



# 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. 55: October 2019*

## Iona's Column:

Honoring  
Brendan  
Wissinger



Dear Reader,

I was blown away when I saw the PowerPoint 18-year-old Brendan had prepared for his first climate crisis talk. He created 42 beautiful, fact-filled pages with 4 pages of sources.

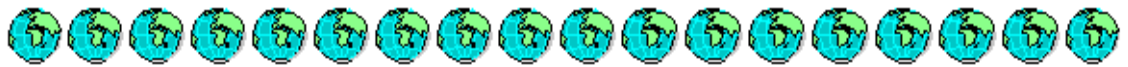
Brendan has been concerned about climate change since he was eight. He and his father came to our home back then when I hosted a meeting about my global warming newspaper. I was impressed by his intelligence and curiosity.

Brendan just started college to study meteorology at California University of Pennsylvania and is already excelling in his studies.

You will find the first six slides of the program on pages 3-5. If you would like Brendan to send you the PowerPoint, contact him at [brwisinger@gmail.com](mailto:brwisinger@gmail.com).

For the Earth Always,

*Iona*



## Climate Change Townhall

This is the most serious crisis humanity has faced at least since WWII, and we are failing at it.

See what you can do to help. We'll answer your questions.

Come see why it "hasn't stopped raining in PA for a year", and why all the Tornados in May happened, Heatwaves in Europe, recent wildfires, possible reason for why the Syrian war is so violent, and why bomb cyclones have been occurring, and why hurricanes seem to be getting worse and we don't get as much snow as we used to and our rivers don't freeze over and how this we will hurt all of us, and how we can prevent it from getting worse.

**Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm (-2:35) at St. James  
Lutheran Church in Huntingdon**

We will be showing a PowerPoint on Climate Change, question and answer, and scenes of a documentary on Climate Change by National Geographic.

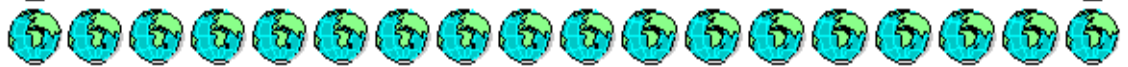
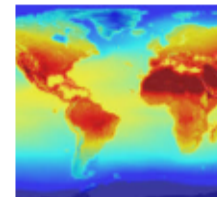
Light refreshments will be served.

Brendan Wissinger, 18 from Mount Union, Pennsylvania. 2019 honors graduate of Mount Union Area High School. Studying Meteorology at California University of Pennsylvania.

St James Lutheran Church: 525 Mifflin St, Huntingdon, PA 16652.



Event will be held in the LOC Room.



# 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:** John Conner, Emmanuel Niyabikoze, Brendan Wissinger

### 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.

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:** I will be taking a break for a few months. After my husband died, I had to sell the house and I'm preparing to move back to my family in New Jersey.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Fair Use Logo

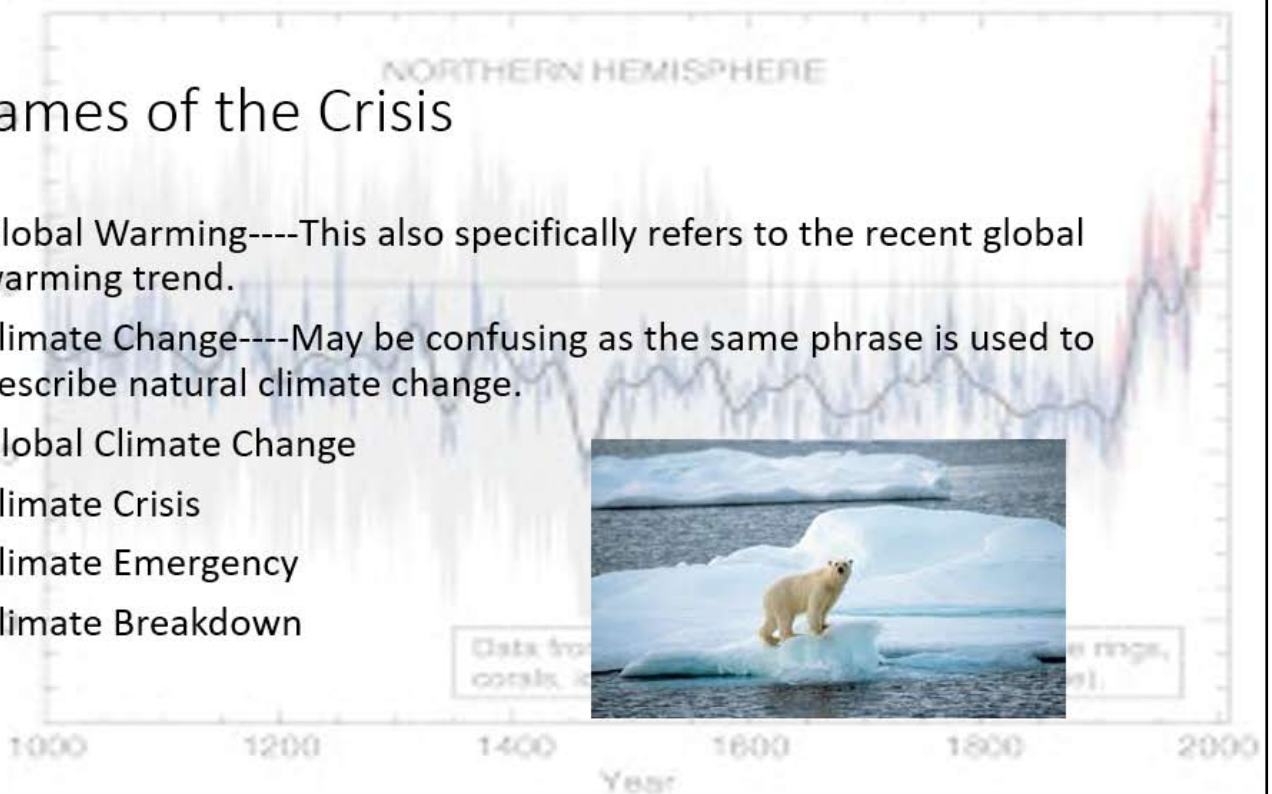
# Slides from Brendan Wissinger's PowerPoint Climate Program



## Names of the Crisis

Departures in temperature (°C)  
from the 1961-1990 average

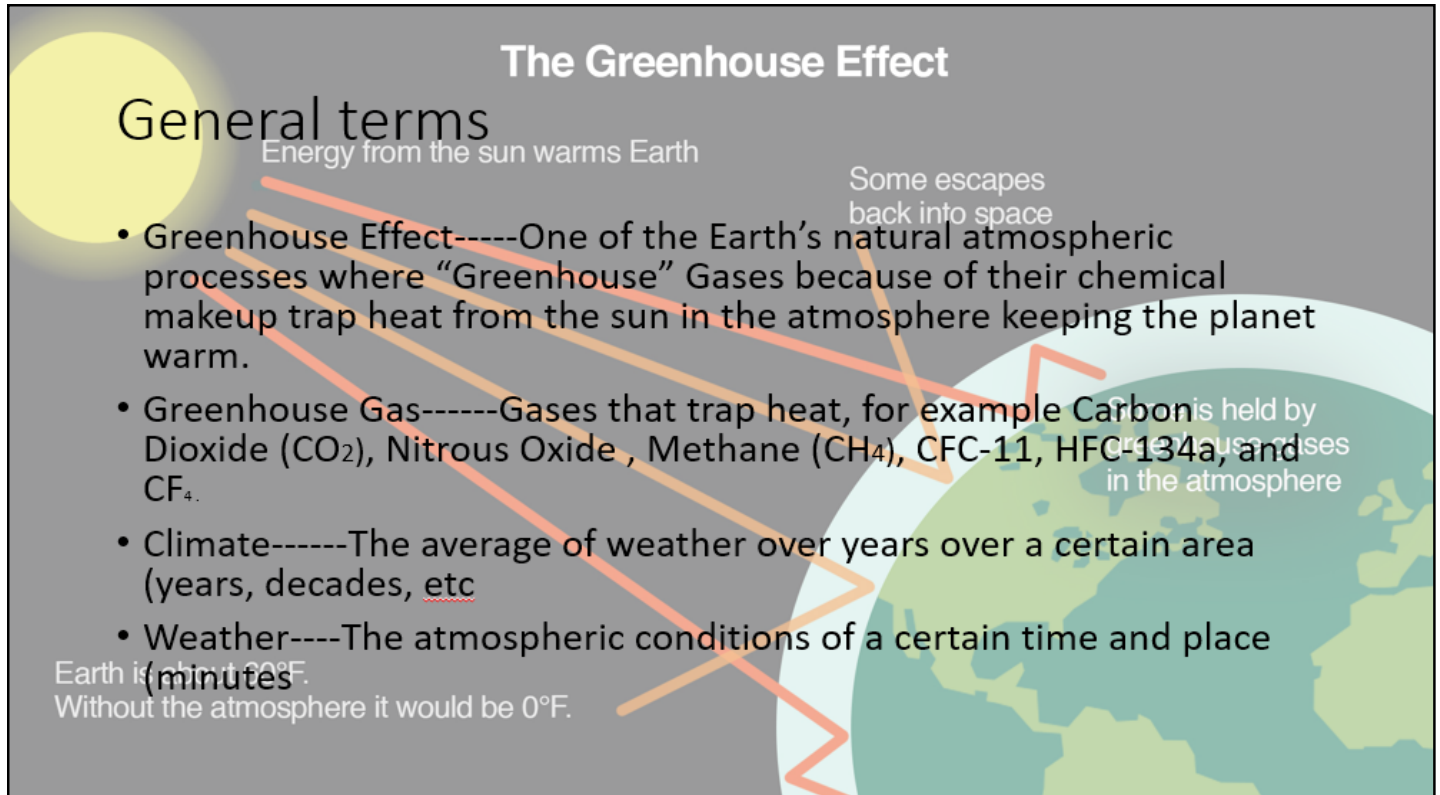
- Global Warming----This also specifically refers to the recent global warming trend.
- Climate Change----May be confusing as the same phrase is used to describe natural climate change.
- Global Climate Change
- Climate Crisis
- Climate Emergency
- Climate Breakdown



