

# Groundswell News Journal

A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice  
*We are a Global Family. News by and about Climate and Social Justice Activists.*


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

**Our Slogan:** The way forward: cycle back to basics.

*A Celebration of Youth.* [www.groundswellnews.org](http://www.groundswellnews.org). Issue No. 77: June 28, 2021



## Keystone XL Pipeline Canceled

By Paola Rosa-Aquino   
Intelligencer: June 10, 2021  
Photo courtesy of Javier Sierra

**Submitted by Fran Staret  
Pennsylvania USA**

The developer behind the Keystone XL pipeline is pulling the plug on the embattled project, ending a fight that's dragged on for more than a decade.

After consulting with Canadian officials and regulators, TC Energy – the Canadian energy company behind the pipeline project – confirmed on Wednesday that it had abandoned the proposed 1,200-mile-long pipeline that would have pumped a staggering 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day from Alberta to Nebraska. It'll coordinate with regulators, Indigenous groups, and

other stakeholders “to meet its environmental and regulatory commitments and ensure a safe termination of and exit from the Project,” TC Energy said in a statement.

“After more than ten years we have finally defeated an oil and gas giant!” the Indigenous Environmental Network, a U.S.-based Indigenous advocacy group, tweeted following the announcement.

“From the Tar Sands to the Gulf we stood hand-in-hand to protect the next seven generations of life, the water, and our communities. This is not the end, but merely the beginning of further victories. We know this in our hearts.”

The project was first proposed in 2008, but almost immediately came under pressure from Native American tribes and environmentalists who argued it threatened

their lands and waters and would worsen the climate crisis.

Since then, it's been on a political seesaw: The project's permits were rejected by the Obama administration, but former president Donald Trump reversed course and construction on the pipeline began last year.

Within hours of his inauguration, President Joe Biden rescinded the project's federal U.S. permit. In an executive order, he argued that the oil pipeline “disserves” U.S. national interest and that, “Leaving the Keystone XL pipeline permit in place would not be consistent with my Administration's economic and climate imperatives.”

**Source:** <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2021/06/keystone-xl-pipeline-canceled.html>

### CONTENTS

CLIMATE  
EMERGENCY  
PAGES 1 - 12

EARTH  
REGENERATION  
PAGES 13 - 15

ENDING  
INEQUALITY  
PAGES 16 - 18

HUMAN  
INTEREST  
PAGES 19 - 28

MESSAGES FROM  
READERS  
PAGES 30 - 32

# What is the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice?

**Coalition Founders:** John and Iona Conner

**Editor/Publisher:** Iona Conner

**Wire Editor:** Allen Hengst

**Established:** September 2013

**Web site:** www.groundswellnews.org

**Board of Directors:** Ngo Banfogha, Jeanette Bartelt, David Hunter Bishop, Bill Boteler, Iona Conner, Eric Kifampa, Jussa Nhari Kudherezera, Rituraj Phukan

**Advisory Board:** Dan Adams, Robert Burrows, Fr. Ted Cassidy, Michael Mann, Mar-iam Nabukeera

**Contact:** Grassroots Coalition, c/o Iona Conner, P.O. Box 542, Point Pleasant Boro, NJ 08742-9996; groundswellnews@pa.net

**Contributors:** Idris Bilyaminu Ndasadu'Lau, Derrick Jensen, Prince Kitumaini Kamundala, Frank Kromkowski, Jussa Kudherezera, Stephen Leahy, Clement Musonda, Leon Simwerayi, Valerie Wood-Gaigner

## Our Motto:

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

## Our Slogan:

The way forward:  
cycle back to basics.

## Mission of Our Journal

The mission of *Groundswell News* is to be a beautiful, inspiring, uplifting journal 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. We are a global family.

## What is the Grassroots Coalition?

John and Iona Conner started this non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in 1990. The mission was and remains "dedicated to creating the critical mass of active participants needed to being ecological justice to this Earth by providing information and resources to individuals which encourage and assist them to make lifestyle changes beneficial to the environment and to effectively grapple with local and global environmental concerns."

## 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 sign up for our newspaper. Please tell your family and friends about us.

## 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 journal 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.

## 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 groundswellnews@pa.net. If you need funding, mention that in your last paragraph and be sure to give your contact information.

Please email Iona at groundswellnews@pa.net for the full Guidelines. I'll be eager to see what you submit. Thanks so much.

## 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.**

(2) **Nature of the copyrighted work.**

(3) **Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole.**

(4) **Effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.**

Fair Use Logo



## Iona's Column: *Serious Fundraising*

Dearest Global Family,

As of today, June 25, there is \$28.47 in our Grassroots Coalition account and the Coalition still owes me \$200 from the time more than a year ago when lightning killed my computer, printer, and battery back-up surge protector. That sum includes some small personal loans I made from my meager Social Security to cover automatic withdrawals for Microsoft Office (\$7.41), Zoom meetings (\$14.99), and the bank's service charge (\$5). I used to have a *New York Times* digital subscription (\$8) but I canceled it to save money.

Several months ago I made a decision to stop financing this work with my Social Security and rely on people who appreciate it enough to contribute to keeping it going. Thankfully, several Coalition members have made donations and paid for ads so that I was able to buy a full set of printer cartridges and also knock off some of the debt to myself.

I'm sure you know I work really, really hard and love doing this, but I prefer to view this as a team effort. My heart wants to help raise money for everyone but I struggle to pay the Coalition bills. In my last cover email, I asked for help; two people responded. For those who can afford \$30 a year, please send it through PayPal at groundswellnews@pa.net or send a check to Grassroots Coalition, c/o Iona Conner, P.O. Box 542, Point Pleasant Boro, NJ 08742-9996. If that's too much for you, send what you can and I'll be extremely grateful. Thank you for sharing this burden with me.

I will continue publishing *Groundswell News Journal* as long as I can.

Love,

*Iona*



*Climate Emergency*



Photo: Audrey Gray

*Line 3 protesters marched a half mile to a bridge crossing the Mississippi River.*

# Thousands Arrive to Protest New Construction on Line 3

Hundreds Leave in Handcuffs

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Sam Palca, Kristoffer Tigie, and Phil McKenna  
Inside Climate News: June 9, 2021, *excerpt*  
[emphasis added]

PARK RAPIDS, Minnesota – The trickle of activists began on Thursday but it quickly grew into a stream that filled northern Minnesota campgrounds surrounding the Mississippi River headwaters over the weekend. By Monday night, some **200 protesters had been arrested** as they attempted to stop the construction of Enbridge’s Line 3 replacement project. Many had chained themselves to pipeline

construction equipment hoping to delay a project that they say would lock Minnesota – and the nation – into decades of continued burning of some of the world’s dirtiest oil and threatens the pristine waterways that many Indigenous people depend on for their livelihoods.

“*This is just the beginning,*” said Winona LaDuke, an Anishinaabe woman and longtime Indigenous activist who has been fighting the project since it was **first proposed in 2014**, according to the *Star Tribune*. The Treaty People Gathering was organized by a coalition of Native rights groups and environmental organizations that intended “*to put our bodies on the line, to stop construction, and tell the world that the days of tar sands pipelines are over.*”

In a written statement Monday, the company said that it was “disheartened” [sic] by the protest’s disruption and “*destruction*” at its worksite. But as the four-day event wound down on Tuesday and skirmishes between police and activists quieted, Indigenous leaders vowed to continue their protests.

Enbridge is now moving to revive construction after being **delayed by a muddy spring**. And as protesters redouble their efforts to stop Line 3, they are being met with equally intensifying resistance from police who are carrying out the will of state policymakers who have long resisted calls to transition the U.S. economy to clean energy.

**Line 3** continued on next page

## Climate Emergency

Line 3 continued from previous page

Over the last four years, 15 states have adopted new laws that increase the penalty for **trespassing on critical infrastructure** like oil pipelines. Five other states, including Minnesota, are considering similar measures, which have become growing points of political tension between progressives and conservatives in the country's cultural wars. Those tensions played out Monday as encounters between police and protesters became increasingly hostile.

Federal officials are reportedly investigating the use of a **low flying helicopter** that activists said was meant to intimidate them, according to media reports.

The *New York Times* reported that authorities also appeared to use a *Long Range Acoustic Device*, or LRAD, to drive protesters away with noise. The hostilities were reminiscent of the 2016 Standing Rock protests, where police were filmed using attack dogs, spraying water cannons, and firing rubber bullets on Indigenous and environmental activists who attempted to stop the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota ...

*"People forget that we lost that fight,"* Tara Houska, a member of Couchiching First Nation and founder of the Indigenous advocacy group Giniw Collective, said last November. Many worry without intervention from the Biden administration, Line 3 may see a similar fate. They see Line 3 as part of a tightrope that Biden is cautiously walking regarding fossil fuel projects as he attempts to gain bipartisan support for his **\$2 trillion climate infrastructure plan**.

President Biden stopped the Keystone XL pipeline from moving forward when he took office in January, but he has yet to weigh in on the Minnesota pipeline and his administration has taken a hands-off approach when it comes to Dakota Access.

In May, the administration opted against halting that pipeline's operations after a court ordered the Army Corps of Engineers to redo the project's **environmental review**. Enbridge says "replacing" the old Line 3 is the best way to prevent future spills while continuing to meet U.S. energy needs, insisting the new pipe is necessary to "restore the historical operating capabilities of Line 3." The ageing pipeline is operating at roughly **half of its original capacity** after a series of serious accidents, including a huge oil spill and an explosion that killed two people. Opponents say that, despite the old pipeline's safety record, the new Line 3's additional capacity would be an even greater threat to the area along its route and also to the global climate.

Once up and running, the new pipeline would generate **193 million tons of carbon dioxide per year**, according to Enbridge's environmental impact statement. Pipeline opponents are determined to continue their actions against the pipeline to get President Biden to direct the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw the project's water permits and begin a federal environmental impact assessment, which the Corps has not yet conducted. Many are also imploring him to honor a series of treaties signed between the U.S. government and the Ojibwe people in the 19th century that protected the **tribes' rights to hunt, fish and gather** on land and water they believe is now threatened by the pipeline ...

Sunday was a day set aside for training in which activists were taught how to engage with law enforcement and informed about different levels of risk they would confront, the highest of which would have them facing arrest. Leaders of the gathering said they understood that many did not want to risk jail during Monday's

demonstrations.

LaDuke also hopes that the law would fall on the side of pipeline opponents in the current legal challenges to Line 3. *"We'd like the courts to work,"* she said, shaking her head, *"but until then Enbridge has unfurled holy hell up here."* Other protesters, however, weren't interested in obeying the law or waiting for the courts to rule. They blocked access to the pipeline construction site with a fishing boat and bamboo poles, climbed on top of equipment and **chained themselves to machinery**.

By Tuesday morning, more than 200 people had been arrested. At the Two Inlets pump station just off of Highway 71 north of Park Rapids, law enforcement detained dozens of protesters over the course of several hours late Monday.

The Northern Lights Task Force, the law enforcement collaborative overseeing the police response, flew a helicopter over the occupiers at the pump station, kicking up a cloud of choking dust, prompting the reported investigation by U.S. Customs & Border Protection of the low flying helicopter. **Police encircled protesters** remaining outside the pump station and issued a final dispersal order just before 10 p.m. on Monday night.

