



# Groundswell News

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

*We Are A Global Family. News By and About Climate Activists.*

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

*A Celebration of Youth. www.gobackclub.org. Issue No. 52: July 2019*



Photo: PICTURE-ALLIANCE/ZUMAPRESS/C.FABIANO

*Greta Thunberg and the Fridays for Future speaks at a climate protest in Italy.*

## Climate Activists, Greta Thunberg and the Fridays for Future Movement Honored with Top Amnesty International Award

Amnesty International: June 7, 2019

Climate change activist Greta Thunberg and the Fridays for Future movement of school children have been honored with Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award for 2019, the human rights organization announced today.

"The Ambassador of Conscience Award is Amnesty International's highest honor, celebrating people who have shown unique leadership and courage in standing up for human rights. I can think of no better recipients this year than Greta Thunberg and the Fridays for Future climate strike movement," said Kumi Naidoo, Secretary General of Amnesty International. "We are humbled and inspired by the determination with which youth activists across the world are challenging us all to confront the

realities of the climate crisis. Every young person taking part in Fridays for Future embodies what it means to act on your conscience. They remind us that we are more powerful than we know and that we all have a role to play in protecting human rights against climate catastrophe."

The Ambassador of Conscience Award was founded in 2002 to celebrate individuals and groups who have furthered the cause of human rights by acting on their conscience, confronting injustice, and using their talents to inspire others. Previous awardees include Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, Harry Belafonte, Ai Weiwei, the Youth Groups of West and Central Africa, Angélique Kidjo, the Indigenous rights movement in Canada, Alicia Keys, and Colin Kaepernick.

### A Youth Movement Determined to Change the World

The Fridays for Future movement was started by Greta Thunberg, a teenager from Sweden who in August 2018 decided to miss school every Friday and instead protest outside the Swedish parliament until it took more serious action to tackle climate change.

Her efforts to raise awareness of the climate crisis quickly went global. More than 1 million young people from all over the world took part in the most recent global day of Fridays for Future school strikes on May 24. Demonstrations were held in more than 100 countries, including Australia, Brazil, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, the Philippines, and Uganda.

"It is a huge honor to receive Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience

**Award** continued on page 3

# 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

**Web site:** [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org)

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**Contributors:** Ngo Banfogha, Clement Musonda, Vandana Erin Ryder, Brendan Wissinger, Diane Christin Zenchenko-Esser

### Mission of Our Newspaper

The mission of *Groundswell News* is to be a beautiful, inspiring, uplifting newspaper which educates and enlightens people about climate change through scientific articles and stories by and about activists who are working to protect life on Earth and preserve natural resources.

### 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 im-

pacts 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](http://www.gobackclub.org) to learn more.

### What are we trying to achieve?

We want to rapidly increase the number of serious climate activists in the world and inspire them through stories from other activists. Our goal is to keep their spirits up, their energy strong, their hearts open, and their eyes bright and alive.

### Our Values

This newspaper is based on love for Earth, all people, all forms of life plus air, clouds, rain, snow, weather, oceans, forests, etc. We love Nature. We respect everyone and are willing to share our experiences, both

good and bad, with others who may profit from them.

We are a global family.

### Guidelines for Submissions

I do not get directly involved in fundraising. To submit a story, you need to write a regular article about your work and submit it in a Word document with 2 or 3 photos, including captions and photo credits and then email it to me at [gobackclub@pa.net](mailto:gobackclub@pa.net). If you need funding, mention that in your last paragraph and be sure to give your contact information.

Since *Groundswell News* is a climate change activist newspaper, please be sure to mention how your work connects with fighting global warming somewhere.

I can't promise when your story will be published. Don't worry too much about punctuation or spelling since I proofread everything, just give me the history, heart and soul, dreams, and current project description plus your contact information at the end. I'll be eager to see what you submit. Thanks so much.

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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. . . .

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Fair Use Logo

Award continued from page 1



Photo: Amnesty International

*Amnesty International Secretary-General Kumi Naidoo stands with Greta during the last big climate march in Sweden.*

Award on behalf of Fridays for Future. This is not my award, this is everyone's award. It is amazing to see the recognition we are getting and know that we are fighting for something that is having an impact," said Greta Thunberg. "To act on your conscience means that you fight for what you think is right. I think all those who are part of this movement are doing that, because we have a duty to try and improve the world. The blatant injustice we all need to fight against is that people in the global south are the ones who are and will be most affected by climate change while they are the least responsible for causing it."

### A Human Rights Crisis

While the climate crisis is usually understood through the impacts it is having on our natural environment, the devastating consequences of these impacts on people, both now and in the future, make it an urgent human rights issue as well. Climate change compounds and magnifies existing inequalities. And its effects will continue to grow and worsen over time, creating ruin for current and future generations.

Amnesty International has said that the failure of governments to act on climate change may well be the biggest inter-generational human rights violation in history.

"Human rights and the climate crisis go hand in hand. We can't solve one without solving the other. Climate change means people won't be able to grow food, their

homes will come under threat, and their health will be compromised. Governments have a duty to protect us, so why are they doing nothing to stop climate change from devastating our lives?" said Greta Thunberg.

Amnesty International calls on states to scale up climate action substantially and to do so in a manner consistent with human rights. One of the crucial ways this can happen is if the people most affected by climate change, such as children and young people, are able to engage in efforts to address and mitigate climate change. They should be provided with the necessary information and education to participate meaningfully in discussions and should be included in decision-making that directly affects them.

"Sometimes I feel really sad because some of the people I try to talk to won't listen. Some people insult us, others think we are politicians, and others ignore us entirely, they tell us maybe we won't finish what we've started. But I can assure everyone that we are really determined to finish what we have started, because our futures are on the line," said Kananura Irene, a Fridays for Future activist from Kampala, Uganda.

The youth activists behind Fridays for Future are now calling on adults to join them. On Friday September 20, ahead of the United Nation Climate Action Summit in New York, activists will commence a week of climate action with a worldwide strike for the climate. Amnesty International

al supports the call for all adults who are able to join the strike and show solidarity.

"Young people are often told they are the leaders of tomorrow. I am so glad that Greta Thunberg and the Fridays for Future activists ignored that message. If they wait until tomorrow, there will be no future for any of us. They have proved that they are already leaders, and now it's time for adults to follow their lead," said Kumi Naidoo.

### Background

The Ambassador of Conscience Award celebrates individuals and groups who have furthered the cause of human rights through acts of conscience, confronting injustice and using their talents to inspire others.

Through the award, Amnesty International aims to raise awareness of inspirational stories and human rights issues and encourage public action.

Past winners have:

- Confronted injustice through acts of conscience,
- Used their talents to inspire others, and
- Furthered the cause of human rights.

The award was inspired by the poem *From the Republic of Conscience*, written for Amnesty International by Seamus Heaney.

**Source:** <https://www.amnestyusa.org/press-releases/climate-activists-greta-thunberg-and-the-fridays-for-future-movement-honored-with-top-amnesty-international-award/>

# *This Issue of Groundswell News is Dedicated to Brendan Wissinger*

Hello. I'm Brendan Wissinger. I'm a climate activist. I graduated high school this past June, and hopefully will have earned Eagle Scout by the time you're reading this. In addition to Boy Scouts and The Go-Back Club, I am a member of the climate change organizations Citizens Climate Lobby, Zero Hour, Earth Uprising, and I think the Sunrise Movement. I have been made a member of the board of the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. I am also a member of the National Honor Society, St. James Lutheran church, and I was a member of Future Farmers of America, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Envirothon, and Upward Bound.

I first became interested in Climate Change when I was around eight after watching a documentary about it. As I got older I got more concerned and more worried. I met with Iona and John Conner in 6<sup>th</sup> grade (11 years old). I early on tried to persuade my parents to do things or allow me to lower our emissions. I wrote letters to political leaders, and made phone calls. I also met with Professor Michael Mann twice. Now I've met with Rich Irvin, our state representative, and someone from Rep. John Joyce's office. I've gone to a couple climate protests and skipped school for

Fridays for Future four times this year (I wish I could skip every Friday).

I'm currently working on meeting with the county commissioners and Rich Irvin's office again and other leaders. I feel Greta Thunberg and her movement energized me this year. I feel that we need to take personal and political action to stop the Climate Crisis, not just one or the other. We need to take personal action because everyone who creates emissions needs to get those emissions down to 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050, and that is the end goal of political action, to have people personally reduce their emissions, but also we need political actions for people and organizations that don't want to control their emissions.

I've tried very hard the past few years to reduce my emissions by eating less meat, adding solar panels to my house's electricity system, riding my bike places around town instead of driving, using reusable bags (when I remember them), keeping all lights off in the house until a certain time, starting a compost pile, unplugging items not in use, and currently I am building hot water solar panels. I also spread the word on the climate crisis, and along the way I have got a few deniers to believe in it.

This crisis affects not only the environment but public health, national security, economy, crime, agriculture, and so many other things. The crisis could kill more than 1.5 million people annually, a drop

in GDP in the U.S., bigger than the great depression, leave southern Florida inhabitable, and create a post-apocalyptic world. It's a serious situation and it needs to be dealt with immediately at all levels of government.

I will be going to college at California University of Pennsylvania, for Meteorology. But I'm probably going to change majors to climate science. I want to earn a Masters in Meteorology or Climate Science. I might double major or minor in political science. I want to go into research and then go into lobbying for action on the Climate Crisis.

