style of dance. I became her first student. I liked it. Feminine. Free-spirited. Easy on the knees.

But it wasn't Riverdance.

When my knees felt stronger, I decided to go back to beginner tap (since that never hurt) and lose some weight.

I found an adult tap class in town and started dancing again, at age 55 and 190 pounds. Costumes had already been ordered for the recital when I showed up for my first class but, after participating for an hour, I confidently told my teacher I could learn the steps they were doing.

I plunged ahead and ordered my costume.

"Do you have extra, extra large?"

"No."

"Do you have queen-size tights?"

"No."

"Well, order me the largest sizes you have. I'll be smaller by then." (P.S. Not)

So I worked and worked and practiced and practiced.

At a time when I felt I'd better drop out so I wouldn't disgrace our teacher and mess up the dance for everyone else, my teacher agreed to give me a private lesson.

I recorded her calling out every move and then actually doing the dance to the beat of the music. The crisp staccato of her taps inspired me. I then had the courage and faith I needed to see it through.

I realized this was no beginner class. I also began to understand that the others were struggling with a few of the steps. The music for our dance was frightfully fast in my opinion but I loved it.

By this stage of the game, I knew I had to perform. I felt this effort symbolized closure on an important piece of my life -- to claim

revenge for the humiliated, chubby, little girl/tomato.

In contrast to my costume 48 years ago, our costumes this time were gorgeous! Bright blue Lycra flowing pants and graceful tops; tons of glitter on the top and velvet shoulders.

There was a slit in the front, up to the bra line, which I prudishly wanted to sew together. Then I relaxed. This was the first time in my life to leave behind the conservative dresser and be a "showgirl."

Dress rehearsal was interesting. Our teacher reminded us to smile. But I wondered if I could smile and remember the steps?

I practiced that evening and again the morning of my debut. I was ready.

Our turn came. The curtain rose. The music started. Tears came to my eyes. Fortunately, our dance started off with our backs to the audience so a few quick blinks did the trick.

We all danced perfectly.

The day of the performance, my husband was out of town and my friend didn't show up. There was no one in the audience to watch me.

But, do you know what? It didn't matter. I danced for ME!

The crushed tomato is gone.

A dancer clothed in glitter and velvet has taken her place, with sparkle in her eyes and a triumphant smile on her face.

Saving Trees with Rags and Hankies

.By Iona Conner

It's a little embarrassing to write about rags and hankies when other people are risking their lives saving trees and ancient forests all over the globe, but at least these are a few ideas anyone can implement without getting arrested or even killed.

I've been practicing these habits for decades and in the past 25 years have only purchased about two rolls of paper towels and three boxes of Kleenex since I started using rags and hankies in an effort to boycott products made from trees.

Buying recycled paper products is at the other end of this form of activism because without a market for them, virgin trees will continue to be sacrificed for essentially useless products.

Since I like to sew, it's been easy for me to make hankies, and rags can be made from old T-shirts and other 100% cotton garments. Cotton soaks up spills and snot better than synthetic fibers, which are made from chemicals, so this entire effort also reduces demands for chemicals in our daily lives.



This assortment is made from an old napkin, an old dish cloth, an old washcloth, an old towel, an old T-shirt, an old sheet (which I

hemmed so it wouldn't unravel) and an old pair of panties (yes, even panties).

I made the best hankies when I discovered a small piece of pure, Irish linen, which I had saved for years from my grandmother's supply of fabric in her attic. Last Christmas, I made monogrammed handkerchiefs for my husband and sons from it, and two little hankies for myself with embroidered flowers. When I use those, I have fond memories of Grandma, who taught me how to sew when I was a young girl

This fine assortment is made from an old



sheet, organic cotton fabric leftovers from our sewing cooperative venture, old panties, my mother's hankie

collection, an old napkin and my Grandmother's fine linen, which I embroidered and even ironed.

My best friend even had a special hankie embroidered for me with BFF (Best Female Friend) and a ring of flowers in a heart shape surrounding the letters. I save that one for special occasions.

