



**Just Now**

*a toolbox  
for teaching  
human rights*

# **Environmentalism**

JustNow timeline cards set

The “JustNow – A Toolbox for Teaching Human Rights” project is focused on the development of methodological-didactical materials relating to human rights education, combined with simulation games and diversity learning in non-formal and formal youth educational work.

**This timeline cards set focuses on environmentalism and global climate activism, covering some key milestones, leading figures, events, legislation and organizations active in this domain. They can be used in history or civic education, or in other non-formal education settings. It is advised that educators supplement the cards with local examples.**

The cards were created using images and information researched online, with sources noted on the back of the cards. The cards are created for exclusively non-profit educational purpose and use, in classrooms or non-formal educational settings.

Created by: JustNow project team

The content of these materials does not reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Responsibility for the information and views expressed in the materials lies entirely with the author(s).



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Environmentalism

## Categories Overview

### Key Terms & Concepts

Definitions of key terms in the domain of environmentalism

### Scandals & Disasters

Instances and examples of climate change disasters and scandals

### Culture

Movies, art exploring environmentalism topics

### Laws & Treaties

Laws, treaties, conferences on climate change

### Organisations

Notable organisations in climate change activism

### Actions

Actions and solutions contributing to counteract climate change

### Notable Individuals

Notable environmentalist individuals, activists, scholars

## Overview of all the 'Environmentalism' cards

Key Terms & Concepts	Notable Individuals	Culture	Laws & Treaties	Scandals & Disasters	Organisations	Actions
Global Warming	Greta Thunberg	"Inconvenient Truth" documentary	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	#ExxonKnew	Greenpeace	Carbon Sequestration
Climate Change	Rachel Carson	Don't Look Up movie	Kyoto Protocol	Climategate	World Wide Fund for Nature	Universal Declaration of Rights of Mother Earth
Animal Extinction	Winona LaDuke	Soylent Green	Paris Agreement	Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Scandal	Zero Hour	Going vegetarian or vegan
Greenhouse gases	Henry David Thoreau	2040	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	Floods in Pakistan	Climate Action Network	#nofuturenochildren
Ocean acidification	Chico Mendes	Cree Indian prophecy	Fashion Charter	Wildfires	Earth Justice	"3Rs" (reduce, reuse and recycle)
Environmental Policy	Jane Goodall	"I Don't Believe in Global Warming" Banksy	European Climate Law	Colony collapse disorder	Fairtrade International	Reducing Your Carbon Footprint
environmentalism	David Attenborough	Eco-fiction	COP26 & the Glasgow Climate Pact	Pandemic in the Time of Climate Change	Client Earth	Earth Day

THE CLIMATE IS  
CHANGING



SO SHOULD WE!

#ACTNOW

# Kyoto Protocol

## 1997

Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is an international treaty that aimed to reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses that contribute to global warming. It was the first major international effort to slow down global climate change, named after the Japanese city where it was adopted on December 11, 1997. It became international law on February 16, 2005.

The Protocol mandated only 37 industrialized nations and the EU countries. EU, for example, pledged to reduce the emissions by 8%, U.S. by 7% and Canada by 6% by 2012. More than 100 developing countries, including China and India, were only asked to comply voluntarily. Developing countries participated by investing in projects designed to lower emissions in their countries. They were rewarded for that with carbon credits which they could sell to developed countries which would, according to the treaty, be penalized in case of higher emissions.

Since 1997, 191 countries signed the treaty. Japan, New Zealand and Russia left after the first round of targets, the US never ratified the agreement, and some countries, like Canada, withdrew from it.



Don't  
Look **UP**

# Don't Look Up

## 2021

“We have exactly 6 months, 10 days, 2 hours, 11 minutes, and 41 seconds, until a comet twice the size of Chicxulub tears through our atmosphere and extinctions all life on Earth.” – Kate Dibiasky

Don't Look Up, a dark environmental comedy, written and directed by Academy Award winner Adam McKay and starring Jennifer Lawrence, Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett and Meryl Streep (to name a few), is a story of two astronomers who have no choice but to go on a large media tour to warn mankind of an approaching comet (a metaphor for climate crisis) that will destroy planet Earth.

“The movie Don't Look Up is satire. But speaking as a climate scientist doing everything I can to wake people up and avoid planetary destruction; it's also the most accurate film about society's terrifying non-response to climate breakdown I've seen.” (Peter Kalmus is a climate scientist and author of Being the Change: Live Well and Spark a Climate Revolution: [www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/dec/29/climate-scientist-dont-look-up-madness](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/dec/29/climate-scientist-dont-look-up-madness))



GREENPEACE®

Image: Roberta F., Greenpeaceov brod Arctic Sunrise u Rijeci CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons  
Text: [www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/about-us/the-greenpeace-fleet/](http://www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/about-us/the-greenpeace-fleet/)

# Greenpeace

## 1971

Greenpeace is the largest environmental organization and global campaigning network in the world, with an international membership of over 3 million and offices in over 40 countries. It was founded in 1971 in Canada by two American environmentalists, Dorothy and Irving Stowe.

For more than 50 years Greenpeace activists “defend the natural world and promote peace by investigating, exposing, and confronting environmental abuse, championing environmentally responsible solutions, and advocating for the rights and well-being of all people.”