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## The Greenhouse Effect

### General terms



Energy from the sun warms Earth

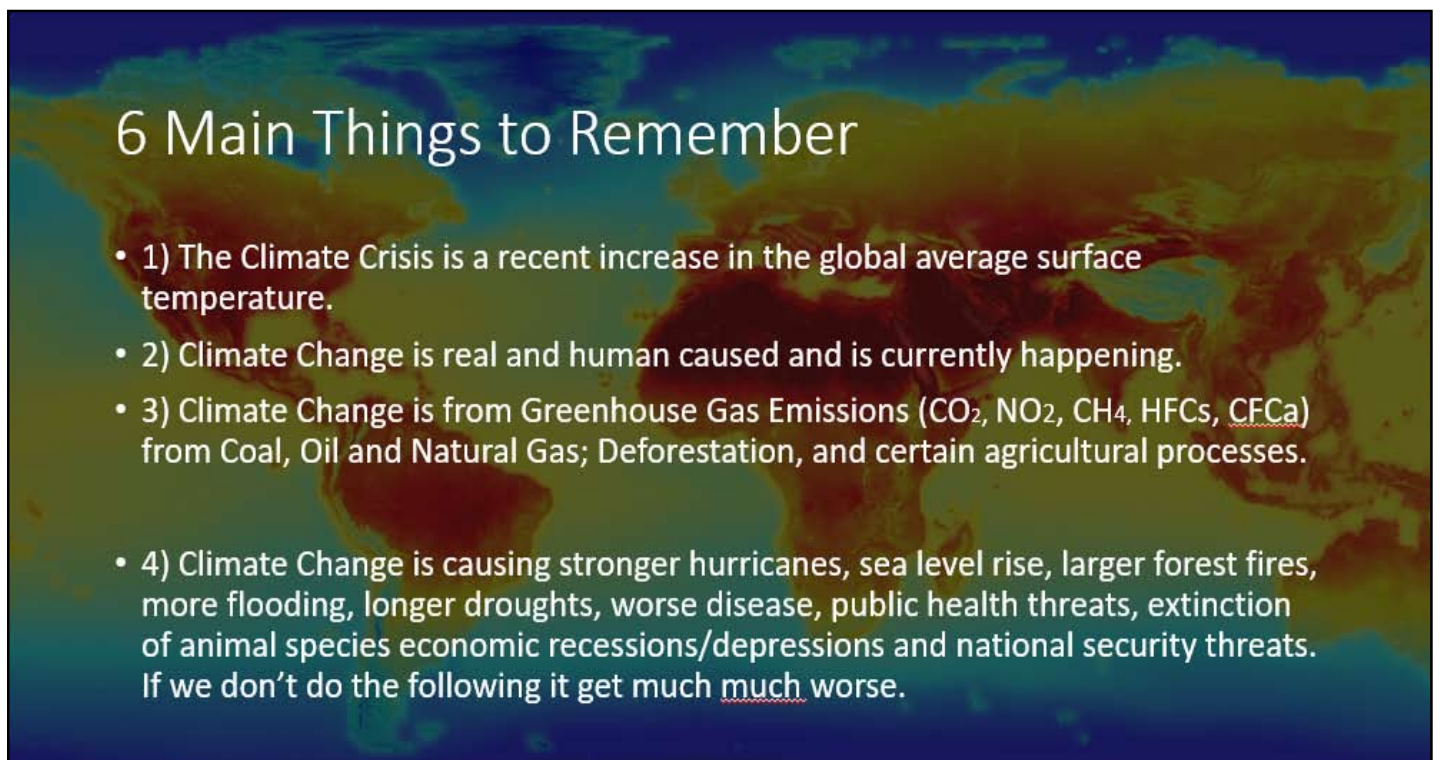
Some escapes back into space

Greenhouse is held by greenhouse gases in the atmosphere

- Greenhouse Effect-----One of the Earth's natural atmospheric processes where "Greenhouse" Gases because of their chemical makeup trap heat from the sun in the atmosphere keeping the planet warm.
- Greenhouse Gas-----Gases that trap heat, for example Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), Nitrous Oxide, Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), CFC-11, HFC-134a, and CF<sub>4</sub>.
- Climate-----The average of weather over years over a certain area (years, decades, etc)
- Weather-----The atmospheric conditions of a certain time and place (minutes)

Earth is about 59°F.  
Without the atmosphere it would be 0°F.

## 6 Main Things to Remember



- 1) The Climate Crisis is a recent increase in the global average surface temperature.
- 2) Climate Change is real and human caused and is currently happening.
- 3) Climate Change is from Greenhouse Gas Emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, HFCs, CFCa) from Coal, Oil and Natural Gas; Deforestation, and certain agricultural processes.
- 4) Climate Change is causing stronger hurricanes, sea level rise, larger forest fires, more flooding, longer droughts, worse disease, public health threats, extinction of animal species economic recessions/depressions and national security threats. If we don't do the following it get much much worse.

Email received September 9, 2019

Dear Iona,

I have put an ad and an event in the local newspaper, am in the process of inviting every Facebook friend who lives or frequently

moves in and out of the area, who isn't a staunch Republican (not that I wouldn't want them to come on their own).

I am in the process of putting it on the radio, shared it on Facebook, created a Facebook event, invited the news reporters, though they still haven't emailed me back.

My parents have printed out flyers and are putting them up as

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## Main Things to Remember

- 5) What we need to do
  - We reduce our energy, transportation and meat usage and waste
  - We must decarbonize the entire economy by at least 2050. And half that by at least 2030.
    - We must switch our energy system to use all renewable or alternative energy,
    - switch all personal vehicles and trains to electric
    - Switch all large trucks to hydrogen, electric or biomass
    - Switch Ships and Vessels to nuclear, electric, or hydrogen or biomass.
    - Switch Air Transportation to electric or hydrogen or biomass.
    - We must stress energy efficiency in buildings and not use fossil fuels as heat.
    - We offset by sequestration and reduce industrial emissions.
    - We must change agricultural processes so that we'll have negative agricultural emissions.
    - We must recycle all waste.
    - We must adapt to climate change (building dikes, moving communities, flood control systems, new agricultural processes and innovations, public health research).

## Main Things to Remember

- 6) Experts say completely decarbonizing our economy by 2050 is possible.
  - But it will require a mass global mobilization of economic resources, unseen since WWII.
  - Also even if we miss, we still have to mitigate because 1.5-2 degrees isn't the worst scenario, we still have to keep it to 3,4,5 degrees if we miss.
  - We must press political leaders and try ourselves to mitigate our own emissions to do this, because our entire society and nature is at stake.

we speak. I have the PowerPoint (I included that in the link) set up, but its a little elaborate, but oh well, at least when I speak, me and the audience won't get lost.

Anyways, unfortunately, I won't be able to spend the full amount of time I wanted at the Pittsburgh Climate Strike on September 20<sup>th</sup>, but I will try to be there for a half an hour (have

a math exam keeping me from being there most of the day), and I am going to attempt to set up my own strike the following Friday, Sept 27<sup>th</sup> in California, Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,  
**Brendan Wissinger**

# Climate Change and Warfare

*(the last climate report written by John Conner, June 2019)*

There is a runaway train racing toward us, and its name is Climate Change. This is not alarmism, but is a fact. We as a civilization urgently need to bring that train to a halt – not tomorrow or the day after tomorrow – but immediately, and help as many people off the tracks as possible. If we don't, woe is to us and to our descendants – conceivably to all of our descendants. Failure to do so will be considered the blackest mark on our history since we arrived on Earth, our one and only Mother in the Universe. It's not too late now to prevent the deaths of all humans, but within a few years it may well be, and we shall be faced with an empty and lifeless planet, alone and in seclusion.

