



# 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. 53: August 2019*

## Teenage Power in Full Swing, Growing Globally

“It’s a really powerful time to be a teenager,” says UK climate strike leader, Anna Taylor.

By Laurie Goering  
Thomson Reuters Foundation: July 5, 2019

As student climate protests surge around the world, “I never would have thought it would have grown this quickly,” says Anna Taylor, a London movement leader.

LONDON, UK – London high-school student Anna Taylor used to lament the lack of protest in Britain over what she saw as the growing threat of climate change – until her friends told her it was time to act.

“They said, ‘Instead of complaining, why don’t you actually do something about it,’” she remembered.

So last December, inspired by teenager Greta Thunberg’s lone climate protests outside Sweden’s parliament, Taylor met with other students in south London, where they set up the UK Student Climate Network and began planning a first protest for February.

“We thought we might get 100 people maximum,” the 18-year-old told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in an interview during London Climate Action Week.

Instead 5,000 turned up in London – and 10,000 across the country. It was “way bigger than I ever anticipated,” she said.

Taylor has just finished her taxing final high-school exams while simultaneously helping run a high-profile national campaign on climate change.

“I’m not really sure how I survived,” she admitted. “I never would have thought it would have grown this quickly.”

“A lot of the time I think I’m dreaming, to be honest,” she added. But “it’s a really



Photos: <https://twitter.com/annaukscn?lang=en>

(from Anna Taylor’s Twitter page) “18-Yr-old environmental activist, feminist, mental health advocate, and mountaineer. Co-founder of @ukscn1#youthstrike4climate; Tweet: Anna Taylor @AnnaUKSCN May 14” and “3 ways climate activism has improved my mental health: 1) Built a sense of connection + unity across the world. 2) Given me a sense of purpose + empowerment. 3) Introduced me to the most kind and inspiring people I’ve ever met. #mentalhealthawarenessweek

powerful time to be a teenager.”

Just how powerful is evident in British politics. After increasingly disruptive protests by students skipping school and Extinction Rebellion activists, Britain in May became the first country to declare “a climate emergency.”

Last week, the government committed to reducing its planet-warming emissions effectively to zero by 2050.

Those moves are just a start in Taylor’s view. “We’re not discussing the climate crisis as much as we should be,” she said.

### Brexit Distraction

Negotiations over Brexit – Britain’s troubled plan to leave the European Union – are pulling attention from more serious issues such as climate change and the environment,

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# 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)

**Contact:** The Go-Back Club, c/o Iona Conner, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255; 814-259-3680; [gobackclub@pa.net](mailto:gobackclub@pa.net)

**Contributors:** Amb. Hanson G. Blayon, C.B., Akhter Hussain, Alekz Londos, Linda L., Rolly Montpellier, Leonidas Nzigamasabo, Clement Musonda, Sushila Shah, Fran Staret, 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 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](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 Logo

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Taylor said. "It's time we should be working together – and we need to be working together – to tackle climate change," she said.

Britain needs "a new government that takes the climate crisis as its priority and understands the deep connection between (that) and social and economic inequalities," she said. For now, she and her peers feel "betrayed by the politicians that talk and talk and talk, and fail to act."

But as the young climate strikers gain the vote – one of the movement's demands is to lower Britain's voting age from 18 to 16 – that may well shift, Taylor said.

"We should stop waiting for politicians to change and start replacing them," she told business, government, and civil society leaders at a climate week event, to thunderous applause.

Companies and individuals also need to step in and quickly do all they can to reduce emissions, she urged. "We're calling for you to make the changes and stand alongside us as we take drastic climate action," she said.

Climate on the Curriculum

Taylor – straight-talking and quietly confident – coordinates with her loose but fast-expanding network of activists largely online, using social media and other tools.

And the protests are quickly growing in size. London has seen up to 20,000 students turn out, she said, with 50,000 joining a weekly strike across Britain.

Thunberg's example of solo vigils outside the Swedish parliament, combined with

pointed warnings about climate threats in a flagship science report released last October, are driving growing student involvement, Taylor said.

Some schools have supported their pupils taking Fridays off to join the protests, while others have banned them from attending or even suspended them from school, she noted.

Meanwhile, inside the classroom, education on climate threats remains mostly inadequate, she said. "In the last nine months I've learned more than I had the entire time at school," she said.

Reform of Britain's national curriculum "to address the ecological crisis" is one of the movement's demands.

British student activists are now preparing for their next big school strike on July 19 – and what they hope, in September, will be the largest general strike in Britain since 1926, pulling in adult members of the public too.

Nearly a century ago, 1.7 million workers stopped for three days to protest an effort by the British government to cut wages and protection for coal miners.

This time, students are hoping their parents and many others will join them on the streets to demand swift action on climate change stoked by the burning of coal and other fossil fuels.

"Students recognize the threat to our future and now the public is beginning to recognize that as well," Taylor said.

Source: <http://news.trust.org/item/20190705150122-pu9r0/>



Anna Taylor Retweeted Cllr Mas Patel@maspatel01 Jul 3 What an inspiring closing address by @AnnaUKSCN "Young people won't accept anything less than urgent climate action." My colleague @JamesAsser invites her to speak at full Council, in Sept when we launch SI2 on #ClimateEmergency @Climate\_Action\_ #CFIUK



Greta Thunberg Celebrates Global Movement She Started



Submitted by Fran Staret, Pennsylvania USA posted June 21, 2019

# *This Issue of Groundswell News is Dedicated to Oceans Everywhere*



Photo: Paulo Brandao/flickr/cc

*The Atlantic coast near Galicia, Spain. A study by an MIT researcher warns that humans are pumping carbon into the world's oceans at a rate that could trigger a mass extinction event.*

## **“Completely Terrifying:” Study Warns Carbon-Saturated Oceans Headed Toward Tipping Point That Could Unleash Mass Extinction Event**

“Once we’re over the threshold...you’re dealing with how the Earth works, and it goes on its own ride.”

By Julia Conley  
Common Dreams: July 9, 2019

The continuous accumulation of carbon dioxide in the planet’s oceans – which shows no sign of stopping due to humanity’s relentless consumption of fossil fuels – is likely to trigger a chemical reaction in

Earth’s carbon cycle similar to those which happened just before mass extinction events, according to a new study.

MIT geophysics professor Daniel Rothman released new data on Monday showing that carbon levels today could be fast approaching a tipping point threshold that could trigger extreme ocean acidification similar to the kind that contributed to the Permian–Triassic mass extinction that occurred about 250 million years ago.

Rothman’s new research comes two years after he predicted that a mass extinction event could take place at the end of this century. Since 2017, he has been working

to understand how life on Earth might be wiped out due to increased carbon in the oceans.

Rothman created a model in which he simulated adding carbon dioxide to oceans, finding that when the gas was added to an already-stable marine environment, only temporary acidification occurred.

When he continuously pumped carbon into the oceans, however, as humans have been doing at greater and greater levels since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the ocean model eventually reached a threshold which triggered what MIT called “a cascade of chemical

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# In A Race Between Two Tipping Points

By Rolly Montpellier  
Below2C: July 18, 2019

Humanity is in a race against time, caught between two competing tipping points. And our timeline is compressing. We now measure scientific knowledge and technological progress in months and years, not decades.

## The First

Due to a rapidly changing climate, the world is racing toward the irreversible collapse of the Earth's ecosystems and life as we know it. A recent (May 2019) landmark report by the UN's IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) shows that the rate of species extinction and the decline in biodiversity are speeding up, with alarming implications for human survival. One million species are at risk of extinction warns the report. It is now believed that humans have triggered a sixth extinction.

In November of 2018, the release of the IPCC's Global Warming of 1.5°C special report sent shockwaves around the world with a stark warning that we have but 12 years to keep the warming of the planet at no more than 1.5°C higher than pre-industrial levels.

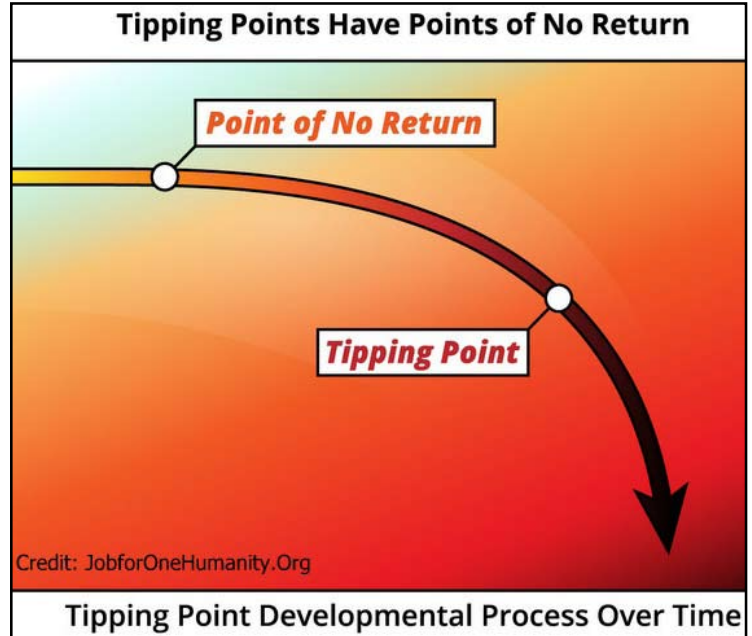
It is now abundantly clear that we are getting dangerously closer to this first tipping point. The questions are, "Can we slow it down? Can we stop it from tipping?"

## The Second

The second tipping point "is when the fight for climate action tips from being just one of many political concerns to becoming a mass social movement," reports *Democracy, A Journal of Ideas*. Our only hope is to create a global socio-political movement that will counteract the effects of "two centuries of fossil capitalism... that have created powerful vested interests, systems inertia, and mental frameworks that blind us to the dangers and prevent us from seeing alternatives."