I hope you'll join me in this simple and safe, but useful, boycott to help save trees. You can do the same for paper napkins – make or buy cloth ones. Wash only when they're dirty and don't bother to iron them. You'll not only save trees, but money, too. Just think, a lower electric bill and no more shelling out precious dollars for paper napkins and other superfluous products.,

I love using cotton products like these. They feel so much nicer in an old-fashioned kind of way and don't take up additional landfill space. Plus, they're classier.

Have fun, folks! I do.

Plan a Working Vacation Today in an Earth-Respecting Community in Africa



Mattlawie Ecological Regenerative Center

We are a non-profit in Ghana helping humans and nature coexist peacefully through ecological projects.

Apply to Volunteer

Share

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Volunteer Activities: Agriculture work, arts, sports, women's empowerment, animal care, conservation work, teaching,

Earth Works: Digging, weeding (clearing), site development/designing, eco-buildings (natural sustainable buildings) for base camps and eco-stay, preparing the soil, planting, organic production of vegetables: mulching and helping in maintaining and harvesting/collecting, help create new plant nursery and then transplanting to the field once the plants are ready, also feeding farm animals, etc.

Amenities: Nice accomodations with private and shared rooms, vegetarian food. 14-day stay minimum.

Matthew A. Onyeanula Patricks is the CEO/Founder of Mattlawie Ecological Regenerative Center. He is a certified Agro-Ecologist, Permaculturist, Slow-foodist, Climate Change Activist, Eco-Designer, Humanitarian, Peace Advocate, Creative Artist, Wellness Coach, Sportsman, Wisdom Teacher, Tipi builder, Earth Home builder, and a Missioner.

VISION

Our vision is for humans, animals, fruits, vegetables, etc. to peacefully and happily coexist in our Ecological Center (Community), creating an example of regenerative/sustainable agriculture and sustainable living in Have region, thereby making them gain access to their basic needs such as education, land, capital, tools, etc. A reshaped society/community where the love of caring for the people prevails, respect

for the Earth is well embraced, and sharing fairly the surplus of produce is encouraged and taken as a watchword. Constantly conscious of improving and maintaining well-balanced, functioning, and preserved ecosystems – the climate, which is connected to our general health and well-being.

MISSION

Teach, empower, and promote peace and culture, regenerative/sustainable agriculture, community development through the use of regenerative/ecological – natural systems approach. We have been able to address problems faced by poor inhabitants – farmers, etc., model patterns for organizations, institutions, industries, and agricultural firms, etc. We are steadfast and always on the move, creating and providing significant solutions and thereby taking action against climate change.

Contact Matthew at +233 54 582 4003, [m.me/mattlawieecologicalregenerativecenter](https://www.givingway.com/organization/matthew-patricks?fbclid=IwAR3tLWViMa-qzHj6Jfh-SYCh7MnUbYrbLCfHT5Ds56AZpcoo7Keg-VIjb3yEg), mattlawie@gmail.com, or <https://www.givingway.com/organization/matthew-patricks?fbclid=IwAR3tLWViMa-qzHj6Jfh-SYCh7MnUbYrbLCfHT5Ds56AZpcoo7Keg-VIjb3yEg>



Photos by Matthew Patricks
People from different countries come to Ghana and enjoy physical work on the land under the direction of the founder of Mattlawie Ecological. There is much to do and learn while working together in an Earth-based community.



Photo Reuters/Joe Penney ©

Moses Udoh, an employee of online retailer Jumia, makes a delivery by motorcycle in Lagos on February 16, 2015.

Fast-Growing African Cities at 'Extreme Risk' from Climate Change - Analysts

By Megan Rowling ©
Thomson Reuters Foundation
November 14, 2018

Wilder weather and other stresses could lead to knock-on effects such as high crime rates and civil unrest, analysts warn.

BARCELONA, Spain – Africa's rapidly expanding cities face huge threats from climate change over the next 30 years, which could bring knock-on effects such as higher crime rates and civil unrest, risk analysts said on Wednesday.

Researchers at UK-based Verisk Maplecroft found 84 of the world's 100 fastest-growing cities are at "extreme risk" from the

impacts of a warming planet, including 79 in Africa.

That group contains 15 of the continent's capital cities and many of its commercial hubs, including Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria's most populous city Lagos, Tanzanian business hub Dar es Salaam, and Angola's capital, Luanda.