Soon after, all remaining protesters save those who had secured themselves to either construction machinery or the boat being used to block the access road, were detained. Others were issued a citation and released. Meanwhile, the Native group Resilient Indigenous Sisters Engaging (RISE) will continue a **four-day prayer ceremony** that began on Monday near the Mississippi headwaters in the path of the proposed pipeline.

**Source:** <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/09062021/line-3-protests-minnesota-enbridge-pipeline/>

## NEWS FLASH

**'Horrible and Unconscionable Betrayal': Biden DOJ Backs Trump Line 3 Approval  
"You are siding with a handful of corrupt corporate elites over honoring treaty rights, climate, water, and the future of life on Earth."**

By Jessica Corbett; Common Dreams: June 24, 2021, excerpt

Indigenous and environmental activists fighting against the Line 3 tar sands pipeline were outraged Thursday after the Biden administration filed a legal brief backing the federal government's 2020 approval of the project under former President Donald Trump...

**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/06/24/horrible-and-unconscionable-betrayal-biden-doj-backs-trump-line-3-approval>



*Climate Emergency*

# Solar Cookers to the Rescue!



Photos: Courtesy Rosa Solar Stoves  
(top left) Children enjoy learning about solar cookers. (top right) Different foods which can be made on solar cookers. (bottom left) Popcorn. (bottom center) Boiling water. (Bottom right) The team of solar cooker builders.

## Hello to you all,

I'm Clement Musonda from Zambia, founder of Rosa Solar Stoves. We are passionate about sharing our solar cooking knowledge within our community. We're working on a solar cooking project and food drying process. We are working to stop deforestation and climate change. We saved lives in 2018 to tackle cholera with the water sterilizing techniques using the solar stoves here in Lusaka.

We hope this project can reach all of you. We need help to organize solar cooking demos to the communities all over the country. When we are using the solar

stove, we are reducing the use of charcoal. The system is working on direct sunlight.

In Africa we have abundance sun days especially in Zambia. Even after rain, as long as the sun is shining, we can cook on solar stoves. A family of eight people can buy one bag of charcoal instead of two bags per month and, using the solar stove, they can save some money for other bills.

The use of the solar stove is helping us to economize more than 3 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. This greenhouse gas is one of the causes of climate change.

In 2018 we gave three solar stoves to three families to use them. And in the same

period, the cholera epidemic was declared. Many families around benefited as well to sterilize water, so microbes were killed and lives were saved. Noted that 1 liter of water can be boiled in 15 to 20 minutes.

Rosa solar stoves needs help from you all. We need support so that we can help our communities. Thanks and best regards,

**Clement Musonda**, Zambia

**Email:** musondakankomba@gmail.com

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/kankombamusonda>

**GoFundMe:** <https://www.gofundme.com/f/demonstrating-solar-cooking-in-zambia?qid=4d322001ecc40bfa968546503a86ca8e>



*Climate Emergency*



Photo Courtesy Need to Know

*Self-storage units in Missouri.*

## 'More, New, Better' Behind Climate/Nature Crisis

By Stephen Leahy  
Need to Know: June 21, 2021

'More, new, better' are the biggest drivers of the climate crisis, deforestation, biodiversity loss, plastic pollution, pesticide contamination, and pretty well every other environmental problems. 'More, new, better' are the central pillars of a **dangerously dysfunctional consumer society** embraced by nearly every country. And that's why humanity is **devouring our planet's resources** 1.7 times faster than they can regenerate.

**Need-to-Know 1:** If everyone consumed as much as Americans or Canadians we'd need 5 planets.

Despite growing awareness of the multiple environmental crises, our rates of consumption continue to increase. Adjusted for inflation, consumer spending in the U.S. has grown 400% since the first Earth Day in 1970. The U.S. population is 60% larger than 1970, not 400% higher so clearly people are buying a heck of a lot more stuff today.

We have so much stuff, it is spilling out of our homes and created the self-storage industry. There are about 50,000 self-storage facilities in America today with **enough space to store a stack of boxes from every living person in the country.**

None of this is an accident. We are victims of a decades-long, unprecedented propaganda effort to convince each of us

that contentment, happiness, self-worth, identity, and even **good citizenship and patriotism comes from buying 'more, new, better' stuff.**

This 'more, new, better' propaganda is backed by government and business and powered by a U.S. \$750 billion annual global advertising budget. That's about **\$100 every year for every person on the planet.** And yet more than 700 million people live on less than \$2 a day.

Of that \$750 billion, some **\$300 billion a year is now being spent in online advertising:** Banner ads, rich media, advertorial and sponsorship, online video, social media, and more. That's 10 times more than a decade ago. Why? Because that's where we are. **Globally, the daily average of time spent online was almost 7 hours during the pandemic.**

**Need-to-Know 2:** We are exposed to as many as **5,000 advertisements per day.**

That \$750 billion is being spent because advertising works to persuade people to want things they don't really need.

Don't think advertising influences you? You'd be wrong according to researchers.

### We Keep Buying Bottled Water Because We Fear Death

That's the headline from a story I wrote a few years ago for *Vice*. I wondered why so many people **carted cases of bottled water out of supermarkets** in places with excep-

tional public drinking water. Every year Americans and Canadians spend (waste?) \$20 billion on water in little plastic bottles. Often that water is just tap water.. (Some places like Flint, Michigan, and some First Nations communities do have poor quality drinking water and need bottled water.)

To sell a product most people **already get at home for next to nothing**, advertisers go beyond claiming their product is safer or better to **sell us youth and immortality.** Bottled water ads use phrases like "Drink Better. Live Better," in commercials people drinking bottled water walk past a window and see themselves as babies in the reflection.

**Those are ridiculous claims.** And yet these work at a sub-conscious level because these ads **subtly manipulate the defenses** we all use to deal with our conscious and unconscious **fear of death.** These defenses influence our behaviors, our self-esteem, and outlook, studies show.

"*Pro-bottle-water advertisements rely heavily on branding, celebrity, and feel-good emotions that trigger our group identities and patriotism,*" said co-author Sarah Wolfe, researcher at Waterloo's Faculty of Environment.

*Those kinds of ads appeal to people whose self-esteem is strongly based on physical appearance, fitness levels, material and financial wealth, class, and status,*" Wolfe said.

Research also shows commercials were

**More, New, Better** continued on next page

*Climate Emergency*

**More, New, Better** continued from previous page

often still effective even when people consciously resisted being influenced.

“If you see 20 commercials, and are trying not to be influenced, for four or five of them, you are going to fail and your attitudes are going to be changed despite your best efforts,” said co-author Steven Sweldens, Professor of Consumer Behavior and Marketing at Rotterdam School of Management in Holland Erasmus University.

**Need-to-Know 3:** Don’t think for a second you are immune to advertising.

**Here’s how advertising works its subtle magic on you:**

- Products are linked to pleasing images and music that will appeal to certain individuals. This is called “evaluative conditioning.”
- Those positive links to celebrities, images, or sounds in ads move us to favor certain brands and purchase them.

Sweldens trained, and even paid, people to resist ads of certain brands in a series of experiments. It didn’t work. “Advertising imagery had automatic, uncontrollable effects,” he concluded.

During breaks in the experiments people were given a variety of bottled water brands to drink. “Sure enough, those with the most positive image association were consumed in greater quantities,” he found.

**Need-to-Know 4:** “Resistance is Futile.” Our ability to resist the appeal of ad campaigns employing powerful images is extremely limited.

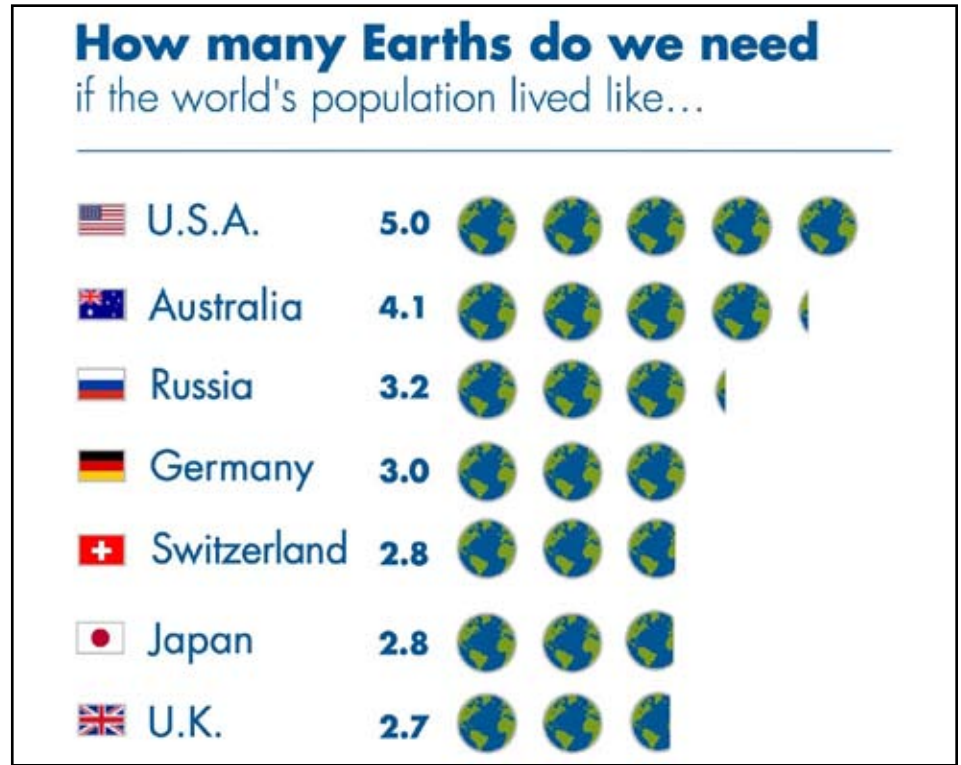
Sweldens warns that advertising has become **so effective we’re losing our ability to choose.** “You will be assimilated” to quote a Borg drone from TV’s Star Trek.

Governments need to play a bigger role in regulating advertising, he said.

However governments have been one of the biggest backers of ‘more, new, better’ propaganda. Since the end of World World II, policy makers, business and labor leaders put **mass consumption at the center** of their plans for a prosperous post-war recovery.

**The American Dream was firmly linked to consumerism.** Mass consumption was touted as the solution for everything including poverty, war, inequality, democracy, and personal well-being and happiness.

The United States government had a major role in promoting the concept that, “The general good was **best served not by frugality or even moderation**, but by indi-



viduals pursuing personal wants in a flourishing mass consumption marketplace.”

That message has now spread throughout the world thanks to hundreds of billions of dollars in advertising, media, and in government policies and statements.

An analysis of messaging by the U.S. government over the past 40 years concluded the government continuously links moral values to markets. More significantly, for the neoliberal market system to work, the state cannot restrict itself to ensuring free and fair competition but also **shapes consumer subjectivities to support the system.**

**Need-to-Know 5:** Anti-consumption **rule of thumb:** Every time you spend a dollar you’re consuming.

If you’re spending more, then your impact on the planet is likely increasing. Spend less and it’s probably decreasing.

**The Road to a Higher Quality of Life**

Making the decision to spending less **frees up time** to spend with family, friends, going outside, on hobbies, or getting involved with your community. Those are activities that bring meaning, satisfaction, and joy into our lives, in other words a higher quality of life.