And in order to develop this "countervailing power" we need to amplify the kind of counter-actions being carried out now by Greta Thunberg's Fridays for Future student strikes happening around the world – millions of students in over 2,000 cities and towns in over 125 countries. We need to amplify the work of other youth-led movements such as Sunrise.

We need to amplify the actions of Extinction Rebellion spreading globally like wildfire. We need to support the actions of



Graphic Credit: JobforOneHumanity.org

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the 29 year-old House of Representative member who has lit 2020 election politics with her Green New Deal proposal.

We are facing an existential question. And yes there is hope. But our hope is pitted against the advancing menace of climate change. Our challenge is to dramatically speed up these efforts and tip first before climate does.

Which tipping point will prevail?

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## Oceans *continued from previous page*

feedbacks," or "excitation," causing extreme acidification and worsening the warming effects of the originally-added carbon.

Over the past 540 million years, these chemical feedbacks have occurred at various times, Rothman noted. But the most significant occurrences took place around the time of four out of the five mass extinction events – and today's oceans are absorbing carbon far more quickly than they did before the Permian-Triassic extinction, in which 90 percent of life on Earth died out.

The planet may now be "at the precipice of excitation," Rothman told MIT News.

On social media, one critic called the study's implications about life on Earth "completely terrifying."

The study, which was completed with support from NASA and the National Science Foundation, also notes that even though humans have only been pumping carbon

into the oceans for hundreds of years rather than the thousands of years it took for volcanic eruptions and other events to bring about other extinctions, the result will likely be the same.

"Once we're over the threshold, how we got there may not matter," Rothman told MIT News. "Once you get over it, you're dealing with how the Earth works, and it goes on its own ride."

Other scientists said the study, which will be published this week in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, represents a clear call for immediate action to drastically reduce the amount of carbon that is being pumped into the world's oceans.

Climate action groups and grassroots movements have long called on governments to impose a moratorium on fossil fuel drilling, which pumps about a billion metric tons of carbon into the atmosphere

every year.

"We already know that our CO2-emitting actions will have consequences for many millennia," says Timothy Lenton, a professor of climate change and Earth systems science at the University of Exeter. "This study suggests those consequences could be much more dramatic than previously expected."

"If we push the Earth system too far," Lenton added, "then it takes over and determines its own response – past that point there will be little we can do about it."

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**Source:** <https://below2c.org/2019/07/in-a-race-between-two-tipping-points/>



Photo: Eleanor Church Lark Rise Pictures/eXXpedition

*Emily Penn, mission director of eXXpedition Round the World, is seen at the helm during the organization's North Pacific voyage in June 2018.*

## Making Waves: Female Round-the-World Crew to Fight Ocean Plastic

Some marine experts have warned there could be more plastic than fish by 2050.

By Emma Batha  
Thomson Reuters Foundation: July 10, 2019

LONDON, UK – More than 300 women will join a round-the-world voyage launching in October to highlight the devastating impact of plastic pollution in the oceans and conduct scientific research into the escalating crisis.

Millions of tons of plastic – from food packaging to fashion fibers and fishing gear – enter the sea each year leading some marine experts to warn there could be more plastic than fish by 2050.

The two-year, all-female voyage – organized by eXXpedition, a non-profit focusing

on marine pollution – will collect samples from some of the planet's most important and diverse marine environments to build a picture of the state of the seas.

The 38,000-nautical-mile trip will take in the Arctic, the Galapagos Islands, the South Pacific islands, and central ocean areas where plastic accumulates because of circulating currents.

“One of the things that still gets me is when you are 1,000 miles from the nearest human being and then you see a toothbrush float past,” mission director Emily Penn told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

She said 8 million tons of plastic ended up in the sea every year where it broke down into tiny fragments, the same size as plankton. These particles, along with plastic microbeads used in toiletries and other household products, can be ingested by marine life, harming ecosystems and the

food chain.

“There's a misconception that there are islands of plastic out there that you can see, but it's more like a soup. It's fine fragments,” said Penn.

“If it was an island we could clean it up, pack it all onto a boat and solve it, but (because) it's this soup ... you really can't extract it once it's in there.”

Penn, who founded eXXpedition in 2014, said the solution was to “turn off the tap” on land and stop the plastic entering the sea in the first place.

The research will focus on working out what types of plastic are present and which industries they have come from in order to tailor solutions.

Scientists working closely with the University of Plymouth's International Marine Litter Research Unit will also research the

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impact of plastic on environmental, animal, and human health.

Ten women from different disciplines and countries will join the 70-foot (21-metre) sailing boat S.V. TravelEdge for each stage of the 30-leg journey which leaves Britain on October 7.

Participants include scientists, teachers, filmmakers, product designers, photographers, and athletes among others.

They will stop *en route* to talk to schools and communities, record the type of waste washing up on beaches, and conduct clean-ups.

“There’s not one silver bullet solution. We need to be working from every sector, from every angle,” Penn said. “We need design of new materials, we need policy change, we need education, we need the arts to be shifting mindsets, we need engineers. The only way we are going to solve it is by all working together.”

**Reporting by Emma Batha @emmabatha; Editing by Claire Cozens. The Thomson Reuters Foundation is the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, which covers humanitarian news, women’s and LGBT+ rights, human trafficking, property rights, and climate change. Visit <http://news.trust.org>**

**Source:** <http://news.trust.org/item/20190710104559-5rwag/>



**Photo:** Eleanor Church Lark Rise Pictures/eXXpedition

*Fragments of plastic are seen in a sieve after being scooped from the sea during a North Pacific voyage by eXXpedition in June 2018.*

## Plastic = Climate Change (Part 1)

By Annette Olson  
Below 2°C: July 15, 2019

Editor Rolly Montpellier’s introduction:

*Some of you will remember The Graduate (1967) starring Dustin Hoffman who played the character Ben, a young graduate attending a party. When asked what he plans to do with his future, Mr. Maguire takes him aside and says, “I just want to say one word to you, just one word, plastics.” Of course that bit of advice was meant to point young Ben to a future career in plastics and the opportunities that would bring. Now some 50 years later, opportunity has turned into a nightmare.*

*We are pleased to welcome Annette Olson as a contributor to Below2°C. In Part 1 – the first of two articles – she outlines the impact plastic makes, including the heaviest baggage of all, its contribution to climate change. How to adjust our relationship with plastic will be described in Part 2. This article was first published in Climate Steps.*

Plastic first came into our lives 150 years ago, and we fell in love, hard. But although it made and makes our lives wonderful in

many ways, it comes with baggage now. Lots and lots of terrible baggage.

### It’s a Plastic World

Let’s start off by noting that the term “plastic” is the common term for any long-chain molecule that can be shaped and reshaped by heat (think of the adverb “plastic”). Celluloid, as in the film, was the first plastic made from natural materials, and was first made in 1863 to replace ivory as billiard-balls. Yep, plastic began as a result of elephants being over-hunted and thus the need to replace the ivory in a barroom game; so at first, it helped take pressure off the environment.

Forty-plus years later came Bakelite, the first synthetic plastic, made from mixing phenol and formaldehyde. Then, in the 1940s, the numbers of plastics began exploding. Today we have thousands of types including: nylon, Teflon®, Saran® (i.e., Saran Wrap®), polycarbonates (including the lovely sounding acrylonitrile butadiene styrene), polyester, PVCs, PETs, PDKs, Styrofoam®, polyethylenes, polypropylenes, polyurethanes, acrylics, epoxies, phenolics,

melamine formaldehyde (aka Formica®), and silicone poly. (For more, see Wikipedia and How Stuff Works). Writing this, I just realized that when I paint with acrylic paint, I am painting with plastic. It makes so much sense now – it looks like plastic.

Obviously, we wanted this new creature in our lives. Today, plastic is ubiquitous. We manufacture hundreds of millions of tons of plastic each year; in 2015, 35-45% of that was for packaging. Plastic is now “in-your-face.” It is promoted, sold, used, and discarded everywhere.

### Plastics Impact the Environment

We’ve woken to reality and have started a major campaign focusing on what is called single-use plastic. What is really meant here, though, is single-use, “wasteful” plastic, in contrast to “needed” plastic. Some plastics are actually needed and make a huge difference in our lives. I am thinking of intravenous tubes, for instance, or of 3D-printed plastic braces to help people walk. Plastic can be useful, even for the environment: rain barrels, and lighter

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cars and planes so that less energy is used. Yet, even multi-use or very useful single-use plastic should be recycled.

Illustrative point: I was debating on what plastics I really depend on, besides my computer, and then I realized that I need plastic. I had cataract surgery this year, in both eyes, and the new lenses in my eyes are plastic. I was beginning to have quite a lot of trouble reading and driving, and now I can see. I am lucky to live in this age. (Btw, I am way too young to have had cataracts!)

But do I/we need plastic microbeads in our face cleansers? Not. In. The. Least. Single-use plastic drink bottles and plastic takeout containers? Nuh-uh. Styrofoam and its equivalents? Not now that we have mushroom packaging. Plastic toys? No. We are already eating a credit card's worth of plastic a week through our drinking water (especially through bottled drinking water), via shellfish, etc., and by plastic chemicals leaching into our food via microwaving. So why get young, chewing infants started on this habit?

We all know now, though, that we've gone too far with trying to convert everything to plastic, with our world having giant piles of plastic bags and bottles and coolers and toys on land and in our oceans.

**"SUFFICIENT PLASTIC IS CURRENTLY MANUFACTURED EACH YEAR TO WEIGH AS MUCH AS ALL SEVEN BILLION-PLUS HUMANS ON THE PLANET."**

~ *Scientific American* ~

Plastics degrade with sunlight and heat, although not biologically, as only one creature has evolved naturally to eat them. With degradation, they only break down into smaller and smaller pieces, a.k.a. microplastics, as well as emit gases.