In 1945, we humans initiated an unprecedented situation by dropping the first two atomic bombs on Japan in order to bring World War II to an end. The primary purpose was to prevent the slaughter of hundreds of thousands, if not of millions, of American troops. The secondary purpose was to preserve the lives of millions of Japanese civilians, most of whom played no part in active military decision-making.

Regardless of the guilt or innocence of the millions of Americans and Japanese civilians and soldiers who would suffer and die in the final stages of a Japanese-American nuclear war, we decided that such a catastrophe should not happen.

If we were Superman or Superwoman, we could stand in the middle of the tracks and command the train to stop, and it would do so. But in the real world, no one was capable of such a miracle.

Such a miracle is urgently required in these times, but Superman or Superwoman is absent, nowhere in sight. Instead, we must look as hard as we can for an alternative, difficult as that might be to uncover. To date, no such miracle worker has appeared, and the future is exceedingly grim. One can hope and pray for the appearance

of such a person, but these alone have always been virtually impossible in the past to uncover, and remain so today.

Even the number of today's nuclear weapons, let alone their power, is beyond comprehension: Russia: 6,490; USA: 6,185; France: 300; China: 280; UK: 215; Pakistan: 150. Their destructive power is easily sufficient to eradicate the entire population of the world. No country's ability is capable of thwarting the ability of the others to deliver their nuclear weapons to the rest of the world. Neither superpower can be prevented today from destroying the rest of the world if it should choose to do so.

Climate Change and Nuclear Weapons Warfare and poverty have been twin banes of human nature since modern humanity first appeared on this planet over 200,000 years ago. One has always reinforced the other.

Even the coming of Christ and his presence among us for 2,000 years has had little influence on our tendencies toward resolving our differences by violence – differences between two individuals or between two or more societies.

Neither of the two superpowers, the U.S. or the U.S.S.R., can be rendered impregnable. We search and search for an effective Peacemaker while we develop tools of ever greater mass destruction. The search becomes ever less successful while the Peacemaker becomes ever more elusive. All the while, it seems that our only hope lies in never giving up, in adhering to a conviction that someday there will be a breakthrough to a New World in which justice and love and peace and truth will permanently prevail.

Now and then we encounter individuals or groups who give promise of satisfying such characteristics. We feel hope that basic change will bring on a New World, one that eradicates the flaws that we have developed in our brief stay on this Earth.

But, as of the early days of the 21st century, we continue to find that basic hope enshrouded in thick fog.

Although we have not succeeded in our first 200,000 years in establishing a permanent state of peace and justice, we can only press on and vow never to give up, not knowing whether we will ultimately succeed or fail.

After all, humanity is constantly changing. We are on thing today and will be another tomorrow. In the very long run, peace and justice may prevail, or it may not.

## A Second Chance

As wars of the past have come to an end, some with little, others with great suffering and death, we have generally been faced with terrible consequences. But in every case there has been recovery, more or less – some very less. We now live in a world of billions of survivors, with the number of the population growing every year.

The number and potency of weapons continually becomes more awful with each passing war as humans grow more skillful in creating and using them.

World War I (1914-1918) was hailed as the war to end all wars, but only a few years later came World War II (1937-1945), which ended with the use of two nuclear weapons in 1945. Although these two were followed by several other wars involving severe suffering and death, they eventually ended.

As of this writing (mid-2019), will wars continue and go on without end, soon involving nuclear weapons and their horrific consequences?

Or will some marvelous change occur in human nature, pushing the disposition toward such war off of the human stage and making the Earth a marvelously new place to inhabit?

Grassroots Coalition, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap PA 17255

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## Climate Change Isn't Our Only Existential Threat

By Ira Helfand, *excerpt*  
July 6, 2019

(CNN) America confronts a long list of critical problems and they all require urgent attention. But among them, two issues stand out: catastrophic climate change and nuclear war are unique in the threat they pose to the very survival of human civilization. The enormity and imminence

of these twin existential threats cannot be overstated and how to confront them must be the central issue of any presidential campaign.

Climate change and the danger of nuclear war are closely related. As climate change progresses over the coming decades, large areas of the planet will be unable to support their human population. As a result, there will likely be forced

migrations on a scale unknown in human history, and an enormously increased risk of conflict, including nuclear conflict.

Nuclear war, should it come, would cause further catastrophic climate disruption and widespread global famine. . . .

**Source:** <https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/06/opinions/nuclear-war-climate-change-2020-opinion-helfand/index.html>



Photo Courtesy Avaaz.org

*Greta Thunberg as posted on the petition by Avaaz.org. She is in the United States now gathering strength and support for the future.*

# GRETA LEADS THE WAY!

## To the UN Secretary General:

**We stand with the young people joining the climate strike, and call on the UN and governments around the world to declare a climate emergency and take urgent action to shift the world to 100% clean energy.**

Email from [avaaz@avaaz.org](mailto:avaaz@avaaz.org)  
September 17, 2019

The Amazon is going up in smoke. Greenland is melting. And now the Bahamas have been ravaged by a monster storm! Climate change isn't a distant threat. It's happening right now.

That's why, ahead of a crucial global climate summit, 16-year-old Greta Thunberg is leading children out of their classrooms and onto the streets, in a worldwide push to demand leaders meet this climate emergency with an urgent switch to 100% clean energy.

And they're calling on us to join them – parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters – let's show massive public support for these brave kids as they fight for the future of life on Earth.

When this is huge, Avaaz will make sure all our voices are heard by key leaders ahead of the summit with a massive advocacy and campaigning push demanding a safe, sustainable future for our children and generations to come. Sign now and share with everyone!

747,342 have signed. Let's get to 750,000  
749,013 have signed. Let's get to 750,000  
749,220 have signed. Let's get to 750,000  
749,487 have signed. Let's get to 750,000  
749,742 have signed. Let's get to 750,000  
749,828 have signed. Let's get to 750,000  
750,818 have signed. Let's get to 1,000,000

**Note from the Editor:** As I was signing this, I noticed how fast the numbers were climbing. In just about 10-15 minutes, that is how quickly this petition was spreading

around the world. I then posted it on my Facebook page, which I've been avoiding because it's way too distracting when I have so much to do and need to concentrate on my newspaper.

**Source:** [https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/climate\\_strike\\_pledge\\_2019\\_loc/](https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/climate_strike_pledge_2019_loc/)

**Avaaz is a 51-million-person global campaign network that works to ensure that the views and values of the world's people shape global decision-making. ("Avaaz" means "voice" or "song" in many languages.) Avaaz members live in every nation of the world; our team is spread across 18 countries on 6 continents and operates in 17 languages. Learn about some of Avaaz's biggest campaigns at <https://www.avaaz.org/page/en/highlights/>, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.**

# Greta Thunberg Just Delivered Her Testimony to U.S. Lawmakers: It Was a Landmark UN Climate Report

“I don’t want you to listen to me,” said the youth climate leader. “I want you to listen to the scientists.”

By Jessica Corbett  
Common Dreams: September 18, 2019

Swedish environment activist Greta Thunberg spoke as This Is Zero Hour co-founder Jamie Margolin and Alliance for Climate Education fellow Vic Barrett look on during a joint hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Europe, Eurasia, Energy and the Environment Subcommittee, and the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, on September 18, 2019

Rather than delivering prepared remarks, 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg submitted a landmark United Nations report on global warming as testimony at a U.S. House hearing Wednesday and urged federal lawmakers to heed experts’ warnings about the necessity of ambitious, urgent efforts to address the planetary emergency.

“I am submitting this report as my testimony because I don’t want you to listen to me,” said the Fridays for Future founder. “I want you to listen to the scientists. And I want you to unite behind the science. And then I want you to take real action.”

The Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (pdf) that Thunberg submitted was released last October by the U.N.’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Warning that, “Climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet.” The report called for “rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented” reforms on a global scale to avert climate catastrophe.

Thunberg’s decision to submit the report as her testimony was widely praised by other climate advocates.

“Yes!” tweeted the Natural Resources Defense Council. “Greta Thunberg is telling us exactly what the scientists have been saying for years – we have to rapidly reduce emissions to protect all humanity



Photo: <https://www.facebook.com/gretathunbergsverige>

Screenshot of Greta Thunberg as she appeared at a joint hearing of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment and the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

together. Starting now. No more excuses.”

Bill McKibben, co-founder of the environmental advocacy group 350.org, praised Thunberg as “one great politician” and “a master of the gesture.”

Linking to Thunberg’s short remarks explaining the move, 350.org co-founder Jaime Henn tweeted, “This is so badass.”