“We want to live on a healthy, peaceful planet. A planet where forests flourish, oceans are full of life and where once-threatened animals safely roam. Where our quality of life is measured in relationships, not things. Where our food is delicious, nutritious, and grown with love. Where the air we breathe is fresh and clear. Where our energy is as clean as a mountain stream. Where everyone has the security, dignity and joy we all deserve. It’s all possible. We can’t make it happen alone, but have no doubt: We can do it together.”

([www.greenpeace.org/international/explore/about/about-us/](http://www.greenpeace.org/international/explore/about/about-us/))



# Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Scandal

## 2015

In September 2015 Volkswagen shares plummeted 40 % in only two days. The reason was colloquially named “Dieselgate” and it involved so-called “defeat devices”, i.e., emissions software that could detect when they were being tested (by the EPA in the US, for example) in order to change the performances and show better results by artificially lowering nitrogen oxide emission readings.

The shortest possible timeline of the scandal goes like this: “In 2014, the University of West Virginia researchers discover that certain VW diesel cars emit up to 40 times the permissible levels of harmful nitrogen oxide when tested on the road. In September the next year, the US Environmental Protection Agency accuses VW of duping diesel emissions tests using so-called “defeat devices”. Days later Volkswagen admits installing software designed to reduce emissions during lab tests in 11 million diesel engines worldwide. On September 23, 2015, the CEO Martin Winterkorn steps down but insists he knew nothing of the scam.” (<https://www.rfi.fr/en/business-and-tech/20210610-dieselgate-fraud-timeline-of-a-scandal>)

Since Volkswagen didn’t install the “cheating” emissions software only in the US, but also in the UK, Italy, France, South Korea, Canada and, of course, Germany, they had to open their investigations as well. As a result of the emissions scandal, VW recalled 8.5 million cars in Europe, including 2.4 million in Germany and 1.2 million in the UK, and 500,000 in the US. Numerous lawsuits followed. For example, Volkswagen has agreed to pay £193 m to settle 91,000 legal claims in England and Wales linked to the scandal.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN  
GLOBAL WARMING  
GLOBAL WARMING

I DON'T BELIEVE IN  
GLOBAL WARMING

Image: Maggie Jones (2009), Banksy "I don't believe in global warming" [www.flickr.com/photos/maggiejones/4208214963](http://www.flickr.com/photos/maggiejones/4208214963)

Text: <https://banksyexplained.com/subject-to-availability-2009/>

# **“I Don’t Believe in Global Warming” by Banksy**

## **2009**

Just before Christmas 2009, Banksy, the famously anonymous street artist (and climate change activist), whose works have sold for hundreds of thousands of euros, spray-painted the words depicting classic climate denial statement "I DON'T BELIEVE IN GLOBAL WARMING" in red capitals on a wall beside Regent's canal in Camden, north London. The positioning of the text gave the impression of rising water levels (the words are disappearing below the water).

This piece of street art was inspired by the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, where scientists hoped to fight global warming by producing a new international treaty to lower greenhouse gas emissions but, sadly, failed to produce a legally binding climate agreement.