**Need-to-Know 6:** An anti-consumption society is all about quality not quantity.

In this new society, economic goals would no longer be focused on increasing GDP but on balancing a good quality of life for all without severely impacting nature or the climate. That is **the very conclusion** from the first-ever collaboration between biodiversity scientists and climate sciences from the IPCC on how to successfully tackle climate, nature, inequality, and other challenges we face.

This society would make durable goods that are repairable, with tax subsidies to make repairing cheaper than buying new. Planned obsolescence would be banned and products would be required to last. This society would be based on what’s known as a Circular Economy. There is no other viable choice but to create this. Luckily, governments in Europe finally understand this and are creating the first major circular economy. The rest of the world must soon follow.

For this to be successful ‘more, better, new’ product advertising must become ‘durable, reusable, repairable’ advertising.

More on that next time. Until then, please stay strong and stay safe.

**Source:** <https://leahy.substack.com/p/more-new-better-behind-climatenature>



*Climate Emergency*



Photo: NOAA NMFS SWFSC Antarctic Marine Living Resources (AMLR) Program

*When the sea ice melts there is nothing to prevent Antarctic glaciers from accelerating their pace towards the ocean.*

## Polar Concerns Rise as Ice Melts Ever Faster

By Tim Radford  
Climate News Network: June 15, 2021

**An Antarctic glacier gathers pace. In the north, the Arctic ice thins faster. Racing climate heat is feeding polar concerns. “The thickness of the sea ice is a sensitive indicator of the health of the Arctic.”**

LONDON, UK – An Antarctic glacier has begun to move more quickly towards the open ocean, as the shelf of sea ice that once held it back starts to collapse. The water in that one glacier is enough to raise global sea levels by half a meter (1.64 feet). And that’s not all that’s raising polar concerns across the scientific world.

At the other end of the Earth global heating is accelerating the loss of Arctic ice. A new study reports that the thinning of sea ice in three separate coastal regions could now be happening twice as fast.

Both findings are linked to the inexorable rise in global average temperatures as

the profligate use of fossil fuels heightens the ratio of greenhouse gases in the planet’s atmosphere.

Antarctic scientists have been worrying about warming in Antarctica for years. And they have been anxiously watching the Pine Island glacier in West Antarctica for decades.

Glaciers move at the proverbial glacial pace towards the sea, to be held in check, in the polar oceans, by vast shelves of sea ice. Between 2017 and 2020 the ice shelves have undergone a series of collapses and lost one fifth of their area, possibly because the glacier has been accelerating.

“We may not have the luxury of waiting for slow changes on Pine Island; things could actually go much quicker than expected,” said Ian Joughin, of the University of Washington in the U.S. “The processes we’d been studying in this region were leading to an irreversible collapse, but at a fairly measured pace. Things could be much more abrupt if we lose the rest of that ice shelf?”

He and his colleagues report in the journal *Science Advances* that the Pine Island glacier has already become Antarctica’s biggest contributor to sea level rise. The pace of flow remained fairly steady from

2009 to 2017, but they found that data from Europe’s Copernicus Sentinel satellite system showed an acceleration of 12% in the past three years.

The Pine Island glacier contains roughly 180 trillion tons of ice, enough to raise global sea levels by 0.5 metres (1.64 feet). Researchers had calculated that it might take a century or more for slowly-warming polar waters to thin the ice shelves to the point where they could no longer stem the glacier flow. But it now seems that the big player in the shelf ice collapse is the glacier itself, as the flow rate increases.

“The loss of Pine Island’s ice shelf now looks possibly like it could occur in the next decade or two, as opposed to the melt-driven sub-surface change playing out over more than 100 or more years,” said Pierre Dutrieux of the British Antarctic Survey, a co-author. “So it’s a potentially much more rapid and abrupt change.”

### Snow Fall Dwindles

Abrupt change, too, may be on the way in the Arctic Ocean. British researchers used a new computer simulation to explore measurements from Europe’s CryoSat-2 satellite. The scientists report in the journal

**Polar Concerns** *continued on next page*



*Climate Emergency*

# Solve Nature and Climate Together or Not at All

By Alex Kirby  
Climate News Network: June 11, 2021

Sink or swim as one, says science. Solve nature and climate together, or neither of the twin crises will be soluble. “The warmer the world gets, the less food, drinking water, and other key contributions nature can make to our lives.”

LONDON, UK – Two of the world’s leading scientific institutions have joined forces to arrive at a not very surprising conclusion: solve nature and climate together, or forget them both. If the world does not work to tackle the climate crisis and the extinction threat confronting millions of wild species together, it has little hope of solving either of them separately.

So says a report published by the snappily-titled Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), each respected for their commanding knowledge in their own fields.

The report, the IPBES/IPCC Workshop Report, which marks the first collaboration between the two bodies’ scientists, is not content simply to urge joint action on the intertwined problems threatening the world. It goes on to identify what it says are key options for solving them.

Both biodiversity loss and climate change are driven by human economic activities and mutually reinforce each other, the report says.

## **Polar Concerns** *continued from previous page*

*The Cryosphere* that the thinning of ice in the Laptev and Kara Seas north of Siberia, and the Chukchi Sea between Siberia and Alaska, has stepped up by 70%, 98%, and 110% respectively.

Sea ice diminishes each summer and forms again each winter; each successive summer reveals an ever-greater loss, as the ice itself thins and the area covered by ice dwindles.

Calculations of ice thickness have always allowed for the falls of fresh winter snow.



Photo: Kerstin Langenberger, via Wikimedia Commons

*Solve nature and climate together, or there’ll be more starving polar bears in Svalbard.*

While previous policies have largely tackled the twin crises independently of each other, addressing the synergies between the two simultaneously offers hope of maximizing benefits and meeting the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

“Human-caused climate change is increasingly threatening nature and its contributions to people, including its ability to help mitigate climate change. The warmer the world gets, the less food, drinking water, and other key contributions nature can make to our lives, in many regions,” said Prof. Hans-Otto Pörtner, co-chair of the report’s scientific steering committee.

“Changes in biodiversity, in turn, affect climate, especially through impacts on nitrogen, carbon, and water cycles,” he said. “The evidence is clear: a sustainable

global future for people and nature is still achievable, but it requires transformative change with rapid and far-reaching actions of a type never before attempted, building on ambitious emissions reductions.

“Solving some of the strong and apparently unavoidable trade-offs between climate and biodiversity will entail a profound collective shift of individual and shared values concerning nature – such as moving away from the concept of economic progress based solely on GDP growth, to one that balances human development with multiple values of nature for a good quality of life, while not overshooting biophysical and social limits.”

The authors also warn that narrowly-focused action to combat climate change

**Solve Together** *continued on next page*

But since the formation of sea ice has been later every year, there has been less time for the snow to accumulate. Such things make a difference.

“The thickness of the sea ice is a sensitive indicator of the health of the Arctic,” said Robbie Mallett, of University College London. “It is important as thicker ice acts as an insulating blanket, stopping the ocean from warming up the atmosphere in winter, and protecting the ocean from sunshine in summer. Thinner ice is also

less likely to survive the summer melt.”

**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/polar-concerns-rise-as-ice-now-melts-ever-faster/>

*Climate Emergency*

## Montana: Families for a Livable Climate

Submitted by Frank Kromkowski on Facebook June 21 and 22, 2021

Now more than ever, talking about climate change every day, and holding reporters and people in power accountable, is critically important. We can all speak from our hearts, with respect, about why we're worried about climate change and reach out to our neighbors and friends and other parents. Climate change is serious, it's happening now, it will impact our futures, but humans have the tools we need to fix it. Let's get to work!

On Friday, we gathered for our first in-person event in a very long time: the Montana Families Climate Summit, co-hosted by Moms Clean Air Force Montana and Montana Mountain Mamas. (With after event ice cream provided courtesy of the team at the Montana Environmental Information Center – MEIC).

Led by the amazing and skillful Penelope Baquero and joined by our first summer staff (amazing!) and core supporters from our organization, and our cohost groups, we spent an inspiring afternoon connecting, and building a stronger community for climate action in Montana.

We are looking forward to seeing more of everyone this summer and having conversations about climate whenever possible to raise awareness, and the will for collective action.

We hope to mix in a fair amount of fun and life-affirming celebrations as well!

**Source:** <https://www.facebook.com/familiesforalivableclimate>

### Why won't anyone ask why?

#### A Colorado journalist's analysis of local heatwave coverage reveals a systemic failure to inform.

By Emily Atkin, *excerpt*  
Heated: June 22, 2021

Last week, millions of Coloradans experienced a heatwave unlike any they'd ever seen. The record-breaking event, exacerbated by climate change, was part of a larger stretch of unprecedented hot, dry weather in the American West.

The extreme heat was covered extensively by Colorado journalists, who took a variety of angles on the story. They explored economic impacts, health risks, and meteorological firsts. But how many of the stories mentioned why it was so hot in the first place?

Chase Woodruff, an environmental policy reporter for *Colorado Newsline*, decided to see for himself. For a few hours a day, he looked up as much Colorado-based coverage of the heatwave he could find, and logged in a spreadsheet whether it referenced climate change.

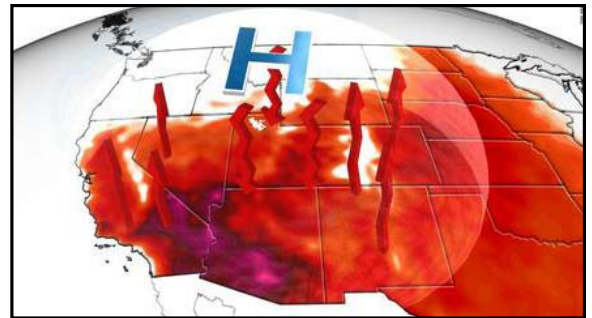
Chase's final tally, which you can view in this Google spreadsheet at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Oo4lMt4uOZn>

2oCePXCbROaLHOZZ2mgt\_KAvczkeka-bA/edit#gid=0, saw 149 local news stories written about the unprecedented hot temperatures, part of a larger heat wave that affected more than 50 million people across the U.S. last week. Only 6 of those stories mentioned climate change.

Put another way, only 4 percent of Colorado journalists covering the dangerous extreme weather in their communities told readers why it was happening. The other 96 percent covered it as if it were an act of God.

The systemic failure of news outlets to inform their readers about the climate crisis in real time is not new, nor exclusive to Colorado. During the deadly global heatwave of 2018, Media Matters analyzed 127 national cable news segments about it and found that only one explained its connection to climate change. National print and radio outlets did a bit better, but not much; NPR, for example, aired at least three stories in July 2018 mentioning the abnormal nature of extreme weather events across the country without explaining why. . . .

**Source:** <https://heated.world/p/why-wont-anyone-ask-why>



### Solve Together *continued from previous page*

can directly and indirectly harm nature, and vice versa, but say there are many ways to benefit both areas.

#### **Their suggestions include:**

- \* Stopping the loss and degradation of carbon- and species-rich ecosystems on land and in the ocean and restoring them. The authors say reducing deforestation and forest degradation can help to lower human-caused greenhouse gas emissions by between 0.4 and 5.8 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent every year.

#### **End Damaging Subsidies**

- \* Increasing sustainable agriculture and forestry to improve the capacity to adapt to climate change, improve biodiversity, increase carbon storage, and reduce emis-

sions. The report estimates this improved management of cropland and grazing systems could offer annual climate change mitigation potential of 3 to 6 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent.