Life everywhere is encountering plastic and its residues – not just us, but also bacteria, plankton, fish, seabirds, marine mammals. Microplastics were first found in seabirds during the 1960s. Imagine how plastics and their toxins are working their way up the food chain today.

The two plastics most notorious for being extra durable are polystyrene and PVCs (Polyvinyl chlorides). These break into smaller pieces and last for hundreds of years although a number of microbes may evolve eventually to eat them. However, if buried in oxygen-deprived environments, plastic may last perhaps thousands of years.

Future geologists easily will be able to determine the boundary of the Anthropocene (which means the "human era") due to a layer of minute plastic particles.



### Plastics = Climate Change

According to the Center for International Environmental Law's *Plastic and Climate: The Hidden Costs of a Plastic Planet 2019 Report*, "By 2050, annual emissions could grow to more than 2.75 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e [equivalent] from plastic production and incineration."

As of 2019, the full plastic life-cycle is annually equal to the emissions from 189 500-megawatt coal power plants.

These are some of the bad ways that plastic intersects with climate change:

1. First, plastic is a synthetic product almost always made from oil and gas (about 4% of fossil fuel supplies annually; in the U.S., mostly via fracking gas, which leaks methane, a very potent greenhouse gas (GHG).
2. Plastic is made almost entirely with energy from fossil fuels, and that process creates GHGs.
3. Plastic causes climate change after use: landfill sites, incineration, washed into waterways and oceans, absorbed into food chain.

### Can Plastic Help the Climate Fight?

The development of more efficient plastics can create lighter materials and lighter packaging, and thus decrease the amount of energy required to move material. But for many products, i.e., the wasteful plastic, does it help enough to save on the environmental impacts it creates? No.

The American Chemical Society/ACS (which has a pro-plastics council) talks a bit about the responsibility that the industry must take on, but they do not mention climate change. Is single-use, wasteful

packaging worth its impact on climate change? No. So we need to fight this, make the ACS aware that we are extremely concerned about this, among other climate steps.

In my experience as a community organizer, the need to fix the plastic problem helps people take their first steps towards environmental action, beyond recycling.

1. Plastic has become a major visible sign of the damage we have done to what we have typically thought of as pristine places – beaches, the ocean as a whole, Mt. Everest. It is also one of the first signs of how we can kill other species without hunting them or cutting down their habitat; seeing our plastic six-pack rings choking seals and seabirds is a horrid image. It motivates. [It mobilizes].

2. The action yields visible results.

3. Picking up trash can often be very social events, which also help encourage people to take action.

Then, once engaged in this step, it is easier for people to take the next step – helping change our plastic and climate culture and infrastructure.

*Annette Olson is the founder and administrator of Climate Steps. She is also a founding board member of Earth Hero. She is the project director at The American Association for the Advancement of Science. Annette attended Baylor University in Texas and the University of Miami. She can be reached on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Annette Olson, @AnnetteLOlson*

Source: <https://below2c.org/2019/07/plastic-climate-change/>





Photo: Mike Stocker, South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Guinness World Records adjudicator Michael Empric (in suit, not bathing suit) counts divers as they enter the water and attempt to break the world record for the largest underwater cleanup. The record was broken with 633 divers taking part in the record-breaking dive at the Deerfield Beach International Fishing Pier, 200 NE 21st Ave. on Saturday, June 15.

## 633 Divers Break Record for World's Largest Underwater Cleanup

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA

By Olivia Rosane  
EcoWatch: June 17, 2019

More than 600 people gathered on a Florida beach Saturday to break the world record for the largest underwater cleanup of ocean litter.

Guinness officiator Michael Empric flew down from New York to sign off on the achievement. "I actually stood there and clicked off everyone as they got in the water ... so we know immediately whether or not the record's been broken," he told the *South Florida Sun Sentinel*, as *The Independent* reported.

In total, 633 people entered the water between 9 and 11 a.m. and stayed beneath the waves for at least 15 minutes. They succeeded in surpassing the previous record of 614, which was set in the Red Sea in 2015 by a

team organized by Egyptian Army scuba diver Ahmed Gabr.

The cleanup is an annual event organized by the Dixie Divers and Deerfield Beach Women's Club. It drew divers from across the country, as well as from Europe and South America, who gathered at the Deerfield Beach International Fishing Pier to remove at least 1,626 pounds of trash and 60 pounds of fishing line, CNN reported.

"It was a great time ... Everyone was working together and cleaning up one part of the reef or pier," diver and organizer Tyler Bourgoine told CNN.

Bourgoine said the total weight of all the trash recovered had not been calculated, and would likely increase. Ocean conservation organization Project AWARE said the divers may have gathered as much as 3,200 pounds. The city will make sure it is all recycled or disposed of correctly.

One of the divers was 13-year-old Dahlia

Bolin, who came from Mackinaw, Illinois to participate with her mother. She collected a metal sign reading, "Boats Must Not Come Within 100 Yards of Pier."

"It was at the end of the pier about 20 feet down, just kind of buried in the sand," Bolin told the *South Florida Sun Sentinel*, as *The Independent* reported. "There's a lot of heavy weights for fishing line down there, but there's some really beautiful fish, mostly."

Bourgoine said the two were related. "That's one of the reasons why there's so much debris," Bourgoine told CNN. "People are constantly fishing there."

The cleanup responds to growing awareness of a pollution crisis in the world's oceans, as eight million metric tons of plastic make their way into the marine environment every year.

Source: <https://www.ecowatch.com/divers-underwater-cleanup-record-2638888076.html>

# Who's Doing What About Climate Change? People Combat Plastic Pollution

By Iona

Since oceans are a crucial carbon sink for reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, as well as a source of our food chain, it is imperative to protect them. Many issues arise but the most visible one is plastic pollution. It's also one of the saddest. June 4, 2018, *TIME* magazine reported that a sick pilot whale was found in the waters of Thailand. A team of vets tried to save it but it died after vomiting up five plastic bags. More than 80 plastic bags were found in its gut. If we can't change some of our habits quickly, things will continue getting worse.

*Forbes* magazine published an article by Trevor Nace in September 2018 titled "Here's A List of Every City In The U.S. To Ban Plastic Bags, Will Your City Be Next?" He listed "349 known cities, counties, and states to have, in some way, banned or taxed plastic bag use." He continues, "While many countries around the world have taken the steps to ban plastic bags country-wide, the United States has taken a piecemeal approach." An interactive map at [www.bagtheban.com](http://www.bagtheban.com) shows the only listing for Pennsylvania. In October, Narberth in Montgomery County implemented a 10-cent tax on plastic bags.

Many people start an environmental lifestyle by buying or making cloth bags to replace plastic ones. At Ohio State University, Students for a Sustainable Campus learned how to make reusable bags by watching a no-sew video on YouTube.

Bye Bye Plastic Bags (BBPB) is a global youth-led movement with teams in 36 locations. Their mission is, "To empower people to do what is right through education, campaigns, and political meetings. Start making that difference one bag at a time." BBPB has spoken at 231 events; donated 1,750 educational booklets to schools; and given 16,800 alternative bags to local communities. Fifteen-year-old Shria Shyam is Pennsylvania's BBPB team leader. Contact Shria at [BBPBPennsylvania@gmail.com](mailto:BBPBPennsylvania@gmail.com).

Floridians Alex Schulze and Andrew Cooper went to Bali, Indonesia to surf and were devastated by the amount of plastic they saw in the ocean. They decided to do



Photo submitted by Fran Staret, Pennsylvania USA

something about it and started the 4ocean movement in January 2017 with the goal of cleaning the ocean and coastlines.

To fund cleanups, 4ocean creates beautiful bracelets with 4ocean charms, which are hand assembled in Bali. The beads are made from recycled glass bottles and the cords are made from recycled plastic water bottles. Every bracelet sold for \$20 funds one pound of trash removal. In less than two years, 4ocean has removed more than two-million pounds of trash from the water.

4ocean is partnering with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) in Australia to help raise awareness about the threats the coral reef is facing in a changing climate. "It's one of the seven natural wonders of the world. There's nowhere else on Earth quite like it. Beautiful, diverse, irreplaceable, and under threat – see for yourself why we have to preserve it," reads the GBRF website.

This reef and all others are in grave danger. Human-induced climate change is one of the greatest threats to coral reefs due to rising water temperatures, increasing acidity of the oceans, rising sea levels, and

increasingly fierce storms.

Meanwhile, the petrochemical industry is going full speed ahead, according to a recent article in *The Nation*: "Companies are investing \$65 billion to dramatically expand plastics production in the United States," writes Zoe Carpenter in "Warning: The Plastics Crisis is About to Get Worse." Then she explains the implications for climate change: "...more than 333 petrochemical projects are underway or newly completed, including brand-new facilities, expansions of existing plants, vast networks of pipelines, and shipping infrastructure...plastic is becoming an increasingly important source of profit for Big Oil. . . ."

What about tackling the issue at its source?

## What Can YOU Do?

Boycott frivolous plastic products, especially plastic bags and single-use items.

Who needs straws? Nobody who's healthy, that's for sure. Start refusing them today.

To eliminate plastic water bottles, buy a carafe water filter and save a ton of money by filtering your own water and carrying it in a thermos or non-toxic container (not plastic). It's a good idea to have your drinking water tested first so that the filter you purchase will be adequate for removing any potential pollutants.

You don't need legislation to start your own boycott of plastic. Be creative. Be flexible. Be strong. But don't forget to have fun and feel satisfied knowing you are part of the solution.