Sincerely,  
**Brendan Wissinger, Pennsylvania USA**

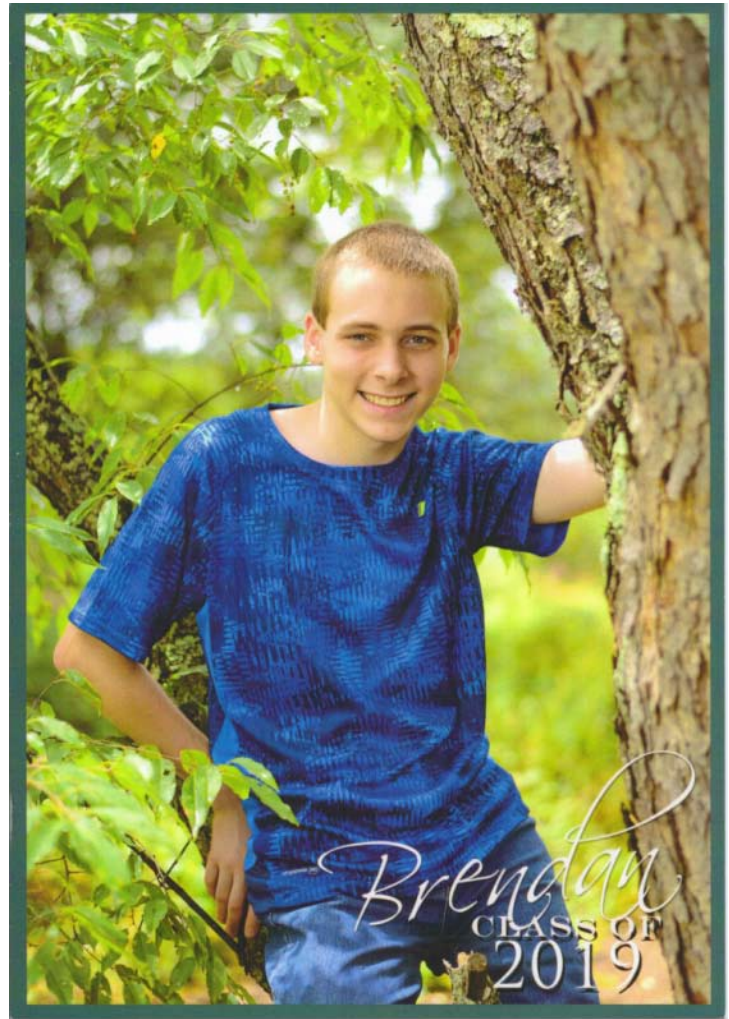




Photo Courtesy MAPS

*MAPS, the Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary, protects the entire Arctic Ocean north of the Arctic Circle as the world's largest peace park, stopping the exploitation that puts us all at risk.*

## MAPS, the Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary: An Urgent Global Necessity

By Vandana Erin Ryder, General Counsel for MAPS

For millions of years, since long before humans ever walked on Earth, the Arctic Ocean has been covered with ice and kept our planet cool, balancing weather patterns globally so that we have the food and resources we need to survive. It has always been a natural sanctuary, one our whole world needs now more than ever.

But today, there is 75% less Arctic sea ice in the summer than there was just 50 years ago. Exposed Arctic water now absorbs 90% of the sun's heat. Parts of the Arctic Ocean are 4C too hot. In February 2018, temperatures at the North Pole soared above freezing in the sunless winter, for the first time in history. Scientists call what is happening in the Arctic a "death spiral." The more the Arctic ice melts, the warmer our world gets. The warmer our world gets, the more the ice melts. This affects everything.

As the ice melts, the world's weather patterns become unstable. Floods and droughts are on the rise, hitting hardest in vulnerable areas. A heating planet means water and hunger crises. Loss of polar ice is also contributing to sea level rise. At least 275 million people live in cities that are vulnerable to rising sea levels. If we don't act now, sea level rise will redraw the map

of the world and displace billions.

Business activity in the Arctic Ocean complicates the problem. Some business interests are treating the newly-open waters like open season – seeking short term profit rather than investing in all life on Earth.

It's not just about oil and gas under the seabed, which scientists warn is off limits if we want to keep the world from heating up more than 2C. Commercial fishing vessels are starting to trawl there, damaging the seabed. And shipping companies are looking for routes through the Arctic now that the ice is melting. Large ships break up the ice, and their dirty fuel turns the ice dark so that it can't reflect the sun's heat, further accelerating the thaw.

The crisis we face today is massive. But there is an immediate and effective response. MAPS, the Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary, protects the entire Arctic Ocean north of the Arctic Circle as the world's largest peace park, stopping the exploitation that puts us all at risk. MAPS safeguards the vulnerable ecosystem that keeps our planet cool and catalyzes a global shift to renewable energy. MAPS also encourages countries and businesses to pivot from short-term benefit for a few to supporting the long-term good of all.

To realize MAPS immediately, Parvati.org has created the MAPS Treaty as an addendum to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, translated it into the six official languages of the UN, and provided it to all 193 UN member states. We have brought it to COP 21, 22, 23, and 24 and UNGA 72 and 73, and UNEA 4. With the signatures of 99 countries, the MAPS Treaty enters into force. It has already been signed by Samoa and the Cook Islands and other countries are following suit. But we have little time before the ice runs out.

MAPS has been endorsed by a growing signmaps.org coalition that includes scientific luminaries like Dr. Jane Goodall, Dr. Sylvia Earle, and Dr. Roger Payne. We are at a pivotal moment in human history. All life depends on a healthy Arctic Ocean. Please sign and share the MAPS petition at Parvati.org, and join us in the swift realization of the Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary for the good of all.

**Contact Vandana Erin Ryder:** vandana@parvati.org

**Source:** <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55914fd1e4b01fb0b851a814/5cfea cdc6c77170001b8c03c/1560194268411/MAPS+ONE+PAGER.pdf>

**WHEN WE CHANGE THE CONVERSATION, WE CHANGE THE FUTURE.**

- Juanita Brown -

[https://www.codepink.org/growing\\_local\\_peace\\_economy\\_daily\\_26](https://www.codepink.org/growing_local_peace_economy_daily_26)



Photo: Mahkeo on Unsplash

*Arctic sea ice melt will probably bring more extreme weather.*

## Arctic Sea Ice Loss Affects Jet Stream

By Tim Radford  
Climate News Network: June 6, 2019

**The jet stream affects northern hemisphere climates. And global warming affects the behavior of the jet stream. Prepare for yet more extremes of seasonal weather.**

LONDON, UK – Did you shiver in a winter ice storm? Could you wilt in a protracted heat wave this summer? German scientists have just identified the guilty agency and delivered the evidence implicating the jet stream.

Blame it on Arctic warming, they conclude: the retreat of the sea ice over the polar ocean has distorted the pattern of flow of the stratospheric winds usually known as the jet stream.

It is not a new idea. But this time,

scientists have employed artificial intelligence and a machine-learning program to accurately model the changes in the jet stream and then link these to changes in the chemistry of the upper atmosphere, and increasing patterns of twisting waves in the high altitude winds which then distort seasonal weather in the northern hemisphere mid-latitudes. They describe their research in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

“Our study shows that the changes in the jet stream are at least partly due to the loss of Arctic sea ice. If the ice cover continues to dwindle, we believe that both the frequency and intensity of the extreme weather events previously observed in the middle latitudes will increase,” said Markus Rex, who heads atmospheric research at the Alfred Wegener Institute in Potsdam, Germany.

### Cold Bouts Explained

“In addition, our findings confirm that the more frequently occurring cold phases in winter in the USA, Europe, and Asia

are by no means a contradiction to global warming; rather they are part of anthropogenic climate change.”

The jet stream – exploited by jet aircraft on the trans-Atlantic routes – is made up of westerly winds that, at an altitude of 10 kilometers (6.21 miles), stream around the planet in the mid-latitudes, at speeds of up to 500 kilometers (311 miles) an hour, and push weather systems from west to east.

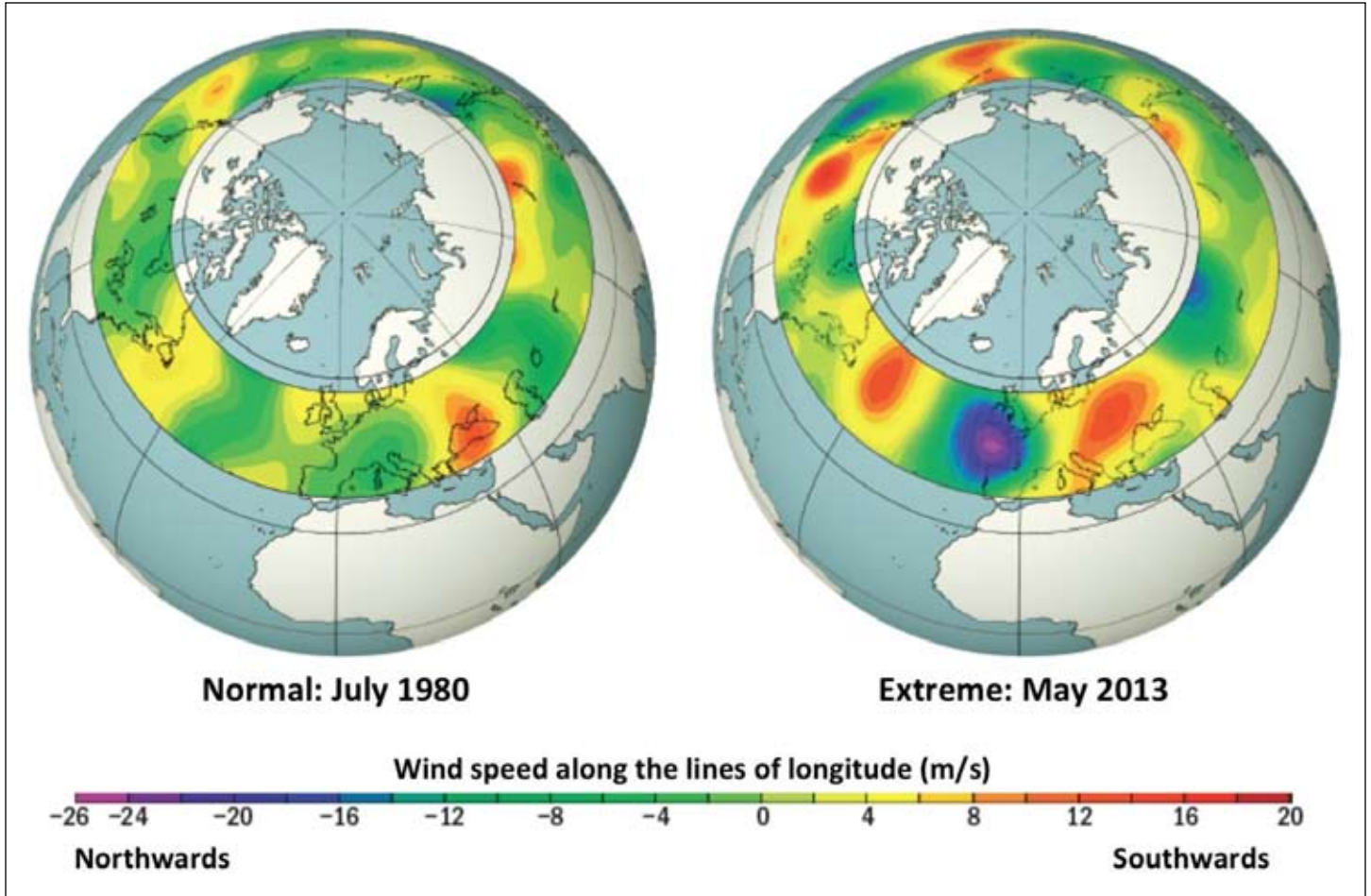
But researchers have already observed this: they have been changing, in response to global warming and in particular to the rapid warming of the Arctic, as greenhouse gas ratios in the atmosphere rise, and go on rising, in response to profligate human combustion of fossil fuels.