The joint hearing Wednesday also featured testimonies from Jamie Margolin, co-founder of This Is Zero Hour and a plaintiff in *Piper v. State of Washington*; Vic Barrett, fellow at the Alliance for Climate Education and a plaintiff in *Juliana v. United States*; and Benji Backer, president of the American Conservation Coalition.

The hearing preceded a global week of action that will kick off with climate strikes

worldwide on Friday. The demonstrations will coincide with the U.N. Climate Action Summit in New York City.

Thunberg traveled on a zero-carbon sailboat across the Atlantic to New York last month to participate in the strikes, summit, and other related events - including to deliver another address to members of Congress Wednesday at 5 p.m. EST.

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**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/09/18/greta-thunberg-just-delivered-her-testimony-us-lawmakers-it-was-landmark-un-climate>





Photo: VOA (public domain), via Wikimedia Commons

*Antonia Guterres with the Malian prime minister in Bamako in 2018.*

## UN Secretary General Urges Public Pressure Against Climate “Emergency”

By Mark Hertsgaard  
Climate News Network: September 19, 2019

*This story originally appeared in The Nation. It is republished here as part of the Climate News Network’s partnership with Covering Climate Now, a global collaboration of more than 250 news outlets to strengthen coverage of the climate story.*

**The United Nations Secretary General says that he is counting on public pressure to compel governments to take much stronger action against what he calls the climate change “emergency.”**

“Governments always follow public opinion, everywhere in the world, sooner or later,” Antonio Guterres said Tuesday in an interview with Covering Climate

Now, a global collaboration of more than 250 news outlets. Guterres, a former prime minister of Portugal, added, “We need to keep telling the truth to people and be confident that the political system, especially democratic political systems, will in the end deliver.”

Guterres refused to comment on U.S. president Donald Trump and the Trump administration’s hostility to climate action, but a CBS News poll released on September 15 found that 69 percent of Americans want the next president to take action, while 53 percent say such action is needed “right now.” Guterres said that “it would be much better” if the U.S. was “strongly committed to climate action,” just as it would be better if Asian countries [notably, China and Japan] stopped exporting coal plants. Until then, he said, “What I want is to have the whole society putting pressure on governments to understand they need to run faster. Because we are losing the race.”

With six days remaining before the UN Climate Action Summit on September 23,

the Secretary General cited the “fantastic leadership” of young activists as a leading example of how civil society can pressure governments to honor the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit temperature rise to “well below” 2 degrees Celsius and preferably to 1.5°C.

Recent election results across Europe – in which green parties gained significant public backing – also left Guterres optimistic that at next Monday’s summit the European Union will announce that it promises to be “carbon neutral” by 2050, as the Paris Agreement mandates.

“Nature is angry,” said Guterres, who recently returned from a visit to the Bahamas, where Hurricane Dorian unleashed what he called “total destruction.” He further cited ferocious drought in Africa, melting glaciers, bleaching coral reefs, the hottest month in recorded history last July, and potential future sea level rise of 10 to 20 meters (33 to 66 feet) as evidence that, “You cannot play games with nature.”

**Public Pressure** *continued on page 14*



Photo: Courtesy Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze

*Groundswell News has been following Emmanuel and his Greening Burundi Project for nearly a year. He is one amazing man, planting hundreds of thousands trees.*

## Heroic Tree Planter in Africa Reaches Out to Save the World

By Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze via Facebook

On September 12, I was honored to participate in a “Consultation Workshop on Environmental Protection and Climate Risk Prevention in Humanitarian Situations” organized by the World Food Program in collaboration with UNICEF, UN-HCR, OCHA, UNEP under the coordination of the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock.

It has been a while for me to talk about the positive impact of the Greening Burundi Project and explain my commitment to the preservation of our beloved planet.

If you encounter obstacles that may prevent you from achieving your goal, think about how to overcome them and how to achieve your dreams.

Here are the results of my creativity and my innovation when I lacked the means to buy the bags. I replaced them by the waste of plastic bottles that pollute our environment to grow seedlings in the Nursery.

When you really feel motivated and inspired by what you do, you find solutions unexpectedly.

Sometimes the work is painful and when I think that what I’m doing is a benefit for the whole world, I become directly courageous and the effort born without knowing where it comes from to make me strong.

I experience suffering, pain, sickness, hunger, thirst,... but I know what I am doing is a blessing for me and for my planet.

Do #ClimateAction wherever you are and help to save our Planet.

My planet must have my attention and merit my offer because it is everyone’s life.

Together for a better Planet.

#200000Trees to be planted



# World 'Losing Battle' on 2020 Goal to Cut Deforestation

The world lost more than 26 million hectares of trees – an area the size of Britain – each year from 2014-2018.

By Megan Rowling

Thomson Reuters Foundation: September 12, 2019

BARCELONA, Spain – Meeting a landmark target to slash by at least half losses of natural forests by 2020 is likely to be “impossible,” as deforestation has soared in the five years since it was set, warned a report on progress towards the goal.

The 2014 New York Declaration on Forests garnered more than 200 signatories among countries, companies, and green groups, including the governments of Colombia, Norway, and the United States and consumer goods giants such as McDonald's and Walmart.

Nonetheless, the world lost more than 26 million hectares of trees – an area the size of Britain – each year from 2014-2018.

That represented a 43% jump in the global rate of tree loss compared with the period 2001-2013, said the report issued on Thursday ahead of a U.N. climate summit on September 23.

Tropical forests accounted for about 90% of global deforestation from 2001-2015, it added.

Their annual rate of loss rose by 44% in the 2014 - 2018 period, largely due to land being cleared to produce agricultural commodities such as beef, soy, and palm oil.

The plight of rainforests has stormed up the global agenda in recent weeks, as forest fires rage in the Amazon and the Congo Basin and a U.N. climate science report backed forest protection as a key pillar of action to curb global warming.

Forests store heat-trapping carbon, play an essential role in producing rainfall, and cool their local climates.

But the emissions released when they are destroyed by burning or felling spur rising temperatures, which in turn increase the threat to forests.

“The world is on fire... The vulnerability of the forests has become obvious,” said Charlotte Streck, co-founder and director of Climate Focus, a think-tank that led the report. “We seem to be in an age where there is a lot of talk and not enough action,” she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.



Photo: Minamperu via [www.globalforestwatch.org/](http://www.globalforestwatch.org/)

*“The Amazon Conservation Association works to protect biodiversity in the Amazon. With GLAD deforestation alerts on Global Forest Watch, we can detect illegal gold mining and logging in protected areas within days. By getting timely and precise information into the hands of policymakers, we’ve seen government authorities on the ground taking action within 25-48 hours of receiving an alert.” ([www.globalforestwatch.org](http://www.globalforestwatch.org))*

While large campaigns to plant new trees have been launched from Asia's Mekong Delta to El Salvador and Ethiopia, Streck said those cannot make up for loss of natural and old forests. “They harbor a lot more biodiversity, they are much richer in carbon, they offer all these ecosystem services in a much more complete way than restored forest,” she said.

The report also evaluated other goals in the New York declaration, finding that less than one-fifth of a pledge to restore 150 million hectares of degraded land by 2020 had been achieved in the past two decades.

In addition, it said none of the 350 most influential companies whose operations affect forests was on track to fulfill commitments to make their supply chains free of deforestation by 2020. In general, corporate commitments were too weak to be effective, rarely covering all supply chains,

and there was too little reporting on actions taken and their impact, it added.

Justin Adams, executive director of the Tropical Forest Alliance, which works to remove deforestation from supply chains, said far better tools had become available to monitor and tackle the problem on the ground, including satellite imagery. But it was the job of governments, not businesses, to enforce laws against illegal forest clearing, he added, urging closer collaboration.

Source: <http://news.trust.org/item/20190912123534-rteig/>

**Forest Monitoring Designed for Action: Global Forest Watch offers the latest data, technology and tools that empower people everywhere to better protect forests.**

# Compendium of Eco-Restoration Actions

Submitted by Marney Bruce, Maryland USA

By Adam Sacks  
September 9, 2019

The *Compendium of Scientific and Practical Findings Supporting Eco-Restoration to Address Global Warming* (the “Compendium”) is a fully-referenced compilation of the evidence outlining the power, benefits, and necessity of eco-restoration to address global warming. Bringing together findings from the scientific literature, government, and industry reports and journalistic investigations, it is a public, open-access document that is housed at Biodiversity for a Livable Climate, <https://bio4climate.org/resources/compendium/>.

We anticipate a new release every six months and invite others who wish to contribute to its development to send suggestions and article reviews to [compendium@bio4climate.org](mailto:compendium@bio4climate.org).

The next release is scheduled for Summer 2019.