- \* Enhanced and better targeted conservation supported by strong climate adaptation and innovation. Protected areas currently represent about 15% of land and 7.5% of the ocean. Global estimates of what the world needs range from 30 to 50% of all ocean and land surface areas.

- \* Eliminating subsidies that support both local and national activities harmful to biodiversity, such as deforestation, excessive fertilization, and over-fishing, can also support climate change mitigation and adapta-

tion. It can also help to change individual consumption patterns, reduce loss and waste and shift diets, especially in rich countries, towards more plant-based options.

The report also warns against climate mitigation and adaptation measures which it says can harm biodiversity and nature's contributions to people. These measures, it says, include increasing irrigation capacity, a common response to adapt agricultural systems to drought which it says often leads to water conflicts, dam building, and long-term soil degradation from salinization.

**Source:** <https://climatenetwork.net/solve-nature-and-climate-together-or-not-at-all/>



*Climate Emergency*



**ASSOCIATION DE JEUNES VISIONNAIRES POUR LE  
DEVELOPPEMENT DU CONGO**

*Entreprenariat et Engagement Civique de la Jeunesse pour le développement durable*

*Email : [ajvdccongo@yahoofr](mailto:ajvdccongo@yahoofr), [www.ajvdc.com](http://www.ajvdc.com), Tel : +243 992570911*

*Siege Social: Avenue Kituku I No4, Route CCLK à 200m Nouvelle Cathédrale*

**AJVDC projects**

1. **Reforestation and land restoration project:** AJVDC is pursuing his planting trees and land restoration project so that we can reach up our goal of planting **1 Million trees** in the region by 2022, through producing seedlings of agroforestry, fruits, coffee and cacao trees and distributing to communities and landowners in Lac Kivu basin region. This will help to fight against lands degradation, hunger and erosions and to protect, soil and biodiversity around protected areas such as Virunga National Park, and for CO2 sequestration and for global climate regulation. Creating opportunities for youth ex-rebels and educating young in environmental and climate actions



Correct link is <https://www.ajvdc.com/>

*Climate Emergency*



Submitted by Leon Simweragi, DR Congo

It's our job to fight back and dismantle the fossil fuel economy, hold accountable those who profit off corporate greed, and build a world that puts a livable planet and public interest first. This is why we are launching the Fossil Free Virunga, a short film sharing the story of four activists in the Democratic Republic of Congo who are working to protect their home, for all of our futures.

C'est notre travail de riposter et de démanteler l'économie des combustibles fossiles, et de tenir pour responsables ceux qui profitent de la cupidité des entreprises pétrolières pour violer les droits coutumiers des communautés au lieu de construire un monde qui donne la priorité à une planète habitable et à l'intérêt public. C'est pourquoi, nous lançons le documentaire "Fossil Free Virunga", qui raconte l'histoire de quatre militants en République Démocratique du Congo qui travaillent pour protéger notre maison commune, et la riche

diversité d'écosystèmes incomparables de Parc National de Virunga.

On 30th June 2021, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will be celebrating 61 years of Independence from Belgium colonial rule. To mark this day, 350Africa.org, in collaboration with MNKF Creatives and activists in the Democratic Republic of Congo will be launching a short film dubbed "Fossil Free Virunga." The film is meant to highlight the opposition of fossil fuel exploration in the sensitive ecosystems that is the Virunga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage and Ramsar Site.

Virunga National Park has outstanding universal value as it is home to 43% of African bird species, 27% of mammals, and more than 10% of reptiles, amphibians, medicinal plants, and several other rare endangered species that do not exist anywhere else in the world.

This rich biodiversity that supports the livelihoods of millions of people is threatened by the licensing of oil concessions to

foreign fossil fuel companies like Efora, by the Congolese Government through the Ministry of Hydrocarbons. This licensing is in violation of the Ordinance-Law 69-041 of August 22, 1969, on nature conservation and international conventions ratified by DRC. This move ties DRC to fossil-fuel dependence, a resource that is no longer viable as the world seeks to move to a clean energy future.

Join us as we celebrate and stand in solidarity with the amazing activists in DRC who are calling for a truly independent nation by fighting to break free from the destructive impacts of fossil fuels in their country.

Register at [https://350org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ytaZoZllTh2q-Q3MVJqmzA](https://350org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ytaZoZllTh2q-Q3MVJqmzA) to watch the film's premiere on 30th June at 2 pm GMT (10 a.m. EDT/EST) and listen to passionate speakers as they share their stories of fighting for social and environmental justice in the DRC.

**Source:** <https://afrikavuka.org/keeping-up-the-fight-for-a-fossil-free-virunga/>

**FAITH IS TAKING THE FIRST STEP EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T SEE THE WHOLE STAIRCASE.**

~ Martin Luther King, Jr. ~

[https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/martin\\_luther\\_king\\_jr\\_105087](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/martin_luther_king_jr_105087)



*Earth Regeneration*

**Let Nature Restore Itself on its Own for Best Results**

By Tim Radford  
Climate News Network: June 22, 2021

LONDON, UK – British scientists have just confirmed something that might have seemed obvious: to regenerate the natural world, the best way is often to let nature restore itself on its own.

That is: left to its own devices, and with help only from wild birds and mammals, bare agricultural land turned into dense native woodland in little more than half a human lifetime.

Nobody needed to plant trees and shield them with plastic tubing; nobody had to patrol the protected zone or fence it against rabbits and deer, or attempt to choose the ideal species for the terrain. It all happened anyway, with the help of the wind, the wild things, and a species of crow called a jay.

The research offers lessons for governments that have committed to restoring natural forest as part of the arsenal against global heating and climate change: it need not cost much.

**Fast Work**

“Biodiversity-rich woodland that is resilient to drought and reduces disease risk can be created without any input from us,” said Richard Broughton, of the UK’s Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. “Our study provides essential evidence that passive rewilding has the potential to expand native woodland habitat at no cost and within relatively short timescales.”

He and his colleagues tell the story in the Public Library of Science journal *PLOS One*. They simply monitored the progress of two farmland fields over two periods of 24 and 59 years respectively: one had been abandoned in 1996, the other in 1961. Significantly, both fields – of 2.1 hectares (5.19 acres) and 3.9 hectares (nearly 10 acres), and labeled New Wilderness and Old Wilderness – were close by a patch of ancient woodland.

This was the Monks Wood National Nature Reserve in Cambridgeshire, a tract of wildwood in eastern England that has been studied in fine detail for many decades and documented since 1279 AD.

“Passive rewilding has the potential to expand native woodland habitat at no cost and within relatively short timescales.”

Of the two abandoned neighboring fields, one had been grazing land, the other laid down to barley. Brambles and thorn-bushes colonized the neglected fields, to



Photo: Jakub Halun, via Wikimedia Commons

*No pest, quite the opposite: The jay is a colorful and industrious natural gardener, dispersing seeds far and wide.*  
[https://natureguide.gr/desc/Birds/Eurasian\\_Jay/](https://natureguide.gr/desc/Birds/Eurasian_Jay/)

provide cover for seeds, nuts, and acorns spread by wild mammals and birds.

After 23 years, 86% of the grassland had turned into shrub and sapling that had reached an average height of 2.9 metres (nearly 10 feet), with a density of 132 trees per hectare: 57% of these were the oak *Quercus robur*. The Old Wilderness, after 53 years, had 100% cover averaging 13.1 metres (43 feet) in height, with a density of 390 trees per hectare, 52% of them oak.

Climate scientists have been urging the protection and restoration of natural ecosystems for four decades. Conservation scientists, alarmed at the potential rapid rise in rates of species extinction along with the damage to natural habitats, have been urging the same thing for even longer.

Both have made a case for restoring the wilderness: the debate has been about the best ways to make this happen. More trees should mean more carbon absorbed from the atmosphere. But more climate change might make such restoration, through for instance deliberate plantation, increasingly problematic.

**Reheating the Arctic**

So the next question is: Could Nature restore itself? Rewilding is still at the experimental stage: a process backed by, in some cases, deliberate re-introductions, for instance of beavers and other wild species in Europe. There is even an argument that in the fastest-warming zone of the planet,

the Arctic, the reintroduction of large herbivores could help slow climate change and contain global heating driven by ever-higher ratios of atmospheric greenhouse gases.

The clear message of the latest study is that – at least if natural forest rich in wild birds and mammals is close by – then nature can be left to do what nature does best. There were no costs of planting, there was no risk of disease introduction from nursery-grown saplings, and no need for plastic tubes to protect the tender young tree trunks from predators.

Blackthorn and hawthorn helped screen the young trees from hares, rabbits, and deer. Seeds were dispersed by helpful wild agents, among them squirrels and wood mice and a bird commonly regarded as a pest, the Eurasian Jay, *Garrulus glandarius*.

“The huge benefits that jays provide in natural colonization by dispersing tree seeds, especially acorns, help create more woodland habitat for all wildlife and far outweigh any impact of predation,” Dr. Broughton said.

*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/let-nature-restore-itself-on-its-own-for-best-results/>

## Earth Regeneration

# Two Groups Run by Grandmothers Networking for the Earth

Dear Iona,

I hope you don't mind that I ask all your colleagues to plant a Tree for granny.

Now that our Queen is also asking people to plant trees you could get 2 granies with one tree!! Or plant 2 trees!!

My 80th Birthday will be on 4th July!!

I was amazed when Jonas Chabroka Fadweck (in Malawi) wrote, "Grandma, we will celebrate your birthday with tree planting" and they decided that Children, Mum's, and Grannies are going to make cakes. They will have a party with the tree planters. How beautiful!!

Makes me humble that they decided to do this for us all! Trees are our lungs! We need them because we have to breathe!! Plant at any time – when conditions are right.

I am amazed at how many people in so many countries have said YES! If not a tree – Plant something; plant an idea of 'something' that would help people in your community.

Please take photos and send them to me with a little story about where you live and what you do. I will make an e-book – something special for me to keep and share with the world to inspire others to think – I could do that!

I'm a granny living in Wales. I started Learn with Grandma as my retirement project. I never expected it to become an international network with groups around the world promoting Intergenerational Learning & Active Ageing. The main aim is to share ideas of how to use the Internet as a bridge to reunite the generations and help break down the digital age gap by sharing skills, love, & knowledge across the generations. Good projects are happening in many countries. All suggestions are achievable, affordable, and sustainable!

God Bless, Keep safe!

**Val**

Mrs Valerie Wood-Gaiger MBE  
Brynamlwg, Myddfai, Llandovery, Carmarthenshire, SA20 0NZ Wales UK  
+44(0) 1550 721 884 valwoodgaiger@aol.com but I prefer FB messages for quick notes,

Founder of Learn with Grandma – an international network of Groups on Facebook.

Learn with Grandma is a not for profit NGO registered in Wales reg. no. 8259039.

New website: <http://learnwithgrandma.org/>

Patron of Kawa Uganda; Repair Cafe Wales; Proud to be a Woman of Heart! A Goodwill Ambassador & An Ambassador for Peace.

**All suggestions are Achievable; Affordable, and Sustainable!**

<https://localgiving.org/charity/learn-with-grandma/>

Dearest Iona,

Please see the letter below and my reply – Plant a tree for Granny is reaching so many people!