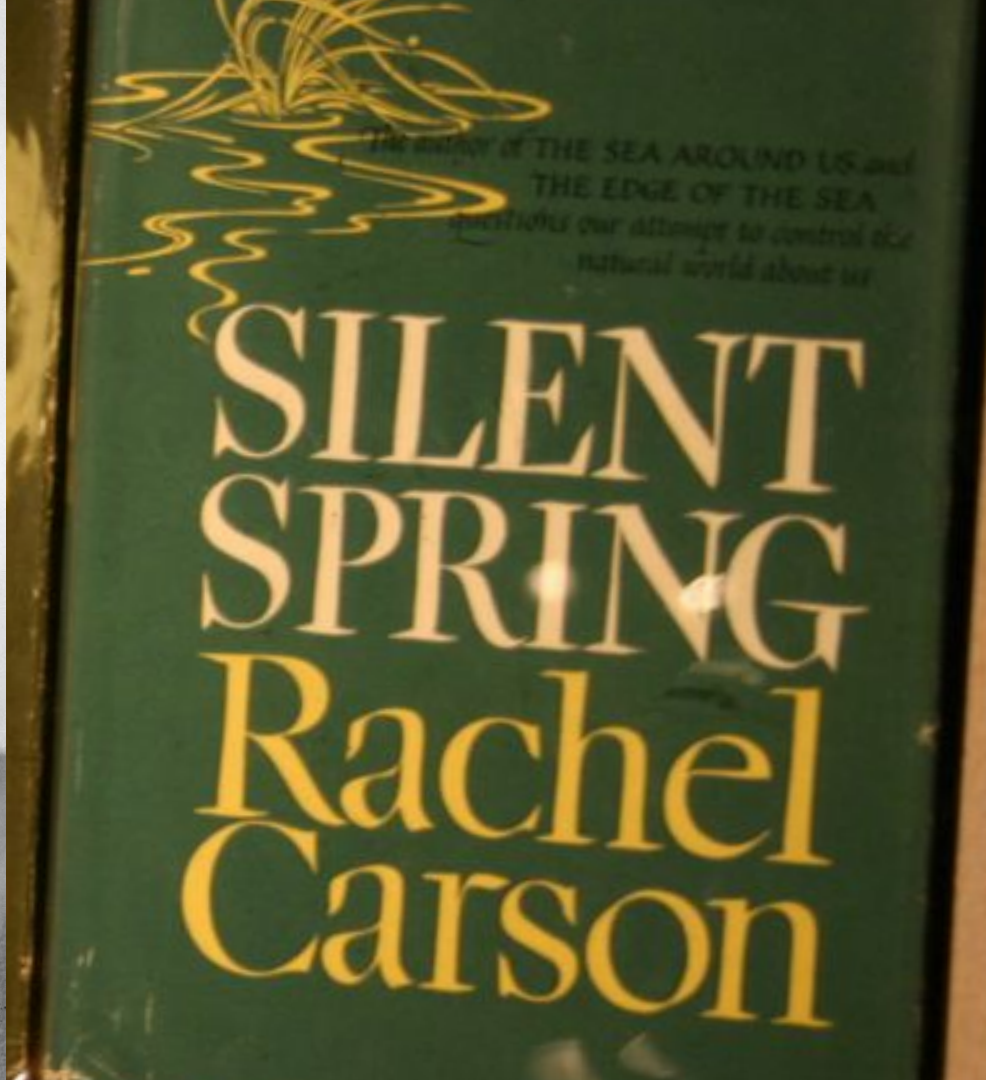


Image: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rachel Carson (1944), Wikimedia Commons / Ryan Somma (2009), Flickr

Text/Quote source: Navan Atlas, 2023, [www.literaryladiesguide.com/author-quotes/27-quotes-from-silent-spring-by-rachel-carson/](http://www.literaryladiesguide.com/author-quotes/27-quotes-from-silent-spring-by-rachel-carson/)

# Rachel Carson

## 1907 - 1964

Once described as a “scientist poet of the sea”, Rachel Carson, a marine biologist and nature writer, is generally considered to be one of the pioneer environmentalists and the first person to create awareness against the use of pesticides.

Her 1962 classic “Silent Spring” launched the environmental movement. The special value of the book is the fact that it is a great scientific writing aimed at creating environmental awareness amongst the masses. Writing about the dangers of chemical pesticides, the book led to a nationwide ban on DDT and other pesticides and, ultimately, to the creation of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

“How could intelligent beings seek to control a few unwanted species by a method that contaminated the entire environment and brought the threat of disease and death even to their own kind? Yet this is precisely what we have done. We have done it, moreover, for reasons that collapse the moment we examine them.”



Image: Photo by Renzo D'souza on Unsplash

Text: NASA/JPL-Caltech <https://climate.nasa.gov/global-warming-vs-climate-change/> and <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/global-warming-101>

# Global Warming

Scientists generally agree that the Earth's average surface temperature has risen by  $0.07^{\circ}\text{C}$  every decade since 1880. To make things worse, the rate of temperature change has grown significantly more dramatic over time—more than doubling to  $0.18^{\circ}\text{C}$  since 1981. In other words, the world got warmer by about  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$  since pre-industrial times.

People had long suspected that human activity (industrialisation) could affect and even change the climate. But the first Swede ever to get the Nobel Prize (for chemistry in 1903), a physicist Svante Arrhenius, was the first person to come up with the idea that by burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gasses) we add carbon dioxide to the Earth's atmosphere thus raising the planet's average temperature. Later on, an American scientist Charles David Keeling confirmed and demonstrated (by recording carbon dioxide at the Mauna Loa Observatory) that the quantity of human-caused carbon dioxide emission is more than enough to cause the global warming.

Together with burning fossil fuels, cutting down forests and farming livestock are today considered to be the main contributing factors for causing the air pollutants to collect in the atmosphere and absorb sunlight and solar radiation that have bounced off the Earth's surface, trapping the heat and causing our planet to get hotter.



**Only after the last tree has been cut down.  
Only after the last river has been poisoned.  
Only after the last fish has been caught.  
Only then will you find that money cannot be eaten.**

**— *Cree Indian Prophecy***

**Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs,  
but not every man's greed.**

**— *Mahatma Gandhi***



# an inconvenient truth

A GLOBAL

WARNING

# An Inconvenient Truth

## 2006

“Humanity is sitting on a time bomb. If the vast majority of the world’s scientists are right, we have just ten years to avert a major catastrophe that could send our entire planet’s climate system into a tail-spin of epic destruction involving extreme weather, floods, droughts, epidemics and killer heat waves beyond anything we have ever experienced- a catastrophe of our own making.

If that sounds like a recipe for serious gloom and doom — think again. From director Davis Guggenheim comes the hit, *An Inconvenient Truth*, which offers a passionate and inspirational look at one man’s commitment to expose the myths and misconceptions that surround global warming and inspire actions to prevent it. That man is former Vice President Al Gore, who, in the wake of defeat in the 2000 election, re-set the course of his life to focus on an all-out effort to help save the planet from irrevocable change. In this eye-opening and poignant portrait of Gore and his “traveling global warming show,” Gore is funny, engaging, open and downright on fire about getting the surprisingly stirring truth about what he calls our “planetary emergency” out to ordinary citizens before it’s too late.”

In 2007 *An Inconvenient Truth* won the Best Documentary Feature Oscar and Al Gore, together with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, won the Nobel Peace Prize for “informing the world of the dangers posed by climate change”.