*“The Compendium, brilliant and so helpful....Thank you.”*

Paul Hawken, Author

*“This is staggering. I’m especially grateful for the extremely clear summaries of the articles in this and the other volumes. You are democratizing hard science, bringing it within reach of us all without dumbing it down.”* Robert Labaree, Professor Emeritus, New England Conservatory

*“Thanks for your tireless efforts, Adam. So appreciative of this compendium.”* David McConville, Board Co-Chair, Buckminster Fuller Institute

## Compendium Volume 1 Number 1 July 2017

Covers a broad selection of eco-restoration articles, including soils, earthworms, water, wetlands, croplands, grasslands, and forests. We also discuss how paradigms and peer review both advance and constrain the practice of science.

## Compendium Volume 1 Number 2 March 2018

Focuses on biodiversity and why it’s so important, and regenerative agriculture as a critical path to global environmental health and stability.

## Compendium Volume 2 Number 1 July 2018

Reviews the pivotal roles of water cycles and soil ecology in stabilizing ecosystems and the climate.

## Compendium Volume 2 Number 2 January 2019

Visits several examples of restoration in action from around the world and reviews papers on floodplains, wetlands; discusses partnering with beavers; and considers how regenerative land management addresses heatwaves, droughts, floods, and fires. Special guest article on the “Fourth Phase of Water” by Gerald Pollack.

## Compendium Volume 3 Number 1 July 2019

Discusses forest dynamics and ecological intensification in regulating ecosystems, managing ecosystem services, and enriching biodiversity. Offers several examples of eco-restoration work, “Blessed Unrest,” by individuals and organizations around the world.

Source: <https://bio4climate.org/resources/compendium/>



Through education, policy and outreach, our mission is to promote the power of the natural world to stabilize the climate and to restore biodiversity to ecosystems worldwide. Collaborating with organizations around the globe, we advocate for the restoration of soil, and of grassland, forest, wetland, coastal and ocean ecosystems – along with the associated carbon, water and nutrient cycles – to draw down excess atmospheric greenhouse gases, cool the biosphere, and reverse global warming, for the benefit of all people and all life on Earth.



BEFORE: Steve’s Maple Ave. backyard, cut into squares for depaving



AFTER: Steve’s backyard after depaving, in one day.



AFTER: Steve’s backyard one year later, bursting with flowers!



Image: Dan Meyers on Unsplash

*Climate change today is not the consequence of natural cycles or fluctuations.*

## Unique Climate Change Has No Natural Cause

By Tim Radford  
Climate News Network: August 19, 2019

**The planet is warming faster than ever, worldwide. Scientists know this unique climate change is not caused by nature. But they checked again, to be certain.**

LONDON, UK – European and U.S. scientists have cleared up a point that has been nagging away at climate science for decades: not only is the planet warming faster than at any time in the last 2,000 years, but this unique climate change really does have neither a historic precedent nor a natural cause.

Other historic changes – the so-called Medieval Warm Period and then the “Little Ice Age” that marked the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries – were not global. The only

period in which the world’s climate has changed, everywhere and at the same time, is right now.

And other shifts in the past, marked by advancing Alpine glaciers and sustained droughts in Africa, could be pinned down to a flurry of violent volcanic activity.

The present sustained, ubiquitous warming is unique in that it can be coupled directly with the Industrial Revolution, the clearing of the forests, population growth, and profligate use of fossil fuels.

The finding is part of a sustained examination of global climate history, based not just on written and pictorial records but also studies of ancient lake sediments, ice cores, tree rings, and other proxy evidence assembled by an international partnership called the Past Global Changes Consortium. It is reported in the journal *Nature*.

“This paper should finally stop climate change deniers claiming that the recent observed coherent global warming is part of a natural climate cycle.”

Research like this is a tidying-up opera-

tion. Climate scientists, conservationists, glaciologists, marine biologists, geologists, and economists all know that climate change is happening, and that it is happening as a consequence of accelerated human activity over the last two centuries.

But from the start, there have always been gnawing questions: Hasn’t the climate always changed? If global temperatures rose between 700 AD and 1400 AD, and then fell again, is what is happening now not part of some similar long-term cycle?

And until now, that has remained without a confident, categorical answer.

So the latest study surprises nobody. But it matters, because the *Nature* study clarifies a point of possible confusion. There have been changes in modern human history, but none of them global and synchronous (happening at the same time). They were random fluctuations within the climate system, and even changes in solar activity or volcanic surges could not affect all of the planet at any one time.

**Unique** continued on next page

**Public Pressure** *continued from page 9*

Nature strikes back.”

“Don’t bring a speech – bring a plan,” Guterres famously told heads of state and government in the months leading up to this summit, and it appears that only leaders who followed his instructions will be allowed to speak at the plenary session. To gain a slot, a country had to commit to doing one of three things, said UN officials:

- Be carbon neutral by 2050;
- “significantly” increase how much it will cut emissions, or, in UN jargon, significantly strengthen its Nationally Determined Contribution; or
- Make a “meaningful” pledge to the Green Climate Fund, a pool of money provided by wealthy countries to help developing countries leave fossil fuels behind and increase their resilience against climate disruption.

UN officials expect that 60 to 70 countries will have made sufficiently solid commitments by next Monday that their leaders will be invited to outline their country’s plans from the dais, with each leader granted a mere three minutes to speak.

While emphasizing that he had no desire to intervene in the 2020 U.S. presidential election, Guterres spoke positively about a proposal by a leading Democratic candidate, Senator Bernie Sanders, for a Green New Deal that would be global. Most of the leading Democratic presidential candidates endorse one form or another of the Green New Deal, a program in which the U.S. government would create millions of jobs by investing in solar power, energy efficiency, and other measures to reduce heat-trapping emissions.

But a new report by *The Nation* pointed

out that only Sanders’ Green New Deal meets the scientific imperative of cutting global emissions by 45 percent by 2030 on the way to carbon neutrality by 2050. Sanders’s Green New Deal does this by pledging not only to slash emissions in the U.S. but to help developing countries cut their emissions as well.

“The Paris Agreement was very clear,” said Guterres. “There was a commitment by the developed countries to mobilize \$100 billion per year, from private and public sources, to support the developing world both in mitigation [i.e., reducing emissions] and adaptation [preparing against impacts]. Obviously, it is essential that all countries, including the United States, play a role in relation to this.”

Rich and poor countries have wrestled with the question of whether and how much financial assistance the rich should give the poor ever since governments first began debating the climate problem at the UN “Earth Summit” in 1992.

The poorer countries argue that the rich countries’ emissions are the foremost cause of global warming and climate disruption, while poor countries are the ones that suffer most from that disruption.

Rich countries generally do not dispute those facts and have paid lip service to providing assistance, but actual contributions have been modest. The U.S., for example, has contributed only \$1 billion, and the Trump administration blocked any additional contributions.

Guterres said in the interview Tuesday that “of course” he was aware of the global dimensions of Sanders’ Green New Deal, and he added that, “Any attitude from a country like the United States to in-

crease... finance to the developing world would be of course welcome.” As required by UN protocol, the Secretary General was careful to add: “That doesn’t mean that we want to interfere in the American election.”

As a former elected official himself, Guterres also emphasized the need for governments to show the public that climate protection need not mean economic hardship.

The Secretary General advocates in particular for climate-smart tax reform: reducing taxes on people’s incomes while increasing taxes on heat-trapping emissions. “If I [as a politician] take money from you with an increased carbon tax but I give you nothing in return, people will be against [it],” said Guterres.

Although rarely described this way, corporate subsidies for production of fossil fuels are also a form of tax. “Let’s be clear: Subsidies are paid with taxpayers’ money,” he said, adding with a smile, “I really do not like to see my money as a taxpayer going to bleach corals and melt glaciers.”

Guterres disputed a common criticism of a Green New Deal – that it will cost too much – by turning the question around. “What is the cost of the consequences of taking no action?” he asked. Depending on what governments do at the Climate Action Summit next Monday, and are pressured to do by civil society in the weeks and years to come, the world may learn the answer to that question soon enough.

**Source:** <https://climatenetwork.net/un-secretary-general-urges-public-pressure-against-climate-emergency/>

**Unique** *continued from previous page*

“It’s true that during the Little Ice Age it was generally colder across the whole world,” says Raphael Neukom of the University of Bern in Switzerland, and first author, “but not everywhere at the same time. The peak periods of pre-industrial warm and cold periods occurred at different times in different places.”

And his Bern colleague Stefan Brönnimann clears up another point in a related study in the pages of *Nature Geoscience*.

**Volcanic Influence**

The Little Ice Age began in Europe with no obvious trigger, but it was certainly reinforced and extended by more violent than usual volcanic activity in the tropics between 1808 and 1835. Mt. Tambora, in what is now Indonesia, put so much ash

into the stratosphere to screen sunlight and drop temperatures that 1816 became known as the Year without a Summer.

But there were also four other eruptions. Between 1820 and 1850, Alpine glaciers – now in alarming retreat – actually advanced. African and Indian monsoon systems weakened, and rain that should have fallen on hot soils dropped as more snow over Europe.