*Iona Conner lives in the hills of rural Pennsylvania. She started The Go-Back Club in 2013 as a simple-living/action brigade. The goal was to educate readers about climate change and encourage Americans to minimize their use of fossil fuels and preserve natural resources. She has been active in the environmental movement more than 50 years, both professionally and as a grassroots activist, and has published a global warming newspaper now called Groundswell News for 11 years. The motto of The Go-Back Club is "Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without." Learn more at [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org).*



## Climate Emergency Declarations in 850 Jurisdictions and Local Governments Cover 160 Million Citizens

Submitted by Alekz Londos, California USA  
Posted on Facebook July 18, 2019

850 jurisdictions in 18 countries have declared a climate emergency. Populations covered by jurisdictions that have declared a climate emergency amount to 160 million citizens, with 47 million of these living in the United Kingdom. This means in Britain now roughly 64 per cent of the population lives in areas that have declared a climate emergency. In New Zealand, the percentage is even higher: 70 per cent of the population. It's 24 per cent in Switzerland, and 16 per cent in Spain.

At the national level, the Welsh Government, the First Minister of Scotland, and the Irish government have made climate emergency declarations, and on May 1, 2019, the UK Labour Party got unanimous support for a non-binding motion in favor of a climate emergency declaration in the House of Commons, making Britain the first country in the world where a bipartisan parliament has declared a climate emergency. The Parliament of Portugal declared a climate emergency on June 7, 2019, and the Canadian House of Commons followed on June 17.

On the list below are only included jurisdictions that have passed a binding motion

declaring a climate emergency. As such, the non-binding motion instigated by UK Labour, for example, is not included in this data. Typical resolutions include setting up a process to develop an action plan and report back to council within three to six months.

In Australia, where the climate emergency declaration was launched in May 2016, 27 jurisdictions representing roughly 2.8 million people and 11 percent of the population have declared a climate emergency: 12 in New South Wales, 6 in Victoria, 3 in Western Australia, 3 in South Australia, 2 in Tasmania, and the government of the Australian Capital Territory. More than 100 candidates in the May 18, 2019 federal election had signed the Climate Emergency Declaration petition.

These are the overall figures, according to population statistics available via the Internet.

The list is maintained by Cedamia

This data compilation was initiated by Philip Sutton. Various lists are being updated independently, including:

» CEDAMIA's list in chronological order (Adelaide, Australia): [www.cedamia.org/global](http://www.cedamia.org/global)

» CACE Online's list (Melbourne, Australia): [www.caceonline.org/councils-that-](http://www.caceonline.org/councils-that)

[have-declared.html](http://www.caceonline.org/councils-that-have-declared.html)

» ClimateEmergency.uk's news page (United Kingdom): [www.climateemergency.uk/blog/category/climate-emergency](http://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/category/climate-emergency)

» The Climate Mobilization's list (USA): City by City Campaign: The Race to Mobilize Is On

**Note:** We have received questions from councillors and media about what a 'climate emergency declaration' or motion should contain, and whether there are certain criteria or guidelines to this.

For instance, can achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 be considered an 'emergency' response, or should the year be set as 2040, 2030, or even as ambitious as 2025?

Our call for declaring a climate emergency is not a structured movement with a specific guideline and a set of criteria as such. It is an open 'movement of movements' and there are many opinions floating around about what is the best strategy.

Eventually, it is up to each individual council to make up its mind about what it wants to suggest and to implement.

Here's some advice and inspiration: <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/local-government-campaigns/>. And here's more advice and inspiration from CACE: <http://www.caceonline.org/build-a-campaign.html>.

**Emergency** continued on next page

Emergency continued from previous page

**Image: XL Catlin Seaview Survey**

**THE EARTH IS ALREADY TOO HOT**

**IT'S TIME TO DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

**At the Paris climate talks, scientists and people from low-lying island states set 1.5°C of warming as a red line that must not be crossed.**

However, earlier this year, the global average temperature spiked past 1.6°C of warming.

The bleaching of coral reefs around the world, increasing extreme weather events, the melting of large ice sheets and recent venting of methane from thawing permafrost make it abundantly clear that the earth is already too hot.

The future of human civilisation, and the survival of the precious ecosystems on which we depend, now hang in the balance.

There must be an immediate ban on new coal and gas developments and an emergency-speed transition to zero emissions.

We must begin the enormous task of safely drawing down the excess greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere.

**We call on the new parliament to declare a climate emergency.**

Philip Adams, broadcaster	Ian Dunlop, former Chair Australian Coal Association	Prof. Robert Mann, political scientist
Kirsty Albion, CEO Australian Youth Climate Coalition	Prof. Tim Flannery, palaeontologist	Christine Milne, Global Greens Ambassador
Paul Barrett, former head Defence Dept	John Hewson, businessman and former Opposition leader	Paul Costello, National Director GetUp
Prof. Judy Brett, historian	Prof. Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, IPCC coordinating lead author and marine scientist	David Ritter, CEO Greenpeace Australia
Dr Stephen Bygrave, CEO Beyond Zero Emissions	Prof. David Karoly, atmospheric scientist	Prof. Peter Singer, moral philosopher
Geoff Cousins, President Australian Conservation Foundation	Prof. Carmen Lawrence, former WA premier	Prof. Fiona Stanley, epidemiologist
Mary Crooks, CEO Victorian Women's Trust	Dr Colin Lang, Vic. Sec. National Tertiary Education Union	Dr John (Charlie) Veron, pioneer coral researcher
Prof. Peter Doherty, Nobel Laureate for Medicine		Mark Wilsham, CEO Environment Victoria
		Bill McKibben, author and co-founder 350.org

**Sign the petition at [www.climateemergencydeclaration.org](http://www.climateemergencydeclaration.org)**

**Historical:** This was the text we published in the Australian newspaper *The Age* on June 23, 2016:

*“At the Paris climate talks, scientists and people from low-lying island states set 1.5°C of warming as a red line that must not be crossed. However, earlier this year, the global average temperature spiked past 1.6°C of warming.*

*The bleaching of coral reefs around the world, increasing extreme weather events, the melting of large ice sheets, and recent venting of methane from thawing permafrost make it abundantly clear that the Earth is already too hot.*

*The future of human civilization, and the survival of the precious ecosystems on which we depend, now hang in the balance.*

*There must be an immediate ban on new coal and gas developments and an emergency-speed transition to zero emissions. We must begin the enormous task of safely drawing down the excess greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere.*

*We call on the new parliament to declare a climate emergency.”*

This was the climate emergency declaration petition text we wrote in 2016:

Given that:

• Climate impacts are already causing serious loss of life and destroying vital

ecosystems;

• Global average temperature, atmospheric greenhouse gases, and ocean acidity are already at dangerous levels; and

• Wartime economic mobilizations have proven how quickly nations can restructure their economies when facing an extreme threat...

*It is inexcusable to continue with climate-damaging policies that put us all in even greater peril. The Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C goal is not a safe goal. We call on all Australian federal, state, and territory parliaments and all local councils to:*

- Declare a climate emergency;
- Commit to providing maximum protection for all people, economies, species, ecosystems, and civilizations, and to fully restoring a safe climate;

• Mobilize the required resources and take effective action at the necessary scale and speed;

• Transform the economy to zero emissions and make a fair contribution to drawing down the excess carbon dioxide in the air; and

• Encourage all other governments around the world to take these same actions.

*We’ve risen to big challenges in the past when an emergency has been declared, with citizens and all sides of politics rising to the occasion and working together for the common good. We call on the Australian government to do what is necessary now.*

See full list at <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/climate-emergency-declarations-cover-15-million-citizens/>.

**NOTICE**

To request an addition to the ICEF sheet or the global map, or both, please send the following details to [info@cedamia.org](mailto:info@cedamia.org):

- Name of council
- Date of council meeting that passed the Climate Emergency Declaration motion
- Link to the declaration motion text (ideally the minutes of the meeting, or the meeting agenda with evidence that the motion passed without amendment, or the amended text)
- A link to a news article or council announcement about the declaration (if you have one)



UK Research  
and Innovation

## The Role of the Southern Ocean in the Earth System (RoSES) – Challenge 3

<b>Closing date</b>	19 September 2019
<b>Funding available</b>	£650k
<b>Funding mode/stream</b>	Strategic Programme Area
<b>NERC Core or UKRI/Collective Fund budget</b>	NERC Core
<b>Project duration</b>	3 years
<b>Funding partners (if applicable)</b>	N/A
<b>Start date requirements (if applicable)</b>	N/A
<b>Call aims and objectives</b>	<p>The aim of this Research Programme is to provide the scientific basis to inform international climate policy of the role of the Southern Ocean (SO) carbon system in 21st century climate change.</p> <p>Proposals are invited to address <b>Challenge 3</b> of the programme: <b>Develop key policy-informing metrics of the integrated efficiency of the SO carbon sink and its role in 21st-century global climate change.</b></p> <p>Applicant will be expected to draw on outputs from Challenge 1: Design and implement the optimal approach to assess the state, variability and climatic drivers of the contemporary SO carbon sink and Challenge 2: Define, quantify and provide mechanistic understanding of the key processes controlling the rate of SO carbon uptake of the RoSES programme which were funded under the programme's first funding round.</p>
<b>Eligibility criteria</b>	Standard eligibility criteria apply. Applicant can be named on two proposals, but only once as PI.
<b>Call specific requirements</b>	Applicants should draw on the outputs of Challenge 1 and 2 projects which were funded after the programme's first call for proposals.
<b>Contact</b>	Jennifer Morris



Photo: <https://www.internationalrivers.org/campaigns/bangladesh>

*“Water is Bangladesh’s blessing and curse. For nearly half the year, the monsoon rains cause the country’s three major rivers (the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna) and their tributaries to swell. Devastating floods are often the consequence. During the rest of the year, the dry season brings almost no rainfall, and droughts threaten the livelihoods of people and the health of the natural environment.”* <https://www.internationalrivers.org/campaigns/bangladesh>

## Fears of Evictions as Bangladesh Gives Rivers Legal Rights

By Rina Chandran  
Thomson Reuters Foundation: July 4, 2019

BANGKOK – A ruling by Bangladesh’s top court granting rivers the same legal rights as people could hurt the poor fishing and farming communities that depend on them, human rights activists said.