Image: National Portrait Gallery, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

texts: Illustration by Eric Nyquist, Kathryn Schulz (2015) [www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/10/19/pond-scum](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/10/19/pond-scum)

L. M. Sacasas (2012), <https://thefrailestthing.com/2012/07/13/what-would-thoreau-do/>

# Henry David Thoreau

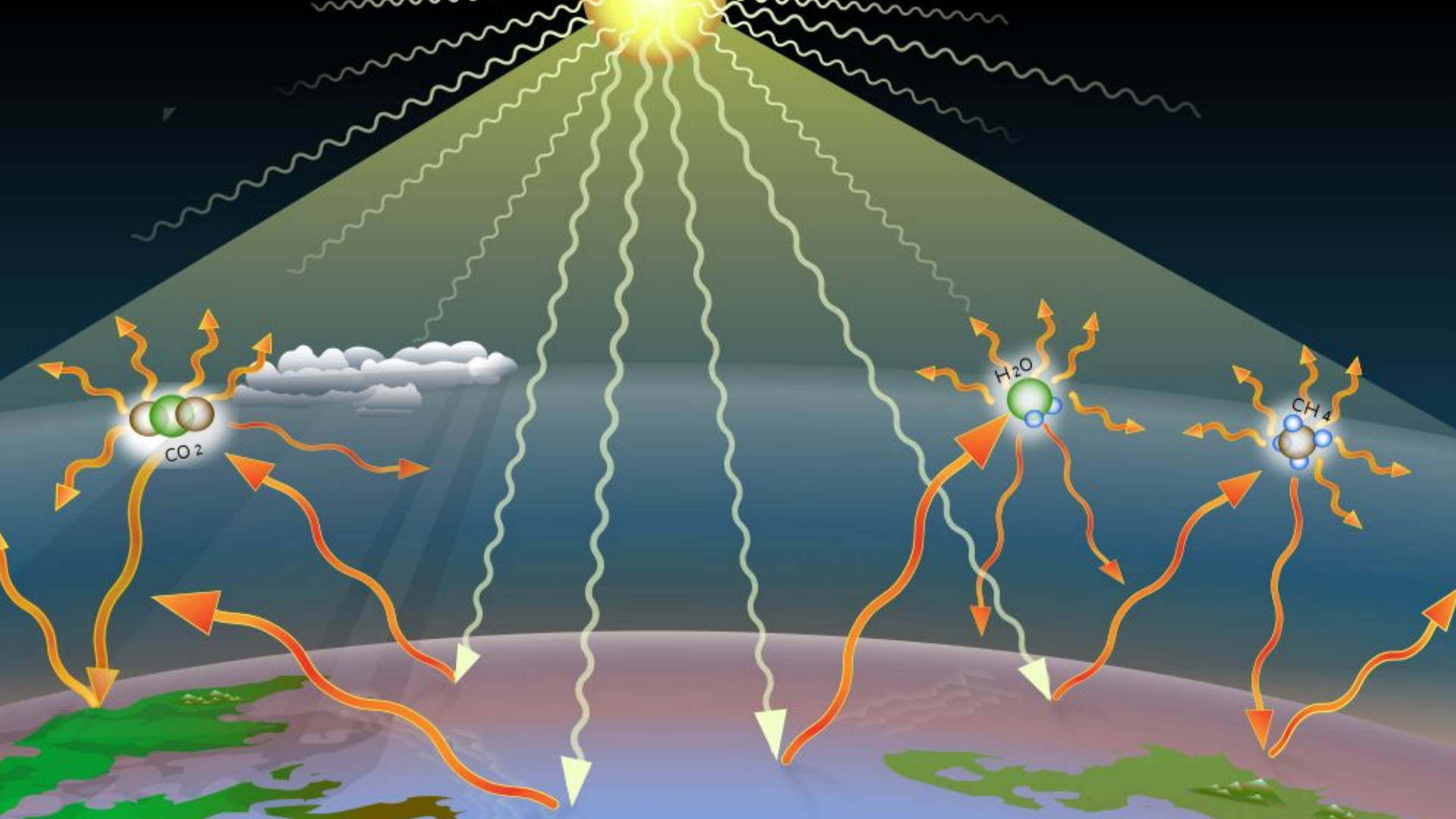
## 1817 - 1862

“Thank God men cannot fly, and waste the sky as well as the earth” is a statement made long time ago by Henry David Thoreau, a poet, nature writer and philosopher. He was the author of famous “Walden”, or “Life in the Woods” (1854, very important piece of nature writing) and “Civil Disobedience” (1849, essay-invitation to fight unjust laws and resist wars and slavery).

“Thoreau laid the foundation for modern-day environmentalism. He articulated a philosophy based on environmental and social responsibility, resource efficiency, and living simply that is as inspiring now as it was then. He believed that to live a good life we must keep the wild intact.”

(Sam Hananel, 2011 [www.americanprogress.org/article/its-easy-being-green-happy-birthday-henry-david-thoreau/](http://www.americanprogress.org/article/its-easy-being-green-happy-birthday-henry-david-thoreau/))

If you like games, we suggest this multi-award-winning simulation of Thoreau’s Walden Pond experiment: [www.waldengame.com](http://www.waldengame.com): “Players follow in his footsteps, surviving in the woods by finding food and fuel and maintaining their shelter and clothing. At the same time, players are surrounded by the beauty of the woods and the Pond, which hold a promise of a sublime life beyond these basic needs. The game follows the loose narrative of Thoreau’s first year in the woods, with each season holding its own challenges for survival and possibilities for inspiration.”



# Greenhouse Gases

“Greenhouse gas is any gas that has the property of absorbing infrared radiation (net heat energy) emitted from Earth’s surface and reradiating it back to Earth’s surface, thus contributing to the greenhouse effect.