“Given the large climatic changes seen in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, it is difficult to define a pre-industrial climate, a notion to which all our climate targets refer,” said Professor Brönnimann. “Frequent volcanic eruptions caused an actual gear shift in the global climate system.”

Commenting on the *Nature* finding, Mark Maslin, a climatologist at University

College London, said, “Over the last 2,000 years the only time the global climate has changed synchronically has been in the last 150 years when over 98% of the surface of the planet has warmed. This paper should finally stop climate change deniers claiming that the recent observed coherent global warming is part of a natural climate cycle. This paper shows the truly stark difference between regional and localized changes in climates of the past and the truly global effect of anthropogenic greenhouse emissions.”

**Source:** <https://climatenetwork.net/unique-climate-change-has-no-natural-cause/>



Photo: <https://donate.organicconsumers.org>

*Eating certified organic foods is better for everyone and the environment. Join the Organic Consumers Association to learn more.*

## Six Sick Children to Sue Monsanto in U.S.

Dear Iona,

Over the course of next year, six children will stare down Monsanto in U.S. courtrooms.

Six children, whose childhoods have been interrupted by excruciatingly painful cancer treatments.

Six children, whose once bright futures are now uncertain.

Six children who have cancer – because they were innocently exposed to Monsanto's Roundup weedkiller.

And these six children are just a tiny fraction of all the children in the world who have been poisoned by Monsanto.

We owe it to these children to do everything in our power to stop the poisoning of our food, our parks, our water – even our playgrounds. Please make a donation today to help fund the fight to keep our children safe from Monsanto and other poison-peddlers.

The science couldn't be more clear. Children exposed to pesticides before birth or during other critical periods of growth often end up with lower IQs, birth defects, and developmental delays.

These kids are also at a higher risk for autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, and cancer.

Thanks to a study released earlier this year, scientists also believe that when adults are exposed to glyphosate, that exposure may lead to health problems in their kids and even their grandkids.

It's simply unconscionable that we continue to poison our children.

Please make a donation today to help fund the fight to keep our children safe from Monsanto and other poison-peddlers at <https://donate.organicconsumers.org/page/8170/donate/>.

Thanks to the support of thousands of people like you, I've been able to devote a good portion of my activist life to exposing the poisonous corruption of Monsanto (now owned by Bayer), and the harm these chemical companies inflict on all of us.

I'm a perennial optimist. But there are days when even I question our collective ability to bring down powerful corporations like Monsanto.

Those are the days when I know it's time to double down. Those are the days when I know this battle can, and will, be won – if we all remain committed.

We owe it to the six children suing Monsanto, and to all the other children whose childhoods have been – or will be in the future – sacrificed at the altar of corporate profits, to keep up the relentless pressure on corporations and politicians to end the use of Roundup and other pesticides.

As Nelson Mandela wisely said, "It always seems impossible until it's done."

Let's do it. Let's make it possible. Together.

### Defending your right to safe, healthy food and a clean environment.

Your right to safe, healthy food and a clean environment is under attack. Chemical and pesticide manufacturers, industrial factory farm corporations, and junk food manufacturers are piling up profits at your expense. With billions of dollars to spend on influencing politicians and policy, corporations are able to skirt, and rewrite, laws that were supposed to protect you.

Our job is to defend your rights. Here's how:

- **Consumer education.** The more consumers know about the benefits of healthy food produced using responsible farming

practices, the more they'll choose to support those products and producers. And when they do, they have an impact on the marketplace. The organic sector is growing because informed consumers are demanding better food.

- **Legal work.** Many corporations will make false product claims, and market unsafe and unhealthy products, as long as they can get away with it. We take those corporations to court and force them to be more transparent and more accountable to consumers.

- **Policy work.** Like it or not, policy and food are intertwined. An FDA policy decision approved GMO salmon. A federal policy decision is responsible for preempting states' rights to require labels on GMO foods. The Farm Bill is a \$90-billion policy document that provides subsidies to wealthy farmers growing GMO crops, but discriminates against small independent farmers who grow food responsibly. We mobilize voters to pressure their legislators to do better. And to vote out those policymakers who support bad food and farming policy.

Nearly 80 percent of our funding comes from individual donors like you. Please consider making a generous donation to support our work.

Please make a donation today to help fund the fight to keep our children safe from Monsanto and other poison-peddlers.

Thank you!

**Ronnie Cummins**, International Director, Organic Consumers Association

**Source:** <https://donate.organicconsumers.org/page/8170/donate/1>



Photos: Iona

*Sylvia Smith helps the women at St. Luke's United Methodist Church get started on cutting up plastic bags to turn them into mats for homeless people.*

## What on Earth Can We Do With Those Blasted, Used Plastic Bags?

By Iona

Frankly, I was skeptical about watching women turn plastic bags into mats for homeless people. But I came to see that at least they were being kept out of landfills or worse, ending up in trees blowing in the breeze. The woman teaching the mat-making class to members of St. Luke's United Methodist Women (Sylvia Smith) was so strong in her environmental ideas that my unease eased.

Since I've been a card-carrying, cloth-bag user for decades, I cringed when I saw the huge bags filled with – you guessed it – plastic bags. Where would all these wasteful products have gone otherwise? My stance softened.

Denise Strauser of Shade Gap, Pennsylvania, is president of this group. She led off with a beautiful program from the church's guide book, *Let Your Light Shine: Ignited*

*for Justice*, and included a reading from Genesis 1:1-5, followed by words used as the Apollo 8 astronauts first glimpsed Earth. They communicated their "awe and gladness, their joy and deep, holy hope" for our planet using the same scripture.

Later Denise invited everyone to name which part of nature they are most thankful for. Answers included the silkworm for creating beautiful silk, calming ocean waves, beautiful sunsets and rainbows, mountains, trees, waterfalls, relaxing rains, the sun, sunrises, the huge webs made by Orb spiders, and the night sky with little stars like diamonds.

As this September meeting ushered in a new year for the women, Denise described four priority justice campaigns, to which the church is committed, as described in her program book:

- **Just Energy for All** (Climate Justice

priority): Works with companies and governments for clean, renewable energy through a just and equitable transition from fossil fuels.

- **Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline** (Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration priority): Seeks to impact local decision makers to address the criminalization of children and youth of color and reduce racial disparities in school discipline.

- **A Living Wage for All** (Economic Inequality priority): Advocates for municipal and state legislation that builds the base for a living wage for everyone.

- **End Maternal Mortality** (Maternal Health priority): Calls on health care workers, lawmakers, and advocates to fund maternal mortality review committees and implement recommendations in hospitals and communities.

**Plastic** continued on next page



Plastic *continued from previous page*

### Back to Plastic Bags

Sylvia is part of the Breezewood Trucker/Traveler Ministry, "...an oasis of care, counsel, prayer, hospitality and/or emergency assistance to the truck drivers, travelers, and numerous staff people within the business community." ([www.breezewoodtruckertraveler.org/](http://www.breezewoodtruckertraveler.org/)).

They see a lot of homeless people there. They can hand out blankets and sleeping bags while supplies last but the mat-making project offers a way to soften the ground, while keeping out dampness and deterring bedbugs and lice.

Each mat uses between 500 and 700 bags. "Let's get this crap out of the environment," Sylvia urged. "It gets me so angry when I see plastic bags in trees. People can be such slob," she added. To avoid being part of the problem, she carries her own reusable shopping bags when she shops.

The tables were set up for action with scissors and a large supply of used plastic bags. Finished mats are 3 ½ to 4 feet wide and about 70 inches long. First the bag is flattened, folded, and cut into strips, which are then tied together with slip knots until a very long chain is made called a "plarn" (like "yarn" with the "pl" for plastic). That gets wound into a large, workable ball, just like people use for knitting or crocheting. In this case, a jumbo, size Q crochet hook is used to piece the strands together.

Once a mat is finished, a three-foot crocheted chain made with two strands can be used as a tie when the mat is rolled up for the day; a four-foot-long one can be used as a shoulder strap for carrying the mat from place to place.

Maybe, with God's blessing and lots of hard work by the Methodist women and others on the four justice priorities, there will be fewer homeless people and a lot fewer plastic bags in the world.

**Photos:** (*top right*) Sylvia's assistant, Dixie Divins, shows how to press, fold, and cut the plastic bags.

(*middle right*) Valerie Rupert crochets the mat she is working on with a size Q crochet hook.

(*bottom right, left to right*) Sylvia Smith, Valerie Rupert, and Denise Strauser admire the work Valerie has done so far on her mat.