The Verisk Maplecroft analysis combined its own annual index of vulnerability to climate change with U.N. projections on urban population growth to 2035. Fast-rising populations act as "a risk multiplier in lower-income cities with poor public infrastructure and inadequate disaster response mechanisms," with more people putting strain on limited resources, the study said.

Kinshasa, for instance, is now home to about 13 million people, but that figure is set to double by 2035.

The city is exposed to shocks from extreme weather, including flooding, as well as

slower climate pressures such as drought in surrounding areas, which could drive poor farmers into the city while disrupting food and water supplies, the analysis noted.

It and other African cities at extreme risk are grappling with high poverty levels, expanding slums, weak governance, and limited ability to adapt to climate shifts, researchers said.

Niall Smith, an environmental analyst with Verisk Maplecroft, warned wilder weather and rising sea levels could "underpin a whole host of secondary impacts and social issues" such as poverty, violence, and resource insecurity.

"That is something we would foresee as getting much worse in these high and extreme risk locations," he added.

Source: <http://news.trust.org/item/20181113235835-ni63j/>



National Orientation Agency

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

From: Climate Change Unit

To: Director (SDSO)

Date: February 7, 2018

SUBJECT: DISSEMINATION OF WEATHER REPORT FROM NIMET

The Nigerian Metrological Agency (NIMET) has warned Nigerians to prepare for more hot days and warm nights.

Nigerians has therefore been advised to engage in smart adaptation practices such as viz:

- Drinking more water to keep hydrated
- Keep a water bottle to remind you to take water.
- Avoid alcoholic and caffeinated drinks during the period.
- Reduce intake of foods that are rich in protein because they increase metabolic heat.
- Eat alot of fresh foods, fruits and vegetables.
- Monitor your blood pressure.
- Stay indoors between 12noon and 3pm.
- Take cold baths before going to bed at night.
- Please adhere since we need you hale and hearty: **A HEALTHY**

NATION IS A WEALTHY NATION.


Oneli Stella
Climate Change Unit

Climate Change Unit
PLS Publicise widely
11/2/18
5/2/18



Remember your dreams.



Messages from Our Friends



I printed out the newsletter you sent me – 35 pages, I love the way you organized your club.

Am now working at children center. There is a greenhouse, no trees. Am, now training in organic Agriculture, which includes planting of trees, but the resources are not enough. My request is to fundraise for these students, to plant 1m trees but those which are really good for the environment. Some trees like eucalyptus are strong feeders, they are consuming a lot of water in the ground.

Since we are in the subsahara, we might face a problem of scarcity of water during dry seasons. Am encouraging to plant giant Albizia (water tree).

Namuwolo Evelyn, Uganda

Woow... thank you dear Iona... This is so wonderful. ... am grateful dear Earth warrior. Thank you. I really like what you are doing. I shall surely support your work!!
Tamale Paul, Uganda

Woow so interesting. Will take time and read it. You're doing a nice job. You're my role model.

Ainebyona Marium, Uganda

Wow wow wow wow wow. Awesome job!!!!!! More grace, long life, and light.
Matthew Patricks, Ghana

I love all of the articles that were posted with in the newspaper. It's really a good newspaper and I love it.

Chelsean Chuckie Chea, Liberia

Thanks a lot for this motivation and support. Will work further together.

Thanks and regards.

Moharana Choudhury, India

I've been reading your latest edition of *Groundswell*! I've read about 1/2 of the paper. My eyes are starting to bother me so I will quit now. All I can say is WOW!! Talented Artists and very moving pieces by Team 54. You've done an exceptional job with all these stories!!!!

Linda Lowber, Idaho USA

Wow this so great, am happy to read this.

K5 project in Kenya is happy to read this also, and much proud from us.

Omito Abraham Owuor, Kenya

Wow am reading your newsletter, it's fantastic. Thanks for the great work. You are doing a great job. This is great. I will be glad to share our work with you. I love your work.

Amos Sawboh, Orphans Concerns, Liberia

Dear brothers and sisters, it's not easy to survive with this type of dream in this kind of society that everyone is seeking self-relevance. All I can say is that let us keep up the courage and know that we are doing this for the good of our country's future.