Rather than stick to a course more or less parallel to the Equator, these winds have been observed describing dramatic waves.

These twists of direction have been linked to blasts of Arctic air into regions that could normally expect relatively mild winters: in particular to the ferocious cold

**Jet Stream** *continued on next page*

Jet Stream *continued from previous page*



Graphic: Michael Mann at <https://www.eurekalert.org/multimedia/pub/136158.php>

*On the left is an image of the global circulation pattern on a normal day. On the right is the image of the global circulation pattern when extreme weather occurs. The pattern on the right shows extreme patterns of wind speeds going north and south, while the normal pattern on the left shows moderate speed winds in both the north and south directions.*

that hit the U.S. Midwest in January 2019.

These winds have also weakened and been linked to prolonged drought and extremes of heat that hit Europe in 2003, 2006, 2015, and 2018.

But association is not the same as demonstration of cause-and-effect. The Potsdam scientists wanted surer evidence. And their new climate simulations now include a machine-learning component that accounts for ozone chemistry at high altitudes.

And what their new model found was that, as the Arctic sea ice retreats, the

atmospheric waves have warmed the polar stratosphere in ways that have been amplified by the behavior of the ozone layer.

### Ozone Response

Since what powers the jet stream is the difference between the cold Arctic and the warm tropics, the jet stream has weakened, and begun to meander, like a river flowing across a flood plain towards the sea.

In effect, the new study introduces a new piece to the climate puzzle: the response of the ozone layer and its role in the play of winds around the planet. The pay-off could

be a clearer picture of things to come.

"We are now for the first time employing artificial intelligence in climate modeling, helping us arrive at more realistic model systems," said Professor Rex.

"This holds tremendous potential for future climate models, which we believe will deliver more reliable climate projections and therefore a more robust basis for political decision-making."

Source: <https://climatenetwork.net/arctic-sea-ice-loss-affects-the-jet-stream/>

**THE WORLD DOESN'T WANT TO BE SAVED.  
IT WANTS TO BE LOVED. THAT'S HOW YOU SAVE IT.**

- Richard Brendan -

<https://ahundredfallingveils.com/2019/06/08/relearning/>

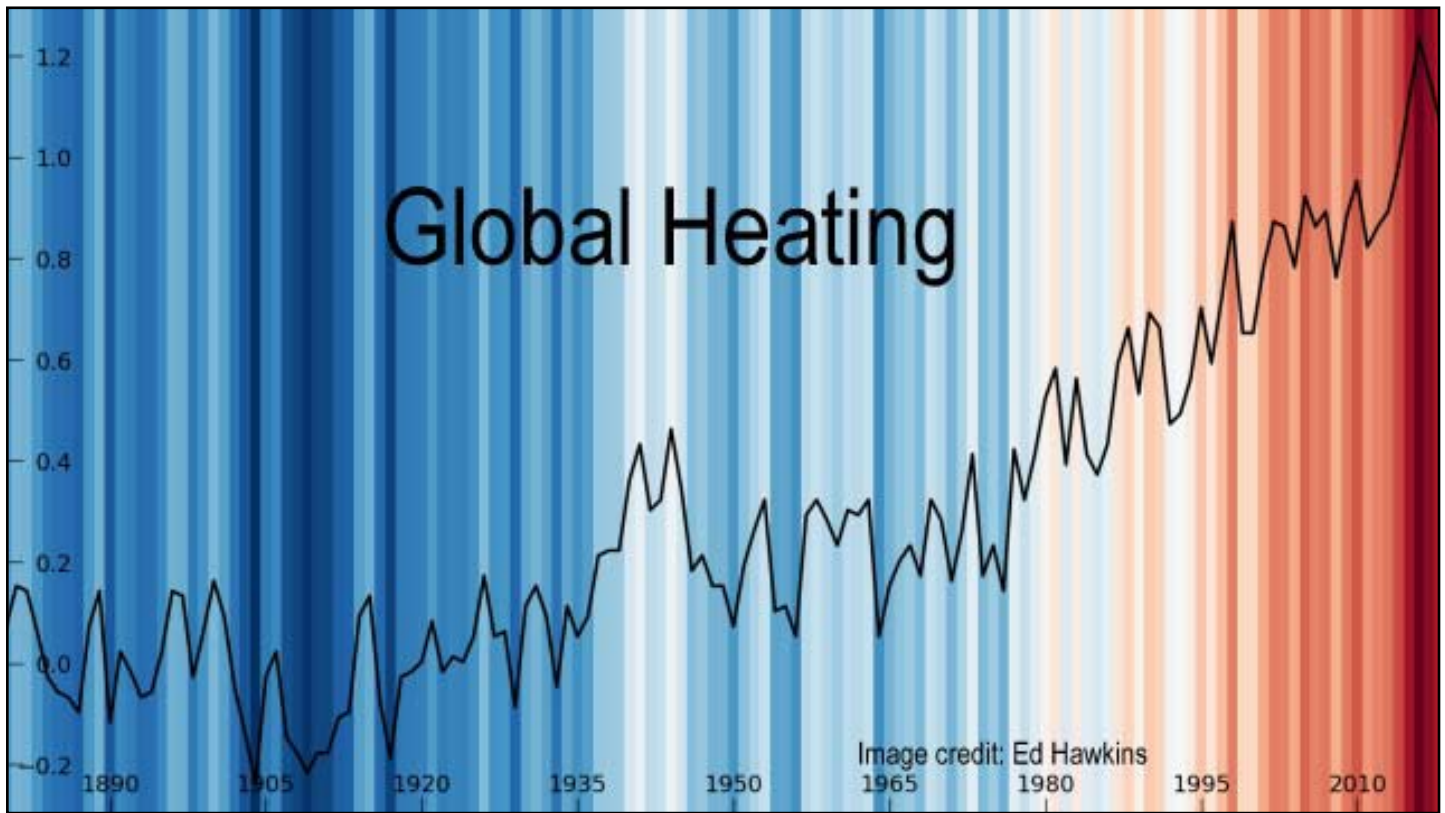


Image Credit: Ed Hawkins

*If people don't stop carbon dioxide levels from rising, everything will continue getting much worse, more rapidly than they already are.*

## Warning: Climate Truth Is Not for The Faint-Hearted

By Michael Flammer  
Below 2°C: June 4, 2019

*(Introduction by Rolly Montpellier)*

Many will find this article too “gloom and doom.” Just pretend you’ve just been given a serious medical diagnosis. You have a stage 4 cancer. After the initial shock, you need to confront it. You can’t hide from the truth.

Even if every country were to meet its climate pledges made under the 2015 Paris Accord – and they are not on a path to do so – it would be widely insufficient to avoid catastrophic climate change. The world needs an “exponential increase in ambition” according to Luis Alfonso de Alba, the UN Secretary General’s envoy on climate change. “We need to step up ambition quite radically. We are not talking about a small incremental approach,” he said.

But there are encouraging signs as world leaders prepare to attend a September climate summit. Some 80 countries are expected to step up their climate pledges by increasing their emission-reduction targets ahead of schedule. But what happens if we fail to ramp up our climate ambition?

The following article and videos (see link at end) show why failure is not an option. It’s a reminder and it comes with a warning. “It’s not for the faint-hearted,” writes the author, Michael Flammer. The article was first published in LinkedIn.

### Warning: Climate Truth is Not for the Faint-Hearted

The four short videos at the link below are not for the faint-hearted. Why should you face it anyway? Because the future of our children and grandchildren gets explained in a sober, fact-based, ruthless, and startling way. So terrifying, I needed a moment to get myself together after first watching them. Each of the four videos describes our world after a global warming of 2°C, 3°C, 4°C, and more.

It also explains why we can barely stop further warming once we have reached a temperature increase of 2°C. Because that is the moment when mutually reinforcing effects will spiral climate change out of control.

It is important to remember that we are currently on a path that will lead us to an increase in temperature of 3-4°C by the

year 2100. Only radical and immediate reduction of greenhouse gases and ultimately the complete and worldwide abandonment of fossil fuels by 2050 at the latest will give us a 50% to 60% chance to keep the earth’s temperature below 2°C.

### What happens if the world warms up by 2°C?

“At a 2°C rise, people will begin to die of what is now considered normal summers. Countries already hit by hurricanes face ever greater storms. Plant growth slows down, then stops. Plants don’t absorb CO<sub>2</sub> as efficiently, instead emitting it. The extra carbon sees global warming spiral out of control. By the year 2100, sea levels would rise by a meter (39 inches), displacing 10% of the world’s population. In this 2°C future, ecosystems across the globe collapse. A third of all life on Earth faces extinction.”