The Supreme Court declared this week that all Bangladesh’s rivers had the legal status of living entities, a move aimed at protecting them from growing pollution, encroachments, and illegal dredging.

“Water is likely to be the most pressing environmental concern of the next century,” the court said in its order, calling for rivers to be protected “at all costs.”

The ruling followed a 2016 petition and came after similar moves from countries including New Zealand, India, and Colombia, and the U.S. state of Ohio to give legal rights to rivers and lakes.

Himanshu Thakkar, coordinator of the advocacy group South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers, and People, said such rulings may make riverside communities more vulnerable to eviction.

“Countries are jumping onto the bandwagon without setting up proper frameworks to check pollution and improve conservation,” he said on Thursday. “The New Zealand ruling recognized communities as stakehold-

ers, and that is key. Otherwise, fishermen and farmers who have traditionally lived by rivers, but do not have legal rights to do so, may be more vulnerable to eviction.”

Three Himalayan rivers converge in Bangladesh to form the world’s largest delta and nearly 80% of the densely populated country of 165 million people is floodplain. Millions live on or alongside rivers, relying on them for fishing and farming.

Authorities have already started evicting informal settlements along river banks in the capital Dhaka, human rights groups said.

The government estimates more than 2.2 million people live in slums and informal settlements, although land rights groups say the number is far higher.

“The government must take stock of poor communities who need resettlement, or protection from industries and real estate developers,” said Mohammad Abdul Matin, general secretary of human rights group Bangladesh Poribesh Andolan. “If enacted well, the verdict will be helpful in returning the rivers to the people who have historically depended on them.”

The court appointed Bangladesh’s National River Conservation Commission (NRCC), a government agency, as the legal guardian of rivers.

Chairman Muzibur Rahman Howlader said the NRCC was framing policies that

would take local communities into account. “Protecting the rivers also means protecting the entire eco-system, which includes fishermen and farmers who live on the banks. Their rights will also be protected,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

**Source:** <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-bangladesh-landrights-rivers/fears-of-evictions-as-bangladesh-gives-rivers-legal-rights-idUSKCN1TZ1ZR>



<http://en.banglapedia.org/index.php?title=File:RiverNetwork01.jpg>

# Groundswell News #53, August 2019: Page 15

## Epidemics Never End Well



Photos: Diane Christin Zenchenko-Esser

*(Above) What the woods look like before a High Grade cut.  
(Right) Environmental educator from Climate Reality Project, John Vanco, surveying the destruction after a High Grade cut. A High Grade cut is, "A harvest that removes the trees of commercial value, leaving small trees, as well as large ones of poor quality and of low-value species." ([https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000210\\_Rep228.pdf](https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000210_Rep228.pdf))*

By Diane Christin Zenchenko-Esser  
Pennsylvania USA

There has been an epidemic of High Grade cutting plans for our community parks, and it is important moving forward to know that High Grade cuts do not fall under a plan for a sustainable and resilient future.

The City of Erie, Sarah Galloway Peelman, and the Foundation for Sustainable Forests created a plan for the City's future resilience and sustainability, implementing the foundation's sound "worst first" tree removal practice. This practice insures that diseased trees be removed, and a method that creates future eco forest health to a community.

The Girard Borough is working with Tim Ackerman, DCNR Forester, creating a plan that speaks to healthy urban forestry practices. However, neighboring Springfield Township's Raccoon Park and North East's Bull's Dam/Howard Eaton Reservoir are planning High Grade cuts.

These are changing times where we factor in climate change and extreme weather, especially heat. When we take a healthy mature tree down, it exponentially raise our heat index. One tree equals two air conditioners. One mature healthy tree will mitigate up to 200 gallons of rain in a rain storm. High Grade is a cut primarily for raising cash. It is time to raise awareness, and really weigh the cost of taking that tree down.

Through Urban Forest grants that have come from Erie County Gaming Revenie Authority and ECF, and work with Pennsylvania Sea Grant, we have seen our urban forest increase by 600 trees. If the High Grade cuts continue, it is counter to the progress made by the hard work of these organizations.

Urban parks within our cities are also funded by state grants, which I feel do not encourage high cuts. It is encouraged by Penn State Extension and our Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Forestry Department to move forward with forest plans. So, it would seem to be a misalignment in the world of parks and practices if this epidemic continues.

And, for communities, epidemics never end well.

**Contact:** Diane at The Green Connection Documentary  
<https://youtu.be/edgHSoifRbA>

Founder - I Am A Planet Kid <http://iamaplanetkid.org/>

**Owner:** [www.addressearth.com](http://www.addressearth.com)

**Linkedin:** Diane Esser - Erie

**Facebook:** Plant it Forward Community Tree Planting Initiative



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





Photo above: Kid Fleury Ineza, PNUD/2019; all others Courtesy World Merit Burundi

*Dozens of people worked hard to remove plastic and litter from the water and streets in the community with lots of support from sister groups.*

## World Merit Burundi in Action to Clean Beaches and Community

By Leonidas Nzigamasabo, Burundi  
July 3, 2019

Changemakers from Burundi are always on community services and on community engagement. We ended our environmental work this week on Saturday by hand activities #CleanUp Plastics Bujumbura. where we cleaned tons of plastics in Bujumbura and at Lake Tanganyika.

Changemakers are committed to ban plastics bag and plastics bottles in Burundi. We are agents of change and we believe our goal will be achieved. We have Agenda 2030 and we must achieve it.

Many thanks to all partners who supported this incredible event. Our thanks to World Merit chapter Burundi, ASEPE Dukingiribidukikije, UNV Burundi, Association Pour le Bien Etre de l'Environnement - APBEE, @ Santé pour tous Imboneza, @Association des Journalistes Environnementalistes du Burundi, @Scout Bujumbura, @ Bujumbura Mary, @Ministère de l'environnement, Agriculture et l'élevage @OPIRCO, One Young WorldWorldMerit Ghana, World Vision Burundi, PNUD BurundiAmbassade des Pays-Bas au Burundi, World Merit South Africa, Marlou Cornelissen Hermsen, Carlo Steensma, Chris Arnold, FNUAP, UNFPA BurundiONU Environnement, UN Environment, UNICEF Burundi, UNLEASH, United States African Development Foundation, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Apsh Burundi Santé Développement, World Health Organization (WHO), Thare Machi Rachel, Thare Machi Education, Enrique Lescure, and Michael Josefowicz.



**Changemakers** continued on next page

Changemakers *continued from previous page*





Photos: Rosa Lukonde

*This is a presentation by Clement Musonda of Rosa Solar Stoves in Zambia at Munalii secondary girls' school in Lusaka. The demonstration included a classroom lesson on solar design followed by making and eating popcorn cooked by the sun. Three Americans are teachers and students, who contacted Clement through Solar Cooking International. They are working in partnership with this school. You can reach Clement at [musondakankomba@gmail.com](mailto:musondakankomba@gmail.com) or phone + 260974579031.*

## Solar Cooking Class Makes Popcorn



## Humanitarian Group in Nepal Helps Women Learn How to Deal With Delicate and Important Health Issues

By Sushila Shah, Nepal

We are located in Humla District in the northwestern region of Nepal in the sacred Himalayan mountain range, bordering Tibet. Secluded from modern life, Humla is one of the poorest and most remote districts in Nepal. Simikot, the capital of the Humla District, is only accessible to other parts of Nepal by small aircraft that run when weather allows.

Most homes do not have electricity or running water. The literacy rates are among the lowest in the country, and the closest hospital is a 2-4 day walk along steep mountain passes for most villagers.

Due in part to this isolation, plus a decade-long civil war in Nepal (1996-2006), the Humli people confront serious challenges in accessing education and healthcare.

The northern part of Humla is inhabited by Bongos, or Bon Buddhist practitioners, and Buddhists of Tibetan origin. The Bon Buddhist culture, identity, and traditions are all at risk of extinction. Humla Unity is working to improve access to education and healthcare, and to support the community peoples.

The district consists of seven Municipalities, all of which are Rural Municipalities. These are as follows:

- Simkot
- Namkha
- Kharpunath
- Sarkegad
- Chankheli
- Adanchuli
- Tajakot.

I am talking to Sarkeghad Rural Municipality. The Rural municipality consists of six VDC (villages):

1. Sarkedeu
2. Saya
3. Gothi
4. Jair
5. Rodikot
6. Barai.



Photo: Sushila Shah

*Ani Nita Bobora teaches rural women how to safely and quietly deal with menstruation. The group needs help to obtain other necessities.*

The villages are very small in Nepal. In those villages, women need education in literacy. They don't know about personal hygiene.

Three to six days of every month women (girls) hate herself the most. It hurts, it's smelly, it's sticky, and it's uncomfortable. They use dirty cloths for soaking blood when they are menstrual, they wash them with water and reuse them.

The cloth is what she uses because her mother has used it and she says cloth is the best option. Women (girls) don't go outside to work on "those days." Pads are available but they are very expensive for her and women don't even know where to throw them properly, as with cloth you can wash it and hang it somewhere where her fathers, brothers, and husband cannot see it. If there are any problems regarding their periods, women don't tell anyone, because women are very shy.

Help us reach over 1,000 such women as

Sarkheghad rural parts of Nepal (Province 6, Humla).

The funds will be utilized for:

- Hiring a professional gynecologist to assist the children's needs;
- Toothbrushes with paste;
- Soap;
- Distribution of pads for 1,000 Women for Humli for more than two months;
- Materials required for training to make homemade pads;
- Logistics for conducting the program (Tents, speakers, mic, flex); and
- Documentation.