Carbon dioxide, methane, and water vapour are the most important greenhouse gases. (To a lesser extent, surface-level ozone, nitrous oxides, and fluorinated gases also trap infrared radiation.)

Greenhouse gases have a profound effect on the energy budget of the Earth system despite making up only a fraction of all atmospheric gases.

Concentrations of greenhouse gases have varied substantially during Earth’s history, and these variations have driven substantial climate changes at a wide range of timescales. In general, greenhouse gas concentrations have been particularly high during warm periods and low during cold periods.”

([www.britannica.com/science/greenhouse-gas](http://www.britannica.com/science/greenhouse-gas))



Image: Photo by Mika Baumeister on Unsplash

text: United Nations (2016), [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/04/parisagreementsingatures/](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/04/parisagreementsingatures/)

# Paris Agreement

## 2016

Also called Paris Climate Agreement or COP21, the Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties on 12 December 2015 and entered into force a year later. Its goal was to limit greenhouse gas emissions to levels that would stop global warming, that is, prevent temperatures from increasing to well below 2°C, preferably to 1.5 °C, compared to pre-industrial levels.

All governments agreed to track progress in a transparent and accountable manner, report about it as well as to meet every five years to assess the progress.

In addition, “individual cities, other subnational authorities, civil society, the private sector and others were recognized as an important contributing factors and invited to scale up their efforts and support actions to reduce emissions; build resilience and decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change; uphold and promote regional and international cooperation.”

([https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/international-action-climate-change/climate-negotiations/paris-agreement\\_en](https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/international-action-climate-change/climate-negotiations/paris-agreement_en))

Fun facts: the only two sovereign countries that didn't want to sign the Agreement were Nicaragua and Syria (Nicaragua later changed its mind, but other Gulf countries joined Syria). By September 2022, 194 countries have ratified it. Finally, the US withdrew from it during the President Trump's time in office, only to be readmitted as soon as President Biden came into power.



Image: Miranda Smith, Miranda Productions, Inc., on Wikimedia Commons

Text: Yatharhmag, 2021, <https://yatharhmag.com/2021/12/27/environmentalism-without-class-struggle-is-gardening/>

# Chico Mendes

## 1944-1988

One of the most iconic environmental activists of the 20th Century, Brazilian Francisco Alves Mendes Filho, “became an ecologist long before he had ever heard the word”.

Together with his fellow rubber-tappers, he founded the Rural Workers’ Union and the Xapuri Rubber Tappers Union. He fought for the preservation of Amazon rainforest as well as for the rights of local peasants and indigenous people. Their peaceful resistance against exploitation and deforestation consisted of forming human chains in front of bulldozers in order to prevent logging.

Unfortunately, he made a lot of enemies among landowners and constantly received death threats. He was killed in December 1988 by cattle ranchers angered by his efforts to stop them exploiting land in the Amazon jungle. At only 44 he became a powerful symbol of the struggle to save the rainforest. Since 1988, around 1000 activists have been killed in Brazil alone.

“Environmentalism without class struggle is gardening.”



# Soylent Green

## 1973

Loosely adapted from Harry Harrison's novel "Make Room! Make Room!", *Soylent Green* is a 1973 American ecological dystopian sci-fi thriller film directed by Richard Fleischer, and starring Charlton Heston, Leigh Taylor-Young, and Edward G. Robinson.

The plot follows a murder investigation in a dystopian future of dying oceans and constant humidity caused by the greenhouse effect. Cities are densely populated, as people can't live in the countryside anymore due to air pollution. They are starving, with fruits, vegetables and meat available only to the richest, while others have to live on "high-protein green wafers made of soybeans and seawater", called 'Soylent Green'. In New York City of the future (the movie is set in 2022), the NYPD detective Robert Thorn (Charlton Heston) investigates the murder of an executive at rations manufacturer Soylent Corporation, uncovering that the 'Soylent Green' wafers are made of human flesh.



Image: Porapak Apichodilok (2016), Pexels

Text: [www.news18.com/news/lifestyle/earth-day-2022-things-you-can-do-to-help-save-planet-5025793.html](http://www.news18.com/news/lifestyle/earth-day-2022-things-you-can-do-to-help-save-planet-5025793.html)

# Earth Day

## 1970 - present

Every year on April 22, the world marks Earth Day to celebrate its environmental diversity and highlights ways of protecting it. It all began more than 50 years ago, when a United States senator from Wisconsin, Gaylord Nelson, organized a nationwide demonstration and rallies to raise awareness about environmental issues. By the end of the same year, the U.S. government had created the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). And by 1990, Earth Day became a global event celebrated in more than 140 countries.

“Growing out of the first Earth Day in 1970, [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org) is the world’s largest recruiter to the environmental movement, working with more than 150,000 partners in over 192 countries to drive positive action for our planet. Their mission is to diversify, educate and activate the environmental movement worldwide.”

You are invited to make our world a happier and healthier place to live by celebrating Earth Day every year by taking part in or organizing activities like picking up litter and planting trees.