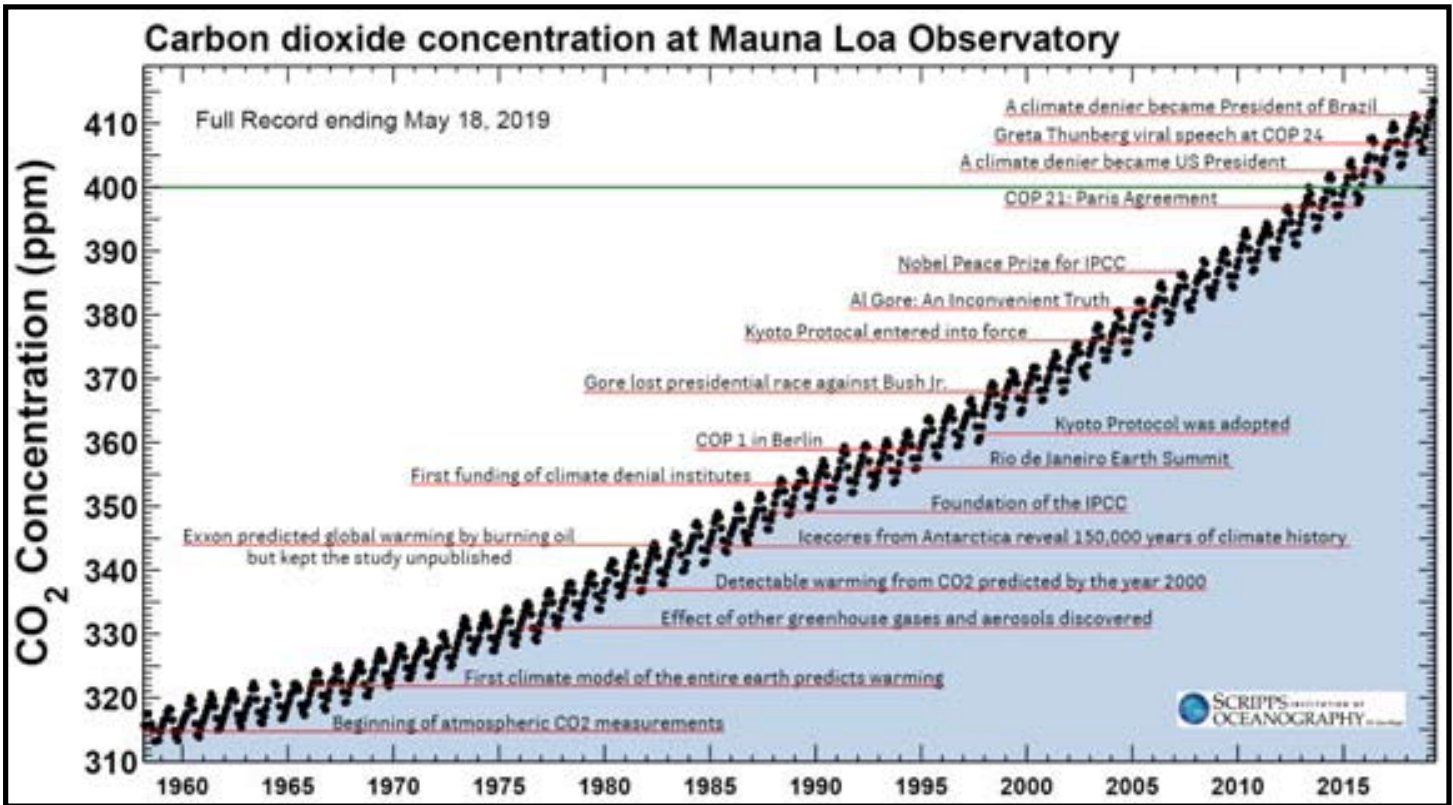
### What happens if the world warms up by 3°C?

“If global temperature rises by 2°C the chances of avoiding a 3°C increase are slim. At a 3°C increase plants stop absorbing

**What if?** *continued on next page*



What if? continued from previous page



CO<sub>2</sub>, enough carbon builds in the atmosphere to raise temperatures by another 1.5°C by 2100. The planet is tipped into runaway global warming. Cities and farms around the world will lose their rivers and reservoirs run dry. Saltwater creeps upstream and groundwater is poisoned. This tips food production into an irreversible decline.”

**What happens if the world warms up by 4°C?**

“After the collapse of the Amazon and the carbon cycle, stabilizing the global temperature to avoiding a 4°C increase may no longer be possible. Coastal cities will either vanish or become islands. A sea level rise of 1 meter (39 inches) every 20 years is far beyond our capacity to adapt. At this point up to 85% of the Amazon rainforest has disappeared. But the most damaging effect of this temperature is an irresistible thawing of permafrost. At least 500 billion tons of carbon trapped below ground could be released by 2100.”

**What happens if the world warms up by more than that?**

“Above 4°C we are looking at a vastly different world. Rainforests have turned into deserts and rising seas reach into continents. Migrants force their way into the few habitable places left on Earth. Civil wars are the inevitable outcome. To see what the

world could look like at 6°C rise, we have to go back 251 million years. 95% of living species were wiped out. At sea, everything suffocated. The forests are burning, the rivers are drying up. Continents are carved up by toxic oceans and corpses pile up in cities across the planet. A 6°C world is a bleak one.”

Don’t forget what you have just seen. I certainly won’t. I can’t. It will always remind me why I have become an activist from a very normal family father that I used to be. Remember these consequences whenever someone says that climate mitigation becomes kind of pricey. There simply is no price tag big enough to equal a future for our kids and eventually for the whole human civilization on Earth. There will be no use for any kind of wealth in the future of our kids, if we now choose to save money instead of acting on #Climate Change.

Each of the above shown futures is still possible, from 1.5°C up to 6°C or more. This new climate will not be temporary. It will become the new normal for thousands of years. There has been a natural climate warming over the last 20,000 years, but what mankind is about to do right now is a similar increase in global temperature in just under 200 years. That is a hundred times faster and unprecedented in all of Earth’s history. It is unlikely that life will be able to adjust to this change at this rate.

The future of our children and grandchildren depends simply on a single question: How quickly will we be able to cut greenhouse gas emissions to zero?

**#WeDontHaveTime**

We have no time left. Every day more greenhouse gases are dumped in the atmosphere. Every day, every week, and every month that we continue to do that, is reducing our chance to survive. Or maybe we should say the chance of our children.

The above graph shows a short summary of some important milestones in the history of anthropogenic climate change and the impact of our actions so far.

Please share this article and show it to all those who still have not completely understood how severe and irreversible the #ClimateCrisis is. We can’t avoid it anymore – 1.5°C could be locked in already. All we can do is to minimize the damage. We still have a chance to avoid a catastrophic climate change if we act now. If we act together. If we use the power of our votes.

Source: <https://below2c.org/2019/06/warning-climate-truth-is-not-for-the-faint-hearted/> The three videos are at this link.

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Photo Courtesy Nature and Culture

*Ñembi Guasu, the second largest conservation area in Bolivia, protects three million acres in the municipality of Charagua.*

## 20 Million Acres Saved in Bolivia

We have BIG news! Together we achieved a milestone.

Just how big?

**20** million acres!

By Mariah Banks

Nature and Culture: May 10, 2019

Nature and Culture was founded on the urgency to protect our planet's biodiversity. Five years ago, facing climate change, deforestation, and other threats, we pledged to conserve 20 million acres in Latin America – the heart of the living planet – by the year 2020.

And we are thrilled to announce, we did it! Just last week, we exceeded 20 million acres with the declaration of Ñembi Guasu, the second largest conservation area in Bolivia.

Created in collaboration with Nativa Bolivia and the indigenous Guaraní peoples of Charagua, Ñembi Guasu protects three million acres in the Gran Chaco, a hot and semi-arid lowland region increasingly threatened by climate change and agricultural development. The ecoregion holds a great diversity of indigenous peoples, including the Ayoreo, the only native population in South America outside the Amazon who remain uncontacted.

Ñembi Guasu adds to existing Kaa Iya and

Otuquis national parks, creating the largest conservation corridor in the Gran Chaco. Increased connectivity in the region will mitigate the effects of climate change and provide habitat for Ñembi Guasu's abundant biodiversity, including armadillos, giant anteaters, jaguars, and guanaco.

With Ñembi Guasu, Nature and Culture and supporters have now conserved more than 20 million acres since our start, nearly the size of South Carolina. From Bolivia's Chaco to Mexico's dry forest, we have protected habitat for birds and bears alike, secured clean water for hundreds of thousands of people, and improved the livelihoods of indigenous and local communities.

Together we have saved 20 million acres

for the planet – but we can't stop there. A dire UN report released Monday found that 1 million species are threatened with extinction, and a primary reason is loss of habitat from land use change. The planet needs many more protected areas to stanch the catastrophic loss of species.

The good news? Logging, mining, and other threats motivate the urgency of our work – and our donors give us hope.

Thank you to our donors and partners who make our shared conservation dream possible.

Now, who's joining us for the next 20?

**Source:** <https://natureandculture.org/20-million-acres/>



*Only 300 guanaco are left in the wild.*

# Fighting to Save 272 Trees in PA

By Diane Christin Zenchenko-Esser  
Pennsylvania USA

Raccoon Park in Springfield, Pennsylvania, is engaging in a severe high-grade forest cut. State Game Lands #319 is the largest contiguous property in Erie County. This property consists of the old U.S. Steel property plus numerous smaller parcels that the Pennsylvania Game Commission has purchased in order to form a large wooded area. The Springfield Township parcel is surrounded by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Lake Erie on the north.

Raccoon Park was recently improved with modern restrooms that were funded with state monies from the Growing Greener Fund and other entities such as Pennsylvania Sea Grant.