Your support will help us not only create a better environment but also one woman will be equipped with enough skills to help another woman.

**Contact** Sushila at shahsushila01@gmail.com or at her facebook page, humanUnity- worldwide.

**WHAT GIVES ME HOPE IS THAT LIFE  
UNFAILINGLY RESPONDS TO THE ADVANCES OF LOVE.**

- Nipun Mehta -

<https://www.facebook.com/Gratefulness.org/photos/pb.132840248453.-2207520000.1559585596./10157317938943454/>

# Planting More Trees Could Cut Carbon By 25%

By Tim Radford  
Climate News Network: July 5, 2019

Scientists now know where to start restoring the forests to soak up carbon and cool the planet, by planting more trees on unused land.

LONDON, UK – Swiss scientists have identified an area roughly the size of the United States that could be newly shaded by planting more trees. If the world's nations then protected these 9 million square kilometers (nearly 6 million square miles) of canopy over unused land, the new global forest could in theory soak up enough carbon to reduce atmospheric greenhouse gas by an estimated 25%.

That is, the extent of new tree canopy would be enough to take the main driver of global heating back to conditions on Earth a century ago.

And a second study, released in the same week, identifies 100 million hectares (247 million acres) of degraded or destroyed tropical forest in 15 countries where restoration could start right now – and 87% of these hectares are in biodiversity hotspots that hold high concentrations of species found nowhere else.

The global study of the space available for tree canopy is published in the journal *Science*. Researchers looked for land not used for agriculture or developed for human settlement. They excluded wetlands and grasslands already fulfilling important ecological functions.

## Huge Canopy Increase

They left existing forests out of their calculations. And they identified enough degraded, wasted, or simply unused land to provide another 9 million square kilometers (3.5 million square miles) – of tree canopy.

Such new or restored forest could store 205 billion tons of carbon. This is about two-thirds of the 300 billion tons of extra carbon humans have pumped into the atmosphere since the start of the Industrial Revolution 200 years ago.

“We all knew that restoring forests could play a part in tackling climate change, but we didn't really know how big the impact would be. Our study shows clearly that forest restoration is the best climate change solution available today,” said Tom Crowther of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, now known as ETH Zurich. “But we must

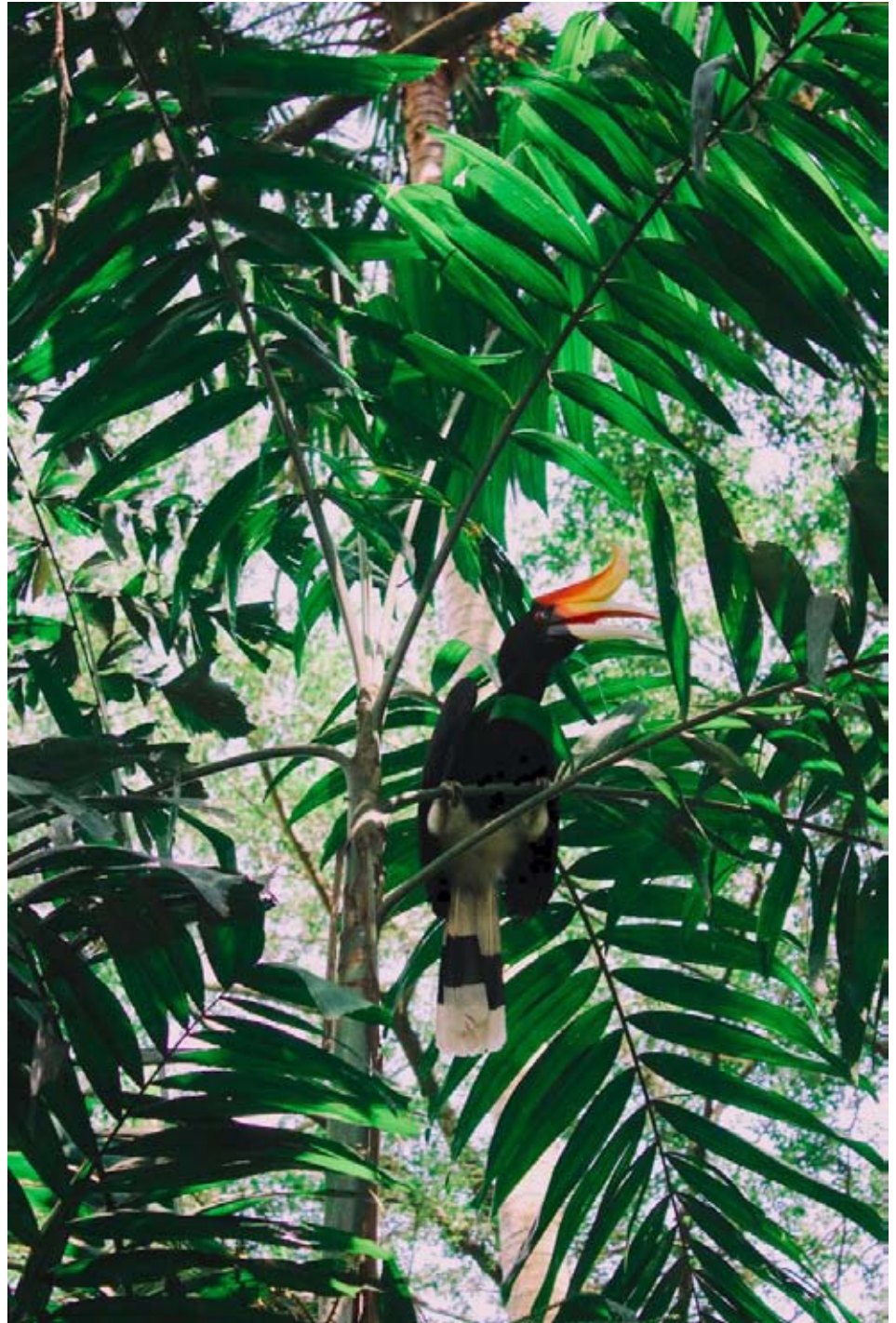


Photo: K8 on Unsplash

*The best chances for restoring forests lie in the tropical lowlands.*

act quickly, as new forests will take decades to mature and achieve their full potential as a source of natural carbon storage.”

“Restoring forests is a must-do – and it's doable.”

Forecasts for the future start with the data available now: the Swiss team worked from a dataset of observations of 80,000 forests, and used mapping software to predict pos-

sible tree cover worldwide under current conditions.

The big unknown is: What will global heating and climate change do for future forest growth? If nations go on burning fossil fuels at the present rates, then parts of the world could begin to experience harsher conditions and by 2050 the area available

**Trees** *continued on next page*

**Trees** *continued from previous page*  
for tree cover could have dwindled by 223 million hectares (551 million acres), much of this in the tropics.

Forests are an integral part of the answer to the climate crisis. But forests worldwide, and particularly in the tropics, are also vulnerable to extremes of heat and drought and windstorm that are likely to come with ever higher average temperatures.

Where and when and how nations act to restore forests involves political decisions that must be based on evidence. So researchers have for years been trying to establish the extent of the global tree inventory, and its variety.

### Unrecorded Forest

They have confirmed the importance and value of urban forests. They have identified huge areas of woodland hitherto not mapped or recorded. They have tried to make an estimate of the number of trees on the planet and the rate at which they are being felled, grazed, burned, or even extinguished.

They have identified threats to tropical forests, monitored the increasing damage to or degradation of what are supposed to be protected areas, much of them forested, and they have measured changes in forests as the temperatures rise.

Right now, the world has 5.5 billion hectares (almost 14 billion acres) of forest or woodland with at least 10% and up to 100% of tree cover: altogether this adds up to 2.8 billion hectares (almost 7 billion acres) of canopy. It also has a challenge to get on with: the Bonn Challenge to extend national forest areas by 350 million hectares (865 million acres) by 2030 has been accepted by 48 countries so far.

The Swiss researchers calculated that there were up to 1.8 billion hectares (almost 5 billion acres) of land of “low human activity” that could be reforested. If half of this was shaded by foliage, that would yield another 900 million hectares (2,224 million acres) of canopy to soak up and store atmospheric carbon, and more than half of this potential tree space was in just six countries: Russia, the U.S., Canada, Australia, Brazil, and China.

### Best Restoration Options

But a second study, led by Brazilian scientists and published in the journal *Science Advances*, used high-resolution satellite studies to find that the most compelling opportunities for forest restoration exist in the lowland tropical rainforests of Central and South America, Africa, and Southeast Asia.

Almost three-fourths of the restoration hotspots were in countries that had already made commitments under the Bonn Challenge. The five nations with the largest areas in need of restoration are Brazil, Indonesia, India, Madagascar, and Colombia. Madagascar is also one of six African nations – the others are Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Togo, and South Sudan – that, on average, offer the best immediate opportunities for forest restoration.

“Restoring tropical forests is fundamental to the planet’s health, now and for generations to come,” said Pedro Brancalion, of the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil, who led the study. “For the first time, our study helps governments, investors and others seeking to restore global tropical moist forests to determine precise locations where restoring forests is most viable, enduring and beneficial. Restoring forests is a must-do – and it’s doable.”

*Tim Radford, a founding editor of Climate News Network, worked for The Guardian for 32 years, for most of that time as science editor. He has been covering climate change since 1988.*

Source: <https://climatenewsnetwork.net/planting-more-trees-could-cut-carbon-by-25/>



Submitted by Linda L., Idaho USA



Akhter Hussain, India



Photo: DeCOALonise

*Activists from Lamu celebrate a court ruling revoking a new coal plant license in Kenya.*

Fossil Free News: July 4, 2019

Dear Iona,

There's so much happening in the movement for a world free from fossil fuels every single day. And it's not only in the U.S. All over the world, local campaigns are pushing ahead to accelerate a just, renewable energy economy that works for everyone. These stories inspire and give us hope – and sometimes even make us angry.