# Naomi Klein: 'We are seeing the beginnings of the era of climate barbarism.'

By Natalie Hanman

Climate News Network: September 15, 2019

*This story originally appeared in The Guardian. It is republished here as part of the Climate News Network's partnership with Covering Climate Now, a global collaboration of more than 250 news outlets to strengthen coverage of the climate story.*

*Read an extract from Naomi Klein's new book, On Fire: The Burning Case for a Green New Deal at <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/sep/14/crisis-talk-green-new-deal-naomi-klein>.*

The *No Logo* author (Naomi Klein) talks to Natalie Hanman about solutions to the climate crisis, Greta Thunberg, birth strikes, and how she finds hope.

## Why are you publishing this book now?

I still feel that the way that we talk about climate change is too compartmentalized, too siloed from the other crises we face. A really strong theme running through the book is the links between it and the crisis of rising white supremacy, the various forms of nationalism, and the fact that so many people are being forced from their homelands, and the war that is waged on our attention spans. These are intersecting and interconnecting crises and so the solutions have to be as well.

## The book collects essays from the last decade, have you changed your mind about anything?

When I look back, I don't think I placed enough emphasis on the challenge climate change poses to the left. It's more obvious the way the climate crisis challenges a rightwing dominant worldview, and the cult of serious centrism that never wants to do anything big, that's always looking to split the difference. But this is also a challenge to a left worldview that is essentially only interested in redistributing the spoils of extractivism [the process of extracting natural resources from the earth] and not reckoning with the limits of endless consumption.

## What's stopping the left doing this?

In a North American context, it's the greatest taboo of all to actually admit that there are going to be limits. You see that in the way Fox News has gone after the Green New Deal – they are coming after your hamburgers! It cuts to the heart of



Naomi Klein

Image: Mariusz Kubik, <http://www.mariuszkubik.pl>, via Wikimedia Commons

the American dream – every generation gets more than the last, there is always a new frontier to expand to, the whole idea of settler colonial nations like ours. When somebody comes along and says, actually, there are limits, we've got some tough decisions, we need to figure out how to manage what's left, we've got to share equitably – it is a psychic attack. And so the response [on the left] has been to avoid, and say, "No, no, we're not coming to take away your stuff, there are going to be all kinds of benefits." And there are going to be benefits: we'll have more livable cities, we'll have less polluted air, we'll spend less time stuck in traffic, we can design happier, richer lives in so many ways. But we are going to have to contract on the endless, disposable consumption side.

## Do you feel encouraged by talk of the Green New Deal?

I feel a tremendous excitement and a sense of relief, that we are finally talking about solutions on the scale of the crisis we face. That we're not talking about a little carbon tax or a cap-and-trade scheme as a silver bullet. We're talking about transforming our economy. This system is failing the majority of people anyway, which is why we're in this period of such profound political destabilization – that is giving us the Trumps and the Brexits, and all of these strongman leaders – so why don't we figure out how to change every-

thing from bottom to top, and do it in a way that addresses all of these other crises at the same time? There is every chance we will miss the mark, but every fraction of a degree warming that we are able to hold off is a victory and every policy that we are able to win that makes our societies more humane, the more we will weather the inevitable shocks and storms to come without slipping into barbarism. Because what really terrifies me is what we are seeing at our borders in Europe and North America and Australia – I don't think it's coincidental that the settler colonial states and the countries that are the engines of that colonialism are at the forefront of this. We are seeing the beginnings of the era of climate barbarism. We saw it in Christchurch, we saw it in El Paso, where you have this marrying of white supremacist violence with vicious anti-immigrant racism.

## That is one of the most chilling sections of your book: I think that's a link a lot of people haven't made.

This pattern has been clear for a while. White supremacy emerged not just because people felt like thinking up ideas that were going to get a lot of people killed but because it was useful to protect barbaric but highly profitable actions. The age of scientific racism begins alongside the transatlantic slave trade; it is a rationale for that brutality. If we are going to respond to

Naomi Klein *continued on next page*

Naomi Klein *continued from previous page*

climate change by fortressing our borders, then of course the theories that would justify that, that create these hierarchies of humanity, will come surging back. There have been signs of that for years, but it is getting harder to deny because you have killers who are screaming it from the rooftops.

**One criticism you hear about the environment movement is that it is dominated by white people. How do you address that?**

When you have a movement that is overwhelmingly representative of the most privileged sector of society, then the approach is going to be much more fearful of change, because people who have a lot to lose tend to be more fearful of change, whereas people who have a lot to gain will tend to fight harder for it. That's the big benefit of having an approach to climate change that links it to those so-called bread and butter issues: How are we going to get better paid jobs, affordable housing, a way for people to take care of their families? I have had many conversations with environmentalists over the years where they seem really to believe that by linking fighting climate change with fighting poverty, or fighting for racial justice, it's going to make the fight harder. We have to get out of this "my crisis is bigger than your crisis: first we save the planet and then we fight poverty and racism, and violence against women." That doesn't work. That alienates the people who would fight hardest for change. This debate has shifted a huge amount in the U.S. because of the leadership of the climate justice movement and because it is congresswomen of color who are championing the Green New Deal. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley, and Rashida Tlaib come from communities that have gotten such a raw deal under the years of neoliberalism and longer, and are determined to represent, truly represent, the interests of those communities. They're not afraid of deep change because their communities desperately need it.

**In the book, you write: "The hard truth is that the answer to the question 'What can I, as an individual, do to stop climate change?' is: Nothing." Do you still believe that?**

In terms of the carbon, the individual decisions that we make are not going to add up to anything like the kind of scale of change that we need. And I do believe that the fact that for so many people it's so much more comfortable to talk about

our own personal consumption, than to talk about systemic change, is a product of neoliberalism, that we have been trained to see ourselves as consumers first. To me that's the benefit of bringing up these historical analogies, like the New Deal or the Marshall Plan – it brings our minds back to a time when we were able to think of change on that scale. Because we've been trained to think very small. It is incredibly significant that Greta Thunberg has turned her life into a living emergency.

**Yes, she set sail for the UN climate summit in New York on a zero carbon yacht ...**

Exactly. But this isn't about what Greta is doing as an individual. It's about what Greta is broadcasting in the choices that she makes as an activist, and I absolutely respect that. I think it's magnificent. She is using the power that she has to broadcast that this is an emergency, and trying to inspire politicians to treat it as an emergency. I don't think anybody is exempt from scrutinizing their own decisions and behaviors but I think it is possible to over-emphasize the individual choices. I have made a choice – and this has been true since I wrote *No Logo*, and I started getting these "What should I buy, where should I shop, what are the ethical clothes?" questions. My answer continues to be that I am not a lifestyle adviser, I am not anyone's shopping guru, and I make these decisions in my own life but I'm under no illusion that these decisions are going to make the difference.

**Some people are choosing to go on birth strikes. What do you think about that?**

I'm happy these discussions are coming into the public domain as opposed to being furtive issues we're afraid to talk about. It's been very isolating for people. It certainly was for me. One of the reasons I waited as long as I did to try and get pregnant, and I would say this to my partner all the time, "What? You want to have a Mad Max water warrior fighting with their friends for food and water?" It wasn't until I was part of the climate justice movement and I could see a path forward that I could even imagine having a kid. But I would never tell anybody how to answer this most intimate of questions. As a feminist who knows the brutal history of forced sterilization and the ways in which women's bodies become battle zones when policymakers decide that they are going to try and control population, I think that the idea that there are regulatory solu-

tions when it comes to whether or not to have kids is catastrophically ahistorical. We need to be struggling with our climate grief together and our climate fears together, through whatever decision we decide to make, but the discussion we need to have is how do we build a world so that those kids can have thriving, zero-carbon lives?

**Over the summer, you encouraged people to read Richard Powers's novel, *The Overstory*. Why?**

It's been incredibly important to me and I'm happy that so many people have written to me since. What Powers is writing about trees: that trees live in communities and are in communication, and plan and react together, and we've been completely wrong in the way we conceptualize them. It's the same conversation we're having about whether we are going to solve this as individuals or whether we are going to save the collective organism. It's also rare, in good fiction, to valorize activism, to treat it with real respect, failures and all, to acknowledge the heroism of the people who put their bodies on the line. I thought Powers did that in a really extraordinary way.

**What are your views on what Extinction Rebellion has achieved?**

One thing they have done so well is break us out of this classic campaign model we have been in for a long time, where you tell someone something scary, you ask them to click on something to do something about it, you skip out the whole phase where we need to grieve together and feel together and process what it is that we just saw. Because what I hear a lot from people is, ok, maybe those people back in the 1930s or '40s could organize neighborhood by neighborhood or workplace by workplace but we can't. We believe we've been so downgraded as a species that we are incapable of that. The only thing that is going to change that belief is getting face to face, in community, having experiences, off our screens, with one another on the streets and in nature, and winning some things and feeling that power.