Image: Photo by Nathan Dumlao on Unsplash

Text: [www.peta.org.uk/blog/how-going-vegan-helps-stop-climate-change/](http://www.peta.org.uk/blog/how-going-vegan-helps-stop-climate-change/)

# Go Vegetarian/Vegan

According to [www.peta.org](http://www.peta.org), here are the top 10 reasons “to go veggie”:

- 1 It's the Best Way to Help Animals
- 2 Slim Down and Become Energized
- 3 Be Healthier and Happier
- 4 Vegan Food Is Delicious
- 5 Meat Is Gross
- 6 Help Feed the World
- 7 Save the Planet (carbon footprint of meat production)
- 8 All the Cool Kids Are Doing It
- 9 Look Sexy and Be Sexy
- 10 Pigs Are Smarter Than You Think



TIME IS RUNNING  
OUT!

Image: Photo by Tobias Rademacher on Unsplash

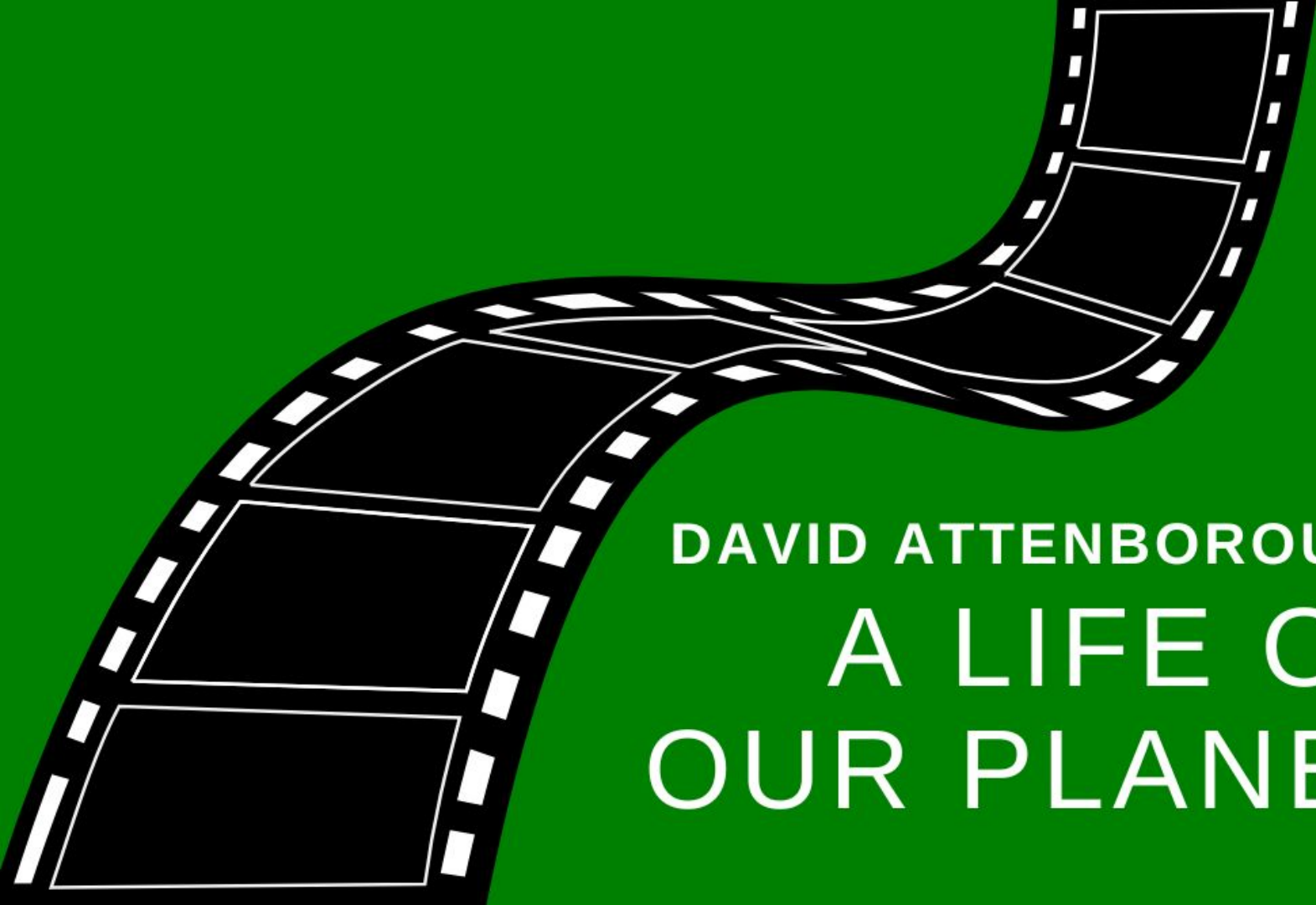
Text: NOAA, [www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/climate/climate-change-impacts](https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/climate/climate-change-impacts)

# Climate Change

Climate is the average weather typical for a certain place, observed for a longer period of time . When those weather conditions start to show significant long-term shifts in temperature and expected patterns – it is time to talk about the Climate Change. Over time, human activity (burning fossil fuels, cutting down forests and farming livestock) alone caused climate changes related to the Earth's temperature (global warming) and air quality (pollution) resulting in horrific consequence.

“According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, established by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization in 1988, the long-term effects of global warming would include a general rise in sea level around the world, resulting in the inundation of low-lying coastal areas and the possible disappearance of some island states; the melting of glaciers, sea ice, and Arctic permafrost; an increase in the number of extreme climate-related events, such as floods and droughts, and changes in their distribution; and an increased risk of extinction for 20 to 30 percent of all plant and animal species.” [www.britannica.com/event/Kyoto-Protocol](https://www.britannica.com/event/Kyoto-Protocol)

The list goes on: higher levels of air pollution, new pests, increased growth of pollen-producing ragweed, more allergies, worse asthma-related symptoms, infectious disease outbreaks, mosquito infestations (WHO predicts 250 000 additional deaths from dengue, malaria and other climate-sensitive diseases from 2030 onward)...