Just look at the past two weeks. From breaking news that a UNESCO world heritage site in Kenya is safe from a destructive new coal project, to mega-mine and pipeline approvals on opposite ends of the world: there've been some big climate wins and a couple disheartening setbacks, too.

In Fossil Free News, we scan the globe and bring you real, easy-to-read updates from people-powered campaigns all over. I'll keep sending this newsletter out every two weeks, so you're always up to date.

In this week's edition, we dig into some big pieces of news from signature campaigns from around the globe.

Onwards,  
**Nicole Leonard**

### In Case You Missed It

**Breaking:** A Kenyan court just revoked the license for Lamu coal plant. First proposed in 2015, the Lamu community have fought for years to stop Kenya's first coal-fired power plant being built. It's been challenged fiercely by local residents, activists, scientists, and lawyers not only for its climate implications, but also because Lamu is a UNESCO heritage site preserved for its biodiversity and rich multicultural heritage.

**On to the next one:** Another site of impressive natural heritage at risk from coal is due for its own decision. The Sundarban mangrove forest in Bangladesh is home to 4.5 million people and the royal Bengal tiger. Despite a years-long resistance from residents, the government is still pushing construction of Rampal coal plant in the forest. Earlier this month, the international union for nature conservation called for the site to be placed on UNESCO's endangered list, because of danger from the plant and other industry. UNESCO officials are currently meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, where they'll make the final decision soon.

**Global heating:** India has been suffering from sustained deadly temperatures with some cities reaching 50°C degrees (122°F) and Europe was sweltering under

record-breaking temperatures last week too. Scientists are still reeling from the desperate new data showing Greenland's unexpectedly rapid ice loss.

**Youth Power:** Hundreds of youth in cities across South Africa marked the anniversary of the Soweto youth uprising, a historic turning point in the movement against apartheid. This time, they're standing up against ecological apartheid and climate crisis. Their actions resonated far and wide, with President Ramaphosa responding in his annual State of the Nation address.

**No further:** From June 20 to 24, thousands from across Europe came together to shut down the giant Garzweiler lignite strip coal mine through peaceful direct action. Every year the number of jump-suited activists willing to descend into the dirty heart of Germany's lignite mines grows. And this time, 40,000 more striking students stood with them in solidarity.

**Wait, what?:** One day after declaring a climate emergency in Canada, Justin Trudeau approved the Trans Mountain Expansion pipeline to transport Alberta's tar sands to the western coast. Trudeau's hypocrisy is in stark contrast to the 7,000 people who showed up at over 200 town halls to develop the detail of a Green New

**Fossil Free** *continued on next page*



Photo: Alle Dörfer

People assemble on the edge of Garzweiler mine located in Jüchen, Germany in solidarity with activists.



(left) In Cape Town, student strikers link the call for climate justice to Youth Day. Photo: Glen Tyler (right) The Sundarban mangrove forest in Bangladesh is home to 4.5 million people and the royal Bengal tiger. Despite a years-long resistance from residents, the government is still pushing construction of Rampal coal plant in the forest. (Photo credit not available.)

**Fossil Free** continued from previous page

Deal for Canada. Spoiler alert: there's no room for tar sands expansion in the deal.

**No rest for Australian activists:** Adani received approval for the enormous Carmichael Mine, which plans to export coal through the Great Barrier Reef. Snap 'climate emergency' actions are being held across the country in response.

That's it for now. We'll be back next week with more climate movement news from around the world.

Contact Nicole Leonard at 350@350.org to get on this email list. If you have feedback, write us at ffdigest@350.org.

Fossil Free is a global campaign led by local groups demanding our local commu-

nities and institutions commit to:

- A fast + just transition to 100% renewable energy for all,
- No new fossil fuel projects anywhere, and
- Not a penny more for dirty energy.

For more updates, follow us on: Facebook and Twitter, and Instagram.



TO PROTECT WHAT IS WILD IS TO PROTECT WHAT IS GENTLE. PERHAPS THE WILDERNESS WE FEAR IS THE PAUSE BETWEEN OUR OWN HEARTBEATS, THE SILENT SPACE THAT SAYS WE LIVE ONLY BY GRACE. WILDERNESS LIVES BY THIS SAME GRACE. WILD MERCY IS IN OUR HANDS.

- Terry Tempest Williams -

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/640120-the-eyes-of-the-future-are-looking-back-at-us>

# Consumer Liberation

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*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

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*Thank you.*



*Remember your dreams.*



## Messages from Our Friends



I hope you enjoy my Friend Iona's e-news. (shared to her email list)

**Jeannette Bartelt**, Maryland USA

And then look what happened: "I'm forwarding to Frederick Meeting Friends who might be interested if they don't already get this."

Your issue of *Groundswell News* is excellent, with so many interesting and informative articles. It is good to see how many friends and acquaintances you have all over the world, and at home in Pennsylvania, who write in their news and compliments to you. How do you have the amazing energy to put this all together? I will be rereading several stories, which deserve careful attention.

I am aware of more and more people who are very concerned and are realizing we only have 12 years to find alternatives to the use of fossil fuels. So, it is time not to slow down or to stop, but to work harder to catch the wave and make the changes.

How is John doing? He mentioned several major things gone wrong with his health, so I'm thinking that he is just going to have to get better!

My love to both of you.

**Tyla Matteson**, Virginia USA

Slowly but surely, I'm regaining my health and pressing forward. I appreciate all you do for the cause Iona, and am feeling guilty for not being able to contribute yet. Please bear with me and I'll get you some cash ASAP. I'm moving back to Flint to set up my law office and water testing/pollution prevention lab. And continue the presidential campaign.

**Robert Hendron**, Michigan USA

**Dear Iona and Team,**

It is really a wonderful job.

Nice information has been incorporated in it and hope in future the same will be highlighted with zest and zeal. Thanks.

**Akhter Hussain**, India

That's wonderful and thanks for the great work. I saw the June and July episodes. They are marvelous with interesting stories.

**Mohammed D. Konneh**, Liberia

Love it!

**John Osidi**, Uganda

Thank you so so so so much for this article, it means so much for us, we feel motivated and courageous to do more when we receive a gesture as big as this. God bless you and your work for the voiceless like us.

Also, happy to let you know that even though we have not graduated with Global Giving, we managed to raise \$1,445 from 30 donors. If we do not succeed to get the amount up to \$5,000 from 40 donors we will not graduate with Global Giving, but we have the opportunity to try again in September. T

he \$1,145 we raised will get some equipment while we keep seeking for more funding to reach out more youths.

Thank you so much again.

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/provide-skills4crisis-affected-youths-in-cameroon/>

(follow up email)

Hello Iona. I am so excited and happy to announce that. Global giving made an exception with our project. And we graduated at permanent partners.

Thank you for your support! You have been so helpful. We value your friendship.

**Ngo Ban**, Cameroon

Very nice to hear from you. Nice newsletter here. Best wishes.

Thank you for sharing this.

With regards,

**Moharana Choudhury**, India

Jay Parmeshwar to all respected people.

As we all are here for save nature and lives from unnatural harmful problems on this planet.

Today I'm very glad to introduce and Invite an organization from this stage named "Extinction Rebellion". Based from London, they are already active in 130 locations. We are going to request to this Organization named "Extinction Rebellion" that your mission about to prevent of changing climate which is harmful for every lives, for that you are very concerned.

Same as your mission, we are running our institution in India since 110 Years. Our organization name is "Anop Mandal."

We would like to give heartily support to your organization for welfare of the world.

This time prevent to changing in the climate is very big mission for us.

The founder of our institution, Respected Mr. Anop Das Ji Maharaj, has done a very thorough research about unnatural Changing in the climate.

According to his research, where the thinking of the scientist has finished, from there his research started, and he has discovered the root cause of all problems of the entire world.

Messages continued on next page

**A DREAM DOESN'T BECOME REALITY THROUGH MAGIC.  
IT TAKES SWEAT, DETERMINATION, AND HARD WORK.**

- Colin Powell -

<https://www.azquotes.com/quote/235162>

### Messages *continued from previous page*

And that research has been written in his Book, *Shri Jagat Hitakarni*.

Today, whatever is going on in the world, which is getting worse and damaged, it is a very closely researched report by Anopdas Ji Maharaj, we have all information with every evidence.

The main purpose of our organization is to establish happiness, peace, health, and disease-free life for every family in the world.

Our institution has more than 30,000 members in India. All members of our organization want to request to "Extinction Rebellion." All members, who take the information from our organization with the complete evidence. Then you and we together can end this mission for welfare of the world. Like this founder of our organization Mr. Anopdas Ji Maharaj has told us.

If you would like to come to meet our organization in India, then we heartily welcome you and if you like then we can plan to come to meet your organization at England.

We are very heartily here to giving you thanks for that you all guys understand the pain of Mother Earth, pain of every lives or pain of Nature. Thanks to you all for great thought for save everything's for welfare of the world.

Thank you so much, Extinction Rebellion.

**Solnki Amrat**, India

Another truly excellent issue, Iona! Thank you so much!

**Deborah "Climatey Jane" Todd**, Washington State USA

Thanks for your email, please my sister I would like you to stretch your hands here to help conserves the environment.

**Stephen Wabuko**, Kenya

I've just learned of *Groundswell News* and would like to subscribe by e-mail. I've looked at The Go-Back Club site and seen that the submit feature is not presently working. Please let me know what information you wish to also include me in that. I will be sending a check in your name to 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, PA 17255 as dues for the Club and a donation for the newsletter.

Thank you for your work on behalf of the people and the planet.

Thank you for the update and congratulations on your persisting with technology. I do understand. I mailed the dues and donation yesterday so that should arrive shortly.