**You talk about stamina in the book. How do you keep going? Do you feel hopeful?**

I have complicated feelings about the hope question. Not a day goes by that I don't have a moment of sheer panic, raw terror, complete conviction that we are doomed, and then I do pull myself out of

Naomi Klein *continued on page 21*

IF YOU SIT ON THE BANK OF A RIVER, YOU SEE ONLY A SMALL PART OF ITS SURFACE. AND YET, THE WATER BEFORE YOUR EYES IS PROOF OF UNKNOWABLE DEPTHS.

- Anita Diamant -

# Consumer Liberation

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

*Join The Go-Back Club today!*

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



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*Thank you.*

## More Tributes to John

Oh, Iona, I am so sorry to learn of John's passing. We communicated once by email and I could tell how dedicated he was to teaching the world about climate change and the environment. What an awful loss for you and the world! My thoughts will be with you as you sell your home and move to New Jersey.

I'm so happy to see this issue of your newspaper dedicated to John. And I am enjoying reading all of the wonderful articles, especially the one about Ann Cognito and her dog making their way across Canada. I am pulling for her and wishing her great success on her journey. I will check her out on Facebook, but I hope she also sends you an update.

I love your newspaper. I think it's the best environmental activist publication anywhere.

**Doug Davis**, New York USA

I am joining in memory of John Conner and because it seems like time to join. I wish I knew about this sooner. I hope I can help. Please check out the group I founded, first in Florida, now accessible to everyone on line: <https://peacejusticenow.wixsite.com/website>. I almost forgot. I am a founding member of Delaware Valley Co-Living Cooperative. We are still incorporating. We would love to work with you going forward: <http://delvalcoco.org/>.  
**David Gibson**, Pennsylvania USA

Dear Iona,

We would be honored to have our names listed as fans of you & John.

We have shared your story with many people in Massachusetts & nationally.

Iona, thank you for all you & John have done for our country.

When you came to our home in Southampton, we knew that you were a TEAM & that you were both working on important issues together.

We wish you peace and health & divine solace to help you in your grieving for John.

We are so saddened by the news of John's death. He was & always will be a Champion for the Poor. His amazing dedication to economic justice and climate justice will live on forever with those of us who had the privilege to know him and you.

You and John came to brunch at our home in Southampton, MA. a couple of years ago.

We have shared John's well written essays with many people. We hope some of those seeds will grow tall & strong to help heal our battered world.

We will send a donation in John's memory to GRASSROOTS.

We will remember him and you in our prayers.

May he rest in Peace,

We know how hard it is for you to continue, but John would want you to continue the good works you have been doing. Now you can continue them in his memory and we are sure he will be with you every step of the way.

God bless you,

**John & Maureen Sheehan**, Massachusetts USA

Dear Iona,

I am sorry to hear of John's passing when I opened the mails today. I can only offer my prayers and heartfelt condolences to you. I know how hard it has been in the past year but you did your best and fought for him all the way. It is incredible for you to have come up with this extraordinarily beautiful tribute. I am very grateful to you for publishing my article in this tribute issue. May his noble soul find eternal peace.

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Take care.

Regards,

**Raj Phukan**, India

It's with deep sorry that have learnt of this very sad news shading black moments in the life of Environment Activists. The loss of our iconic mentor baba or mzee meaning father or old man. It's hard to believe but that is life, principle of nature.

The bible tells us he has gone back to be with our heavenly father and we shall meet him again one day. Mama be strong for the Lord God is with you. May his soul RIP.

The beauty he left behind will season young people who will accomplish his task of bringing to sanity environment justice for all. Through your posts and newsletter my capacity is enhanced to fight for environment and social justice as well as climate change

Regards,

**John Osidi**, Kaberamaido, Uganda

Dear Iona,

The library is placing memorial book plates in memory of John in a few books: *How to Give up Plastic: A Guide to Changing the World One Plastic Bottle at a Time* by Will McCallum; *The Future of Packaging: From Linear to Circular* by Tom Szaky; and *The Uninhabitable Earth* by David Wallace-Wells. We are putting his obituary in *The Uninhabitable Earth* as an inspiration to honor John in this way.

Thinking of you,

**Jamie Brambley** and the library staff, Fulton County Library, Pennsylvania USA

*I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud, just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.*

*Then someone at my side says, "There, she*

**Tributes** continued on next page

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**Naomi Klein** continued from page 19

it. I'm renewed by this new generation that is so determined, so forceful. I'm inspired by the willingness to engage in electoral politics, because my generation, when we were in our 20s and 30s, there was so much suspicion around getting our hands dirty with electoral politics that we lost a lot of opportunities. What gives me the most hope right now is that we've finally got the vision for what we want instead, or

at least the first rough draft of it. This is the first time this has happened in my lifetime. And also, I did decide to have kids. I have a seven year old who is so completely obsessed and in love with the natural world. When I think about him, after we've spent an entire summer talking about the role of salmon in feeding the forests where he was born in British Columbia, and how they are linked to the health of the trees and the

soil and the bears and the orcas and this entire magnificent ecosystem, and I think about what it would be like to have to tell him that there are no more salmon, it kills me. So that motivates me. And slays me.

**Source:** <https://climateneetwork.net/naomi-klein-we-are-seeing-the-beginnings-of-the-era-of-climate-barbarism/>



*Remember your dreams.*



## Messages from Our Friends



**Tributes** *continued from previous page*

is gone?"

"Gone where?"

*Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.*

*Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says, "There, she is gone?" there are other eyes watching her coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes?"*

*And that is dying.*

(Anonymous)

Iona, I like to think of John with that perspective. "Here he comes!" Wonder what he will do, to shake up Heaven? He certainly gave his all, here on Earth.

With much sympathy, love, and admiration.

**Sylvia Diss**, Maryland USA

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Iona,

I just read your latest newsletter, which is excellent as always. I love the photos that accompany the stories.

I am very impressed with the letters you receive from all over the world. You should feel very appreciated and loved.

I saw my letter you printed, among the many others. Thanks for putting it in.

I hope that you are pacing yourself as much as possible, especially on Fridays (skip school day for the climate).

Lots of Love,

**Tyla Matteson**, Virginia USA

Dear One Iona,

I saved this all these months to "read later" and the time finally came! I am thinking of the beautiful heart, mind, and

soul of such a person (you) who would produce such a wonderful publication. I am happy for you to read the loving comments from so many countries.

I am doing much gardening, music, being with age three grand daughter, but not much in terms of Outer World work – how unlike me. I think I need to reconsider what I am doing "out there" and how to be more effective, having tried 40 years to build a movement that I cannot see much progress in addressing wealth inequality and poverty and environment via deep systemic change. Probably will take much more than this lifetime!

May all your lights turn green!

**Alanna Hartzok**, Pennsylvania USA

Thanks so much mommy. I am just inspired again. Thanks for making Africa a great place and providing information that matters for our planet. I appreciate your message alot.

Regards,

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

Hi Iona.

Here's a start on my account. I just bought a house (1901) in Flint, opening testing lab and law office. Health better and feeling optimistic. Thanks for your good work and inspiration.

Reverse Global Warming – wind and solar on ice caps to extract nitrogen, compress to liquid, and spray on meltwater to refreeze it.

**Bob Hendren**, Michigan USA

A whole group walked us into the city!!! Now trying to get some more interviews, and hopefully a meeting with a Liberal MP here who is involved with XR.

Also figuring out the next part of the trip, and trying to wrangle a too-big to-do list into cooperation.

The page has more followers every day, and the petition has jumped about 500

signatures. We need at least 10,000 to be taken seriously, but it's picking up!

I'm more than sure your paper is part of that.

**Ann Cognito**, Walking across Canada and teaching about climate change

Dear Iona,

Hope I find you well. I have a proposal to make as from September to December 2019 as a Cornell University Climate fellow. I am volunteering my time to educate my community on climate change at the upcoming events exhibitions. First, it's the Zimbabwe International Book Fair in Mutare from the 27 -28 September 2019; next is the SMEs Expo from 23 - 26 October 2019 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Looking for sponsors who are willing to pay for the booth and transport to any of these events. Will provide details of the costs to those interested. I am willing to showcase their books on climate change at the fair and Expo. The costs in U.S. dollars are around 500 for the two exhibitions.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Kind regards,

**Maxwell Kanotunga**, Zimbabwe

Thanks for sharing the copy.

I feel that it is important to understand Climate Change and the Environment of today. Being related to it means you are very much concerned about it.

There are such topics that depict the changing climate and climate emergency.

How could a common person show his role in order to combat climate Change? It is important for every one to be concerned because everyone has a role in it.

So the *Groundswell News* incorporated all the topics which are in discussion at a global level.

Thanks,

**Akhter Hussain**, India

**I HAVE NOT FAILED. I'VE JUST FOUND 10,000 WAYS THAT WON'T WORK.**

- Thomas Alva Edison -

[HTTPS://DUE.COM/BLOG/THOMAS-EDISON-10000-WAYS-THAT-WONT-WORK/](https://due.com/blog/thomas-edison-10000-ways-that-wont-work/)