If you can also share and USE it to also tell people what you do – that would help us both!

Much love,

**Val**

**Hello Valerie Wood- Gaiger,**

This is Leon Simwerayi, founder and executive member of Environmentalist group AJVDC Green Brigade, we are based in Democratic Republic of Congo, we are working to build resilience and adaptation of vulnerable communities that are victims of conflicts, war, and climate change. We work also to promote community and youth engagement for peace, climate actions, and for sustainable development goals. We are glad to join the Grassroots Coalitions group and hope to learn and benefit more from other members of this group.

Please, let me say that I'm joining you to celebrate Granny birthday, and I want to learn more about Learn with Grandma International and how we integrate.

I have planted a tree for Granny,

I can see it on the photo attached, a fruit tree "avocado" that I have just planted at home, hopefully we will eat its fruits after 3 years "2024" at 83th Birth of Granny.

Best regards,

Happy Birth day to Granny and all the best.

**Leon Simwerayi**

AJVDC Green Brigade  
[www.ajvdc.com](http://www.ajvdc.com)

From: Valerie Wood-Gaiger <valwood-gaiger@aol.com>

Sent: Sat, 19 Jun 2021 19:43

Subject: Re: Greetings and Best wishes from DR Congo

Dear Leon (if I may),

How wonderful to hear from you and

learn a little of your work. Looking forward to hearing more.

Facebook is an amazing means of Communication! I threw a pebble in the pond and the ripples reached you in DRC!!

First of all THANK you so much for already planting a tree and sending the photo. Please also help with my Birthday Appeal by sharing the post you saw.

Do join LwG DR Congo <https://www.facebook.com/groups/250925435055011/?fref=ts>. Post the photo on the group and to tell people where you are in DRC, what type of tree, and a little about AJVDC Green Brigade,

Let me introduce you to Mugisho Ndabuli, admin of DRC and I think founder of the group for your country! I can't remember now!

This idea began when Jonas Chabroka Fadweck (Malawi) wrote, "Grandma we will celebrate your birthday with tree planting!" I was humbled that they decided to do this not for me – for us all and I decided to ask more people to plant a tree!

I'm just a granny – a great granny – living in the Welsh hills Please see this Article. It's a bit out of date now but will tell you more about me & Learn with Grandma. Of course I will be delighted to answer any queries. <https://www.grandmagazine.com/2019/09/2019-grandparent-of-the-year/>. There is a lovely photo of me with 5 of my now 7 great-grandchildren.

I started Learn with Grandma because the surgeon (after a triple Bypass followed by a Cardiac Arrest) told me to get a Hobby! I never expected it to become an international network with groups around the world promoting Intergenerational Learning & Active Ageing. May I suggest that you also join Learn with Grandma International <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1489818234620407/> The main aim is share ideas of how to use the Internet as a bridge to reunite the generations and help break down the digital age gap by sharing skills, love, & knowledge across the generations. Good projects are happening in many countries.

The whole point is to share ideas that can help others.

ALL Learn with Grandma members are welcome to share News, events, achievements.

Share anything that vaguely fits LwG aims – help break down the digital age gap

**Grandmothers** continued on next page



Earth Regeneration

Grandmothers continued from previous page

by sharing skills, love & knowledge across the generations.

- 1. To protect and cherish our people, our community, and Planet – it's our home.
- 2. To reunite the generations using IT as a bridge.
- 3. To record all that is good from our histories, culture, traditions, heritage, and skills, etc.
- 4. To encourage parents and grandparents to instill a love of learning, create lasting memories, and have fun together.
- 5. To encourage respect between the generations and show that each generation has skills they can learn from the other.
- 6. To encourage Intergenerational Learning & Active Ageing projects.
- 7. To research, create, and provide learning material and resources and encourage a reading culture.
- 8. To create a Digital international library, accessible to all.
- 9. To work with organizations in other countries to promote these aims internationally.

PLEASE remember that many people are members of or work for not for profits or already support various charities. We all understand that all organizations need money, but too many appeals are counter-productive! So NO Appeals Please.

As I approach 80 I realized that LwG has grown out of being my retirement hobby!!

My next plan is to turn Learn with Grandma into an International Foundation to continue promoting those aims long after I'm forgotten. It may look farfetched that a Granny living in the back of beyond could do such a thing but I would never have believed that – just by posting ideas and encouraging messages – so many good Achievable; Affordable, and Sustainable projects have started!

E.G I have initiated lots of sewing groups – & home sewing without a machine by sharing this film; and I can PROVE it works! Among many others I recently learned that Ogwang Simon Ojala (Uganda) started a workshop in 2015! I was so thrilled! Without even contacting me he saw that this was a better alternative to raising funds to buy sanitary pads and just started to make them. They have now trained over 400 people and make more than just pads. At the moment, because of the virus, we cannot suggest a sewing workshop but ladies can & do hand-sew at home. Affordable; achievable, sustainable, and better for the environment, especially when using recycled material. Any soft

cotton – old Tee shirts are ideal.

**Making sanitary pads:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o88uLMpHlw0>

With hand sewing – no NEED for a sewing machine to start. I can remember my Gran showing me how to hand sew pads. We didn't have a machine. My first pads were made from one of her old nighties!

The advantages of a sewing workshop is that as the women & girls who are sewing can talk and learn from each other. People in many countries – especially Africa – have shown the film to people in their communities. The ladies understood even if they don't speak English. This would help your young women! Simon – with no financial help from me – is building a new building! They want to name their new building after me!! I could never have imagined that someone would name a building after me!!

I can't send anyone any money – all I can do is share Ideas that are Achievable, Affordable, and Sustainable! And send encouraging letters!

God Bless, Keep safe!

Val

From: Climate Actions Congo <green-brigadedrc@gmail.com>

To: valwoodgaiger@aol.com

Sent: Sat, 19 Jun 2021 15:43

Subject: Greetings and Best wishes from DR Congo

Hi Valerie,

I belong to a group (Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice) that several members are planning thousands of trees, mostly in Africa. I will try to send you some links.

For Us All,

**Jeannette Bartelt** (also a grandmother and great grandmother)  
jmbartelt@gmail.com

Dear Clement Musonda,

This does sound very interesting. Please, will you join and post to Learn with Grandma Zambia <https://www.facebook.com/groups/528534567250010/>

I am one of Iona's Facebook Friends and the granny living in Wales

UK who started Learn with Grandma as my retirement project. I never expected it to become an international network with groups around the world promoting Intergenerational Learning & Active Ageing. The main aim is to share ideas of how to use the Internet as a bridge to reunite the generations and help break down the digital age gap by sharing skills, love, & knowledge across the generations. Good projects are happening in many countries. All suggestions are achievable; affordable and sustainable!

I would like to know how you are working to stop deforestation and climate change.

How you saved lives in 2018 tackling cholera with water sterilized techniques using the solar stoves here in Lusaka.

God Bless, Keep safe!

Val

**News Flash:** I just received this wonderful message with a YouTube link from Val and hope you have time to watch her in action. She's charming!

*This was released yesterday! <https://youtu.be/zlDvYyXMiQI> It's a long interview - nearly an hour - so wait till you have time to watch. I enjoyed doing it - think I could have done better but I always do!*

*Russell lives in Cornwall he started The Green Elephant Shop to promote 'Green' Businesses and includes not for profit initiatives - his objective is to encourage a sustainable world.*

*Image below created by LwG in Egypt.*



*Ending Inequality*

## As Congress Approves Juneteenth Bill, Advocates Say 'We Must Not Stop Here'

**"Black liberation in its totality must be prioritized," stressed Rep. Cori Bush.**

By Brett Wilkins  
Common Dreams: June 17, 2021

As legislation to designate Juneteenth a federal holiday breezed through the U.S. Congress this week and was signed into law by President Joe Biden Thursday afternoon, racial justice advocates stressed the imperative for meaningful policies and actions to address systemic racism and inequality that go beyond what some called performative gestures.

"Many of the senators who voted for Juneteenth to become a federal holiday regularly vote to impede civil rights for Black Americans," said Dr. Tarika Barrett, Chief Executive Officer at Girls Who Code in Brooklyn, New York.

Several congressional lawmakers took the occasion to both welcome the new holiday and speak to the need to address what author and activist Bill Fletcher Jr. has called "America's incomplete emancipation."

Speaking on the House floor Thursday, Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.) expressed his "great excitement and joy" over the designation of Juneteenth – which celebrates the day in 1865 when Black people in Texas learned they were no longer slaves, two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation – as a national holiday.

"But... we must not stop here. We must continue to go forward to fight for racial justice," he said, citing "housing discrimination and segregation, lack of access to healthcare, and wealth inequality."

"We must... do much more," asserted Bowman, who supports measures – including Medicare for All, a Green New Deal, raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and the For the People Act – that progressive campaigners argue will uplift tens of millions of Americans, especially people of color adversely affected by centuries of systemic injustice and inequality.

Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) tweeted that, "It's long past time for America to recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday..."

But we can't just call this a win and move on," she added. "Congress needs to act on voting rights, police violence, poverty, environmental justice, and much more to tackle systemic racism in America."

Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-N.J.) tweeted, "As we take this time to acknowledge Juneteenth, I pray that we do not [lose] track of the fact that we have so much more work to do to ensure fairness, opportunity, and equality."

Racial justice advocates went even further in their calls for equity, with Black Lives Matter tweeting, "We won't be bamboozled by political theater."

Unfit Christian founder D. Danyelle Thomas called the new holiday, "Yet another tokenized victory to point to in the delusion of a post-racial society... The Senate unanimously passing Juneteenth as a federal holiday – and the Biden [administration's] championing of the cause – while actively obstructing raising minimum wages, student debt forgiveness, and gun reform is a reminder that performative liberation/resistance won't do a damn thing," she asserted.

In a syndicated opinion piece published on Thursday, National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) chief of programs and strategic development Sabrina Terry and Dedrick Asante-Muhammad, chief of membership, policy, and equity at NCRC and an associate fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies, wrote that, "Juneteenth reminds us to be critical of how progress is measured."

"In the last month alone, we had two national remembrances of racial injustice: the anniversary of the murder of George Floyd and the 100-year anniversary of the Tulsa Massacre," noted Terry and Asante-Muhammad. "Floyd's murderer, police officer Derek Chauvin, was found guilty this year. And this spring, President Biden became the first president to visit Tulsa and commemorate the massacre."

"Both events have been celebrated as turning points in popular American public opinion toward racial justice, yet there is still little evidence of meaningful systemic reforms," the authors wrote. "A year after Floyd's murder, Congress still hasn't passed the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020. And the few remaining survivors of the Tulsa massacre have yet to receive

reparations from their federal, state, or local governments."

Terry and Asante-Muhammad continued:

*A year since the nation's 'racial reckoning' following the death of George Floyd, and 100 years since the massacre in Tulsa, our nation has still failed to even promise the type of repair – much less deliver the investments necessary – to bridge the centuries-old racial inequality that's maintained through economic inequality. But that doesn't mean we can't.*

*As we celebrate Juneteenth this year, the promise of freedom alone isn't enough to move us forward. Instead, we need to celebrate it every year with sustained action and investment to repair the inequality that even a general and his troops 150 years ago were not able to deliver.*

*History... shows that without a sustained deployment of federal resources, the promise of Black freedom and opportunity were quickly dashed against the rocks of racially concentrated power and wealth, leaving African Americans vulnerable in a racially segregated society," they added. "And today, like then, there's huge division among states when it comes to racial justice."*

Indeed, observers noted the irony of Juneteenth becoming a federal holiday at the same time that numerous states including Texas and Oklahoma are banning or whitewashing the teaching of the history behind events like Juneteenth and the Tulsa Massacre.