As someone retired from income-producing employment, my work initially is to be more informed about what has real value and meaning which led me to Earth-care issues. I'm so grateful for your reminders about how to more appreciate and better cooperate with nature.

With Thanks,

**Pat Beach**, Maryland USA

Hi. I'm on back-to-back expeditions to the North polar region and the Arctic Lapland and unable to reply immediately. Get back to you soon.

**Raj Phukan**, India

Well, my Change Network is a non-profit NGO who vision is to see a society where everyone is free from social injustices and promotes quality education, a society that would promote and seek the dreams and aspirations of transforming the potential of youths positively in our society. Volunteerism. I appreciate you for your amazing work.

**Sheikh Thiago Dolley**, Agent of Change Network, Liberia

Nice! Yes, put me on your email list. Nice article from mutual acquaintance Brenden,

wishing him well as he ventures forth in the world.

I'm in the final stages of a 'better approach to batteries & portable power', the result of building an electric bike 'cuz I just can't pedal like I once did. Lived off-grid this past winter, stayed warm with a diesel air heater which 'could be' but was not, fueled by bio-diesel and ran that with a lightweight battery pack that can be charged with solar or, at least, greener electricity. It all worked surprisingly well, better than expected for a 'prototype' model.

Steadily embracing more and more of a 'minimalist' approach to various things, a little lighter footprint on the planet. Lou and I are working on a home automation system that uses machine learning to 'predict' when we want/need light or hot water or something, potential for more comfortable living and reduced energy requirements.

And yes, a lot more walking and less driving . . . ;-)

**Dave Strait**, Pennsylvania USA

Thank you very much for your message. It is lovely for us to know you and to know the good work you're doing to transform our Earth. Climate change in Rwanda is really a fight for poverty and transforming lives of people through different activities. Our group now is still small but growing, the people are really understanding why we must be taking our Earth not only by profit by serving our life and have better future of heritage.

You know Rwanda is country of a thousand hills and many lakes with many people with poverty. It means every place of the country has a hill; some hills are covered with forests and lakes and 80 percent of Rwandan people are living with crop, so I'm really in need your partnership and your collaboration.

**John Bosco Harerimana**, Rwanda

Thanks Mommy, I appreciate the information in keeping me up to date as daily issues affect our planet. I hope you and daddy are doing well. Please extend my greetings.

I am inspired by your news and it helps me in keeping with information that matter for our planet. I hope to meet you some day for physical interaction. Have a great day.

The 28th of June 2019, an awareness was conducted for the massively reduction of Teenage Pregnancy and Common Diseases within the rural part of Liberia, particularly Margibi County. See attached photos of the event.

Regards,

Your son,

**Amb. Hanson G. Blayon**, Liberia





**NOTE from the Editor:** I posted a video about the terrible situation in Senegal on my Facebook page with these words, “*As an American, the more I learn about Africa and her peoples, the sadder I become. It is grossly unfair that life is so easy here and so hard there. Please take a few minutes to watch this.*” I received the following comments.

You are so right my friend. With all the resources we have. Yet no proper management for the benefit of Africans.  
**Ngo Ban**, Cameroon

Thanks for this post but my view on this is that our African leaders are our problems because they don't think about others once they have been given the opportunity to lead. We have all it takes to make Africa great but we don't have passionate leaders who are thinking about the future.  
**Samson Sehgren**, Liberia

It's a known fact that African leaders have failed to liberate Africans from the shackles of poverty, unemployment, and underdevelopment which is a really terrible thing. However, Africans themselves have failed to proffer solutions themselves especially through the creation of businesses, employment opportunities for teeming unemployed African youths. The Chinese and Indians are here exploiting Africa's huge local market and untapped natural resources while Africans are busy lamenting and engaging in blame games and pity parties.  
**Okezie Nnamdi Ogbonna**, Nigeria

Yes, Iona Conner, you are correct but at this stage we can't blame the African leaders again, we know they are the number one problem here, the citizens have their role to play in the development and revolutionary move of Africa.

If our leaders failed us, there is always a way we can try not to fail ourselves through love, helping the needy, advocating for the less privileged, being a voice to the voiceless, solving people's problem, giving aids and grant to help people who can't harness the good things of life.

Expecting these so-called leaders to transform our continent might not work, it's high time we be the change we want by doing the little we can and **going back** to our culture of communism.

Iona Conner, you can also be a voice or an agent of transformation by doing the little you can or by connecting some of us that have NGOs, initiatives, and foundations to get access to materials and opportunities that can help the Africans. Thank you.  
**Solomon Oluwaseun Samson**, Nigeria

The curse was implanted during 1884 yet our leaders are failing to break this vicious cycle of national and international folklores. Why must we be the victims of every unfortunate situation because of our generosity and civility? Our leaders are our problems and now their inabilities are now being passed through the genetic makeup in the current generational young leaders.

Modern slavery, imperialism is at its highest peak. But am confident that we will over-

come someday. Oh deep down in my optimistic heart, we will overcome some day.

**Mohammed D Konneh**, Liberia

Hoping that Africa will soon have great leaders who will truly care for the African people.

**Mariam Milagros Gomez**, Philippines

Sad reality.

**Ekwe Chiwundu Charles**, Nigeria

Sad and bitter truth, but from my knowledge, there are places in Africa that are truly progressing and making great progress. I have faith in Africa and Africans. Iona Conner certainly, I know Africa has issues, I mean a lot of issues that we aren't proud of, but Africa has also been progressing. I see people commenting and blaming leaders, but I feel like change should start from our individual selves. The Corruption and other bad practices with our leaders once started in their individual homes – charity begins at home.

Thanks for standing for Africa.

**Fatu M. Kaba**, Liberia

Well said Iona Conner. But I really hope things will get better soon someday in the future. Yes, Iona, we should hope and contribute our actions to bring change and positive impacts on the citizenry

**Maxwell Nana Amankwah**, Ghana

Slow slow a bird makes its nest, but it can't make it in the devastating storm.

**Paul Claudel**, Burundi



## ***Iona's Column:*** We Love Helping Others: Thankful for Electric Company Emergency Workers

July 24, 2019

People love to help others. That's one thing I have learned in my life. I love to help others, most of the time anyhow.

Yesterday I had to drive my ailing husband nearly four hours (with a few stops) to his dentist near Philadelphia to get a bridge for two missing (and visible) teeth. He had been hoping for them and saving money for months. The big day had finally arrived. I admit that I dreaded the drive but we were off, heading east on the Pennsylvania Turnpike with his wheelchair and walker in the car.

At the first rest stop, I parked next to a small Penelec truck and decided that this was a good time to express my gratitude for the work his company had done in our wooded, rural area when a tornado blew through close to our home about two months ago knocking out our power (and water since we have a well) for more than 24 hours. Our home is more like a nursing home these days because of John's ailments and life was extremely difficult during that time.

Just a few nights ago as I was climbing into bed exhausted at 9 p.m., the power went out again. I grabbed a flashlight and phoned Penelec's hotline. A taped voice told me the power would be restored by midnight. I could scarcely sleep thinking of all the things I would need to do to help John and keep our food safe – and have my morning coffee – if they were wrong.

I finally slept. Just before midnight the lights came back on! I was ecstatic and would have shouted for joy if John hadn't been sleeping. I silently thanked God and

all the angels who had helped us.

So now, back to the rest stop parking lot. The man smiled broadly when he heard my praise of Penelec even though he personally wasn't on the local crew. Then he told me he was heading to New Jersey.

***"New Jersey? Where?"***

"Point Pleasant Beach. There are outages everywhere."

OMG, my family lives right next to Point Pleasant Beach! They had been devastated years ago when Superstorm Sandy demolished the area.

He drove away and I immediately sent emails to my family hoping they would be all right.

Then we got back on the highway. Soon I saw an entire crew of about six or seven power company trucks like a convoy also heading to New Jersey. They were from Indiana! "Mutual aid" is what these companies provide to each other in emergencies; they come from all over to help each other out.

Suddenly I wanted to become an emergency electric company worker going to the rescue with them. I felt it in my gut. The excitement of helping people. I'm not exaggerating. If I could have been instantly hired, trained, and free, I would have joined them. Call it adrenaline. Call it compassion. Call it what you may, I wanted to join the cavalcade going to help my family and others. I felt it in my blood and in my heart.

Then I switched my brain to thinking about the climate crisis and how I had spent my entire adult life trying to protect my sons in one way or another. My global

warming work started nearly 20 years ago and I had always hoped that while I was busy being an activist, my life would somehow help their future and that of their children.

When Superstorm Sandy slammed the Jersey coast in 2012 and wrecked my younger son's waterfront home, I felt like a failure. One mother's life's work could not protect him and his family from the surges of a Category 3 hurricane.

Brief aside: today's headline: "Over 65,000 [out of 300,000] Still Without Power in New Jersey; Restoration Could Last Well into Weekend." These words followed, "Wild weather tore through the tri-state Monday into Tuesday, throttling the region for more than 12 hours as hundreds of thousands of people grappled with flooding conditions, nightmare commutes and lack of electricity." (<https://www.nbcnewyork.com>)

Now that I'm almost 74 and living in rural Pennsylvania with an invalid husband to care for, I know I can't dash over to Penelec and apply for work but I can continue publishing *Groundswell News* hoping that it inspires younger, freer climate activists to keep going even when things seem bleak and even when they are poor and tired, as I am.

We just have to keep going, don't we?

PS. Even on the way home several hours later heading west, I saw dozens of electric company crews heading east. Remember, I was just on one highway leading to New Jersey for a few hours. This was happening all over on many other highways and during a much longer period of time.



Photo: Iona

Trucks from C. W. Wright Construction Company (based in Richmond, Virginia) traveling from Indiana to New Jersey to help with power outages on July 23, 2019.