DAVID ATTENBOROUGH  
A LIFE ON  
OUR PLANET

Image: Kreisau-Initiative e. V. (2024)

Text/Quote: [www.wwf.org.au/news/blogs/10-best-nature-quotes-from-sir-david-attenborough](https://www.wwf.org.au/news/blogs/10-best-nature-quotes-from-sir-david-attenborough)

# Sir David Attenborough

## 1926 -

In 2021, at the age of 95, Sir David Attenborough, an English broadcaster, biologist, natural historian and environmental advocate, has been named a Champion of the Earth by the UN's Environment Programme because of his lifelong commitment to telling stories about the natural world and climate change. Namely, Sir David helped invent the genre of natural history or wildlife documentary as we know it today. Some of his most famous works include the BBC's Natural History Unit, including documentaries such as Life on Earth, the Living Planet, Our Planet and Our Blue Planet.

“The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it.”



REDUCE

+



REUSE

+



RECYCLE

=



FOR A  
HAPPIER EARTH

Image: SAM---tan (2013), <https://www.deviantart.com/sam---tan/art/HAPPY-EARTH-DAY-2013-367155346>

Text: <http://sustainabilitychallenge2016.weebly.com/3r---reduce-reuse-recycle.html>

# 3Rs - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” are the three 'R' words important for sustainable living. They remind us that by introducing small changes to our lives, we can cut back on the amount of trash we generate.

Here are just some of the tips: only buy what you need; choose products with less packaging; buy in bulk; refill a water bottle at home; update your computer; ditch plastic bags in favour of reusable ones; print on both sides of the paper; avoid using disposable plates, spoons, glass, cups and napkins; avoid buying items that are over-packaged with foil, paper, and plastic; reuse old jars and pots, old jeans or t-shirts or any clothes; donate old books, clothes; build your own compost bin; visit second-hand shops; buy products that have been made from recycled materials...

And, always remember that “the greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.” (Robert Swan, <https://harmony1.com/recycling-sustainability-quotes/>)

The iconic cyclic logo of arrows (on the right) representing the 3Rs concept was designed in the 2000s by an engineering student Gary Anderson.

Listen to the song dedicated to this concept: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1mFymbRmv4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1mFymbRmv4)





GREEN  
NEW  
DEAL  
NOW

Farmers and  
Ranchers for a  
Green New Deal



GREEN  
NEW  
DEAL  
NOW

SUNRISE  
MOVEMENT

# European Climate Law

## 2021

In December 2019, the European Commission presented the “European Green Deal” - EU climate and energy strategy to gradually reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs and growth, address energy poverty, reduce external energy dependency, improve people’s health and wellbeing, etc. The ultimate goal of the Deal would be achieving climate neutrality of the European Union by 2050.

In March 2020, Commission decided to reaffirm their commitment by putting 2050 climate neutrality target into binding legislation. The European Climate Law was published in the Official Journal on 9 July 2021 and entered into force on 29 July 2021.

The Regulation requires Member States to take appropriate steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels) in order to achieve complete climate neutrality in the European Union by 2050, i.e. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050.