"Imagine making Juneteenth a federal holiday when laws are being enacted all over the country that will prevent people from being taught why it's a holiday," tweeted Monique Judge, news editor at *The Root*.

Screenwriter Kashana Cauley quipped, "This'll be fun to teach in the anti-critical race theory states: 'So we're all getting this day off because absolutely no one did anything wrong.'"

**Our work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).  
Feel free to republish and share widely.**

**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/06/17/congress-approves-juneteenth-bill-advocates-say-we-must-not-stop-here>



*Ending Inequality*



*Ending Inequality*

## It Should Not Hurt to be an African Child

By Jussa Kudherezera, Zimbabwe

Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA) commemorates June 16, the International Day of the African Child, under the theme “30 Years After the Adoption of the Charter: Accelerate the Implementation of Agenda 2040 for an Africa Fit for Children.” The day reminds people of the roles an African child can play in changing society’s narratives. It also reminds every nation to renew its commitment to championing children’s rights against any form of discrimination and stigmatization.

Since 1991, the day of the African Child has been celebrated on June 16 every year to commemorate those killed during the Soweto Uprising on June 16, 1976. Hundreds were killed while marching as a way to demonstrate their disapproval of the Black Education Act, which segregated students based on their race. Due to the unprecedented pandemic of Covid-19, millions of children have undergone sexual, emotional, and physical abuse in Sub-Saharan Africa. This has been caused by economic instabilities, retrenchments, and poverty. Hence, many parents feel they have little or no alternative but to force their children to marry and operate on the streets which is not a solution.

Research shows that, of the 57 million primary school-age children currently out of school around the world, over half are from Sub-Saharan Africa. Though the present socio-legal system boasts of several constitutional mandates, international laws, and treaties, child protection laws are all in the best interest of serving children in its democracy and the world at large, it is with no doubt that the mandates are being violated because the elites are taking advantage of the marginalized innocent souls.

Moreover, children are seen surviving through the cold winds of neglect, and all kinds of misfortune and vile treatment. Every day they are seen with broken smiles that endure the painful kicking of their malnourished bellies protruding with dreams that may never see the light of conception. To help children, there is a need for a little kind word, a handful of promises, hearts of compassion, and smiles of hope.

The late anti-apartheid revolutionary and political leader, Nelson Mandela, once said, “There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way it treats its



Photo: Jussa Kudherezera

*(photo on page 16) I have no idea where I found this or who took it, but I think it’s so important that people in wealthy countries see what life is like in Africa and understand why so many of our African members are working to help empower women and girls and solve the climate emergency. It also explains why I’m working so hard to help people in Africa, if only by publishing their stories and photos. (above) Young girls carrying firewood in Zimbabwe.*

children.” Therefore, like the moon and the sun, children are worth more than gold, and like the stars in the sky, they are worth more than diamonds and silver. Our children are our wealth, ‘minerals’ that should be handled with care.

The Day of the African Child is also an opportunity to raise awareness of the ongoing need to improve the education of children living across Africa. It’s a need that still very much exists. There is a saying, “Investing in a child’s education is investing in a nation,” but the right to education of our children has been marginalized as inequalities in learning widen.

With the introduction of online learning, marginalized children have been disadvantaged because of insufficient resources. This era of the digital divide has drawn lines between the poor and the elite. Therefore, with the Zimbabwean situation and the new curriculum of education for sustainable development, children should have their rights considered.

Moreover, for the betterment of our children, let’s abide by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were put forth by the United Nations. These SDGs include no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, clean water and sanitation, gender equality, reduced inequalities, and peace- and justice-strong institutions that advocate for children’s rights.

At this juncture, MAYA alludes that generosity smiles at children, inside a child is embedded so many gifts and possibilities that the community needs to encourage. A child is not a force to be reckoned with, but a light that radiates and touches so many lives and changes them for the better. Day of the African Child, therefore, gives children the opportunity to hold their government leaders to account.

Posted at: [https://hi-in.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1262989777452532&id=599494193802097](https://hi-in.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1262989777452532&id=599494193802097)



*Human Interest*



Photos Courtesy Rescue a Girl

*Trainers work with women and girls showing them how to make reusable sanitary pads. The Rescue a Girl Campaign in Nigeria also raises awareness to improve knowledge and practices of menstrual hygiene management, especially for local residents and schoolgirls.*

## Women in Nigeria Make Reuseable Sanitary Pads

By Idris Bilyaminu Ndasadu'Lau, Nigeria

In 2019, our Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Idris Bilyaminu Ndasadu'Lau, became interested in this issue based on research studies he had seen online. Many women and girls need pads, but they cannot afford them, which can often lead to girls not attending school, which can create for them a major disadvantage.

So, in 2020, Youth Awareness and Peace (YAPD4Africa) approved the Rescue A Girl campaign, which aimed to end the stigma and discrimination in women and girls due to their menstrual periods and also focus on adequate education, health, and gender equality from the grassroots level. In the same year, we outreached to schools and communities where we posi-

tively reached over 350 women and girls with free sanitary pads.

After our 2020 project report, we saw that donating sanitary pads is not the best solution to end period poverty and financial inequality around the world. We designed a sustainable solutions strategy to support these women and girls through reusable pads products, which are very affordable and also help in economic empowered to produce these materials and sell them. Our approach will be sustainable to end period poverty and increase available good health hygiene aids for women and girls.

Just recently, in 2021, we decided to push the sustainable solution to reality where we visited and trained almost 377 women and girls in different marginalized places. We also raised awareness to improve knowl-

edge and practices of menstrual hygiene management (MHM) especially for local residents and schoolgirls.

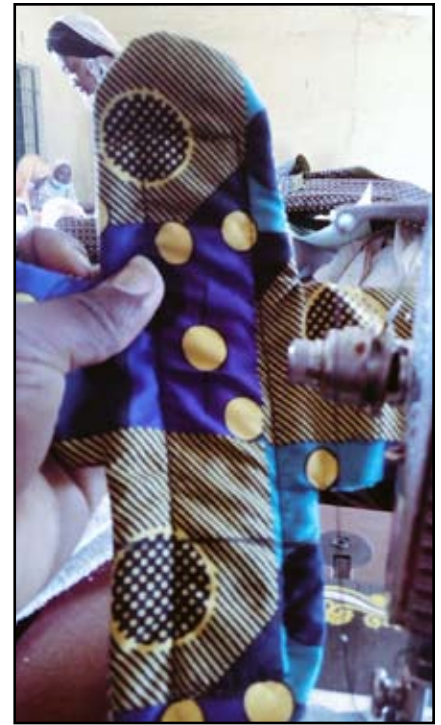
In conclusion, this project has successfully achieved and impacted minds of the trainee beneficiaries through enlightenment and empowering them to ensure MHM practices among women and especially schoolgirls. This project affects multiple areas across the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda including health, education, gender equality, and women empowerment.

Therefore, more investment and action are needed from policymakers, NGOs, and stakeholders to give special attention towards making community, workplace, and school a comfortable environment for

**Sanitary Pads** *continued on next page*

*Human Interest*

Sanitary Pads *continued from previous page*



The goal is to reach 2,000 women this year. This project has successfully achieved and impacted minds of the trainee beneficiaries through enlightenment and empowering them to ensure practices among women and especially schoolgirls. This project affects multiple areas menstrual hygiene management across the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda including health, education, gender equality, and women empowerment.

women and girls to manage their menstrual hygiene.

Kindly watch my effort; don't forget, feel free to share it with your family and friends to subscribe to the channel.

1. <https://youtu.be/Z8PHvKdO6vE>
2. <https://youtu.be/tNAYvfUaog>

Kindly donate to our Rescue A Girl project through this link:

ect through this link:

[https://shareyourself.org/project\\_detail/external/id/1042/activity/zkjkjxgz/share/1](https://shareyourself.org/project_detail/external/id/1042/activity/zkjkjxgz/share/1)

We are using ShareYourSelf as a transparency platform to call for everyone to support us to reach our goal this year!

Thank you all!

For more information, mail me directly

[bilyaminuidrisndasadulau@gmail.com](mailto:bilyaminuidrisndasadulau@gmail.com).

Thank you.

**Signed:** YAPD4Africa Board Members

**Email:** [yapd2020@gmail.com](mailto:yapd2020@gmail.com)

**Contact:** +2348167185897

**Twitter & Instagram:** @Yapd4Africa

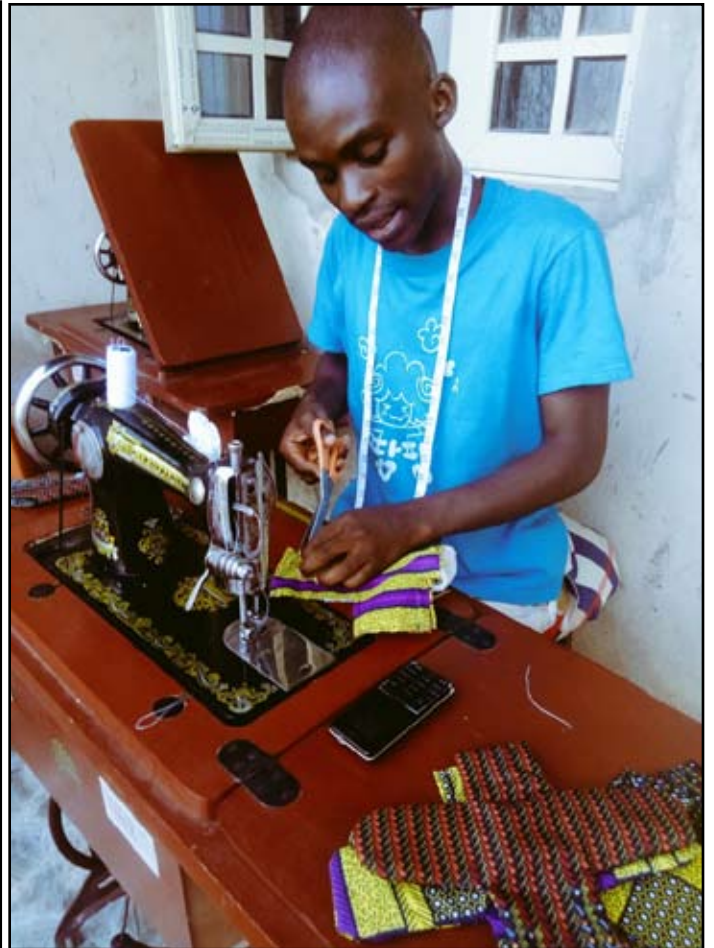
**WhatsApp:** +2348167185897

**Sanitary Pads** *continued on next page*



*Human Interest*

Sanitary Pads continued from previous page



Sanitary Pads continued on next page



*Human Interest*

Sanitary Pads continued from previous page



Sanitary Pads continued on next page



*Human Interest*

Sanitary Pads continued from previous page





*Human Interest*



Photo: Tinashe Muzama

Members of Manica Youth Assembly prepare to plant trees in honor of other young people who died from Covid. "Big holes make trees grow faster," wrote Jussa.