The proposed 272-tree logging is a severe high-grade cut that will drastically diminish the aesthetic nature of Old Lake Road and is unjustifiable from a silvicultural perspective. So, let's explore the bucket list of cons of this decision, with the heaviest weight in this bucket a worst practice high-grade cut.

In this exploration is the urgent call to climate education to all boroughs, townships, and governing bodies. We can no longer accept the degradation of our forest's ecosystem's that are a counter to the climate crisis.

A few of the township's reasons for this cut: The township wants to open the road to sunlight. Another reason was facilitating easier park clean up.

The township will receive around \$100 per tree and the logger will receive a percentage. A high-grade cut will financially benefit the township and the logger with little regard to degradation of the cost to the ecosystem.

If the tree corridor is removed, that road will have an increased heat index on an 80-degree day to 120 degrees. The heat index will increase drastically on the asphalt.

Tree corridor streets add to the life span of the asphalt, which is an economic benefit to the township. There is a quantum leap difference between 60 degrees on a street with a shaded tree corridor to 120 degrees without.

The greater cost to the township is the loss of their ecosystem benefits of their forest "system." One tree = 2 air conditioners. One tree mitigates 100 gallons of water in a rainstorm. One tree offers storm water management from its canopy to help manage flooding.

Preserving our forests is vital to balance our CO2 and oxygen levels. We battle widespread deforestation in a world that is striving for carbon sequestration.



Photo: Issy Lawrie

*Trees marked for cutting in Raccoon Park.*

Simply put, one tree can absorb as much as 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year and can sequester 1 ton of carbon dioxide by the time it reaches 40 years old. Those are massive health benefits that cannot be dismissed.

Let's shed some ecosystem environmental math on the 272 trees that Raccoon Park is choosing to remove for the want of shedding some sunlight to its street. Our children, by the time they reach adulthood, will be given the opportunity to be exposed to 272 more tons of carcinogenic fossil fuel toxins. There is a tragic number of cancer patients in chil-

dren's hospitals. I have worked with those children, and I feel it is wiser to shift to prudent, environmental, pro-active actions to create cleaner air for them through our forest systems.

Fossil fuels are the Darth Vader of this planet and the cause of severe climate change events. Our children deserve adults who not only are willing to do the math, but do the right thing for their planet. THIS is our address, and this planet is in trouble. Not taking that as a major "factor" into this equation is likened to being an ostrich with

**Saving Trees** *continued on next page*

Saving Trees *continued from previous page*



its head in the sand. This definitely is not an option for our children's well-being.

And let's do a little more health math. If one tree produces nearly 260 pounds of oxygen each year, that is 70,720 pounds of health benefit of oxygen a year our families and children lose.

When they walk the streets of the park (which I am always doing) looking to be under a shade tree when it is 80 degrees out, it's going to be 60 degrees walking under a tree; and without the tree, on the road, you have 120 degrees to contend with.

I feel a high-grade cut would not be a decision supported by Raccoon Park's supporting agencies, which include the Coastal Zone Management Program, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOAA, Pennsylvania Department of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Pennsylvania Sea Grant. Many of our agencies are working hard to add, not subtract, to our urban forest.

There must be a serious weigh-in given to the pros and cons of any deforestation, because ultimately, we are a world faced with severe climate events. We must begin more pro-active thought processes to meet those challenges. It is why our country has developed [www.climate.gov](http://www.climate.gov) and [www.toolbox.climate.gov](http://www.toolbox.climate.gov), and why our world is on board to reduce fossil fuel output.

Fundamentally, we are an ocean planet. If we continue to deforest, we continue to warm our waters, rivers, lakes, and oceans. These are the primary factors of our increased climate disruption.

Our children, who are learning about climate in schools, are dependent on us all to do the right thing. The bodies that govern our forests are temporary keepers and managers of these critical components to our world. Each Borough's, Township's, and State's thinking must shift gears and move at



Photo: Issy Lawrie

*Trees shading and cooling the road in Raccoon Park.*

bullet-train speed toward pro-active management and care for each and every park and forest in our world. We are all connected. Our planet is a system. Prudent actions by each of the dots that connect that system is pro-active, wise governance. There is no prudence in a high-grade cut on any given day of the week.

Our children will look back on us doing the

right thing for the right reasons and the right results. And, this is all pretty simple math.

**Contact Diane:** The Green Connection Documentary; <https://youtu.be/edgHSofRbA>; I Am A Planet Kid <http://iamaplanetkid.org/>; [www.addressearth.com](http://www.addressearth.com); LinkedIn: Diane Esser - Erie; Facebook: Plant it Forward Community Tree Planting Initiative

Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.

*Motto of The Go-Back Club, Consumer Liberation*

Attention: Address Change for All Humans

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JOIN US! "IT'S THE ADDRESS WE  
ALL SHARE – PLANET EARTH –  
HANDLE WITH CARE."  
HELP SHARE THE EDUCATION.

Each of us can play a role in the sustainability of our planet. Fossil Fuel emissions and accidents caused by fossil fuel drilling/fracking are a few of the issues compromising our clean air and water. Our actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption by embracing renewable energy and urging townships to incorporate green infrastructure ordinances, can lead to a healthy sustainability for our children and their only address: Planet Earth. These products are designed and sold by Diane Christin Zenchenko-Esser. See <https://addressearth.com/shop> for details, sizes, and ordering. Details similar to those with shirt on upper right.



BLUE MARBLE T-SHIRTS  
COMING SOON  
Artwork by Kevin-john



Image: By David Hond, via Wikimedia Commons

*Freetown in Sierra Leone: Already hot and humid.*

## African City Heat to Grow Intolerably

By Tim Radford  
Climate News Network: June 11, 2019

Up to a third of urban dwellers could soon face extreme African city heat and humidity. Risks could at worst multiply 50-fold.

LONDON, UK – An entire continent faces lethal conditions for many of its people: by 2090, one person in three can expect African city heat in the great conurbations severe enough to expose them to potentially deadly temperatures.

That is: the number of days in which the apparent temperature – a notional balance of thermometer-measured heat and maximum humidity – could reach or surpass 40.6°C (105°F) will increase dramatically, and the days when individuals could be at risk could in some scenarios multiply 50-fold.

The scientists selected this “apparent” temperature of 40.6°C because it is significantly beyond the natural temperature of the human body, which must then be kept cool by perspiration. This is possible in arid climates.

But as humidity goes up – and with each 1°C rise in temperature, the capacity of the air to hold moisture rises by 7% – cooling by perspiration becomes less efficient.

So at this notionally-defined apparent

temperature, people who cannot retreat to air-conditioned or cooler, shadier places could die. Heat kills: researchers recently counted 27 ways in which extreme temperatures could claim lives.

“If we follow the Paris Agreement, we’ll halve the number of people at risk in 2090, which is encouraging.”

And more, and more intense and prolonged heat waves are on the way, and with them episodes of potentially extreme humidity. By 2100, according to some studies, certain regions of the planet could become dangerous habitat.

European scientists report in the journal *Earth’s Future* that they considered the hazard for just one, rapidly-growing continent: Africa. They selected 173 cities of more than 300,000 people in 43 nations across a range of climates, from Algiers on the Mediterranean to the burgeoning monsoon cities of the equatorial west coast, such as Lagos and Kinshasa, the drier east African states, and the relatively mild townships of Southern Africa.

They then considered how much cities might grow, by migration or birth-rate increases, and how they might develop. Then they factored in a range of climate scenarios and looked at possible forecasts for the years 2030, 2060, and 2090.

They found that because of population growth, the numbers of days on which people could be at risk – measured in person-days (one person working for one full day) – would in any case increase.

### Sharper Rise

“In the best case, 20 billion person-days will be affected by 2030, compared with 4.2 billion in 2010 – a jump, in other words, of 376%,” said Guillaume Rohat, of the University of Geneva, who led the study. “This figure climbs to 45 billion in 2060 (up 971%) and reaches 86 billion in 2090 (up 1947%).”

And that is the best-case scenario. When the researchers factored in the steepest population increases, the most rapid growth of the cities, and the worst disturbances in climate, the figures rose more sharply. By 2030, 26 billion (a fivefold increase) could be at risk, 95 billion in 2060 and 217 billion in 2090. This is an increase of 4967%, or nearly 50-fold.

The researchers assumed that not everybody in their 173 cities would be exposed to dangerous levels of heat. Were that to happen, the number of person-days could hit 647 billion. But the researchers made a conservative estimate of one in three people who would be exposed to a minimum temperature of 40.6°C (105°F).

Research of this kind makes assumptions about how the climate is going to change, and separately about how nations are going to develop, how populations are going to grow and change, and how governments are going to respond to the climate emergency, and the authors recognize the problems.

**Africa Heat** *continued on page 20*



Photo Courtesy Team 54 Project International

*Solomon Oluwaseun Samson organized the first Football Climate Advocacy Match (soccer in the U.S.), which gathered a lot of people in his community. He used it to raise awareness about climate issues.*

## Eco-Hero Award Winner for April 2019 – Solomon Oluwaseun Samson

Published by Team 54 Project: May 22, 2019

Mr. Solomon Oluwaseun Samson is a young man who lives in the southwestern part of Nigeria, Ayetoro-itele, Ota Ogun State. He noticed that his community and environment were impacted by the climate crisis. He then decided to join the Team 54 Project family to find solutions.

His passion, dedication, and commitment as an advocate led him to be named as one Assistant Coordinator for Nigeria in the Team 54 Project. This honor, as he said, motivated and inspired him to work more for his community.

Mr. Solomon fully understood the Team 54 Project's ALL-INCLUSIVE concept and decided to use it to raise awareness about the climate crisis. He was one of the first members who started the Team 54 Project School-Based projects,

by going to schools and talking to students about climate issues and solutions.

He didn't stop there. In partnership with our CEO, Dr. Gbujie Daniel Chidubem, they created innovative ways to use sports to support the climate movement message of urgency to act. He organized the first Football Climate Advocacy Match (soccer in the U.S.), which gathered a lot of people in his community and he used it to raise awareness about climate issues.