If you were around me right now dear Iona, I would've carried you on my back for your intervention this morning.

I have on my own tried many things in life and have failed about 10 times at this age, but I have never given up one single day, even up to now I have no reason to hold back until I reach my goal.

Not many of us have parents, relatives, or friends who care about what we do, but the courage in us will lead us to our destiny.

That's a sure case family.

We will never fall!

Look brothers and sisters, Liberia needs us and likewise the world, too. Just keep doing the little you have been doing, your reward is just around the corner.

Samson Sehgren, Team 54 Liberia

Thank you for your continuous efforts for a better world and for highlighting the work of change makers in grassroots communities around the world.

I have become an ardent fan of the *Groundswell News* and eagerly wait for your mail with the latest edition.

Best wishes for the next edition and look forward to some insightful write ups about the upcoming conferences.

It has been over a decade since I decided to work for nature and I haven't been earning any money.

I am also raising funds for participating in the carbon neutral Climate Force Expedition to the Arctic frontiers next year.

This will give me more insights about polar melting and global weather for my book and also more credibility for my speaking engagements around India. Do have a look at the crowdfunding site and share if you like it. <https://www.ketto.org/fundraiser/ArcticWarmingMission>.

I will be happy to write for *Groundswell News*, interview the team members, and post updates about the ground situation from the North Polar region, where it is warming twice as fast with catastrophic ecosystem impacts. Thank you.

Raj Phukan, India

Thank you, my friend, I thank you with all my heart that you have published my story in your newspaper. Of course, if the painting that I offered you is still available to you, ask me when you want and I promise you that first (money) in every sale I make, I will donate 10 percent to Team 54.
Art Pascual Antonio pur Quiacain
Guatemala

Wowowo... I don't have to take a slow read... you have been compiling some amazing stuff. My Printernet on Paper is designed for much shorter articles. The idea is to get attraction from people who don't have the time or inclination to read... huge audience. :-)

One thing that comes to mind that I would love to do if possible. If you had individual articles with a unique URL, I will allot column space with about two sentences and then a QR code that goes directly to that article. Think of it as a clickable TV guide to awesome stuff on the web – words and videos.

Attached is a QR code that goes to your website.

Michael Josefowicz, Canada

Hello Iona how are you? I finished reading your newspaper and I was thinking what an amazing work that guy did in page 35 in your news and later when I checked your post in Facebook I was shocked and so sad. You should be aware of these types of people and you are so kind and warm

Messages continued on next page

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hearted so you believe what he said to you. And please check the background and everything before trusting anyone.

That is the reason why these days people don't trust much to the people who are doing really good, also because many people they take and raise money to do social work but they do nothing after getting money. So we should be aware of this type of people.

Thank you so much Iona. I was busy in my Bye Bye Plastic Bags work and study but I saw your post in Facebook so I immediately messaged you.

Yeah, Iona everything going good here and thank you so much. And next time please don't trust people easily without checking their background and what they doing actually. I am doing well with my studies also and BBPB as well. How about you? How you doing these days? It's okay Iona, you can publish and please it's my humble request to you don't trust people easily.

Thank you so much Iona and I am happy and proud of you for what you are doing and where and whom you are supporting. Don't worry Iona at least now you know that you need to be aware of this people before supporting them. And Hope soon if my next project is approved by sponsors I'll share with you very good news as well.

Anup Khadka, Nepal

Iona Conner, we are excited beyond words and are proudly associated with you my dear.

Finally, it's here! Thanks for this fabulous feature my dear. You're such a darling. Sending peace and love from all of us at the Nexus Exchange and our beautiful city of Preston as always.

Kennedy Kwuelum, United Kingdom

Wow you said it and you did it. I love you so much mam. God bless you. Thank You. And STARDESIGN is already in *Groundswell* INTERNATIONAL newspaper #SNAP in motion. I love it #SNAP #STARDESIGN
God bless you Iona Conner.

Davidstar Donald, Nigeria

Glad to know you Iona Conner. You are very wonderful and important. I like how you are going to support me so that this project will be carried out efficiently. Thank you very much.

Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze, Burundi

I went online, your page. I saw the post. It was awesome.

Thank you; it's fulfilling. I feel like I've achieved a part of my dream.

Prince Timmy, Nigeria

Thanks for the add, great news...keep them coming. I appreciate it big time Iona, great content! Doing a great job at *Groundswell*. I am very honored that I will be featured in your comments.

Fatfree Kenyani, Kenya

I am very well, hold on because we are counting on you and your journal.

Evrard Guei, Cote d'Ivoire

I know there are many worthwhile jobs – they are hiding out there. I think I would work in a zoo. Often, they have education departments. The problem is there are more volunteer jobs that are good. There's Encore careers. There's Green Drinks for networking (you can always order a soda).

It is sad Africa has shared so little in global prosperity. It seems to have gotten the bad things capitalism has to offer but not any of the benefits.

I truly think capitalism, especially in developing countries with weak regulations, encourages criminal enterprise.

I have come to favor democratic socialism. This will anger conservative readers. OK, so they need to think, "Why do we keep seeking more deregulation? What is the best way to stop people becoming obsessed with money at all costs and organizing illegitimate businesses? Doesn't big business want to make sure we elect people that will minimize it being regulated and taxed?"

So, what is the result???

Also, aren't the worst offences by people in developing countries with weak regulation? Do we want to end up like that?

I doubt I will win over big-government-haters with my arguments but here's one more – some of the most authoritarian countries have capitalism – mostly third world. The most democratic countries are in Scandinavia – less capitalistic.

I think we need stronger law enforcement in America but not against the poor but against their abusers. Also got a year-old video today from a friend of crowds ignoring an auto-struck woman. I believe the spread of a global market economy is polluting both the Earth and our souls.

Bill Boteler, Washington, DC, USA

Thanks for sharing! Iona. You should be writing for *The New York Times*,

Happy Holidays,

Fr. Ted Cassidy, Ohio USA

Will developed countries accept that the market economy is not an option for a dying planet? Wealth made from the exploitation of natural resources and devel-

oping countries work force, won't be there anymore to make their profits grow.

To stop an industrial era from destroying life, needs a lot of conviction and a good planification strategy that keeps all humans working for the same purpose and having planet Earth as the official employer of humans, a job for a lifetime in protecting the ecosystems.

Having food, shelter, and science to improve our planet is what we need. Boundaries make it so difficult to rescue life. We need a completely different world organization that allows ecosystems to recover from such a huge population growth.

We need to recognize that all creatures have the right to live, and respecting Mother Nature is the only way we have now. Humankind, once disconnected from Creation, made a mess of this planet. The Industrial Age was the basis of an uncontrolled ambition to make profits and exploit whatever is at hand. Science grew faster than moral values.

Carmen Arzate Vernis, Mexico

(Submitted with application to Climate Reality Project)

I LIVE IN A COUNTRY WHERE 90% OF GOVERNMENT'S REVENUE COME FROM THE SALES OF OIL (Nigeria). SO MUCH GAS IS FLARED, POLLUTING OUR ATMOSPHERE. THE SAD NEWS IS THAT IT IS THE POOREST CITIZENS, YOUNG PEOPLE, CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY WHO ARE MOST AFFECTED AND I WANT TO CHANGE THIS.

HOWEVER, I INTEND TO MAKE THE TRANSITION TO CLEANER ENERGY ADOPTION MORE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE FOR MY COMMUNITY. THEREFORE, THIS TRAINING WILL EQUIP ME WITH SKILLS, STRATEGIES, SCIENTIFIC FACTS AND FIGURES TO SUPPORT MY STORY OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

AS A DIRECT RESULT OF MY EXPERIENCE AT THE CLIMATE CHANGE REALITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING, I HOPE TO HOST A CYCLING EVENT ON MY RETURN WITH THE YOUTH GROUP IN MY CHURCH TO TALK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT TO HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT. EVERYONE IN MY AREA OF INFLUENCE MUST KNOW HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS AFFECTING THEM AND WHAT THEY CAN DO TO HELP STOP IT. THIS IS WHY I WANT TO BECOME A CLIMATE REALITY LEADER.

Udeme Udoaka, Nigeria