## By Planting Trees, Zimbabwe Youth Honor Other Youth Whose Lives Ended from Covid

By Jussa Kudherezera, Zimbabwe  
Coordinator, Manica Youth Assembly

Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA) celebrated World Environment Day with stakeholders from Marymount Teacher's College, ZimParks, and youths in marginalized communities under the theme "In Memory of the Youths who Passed on Due to Covid-19."

In a statement, ZimParks representative, Mr. Mashava, urged the youths to plant as many trees as they can for environmental conservation.

Moreover, Dean of Students for Marymount Teacher's College, Mrs. Matsongoni, said, "We urge people to plant trees as a way to mitigate climate change. We should develop a culture 'teach them young' thus encouraging children to be involved in tree

planting activities."

**Contact information:**

Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA)  
**Email:** manicayouthassembly@gmail.com  
**Phone:** +263772351138  
**Twitter:** @ManicaYouth  
**Website:** <https://manicayouth.org>  
**Posted June 5:** <https://twitter.com/berniceking/status/1244250013267570689>

**WE ARE TIED TOGETHER IN THE SINGLE GARMENT OF DESTINY, CAUGHT IN AN INESCAPABLE NETWORK OF MUTUALITY. AND WHATEVER AFFECTS ONE DIRECTLY AFFECTS ALL INDIRECTLY.**

~ Martin Luther King, Jr. ~

<https://twitter.com/berniceking/status/1244250013267570689>



*Human Interest*



Photos Courtesy ASE

**From Princito Kamundala Kitumaini:** *This Group is a Global support of true friendship for @Princito Kamundala Kitumaini and His Earth Repair Team in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Bikavu City. If we all join forces, we can recover wellbeing and natural abundance from the Heart of Africa. Utilizing Permaculture and in the Spirit of Umuntu.*

## Mes Réflexions Sur la Journée Mondiale de L'environnement

**Note from the Editor:** *One of our Board members suggested we publish something in French so here we go. At press time, we didn't have an English translation. If you'd like to apply for the volunteer job of translating stories from French to English, I would be delighted to have you on board.*

By Prince Kitumaini Kamundala, DR Congo  
Action for Environment Care and Business and  
Ecosystème Management

### ANALYSE ENVIRONNEMENTALE

Actuellement, le volume de déchets produits par chaque ménage ne cesse d'augmenter. Ils envahissent l'environnement et sont un fardeau pour la société. Comme la plupart des déchets sont dégradables, le cas des plastiques ne sont pas et sont la source de pollution dans le pays qui est présent sous forme de:

\* pollution directe, car les plastiques, lorsqu'ils sont dans des décharges non contrôlées, sont portés par le vent et s'accrochent aux végétaux, bouchent des dalles ou des canaux et paysage;

\* pollution indirecte, car la combustion de ces déchets plastiques provoque une pollution de l'air en émettant produits toxiques; et si ces plastiques sont enterrés avec les déchets biodégradables dans le sol, ils sont imperméables et empêchent les gaz inflammables de s'échapper ce qui augmente la risque d'incendie ou d'explosion.

Aussi, la valorisation des déchets plastiques pour la fabrication de matériaux de construction locaux, à savoir tuiles, briques et pavés autobloquants, c'est-à-dire que le recyclage des matériaux est sans doute le plus efficace en termes de valeur ajoutée environnementale.

Le recyclage matière d'un kg

d'emballages plastiques mixtes réduit la production de gaz à effet de serre de 0,95 kg d'éq. CO<sub>2</sub>

Il économise également du matériel (par exemple de l'huile).

### CONCLUSION

Les études menées dans le cadre de ce travail nous ont permis de démontrer qu'il est possible d'améliorer déchets plastiques pour la fabrication de matériaux de construction locaux tels que tuiles, briques et pavés autobloquant.

En effet, après une étude bibliographique sur les plastiques, l'étude, la conception de matériaux pour fabrication de matériaux, nous avons effectué des tests de production de matériaux à l'échelle pilote. Tentatives

Email: princekitumaini7@gmail.com

Phone: + 243892435588, + 243974595199

*Human Interest*

## **Bright Green Lies: How the Environmental Movement Lost Its Way and What We Can Do About It**

By Derrick Jensen, Lierre Keith, and Max Wilbert, excerpt pages 45-47

We are long out of time to break through our cultural denial about this fact: No technology is neutral.

\* \* \*

*We have written this book because life has been broken and is now fast draining away through the cracks. The cultures that have done that breaking need to be abandoned and their ruling sociopaths dethroned. Make no mistake, this will require a serious and dedicated resistance movement. It will also require an unsentimental understanding of which human activities constitute that breaking,*

...Because of encouragements (read: subsidies and propaganda) to go green – albeit a perverse shade of green – the use of biomass and biofuels has exploded over the past 30 years. In 1990, biofuels accounted for about a quarter of 1 percent of Germany's electricity generation, and most of that came from burning wastes from other forms of processing (essentially sawdust, agricultural wastes, and so on). By 2015 biofuels in Germany had increased 35 times. As of 2020, biomass accounts for about 60 percent of EU renewable energy production.<sup>36</sup>

There obviously isn't enough waste material to burn, so up has gone the percentage of land devoted to "biofuels." As energy analyst Robert Wilson states, "The production of bio-energy is also now a significant form of land-use in Germany. According to official statistics a total of 2 million hectares (5 million acres) is devoted to crop-based biofuels. This is 17 percent of arable land and approximately 6 percent of total land in Germany."<sup>37</sup>

Forests in the United States, Canada, South Africa, Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, Norway, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and many other countries are being felled to feed Europe's demand for biofuels. There are dozens of huge pulp mills just in the southeastern United States exporting 100 percent of this biomass to Europe. The wetland forests located in the Southern states are right now being "drained, logged, burned, shipped across the Atlantic, and converted to monoculture pine plantations."<sup>38</sup> Somewhere between 50 and 80 percent of Southern wetland forests is already gone. Let that settle in before you take on the next horror: The Southern wetland forests area is being logged four times faster than the South American rainforests

– the term "logged" serving as a nice ellipsis of the devastation. The Southern Coastal Plain is a designated bio diversity hotspot, which means there are creatures who live there and nowhere else. Losing these individual creatures' lives is bad enough, but at risk are entire species because they have nowhere else to go.

For instance, the Florida yew, a small evergreen tree, is critically endangered because its home is a 15-mile length of the Apalachicola River. That's all they've got, and once it's gone, so are they. Also endangered is the Southeastern American Kestrel, the smallest falcon in North America. Their lives depend on red-cockaded woodpeckers, who are built for hollowing out nest cavities. Raptors are not, so the kestrels need the woodpeckers' abandoned nests.

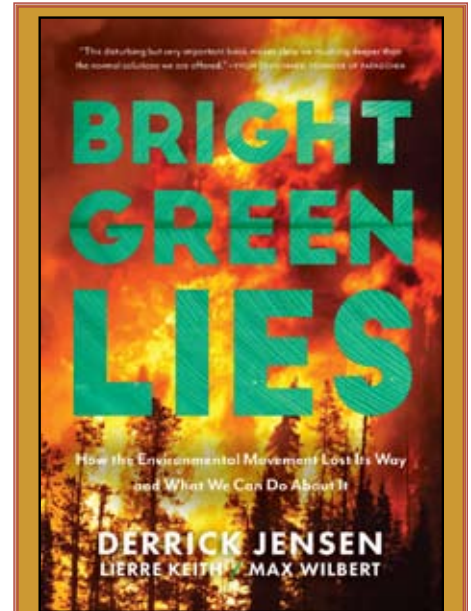
This is just one example of the mutual dependence that aggregates – everywhere, always – into life as a whole. It goes without saying that the logging of the Apalachicola River also endangers the red cockaded woodpecker and longleaf pines.

Last in this elegiac sample is the gopher tortoise. The tortoise digs burrows that are 40 feet long and 10 feet deep. That is extraordinary enough, but there's more: Nearly 400 other species depend on those burrows. Four hundred other mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects cannot survive without the protective cover created by the tortoises who are now critically endangered.

These relationships of give-and-take, need-and-help, feed-and-be-fed are what create the whole. To scale up a phrase: An insult to one is a permanent injury to all, with insults as catastrophic as an entire biotic community pelleted, shipped to Europe, and burned.

This is the magnitude in time and numbers. This forest has been an ancient refuge since the Pleistocene. The biological diversity is "virtually unparalleled in North America."<sup>38</sup>

There are 190 tree species in the Southern Coastal Plain, with 27 endemic plants and animals. Beneath the trees, there are "3,417 species of native herbaceous and shrub species, and among the highest levels of endemism found in North America"<sup>38</sup>; and the forest is lush with "reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, and mammals"<sup>38</sup> who exist nowhere else and are barely hanging on. They are our kin – our fragile, wondrous, desper-



We cannot continue to wallow in hedonistic consumption and industrial expansion and survive as a species. The environmental debate, Jensen argues, is, because of them, distorted by hubris and the childish desire by those in industrialized nations to sustain the unsustainable. All debates about environmental policy need to begin with honoring and protecting, not the desires of the human species, but the sanctity of the Earth itself. We refuse to ask the right questions because these questions expose a stark truth – we cannot continue to live as we are living. To do so is suicidal folly.

**Purchase: \$26.95 via PayPal or \$25.95 check or money order at <https://derrickjensen.org/purchase/#bright-green-lies>, email [derrick@derrickjensen.org](mailto:derrick@derrickjensen.org).**

ate kin – and right now environmentalists would have them reduced to pellets while calling their slaughter "green." . . .

### Footnotes:

<sup>36</sup> Saul Elbein, "Europe's renewable energy policy is built on burning American trees," Vox, March 4, 2019.

<sup>37</sup> Robert Wilson, "Biomass: the hidden face of the Energiewende," *Energy Post*, May 14, 2014. These 2 million hectares produce only 2 percent of Germany's energy, which Robert Wilson points out is "a remarkably inefficient use of land."

<sup>38</sup> Rachel Fritts, "Why are America's wetlands being destroyed in the name of renewable energy?" *Pacific Standard*, June 14, 2018



*Human Interest*

**BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN SHARED VALUES**

**AUGUST 19, 20, 21, 2021**  
Zoom and YouTube

Join an international interfaith conference bringing humanity together!

**BUILDING HUMAN SOLIDARITY IN THE LIGHT OF POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL LETTER, "FRATELLI TUTTI"**

## Virtual International, Interfaith Conference: Bringing Humanity Together

### OUR VISION

Our conference will draw upon the experience of people from diverse religious, cultural, and economic backgrounds who are developing new ways to transcend many of the divisions that are afflicting the human community and our common home on planet Earth. We plan to engage global citizens to build transformative models of community development that bridge economic, political, religious, and cultural divisions in the world.

### OUR MISSION

We will examine the types of community-building activities that have successfully translated the hopeful message of *Fratelli Tutti* into actualizing educational strategies that build communities promoting new

bonds among diverse social, cultural, and religious groups in various parts of the world. We plan to use the latest technological platforms to publish the outcomes and recommendations of this conference.

The central hub of the conference will be located at Tangaza University in Nairobi, Kenya with other hubs in Rome, Indonesia, and California. There will be no charge to participate but donations are welcome.