His hard work led him to be named as the Eco-Hero Award Winner for the month of April 2019.

Team 54 Project Board, Management Team, and members would like to congratulate Mr. Solomon Oluwaseun Samson and to thank him for inspiring all of us to be team players and to drive climate awareness into climate action.



Solomon Oluwaseun Samson holding Team 54 sign

# GBC Member Earns Solar Certificate



By Clement Kankomba Musonda, Zambia (*the man in the suit and tie*)

This is the GIZ certificate for project developer in PV Project development. Please feel free to collaborate with me on PV project development and my solar cooking project.

The German Training Week, GTW in short, was organized by GIZ with some criteria of the participants. We should work on solar energy in an official company or organization. We attended from May 6th -10th and we got a certificate of Project Developer in PV project development.

I forwarded your newspaper to my friends in USA; they are interested in my solar cooking project. A group of teachers and

students are coming to Zambia during this month.

I started in 2010; in 2011 and 2012 I presented a box solar cooker at a Natural Medicine seminar in Ndola, Zambia. It was for solar cooking, food drying, and water pasteurisation. From 2013 to 2017, I added the parabolic sunicook type and worked in partnership with Sol Suffit Belgium NGO. And from 2017 up to now Rosa Solar Stoves is the name for our company. We are improving solar cooking with a Fresnel solar stove. And we're looking for donations to organize demonstrations and presentations about solar cooking to the communities. You can reach me at musonda-kankomba@gmail.com or phone + 260974579031. Thank you.

**Photos by one of the participants.**







Photo: Ngo Banfogha

*Ngo writes: "The persons in T-shirts are my team members. From left, we have Mercy Monyny, she is in charge of communication; behind her is Joan Mary Keafoon, she is in charge of women empowerment. On the right, you have Collins Kaiven. He is in charge of the computer training program. And behind him is Mbiminyy Marius Kongso. He is my projects coordinator. The rest were attendees of our workshop*

## Group Works to Help Youth in Cameroon

Dear Friends and supporters of H4BF (Hope for a Better Future Cooperative), International Cities of Peace and Master-Peace Cameroon,

We are looking for volunteers to join us to provide skills to vulnerable youths by advocating for our project on the global giving accelerator program.

As you all may know, the current anglophone crisis plaguing the two English-speaking regions of Cameroon have posed tremendous negative impacts on the civilian population of the country's northwest and southwest regions, hosting over 4 million inhabitants of the nation's population which is about 16% of the total population.

In the mist of these crises, youths between the ages of 15 and 30 in conflict zones are most vulnerable to various challenges such as recruitment into armed violent groups, rape, conception of unwanted pregnancies, contraction of STDs (especially HIV/AIDS), while some

are left orphans and widows as husbands and parents are frequently murdered in the course of the struggle.

This has caused thousands of people to flee their homes and seek refuge in neighboring safer towns with limited access to employment opportunities and little or no capital basic livelihood. Most young people caught by this tragedy turn into illegal activities such as prostitution, theft, gambling, and drugs to make a living.

It is due to these challenges that we want to boost our vocational training program by getting more equipment and teachers to train and support 100 vulnerable youths in Bamenda, Cameroon. We will be happy to have you join us.

Sincerely yours,  
Provide skills4Crisis affected Youths in Cameroon and Hope for A Better Future(H4BF) Cooperative

### Summary

The project seeks to train and support vulnerable and underprivileged, internally-displaced youths in Cameroon including single teenage mothers, young widows, school dropouts, ex-convicts, and orphans in simple, low-cost business start-ups (computer studies, tailoring, hair dressing, beads, jewelry production, etc.) to increase their chances of gaining employment and also provide alternative income-generating activities. These vulnerable youths will be trained and supported in activities of their choice.

### Solution

In early 2016 the Anglophone crisis started, and waves of displaced women started arriving at the urban centers. They have gone through near-death experiences, survived in the forest for weeks or months, and lost their property when they had to abandon their villages. As they arrive in the towns, they do not have any means of

**Cameroon** continued on next page

Cameroon *continued from previous page*



**Photos: Ngo Banfogha**  
*(top left) Monyuy Mercy, head of communications on the left, is assisting Prudence, the lead trainer of the beading department. They are producing beads (photos on the right) Students in the computer lab learning ways to improve their lives. Presently we have 12 students and 45 pending applications. We want to boost the center to have at least 50.*



subsistence and survive by begging. We provide a chance to regain what was lost. 11% of our participants are currently inside an active conflict zone.

### Long-Term Impact

These young people will be able to secure employment and most importantly, create jobs for themselves and for more youths in

the region. While they will be able to make a decent living for themselves and their families, they will also be able to create huge opportunities for others. Our economic livelihood support program (ELSP), created within our sustainability scheme, hopefully will be able to sustain the project activities to assist more and more vulnerable youths and the rest of their communities.

### Contact Hope for A Better Future(H4BF) Cooperative:

**Location:** Bamenda - Cameroon  
**Website:** <https://www.h4bfcooperative.com/>  
**Facebook:** Facebook Page  
**Twitter:** @h4bfcooperative  
**Project Leader:** Ngo Banfogha, Bamenda, Mezam Cameroon



Photos Courtesy Our Children's Trust

(above) The world watches the live streamed trial as thousands rally outside the courthouse for a pivotal lawsuit in the U.S., *Youth vs. the U.S. Government*. (below) One of the youngest plaintiffs in this precedent-setting lawsuit.

## 21 Kids Fighting U.S. Government for a Climate Secure Future Move Ahead

Our Children's Trust: June 12, 2019

Dear Friends,

Last week was incredible.

On Tuesday, thousands joined us to support the 21 youth plaintiffs in their constitutional climate lawsuit, *Juliana v. United States*. The case was heard by a three-judge panel before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The Juliana 21 sat in the largest courtroom in the Mark O. Hatfield U.S. District Courthouse as their attorney, Julia Olson, argued for their right to be heard in court at trial.

Hundreds of elementary, middle, and high schoolers filled both the courtroom and the overflow room in the courthouse, where the hearing had been moved to accommodate larger crowds due to the amount of public interest in this case.

Meanwhile supporters also gathered at a nearby park to watch the live stream on a jumbo-screen at a rally. Thousands more from around the world streamed the hearing online as part of our campaign, #AllEyesOnJuliana, making this the first appellate hearing in American history to be

live streamed at such a scale. Many, many thanks to all of you who tuned in. If you haven't yet, you can still watch the recording at YouTube 18-36082 Kelsey Rose *Juliana v. USA*.

After the hearing, the Juliana plaintiffs and their legal team took to the streets of downtown Portland with a marching band to join the rally a few blocks away. They climbed the stage to huge applause and a sea of turquoise banners that read "The Government Knew" and "Let the Youth Be Heard."

"We're learning every day that we are the ones that must secure our future." These are the words that Vic Barrett, 20-year-old plaintiff from White Plains, New York, said to supporters from the rally stage.

After Tuesday, we have never been more certain of the strength and power of young people as they rise to meet the greatest challenge of their generation.

In the coming months, the Court will decide whether the 21 plaintiffs will go to trial against the

Trump administration. In the meantime, we are rolling out a campaign with one task: tell your legislators in Congress to publicly endorse the Juliana lawsuit and the constitutional right to a climate system that sustains life. Stay tuned!

Donate at <https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/donate-now/>. Thank you.

Onward,  
The Our Children's Trust Team

Source: <https://mailchi.mp/ourchildrenstrust/last-week-was-incredible>



# U.S. Teen Climate Activist Takes Aim at Textbooks – and Presidential Debates

By Sebastien Malo  
Thomson Reuters Foundation  
June 7, 2019

NEW YORK – Alexandria Villasenor, a 14-year-old activist who has become one of the U.S. faces of the global youth climate movement, is outraged at how little U.S. students learn about climate change.

Next Friday, she plans to launch a global non-profit called Earth Uprising, demanding schools and teachers around the globe dedicate more resources to teaching about climate change and threats it presents.

Today, only about 37 of 50 U.S. states, plus Washington D.C., have adopted science education guidelines that include teaching that climate change is largely a result of human activity, according to the National Center for Science Education.

Better education, Villasenor hopes, will fuel a growing global youth movement to demand rapid action on the threat.

“We have to get more people involved in climate activism,” she said in an interview with the Thomson Reuters Foundation at her home. Action on climate threats will “grow once there’s more climate education, because you can’t argue with science and facts,” she said.

In particular, she hopes the Earth Uprising project, which will have ambassadors in more than 50 countries, will create and put into teachers’ hands a combined curriculum on climate science – and how past civil movements have succeeded.

The project can be “the gateway to bringing people who’ve never been involved in activism into the movement,” she said.

## Bench Sitter

The New York City teenager gained national prominence after she began skipping



Photo Courtesy Kristin Hogue

Teen U.S. climate activist Alexandria Villasenor holds off the sub-zero cold with a sleeping bag while on a strike for climate action in front of the United Nations headquarters in New York City on February 1, 2019.

school each Friday, starting last December, to sit on a bench in front of the United Nations headquarters and demand action on climate change.

She was among the teens who helped organize an international youth rally on climate change in March that saw hundreds skipping school in Washington D.C. and thousands more in about 45 other states.

The protest movement, launched by Swedish teen Greta Thunberg, has now spread around the world, to nations from Australia to Uganda.

Teens say climate action cannot come fast enough. In 2015, nearly 200 nations meeting in Paris adopted a new international goal to limit global temperature rise to “well below” 2C (3.6F), and to “pursue efforts” for 1.5C.

But as global emissions continue to rise, that lower limit could be passed as early as 2030 – when Villasenor will be 25.

The teen, clad in pajamas and with her mother at her side, said she still finds it remarkable how a modest action – one person on strike holding a placard – has led to one of the most engaging movements to stop climate change.

With school now over for the year, Villasenor has spent just this week speaking at the United Nations, having breakfast with a state governor, and appearing before the influential Council on Foreign Relations think tank, amid a long list of commitments.