Watch a 35-second video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8La7IHLQ7A>.

### HERE ARE THE HUBS

- The Institute for Interreligious Dialogue and Islamic Studies
- Global Ministries University
- UIN (State Islamic University) Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

### OUR PARTNERS

- Umma University
- The Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns
- The Harmony Institute
- The Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI)

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Honorable Jerry Brown, Former Governor of California.



(Paid ad)

*Human Interest*

## Grassroots Coalition Member Publishes Book

### *Revelation and Healing: A Father and Son Reunion*

By Morgan Zo-Callahan

Not just a tale of pain, although there is pain, nor one of easy resolution, although there is eventual closure, this book recounts the author's slow journey from an adoption that left him longing for his biological mother and wondering about his biological father.

Discovering, while in high school, his mother's identity, years later he found that of his biological father, Lionel Durand, a Black man born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Suddenly the author realized the source of his own immediate empathy with Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights movement he led.

Recovering painfully from his years of estrangement and loss, the author shares the often-shocking details of his adoption and the therapies that brought him healing, therapies helpful not only to adoptees but to all who need healing from emotional suffering and losses of all kinds.

With a heart "stretched large" by his own experience, the author has traveled to El Salvador and Mexico to accompany the many there who are suffering from collective trauma, poverty, and discrimination, victims of systemic injustice, wounded yet unbowed.

Finally, with filial admiration, the author traces the life of his beloved father, Lionel Durand, an internationally acclaimed newsman and journalist, who fought in the French Resistance during World War II, and whose struggles for peace and justice mirror those of our own day.

Welcome to this reading journey and its wondrous surprises!

Available at Amazon.com: 257 pages, paperback \$18.00, Kindle \$7.95;  
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0976276FC>.

(Paid ad)

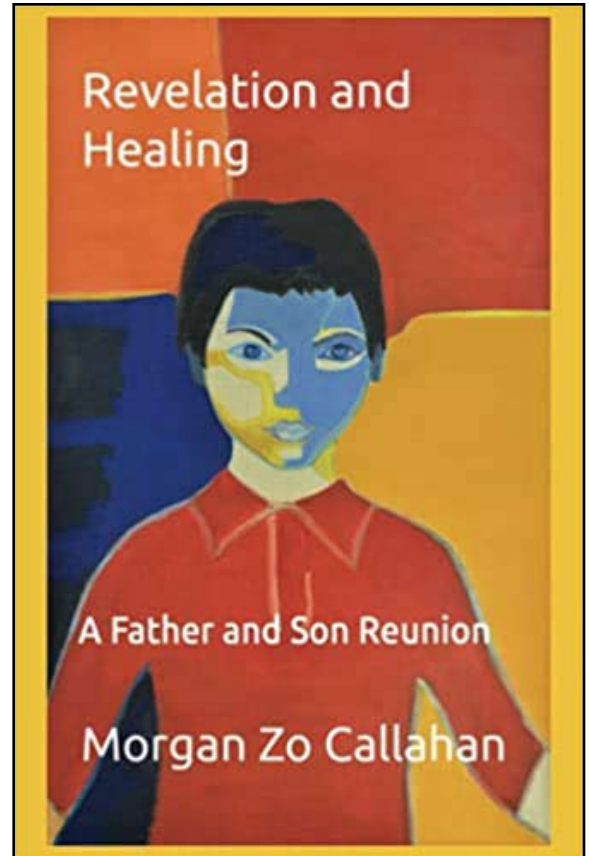


Photo by Iona





## Fundraising With Mary Kay Business

Iona's Mary Kay business helps support her work on this newspaper. Mary Kay® Eye Shadow Quad, which includes matte and shimmer shades that can complement everyone, allows for looks from blushing to bold. Plus, both quads fit nicely in the Mary Kay Perfect Palette® (sold separately). Available in Warm Pinks and Cool Pinks. Her personal website is [www.marykay.com/IonaConner](http://www.marykay.com/IonaConner).

Thank you for your support!

# Consumer Liberation

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

**Our Slogan: The way forward: cycle back to basics.**

*Email Iona at [groundswellnews@pa.net](mailto:groundswellnews@pa.net) and she will put you on our email list. "Every new one makes us stronger," sings Pete Seeger.*



## Groundswell News

Our beautiful journal will inspire and encourage you. Learn more at [www.groundswellnews.org](http://www.groundswellnews.org). Email [groundswellnews@pa.net](mailto:groundswellnews@pa.net) to be put on our e-list. \$30 per year if you can afford that. Pay with PayPal using [groundswellnews@pa.net](mailto:groundswellnews@pa.net) or mail to the address on page 2. A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. Photo <https://www.google.com/search>

## Groundswell News Now Accepting Ads

Please consider placing your ad with us. Send me your material at [groundswellnews@pa.net](mailto:groundswellnews@pa.net) and pay what you feel is reasonable, depending on how much space your ad needs. If your ad requires some of my time to create it for you, there will be an extra charge. If you can afford \$50 for half a page and \$100 for a full page, that will be wonderful.

*Thank you.*



*Remember your dreams.*



## Messages from Our Friends

(For many, English is not their native language.)



Wonderful to know the ad is showing again even if there is no place to contact yet. I think you know I enjoy *Groundswell* immensely. I sit for a long time with every issue.

I am so grateful for you and what you do in our world!

**Marita Grudzen**, California USA

**Hey Raj,**

My apologies for the delay on this but I wanted to add my congratulations for your recent remarkable efforts on World Environment Day.

As a matter of interest, did you have time to sleep on those days? :))

Anyway, I sincerely appreciate your dedicated and engaged efforts on so many vital and interrelated issues. Genuinely inspirational!

Warmest regards,

**Robert Borrowes**, Australia

Thanks for sharing. The edition was very informative. Thanks for including my poem.

**Jeannette Bartelt**, Maryland USA

**Dear Iona,**

Another great edition of *Groundswell News* on June 12th! I was happy to see that Joanie submitted an article on the long campaign for justice for the youth, Juliana vs. U.S. promoted by Our Children's Trust.

Big congratulations to you for speaking at the World Environment Day on June 5. You are truly an amazing person, and I admire your energy and commitment.

You definitely have a lot going on. Your work with African individuals and groups on climate is outstanding.

Thinking of Africa, I still have fond memories of meeting Wangari Maathai in Kenya at a climate conference in 2006, and she signed her book *Unbowed*, in a very long line. She started the Green Belt movement in Kenya which has planted many thousands of trees, and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, died in 2011.

Hope all is well.

**Tyla Matteson**, Virginia USA

I just wanted to say hello and thank you so much for the article on Jim's class (as well as the many other wonderful articles you publish)! You are making such a valuable contribution to these conversations.

Very best wishes,

**Adam Sacks**, Biodiversity for a Livable Climate

Hope you are well and enjoying NJ.

I have a great READ for you. *The World-Ending Fire* by Wendell Berry. I think you will find Mr. Berry's poetic books most satisfying.

**Jim Fennen**, Pennsylvania USA

**Hello Iona,**

Congratulations for the great job and thank you for including us in your newsletter's front page. God bless you.

**Ngo Banfogha**, Cameroon (Hope For a Better Future)

Thanks for the amazing work and let's keep contributing to humanity. Cheers to our generation for the impacts.

**Hanson Gonsia Blayon**, Liberia

[first email after monthly Grassroots Coalition Zoom meeting]

**Hello mommy,**

Thank you so much for this moment and I really appreciate your kindness always. Here is our project for 2021 efforts, I am still thinking on how to raise more money to train other beneficiaries this year.

Your son,

**Idris Bilyaminu Ndasadu'Lau**, Nigeria.

[second email]

Hello everyone, hope you had a very resting moment after our Zoom meeting. It's Idris from Nigeria, I want to share my Rescue A Girl project YouTube channel to you.

Kindly watch my effort; don't forget, feel free to share it with your family and friends to subscribe to the channel.

1. <https://youtu.be/Z8PHvKdO6vE>

2. <https://youtu.be/tNAYvfvUaog>

I will also share the pictures to you very

soon. Anyone interested to support or donation kindly reach me through my email at [bilyaminuidrisndasadulau@gmail.com](mailto:bilyaminuidrisndasadulau@gmail.com)

Please watch and subscribe, thank you!

**Idris**

[third email]

**Hello everyone,**

Attached are my project pictures in Nigeria. So far, we are able to train 377 trainee beneficiaries and distributed free reusable pads to them.

I am so hopeful to reach 2,000 women and girls especially in slum places, IDP camps, and rural secondary schools.

I believe these reusable pads will help a lot of vulnerable women and girls because many of them can't afford sanitary pads, meaning while we are also empowering them with a new innovation and economic independence.

Please feel free to ask questions and if you're interested to donate or raise funds to us kindly let me know as soon as possible, it will help a lot of vulnerable communities I scope out for our field work as soon I get more funds to continue the project, thank you.

You can also reach me through social media handles as follows:

**Facebook:** Idris Bilyaminu Ndasadu'Lau

**Twitter:** @ActivistNdasadu

**Instagram:** @Yapd4Africa

Much love to you all, smiling.

Your lovely friend & son,

**Idris**, Nigeria (See his story on pages 19-23)

**Hello Dearest Iona Conner,**

I hope you are doing well, please Our city of Goma in DR Congo, we have been victims of a Volcano eruption. We would like to get in contact with *Groundswell News* and see how to mobilize emergency aid grants to support humanitarian relief operations, including water, shelters, Food, Non-Food Items, etc. for thousands of people who are fleeing their homes in Goma city during the night after a large volcano eruption. The "Mount Nyiragon-

**Messages continued on next page**



Messages continued from previous page



Photo: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-57215690>

Lava destroys houses after DR Congo volcano erupts. See article, "Mount Nyiragongo: DR Congo residents flee as volcano erupts" at <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-57215690>.

go: DR Congo residents flee as volcano erupts" article is at <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-57215690>.

I hope you can get us good contacts (grants or funds) to support these emergency assistance efforts.

We are advocating works for children, pregnant women, elders, others vulnerable victims of volcano eruption of May

22, 2021 here in Goma, DRC. Our group, AJVDC Green Brigade, is working as volunteers to reunite the lost children with families, advocating for humanitarian assistances for needy, health services access, ... About 5,000 households have lost houses and every things, 12,000 hectares (nearly 30,000 acres) of crops farms has burned, we are calling international solidarity

to help 300 vulnerable children who are still looking for their families to get food, clothes, cooking items, education items...

Best regards,

**Leon Simwerayi**, DR Congo (See pages 11 and 12)

AJVDC Green Brigade / Congo  
[www.ajvdc.com](http://www.ajvdc.com)

## Photos from Goma City Volcano



Photos: Leon Simwerayi

From Iona:  
I really don't think these pictures need captions, though the one on the bottom of the next page is a damaged latrine. Just imagine yourself in this position, open your heart to these suffering people, and if you can afford to make a donation, please do! Remember that American dollars go a long way in Africa.





**EXTEND  
THE CIRCLE  
OF "US" TO  
INCLUDE AS  
MUCH OF  
THE WORLD  
AS YOU  
POSSIBLY  
CAN.**

~ Rick Hanson  
~  
<https://gratefulness.org/word-for-the-day/extend-the-circle-of-us-to-include-as-much-of-the-world-as-you-possibly-can/>