Source: <http://news.trust.org/item/20190607160026-tuebo/>

## Africa Heat *continued from page 13*

going to respond to the climate emergency, and the authors recognize the problems.

### Conservative Conclusions

The sample is biased towards the larger cities. Their calculations don’t include predictions for capital investment. But the researchers say their conclusions are, if anything, conservative. They do not, for instance, factor in the notorious urban heat island effect that tends to make cities 3°C (37°F) or more

hotter than the surrounding countryside, and therefore even more dangerous.

The good news to emerge from the study is that concerted action, by governments and civic authorities, can reduce the risk. Were nations to stick to an agreement made by 195 of them in Paris in 2015, and keep global temperature rise to “well below” 2°C, the final exposure hazard would be reduced by 48%.

“This proves that if we follow the Paris Agreement, we’ll halve the number of peo-

ple at risk in 2090, which is encouraging,” said Rohat.

“We can see the importance of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: access to education, a drop in the number of children per woman, developments in the standard of living, and so on.”

Source: <https://climatenetwork.net/african-city-heat-is-set-to-grow-intolerably/>



Photo Courtesy Bye Bye Plastic Bags

Youth members of Bye Bye Plastic Bags in Bali bring tokens of gratitude to governor who helped secure the official ban on plastic bags, straws and polystyrene.

*Ladies and Gents, it has been a long wait, but finally...*

## **Bali is Plastic Bag, Straw, and Polystyrene Free**



Bye Bye Plastic Bags Team: June 24, 2019

The 23rd of June 2019 marks a big day in history for all of us activists, environmentalists, and longtime supporters of the plastic-free movement. It is a day to celebrate! As we welcome the long-awaited ban on single-use plastic bags, straws, and polystyrene on our island home, Bali. The island-wide governor regulation “pergub #97 2018” that’s been passed on December 21st, 2018 has since been “warming up” the island to the final ban. Supermarkets and restaurants in Bali have already started preparing by changing back to more traditional ways of

packaging, has anyone seen the banana leaf wraps? They are the BEST.

However the 23rd of June 2019 marks the official date that the ban goes into effect! Get this, the government even has a special task team in charge of the implementation of the Pergub No. 97/2018.

What’s the implementation process looking like? Well, good news is that the vision is to involve the local level authorities and village laws (Perdes), traditional and adat laws (i.e Perarem), which are able to support effective implementation **on a Bali** continued on next page



Bali continued from previous page



Photo Courtesy Bye Bye Plastic Bags

Many young people worked very hard and intelligently for this ban and are celebrating in various ways.

local level. And plus, there will be another six months of hard-core education and socializations with communities and businesses across the island.

Our team celebrated the launch of the ban by going to the governor's office with cake and flowers to say a very big Thank You and terima kasih!

"Bali becomes the first Indonesian province to successfully implement a province-wide ban on single use plastic bags, straws, and polystyrene."

### Some of Our Favorite Highlights with Bye Bye Plastic Bags

- We started BBPB in 2013 at the ages of 10 & 12 years old.
- We gave our first TED TALK
- Launching The Komitmen Campaign at Potato Head with 50+ of our local partners of One Island One Voice
- Bali's Biggest Clean Up; 45,000 people in

325+ locations and collecting over 135 tons of plastic from entering the oceans

- Joining the Tas Ini campaign and launch
- CNN Heroes and Time Magazine in one weekend
- FORBES top 10 most inspiring women in Indonesia as well as receiving Kick Andy Heroes Award from Minister and role model Sri Mulyani.
- 10k educational booklets distributed & over 20k alternative bags donated
- Starting Mountain Mamas & partnering with Hilton to empower local women to the frontlines!

### "Coming to Bali this Summer?"

Bye Bye Plastic Bags x Ngurah Rai Airport is excited to introduce a cool collaboration! You won't miss it coming in and out of Bali!"

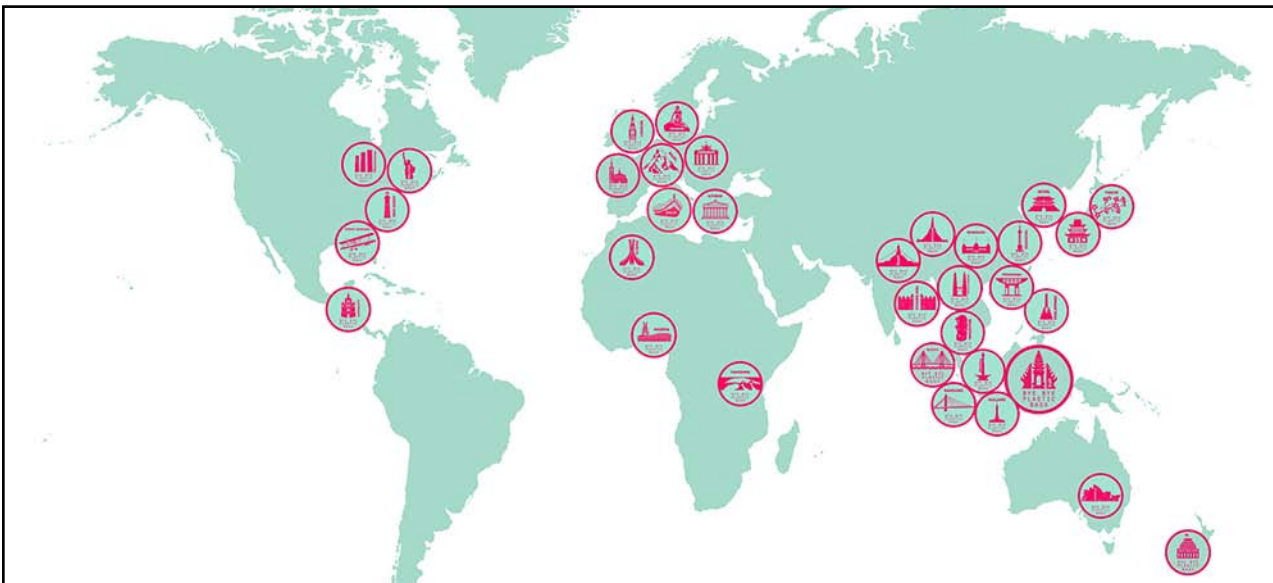
### The story is not yet over.

What's the future of Bye Bye Plastic Bags?

Our global family continues to grow with over 40+ teams led by youth leaders. Start your own team at <http://www.byebyeplasticbags.org/> and become part of the movement.

As for our Bali team, we will continue doing many actions locally, educational workshops and presentations. You'll see us here and there, keep an eye out for us. Want to be a part of our Bali team? Sign up at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1uHZPChzKROwUK\\_HIeoTN-DaHadFBBpyDbQ8gkw8pOffnbQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1uHZPChzKROwUK_HIeoTN-DaHadFBBpyDbQ8gkw8pOffnbQ/viewform)

As for sisters Melati and Isabel Wijsen (founders of BBPB five years ago) well, we're now onto our next big project that has everything to do with YOUTH empowerment. Can't wait to bring it to you.



*Youth-led  
Bye Bye  
Plastic  
Bags now  
spans the  
globe with  
branches  
in 40  
countries.*

## Greenline Paper Company, Recycled Products from Pennsylvania Business

(NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: I love these products and have used them for many years.)



### The revolutionary plant-based alternative to plastic bags.

Strong & sturdy BioBag items include various sizes of compostable liners (trash bags), shopper bags, produce bags, zipper food bags, and dog waste bags. Since they are certified compostable and made from plants, they breakdown as intended, and can be properly composted where available or placed in the trash.

(left to right) BioBag Compact Produce Bags made from plants, BioBag 8 gallon Bag, BioBag 96 gal compostable bags



Contact Greenline Paper at [www.greenlinepaper.com](http://www.greenlinepaper.com); 1-800-641-1117, or 631 S. Pine St., York PA 17403

**WHEN YOU LET GO OF TRYING TO GET MORE OF WHAT YOU DON'T REALLY NEED, IT FREES UP OCEANS OF ENERGY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH WHAT YOU HAVE.**

- Lynne Twist -

<https://mailchi.mp/soulofmoney/ww-keynote-video>

TO BE NOBODY-BUT-YOURSELF – IN A WORLD WHICH IS DOING ITS BEST, NIGHT AND DAY, TO MAKE YOU EVERYBODY ELSE – MEANS TO FIGHT THE HARDEST BATTLE WHICH ANY HUMAN BEING CAN FIGHT; AND NEVER STOP FIGHTING.

- e.e. cummings -

Submitted by AromaGnosis

[https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/e\\_e\\_cummings\\_161592](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/e_e_cummings_161592)

# Consumer Liberation

Use it up, wear it out, make it  
do, or do without.

*Join The Go-Back Club today!*

*Email Iona at [gobackclub@pa.net](mailto:gobackclub@pa.net) and she will put you on our email list to receive monthly issues of our climate activist newspaper.*



## Groundswell News

An activist publication bringing readers struggles and successes as well as climate-change news in the U.S. and around the globe. People everywhere are working to make change. Our beautiful newspaper will inspire and encourage you. Sign up today at [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org) or email [ionaconner@pa.net](mailto:ionaconner@pa.net). It's free but donations are gladly accepted. A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. Photo <https://www.google.com/search>

## Groundswell News Now Accepting Ads

Please consider placing your ad with us. As we are an alternative newspaper, we have an alternative ad policy. Send me your material and pay what you feel is reasonable, depending on how much space your ad needs. If your ad requires some of my time to create it for you, there will be an extra charge. If you can afford \$50 for half a page and \$100 for a full page, that will be wonderful. Our distribution is small now but we hope to grow quickly and our readers are wonderfully supportive people!

*Thank you.*





*Remember your dreams.*



## Messages from Our Friends



The Arctic sea ice is melting at 14,000 tons per second! The time for MAPS (the Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary) is now. Thank you for boosting our signal, Iona! Our mandate is to educate as many people as possible about this simple yet effective response to the present unstable weather patterns caused by the melting Arctic Ocean ice.

For love of all life,  
**Uttama Anderson**, Canada

Hi. Very glad to see your enthusiasm regarding climate action. I want to be the part of the newspaper whom you want to share with me.

I am your student and we love to learn more from your side. You are my teacher now because you have a great experience in making things possible in a short juncture of time.

**Akhter Hussain**, Chief Coordinator J&K at Bhamla Foundation, a green organization, which works for the environment and connected celebrities towards their goal. Also, Society for Environment Education and Development (SEED), Mumbai, India

Oh right. Awesome. The academic competition started early this year and ends August ending... It's a competition my teens' pastor is organizing and there are cash prizes to be won. I'm aiming for the #1 position and I hope to win \$1,000.

We have study guidelines and currently I have the leading mark. Tis fun, too.

I temporarily stopped drawing, but I still make more researches on the course I'm planning to study. This competition will definitely be of huge help to launch my brand and also help me start schooling. I'm working currently because apart from my art that brings in small funds, I don't really have anything else. Though my songs haven't been recorded yet (I rap). I just want August to come quickly.

Thanks Aunt. I know you care. God bless you.

**Prince Timmy**, Nigeria

What's the aims and objectives?  
(Iona answered) "Climate change activism mostly plus orphans sometimes."

"That's great to know. I'll communicate

tomorrow same time before you add me?

"Please send me a copy of the newspaper. I would like to read through before acceptance.

"I've read a bit. I think is brilliant and ideas are to be reckoned with. You may add me.

**Sallia S. Komala**, Liberia

Thanks my dear, I would really like to be on your email list, I feel honored to be part of the team. I will also send you an article for your Monthly Climate Crisis Newspaper.

Thanks, and Shine on with Mama Solar Africa.

**Faustine Wama**, Kenay

Some people dream about success and yet some people work at it. Dream is only a picture and event seen in sleep, but success is what is the outcome of the transformation

of that dream into reality.

Dream a lot but work patiently, persistently, and cultivate a positive mindset at all times.

Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life - think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success.

**Mohammed D. Konneh**, Liberia

Thank you so much. I forwarded [Groundswell News] to my friends in USA; they are interested in my solar cooking project. A group of teachers and students are coming in Zambia during this month.

**Clement Musonda**, Zambia

**Messages continued on next page**



Hello mother we need your support. We are out of foods. We need some \$\$ . The kids are smiling but they are starving. Ssengendo Yasin Siginalaminat, Uganda

### Messages *continued from previous page*

Beautiful newsletter, Iona,  
I love that you put my article in there.  
**Mare Cromwell**, Maryland USA

Thank you Iona. Sometimes I feel crazy when I see the money being wasted on things which do not matter in life and also stupid politics. I am here to make the world a better place for everyone. As long as I live, I will make change.

**Mark Uwineza**, Uganda

Thanks, Iona, what a wonderful surprise! Sue and I will use this to circulate targeted friends.

Thank you again,  
**Leslie Tate**, UK

Thanks, my sweet mommy for the update. It's actually inspiring and transforming. We will keep inspiring and making changes as we contribute in making our world a better place. Thanks for the information. I am so glad reading your inspiring messages and it gives me hope.

**Amb Hanson G. Blayon**, Liberia

Thanks for your fantastic work.

Would you be interested to publish your news on our social network? We could create a profile for *Groundswell News* where you could publish your articles.

**Ingmar Rentzhog**

CEO & Founder, We Don't Have Time  
Facebook.com/wedonthavetimeorg  
Twitter.com/wedonthavetime0

I truly want to thank you for having thought of making me a member of this precious activity even though I don't know what I can do to fulfill what you want to be done here in Burundi (is The Go-Back Club already here?)

Honestly, I am already one of the minority that go green and I have been taking part in lotsa planting trees since 2016 (visit my Facebook timeline), but I still don't know how I can even meet that person from Bubanza so that I could work together with him if he lets me or is it possible that I can set to it here in my Province too?

So, would you possibly tell me how I can do it anytime I want it?

**Claude Ndiku**, Burundi

Thanks for sending me your newspaper. You've put a LOT of time, talent, and energy into this, and I'm proud of you and your passion. As your friend, I have to be honest and say I don't know about or agree with all this, but I'll take the time to look it over. Who knows....maybe I'll learn something. You're an amazing force! Keep going, and I know you will!

**Barb B.**, New Jersey USA

Hello Iona!! I am in awe of your newspaper!!! I am producing a show that is a spinoff of the documentary I am producing. The information in your newsletter was NEW news to me! I try to keep my ear to the ground for all things climate...and I am so glad that Ruth networked here!!! She will always have vision for what is best for our environment.

I will take my time and read all of the newspaper tonight. Have had finally a day of sunshine...and that means extensive yard work and all things when the weather breaks.

This is my documentary link:) <https://youtu.be/edgHSoifRbA>

I just interviewed NOAA's Frank Niepold in Washington for my documentary, and I know our climate work needs to get deep in to the Boroughs, Townships, etc. that are still voted in positions and they are the good old boys from their high school, etc....and they have NO climate education:(

I just sent you a boatload of stuff and am making a video as I am riding into battle to the Springfield Township people who want to kill valuable infrastructure...trust me...not on my watch. I have a complaint into the DEP. People need to know our states and communities need to GREEN CONNECT TO THE HIGHER PRACTICES AND EDUCATION OF CLIMATE EDUCATION. Nothing less is acceptable with the knowledge we have out there!!!

I swear Iona!!! It is a huge lack of education out there in the townships and boroughs. This is the "current" fight...we just won one in a small burg beside me...and it's like a plague....agh!!!

**Diane Christin Zenchenko-Esser**

Hello Lona, I am a farmer doing organic farming and permaculture design. We are trying our best to be friends of the Earth but we as Africans cannot meet our goal properly due to luck of working farm tools such wheelbarrows, water storage tanks, and how to fence our farm garden to avoid the cattle from entering into the garden, and also to avoid unauthorized persons.

**Lucy Achieng**, Kenya

Good evening, I really read about your newspaper, I say it's super appreciable. I am a young researcher, Environmental Education Facilitator with primary school children every Wednesday and Saturday and sport. I find myself in sessions with 120 children, at times more. I make the minimum of my effort to give them a good coaching and wisdom.

In the UK, I am proud of these children who live up to this environmental education. But in the month of June, I am better surveyed with these children and until then

I make my minimal means, until it does, two years eight days, no parainnage, nor partner without financier and I am un peu stuck for the survivis. [*a bit of French here*]

These children are needed because our environment is to consecrate him.

Ma'am, I would like you to put me in touch with structures or presses to join the activity of June 8, 2019, Abidjan Port Bouet (beach of Lido Jauxtant, the channel of Vridi).

The activity will start at 07h30mns and end at 11h30mns, a pre-collection activity of plastic bottles and sorting.

**Issouf Pazini Kone**, Ivory Coast

I want to do a presentation on climate change sometime this year. But I'm going to need help with it, I don't have a projector either. I'm not sure or where. I'll have to figure that out, too.

Sincerely,

For America, the World, and the Earth,  
**Brendan Wissinger**, Pennsylvania USA

Looking forward to continuing to learn from your newsletter!! I am excited to hear about your interest in the Franciscan Friars and their new Earth Care Initiative! I am in charge of Mission Advancement. We do expansion plans, fundraising, and newsletters/communications for the Province of Our Lady of Consolation. We serve from Minnesota to the Texas border and beyond. We support missions and Provinces in Kerala, India, Zambia Africa, Central America, and Mexico. It is a wonderful honor to support these friars in ministry!

Debbie Nichols, our grant writer, has been instrumental in doing the groundwork for the Franciscan Earth Care Initiative. We are beginning the project with "Greening the Mount," which is a focus on our retreat Center campus and Province offices in Mount St. Francis, Indiana. We are installing solar panels, geothermal, an electric car charger, and environmentally-friendly materials on all new construction. We are composting, recycling, and gardening. The friars have also donated over 300 acres of woodlands to the community as a nature preserve and we are working to rid the space of invasive species and replace them with native plants using volunteers or "weed wranglers."

I am really excited about these efforts and the message that they are sending to the community. If you ever have a chance to visit the area, we would love to meet you and show you around. Perhaps we could even do an article about the efforts for your newsletter.

**Becki Romans**, Executive Director of Mission Advancement  
Province of our Lady of Consolation  
Mt. St. Francis, Indiana USA



Photo: Moreblessing Chaibva

Maxwell with his climate information at the Steward Bank Entrepreneurs Expo in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Dear Iona,

Thanks for getting in touch with me and placing my name on your email list. I do really appreciate the gesture, sorry for the late response, I have been out in remote rural areas of Zimbabwe educating and raising awareness on climate change.

For sure I am a climate-change activist. I started in 2005 and got my mentoring from Campaign against Climate Change in

the United Kingdom and since then I have not looked back. I am a Zimbabwean by birth and live in Harare the capital city. I have participated in various climate change programs both locally and globally and just completed a climate change fellowship in May with Cornell University in New York. It was a 12-week fellowship.

In 2013, I was appointed to Greenpeace International Compass magazine's edito-

rial board. This did help me immensely in my activism. Currently I am running a campaign called Living Green Campaign Zimbabwe – Climate change – Time to change.

Hope to hear from you soon with expectations and suggestion on the way forward. Warm regards,

Maxwell Kanotunga, Zimbabwe

**THE NONVIOLENT APPROACH DOES NOT IMMEDIATELY CHANGE THE HEART OF THE OPPRESSOR. IT FIRST DOES SOMETHING TO THE HEARTS AND SOULS OF THOSE COMMITTED TO IT. IT GIVES THEM NEW SELF-RESPECT; IT CALLS UP RESOURCES OF STRENGTH AND COURAGE THEY DID NOT KNOW THEY HAD.**

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

<http://quodid.com/quotes/2939/martin-luther-king-jr/the-nonviolent-approach-does-not-immediately-change-the>