*from the director of*  
**THAT SUGAR FILM**  
DAMON GAMEAU



2040

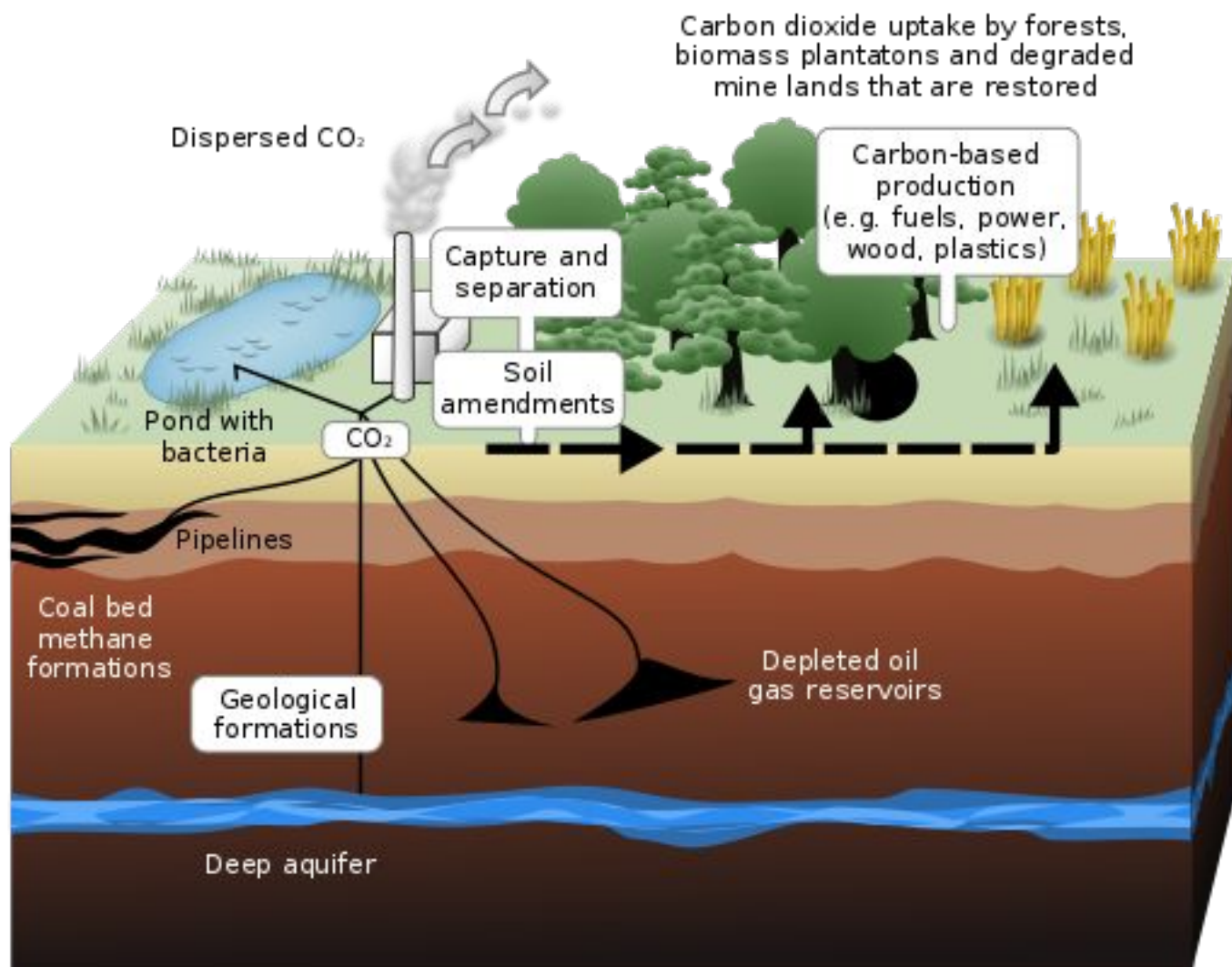


# 2040 2019

“Award-winning director Damon Gameau (That Sugar Film) embarks on a journey to explore what the future could look like by the year 2040 if we simply embraced the best solutions already available to us to improve our planet and shifted them rapidly into the mainstream. Structured as a visual letter to his 4-year-old daughter, Damon blends traditional documentary with dramatised sequences and high-end visual effects to create a vision board of how these solutions could regenerate the world for future generations.”

(<https://theregenerators.org/2040/>)

“The first step is to put a cap on where we’re at now, and work with all of these organizations to shift their finances towards initiatives that can start regenerating the planet. That’s phase one. Phase two might look like a wellness model, so instead of measuring success by GDP, we bring in other things we value—environmental wellbeing, mental wellbeing, equality, whatever it might be—and we measure our success using those markers instead. Some countries, like Bhutan, are doing that already. Examples of ways we can curtail the system already exist.” (<https://adventure.com/2040-damon-gameau-seaweed-interview/>)



# Carbon Sequestration

Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide in a carbon pool. It's recognised as a key method for removing carbon from the earth's atmosphere.

It is important, since almost half of the CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by humans usually remains in the atmosphere thus causing global warming. Carbon sequestration can prevent that.

There are two basic forms of carbon sequestration: biological and geological. It also happens naturally in the environment. Forests, soils and oceans are considered some of the best forms of biological carbon sequestration; and when the carbon is stored as underground formations or rocks - geological.

Talking about capturing carbon started in the 1920s. The first plant was proposed in 1938, the first real project happened in Texas in 1972 and 24 years later, Norway launched the world's first integrated carbon capture and storage project in the North Sea, known as Sleipner.

Today, there are 43 large-scale commercial carbon sequestration plants globally, capturing more than 30 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> every year.

# No future, No children.

More than

5137

people have pledged so far

TAKE THE PLEDGE

I PLEDGE NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN UNTIL I AM SURE MY GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE A SAFE FUTURE FOR THEM

# #NoFutureNoChildren

“My name is Emma Lim. I am 18 years-old, and I have always imagined I would be a mother. Even though I want to have children more than almost anything, I am pledging not to, until the government takes the climate crisis seriously.” (<https://www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/story/25327/no-future-no-children/>)

In 2019, a student at McGill University in Montreal launched a climate-change movement, that is, a platform called “#NoFutureNoChildren” where people could pledge not to have children until the policymakers (in her case Canadian) take serious steps towards combating climate change.

More than 10,000 young people took the pledge by 2020.



# Jane Goodall

## 1934 -

Dame Jane Goodall is a British ethologist (primatologist), known for her research on the chimpanzees of Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania. Today, she is considered to be the world's biggest expert on chimpanzees having spent a large part of her 60-year-long career studying them.

She became interested in nature and animals as a child, having many pets and reading Tarzan and Dr.Doolittle. Her dream was to travel to Africa and work with wild animals. As soon as she got the chance (and had some money saved), she pursued her childhood dream. In 1960 she established a camp in Tanzania where she could observe chimpanzees noticing, for example, that they are omnivores (not vegetarians), capable of showing compassion and making and using tools and waging wars (like humans). In 1966 she earned Ph.D. from Cambridge University. Besides studying and observing primates, she was also interested in conservation, activism and mentorship.

"The least I can do is speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves."

"Change happens by listening and then starting a dialogue with the people who are doing something you don't believe is right."



Image: Photo by Hannah Morgan on Unsplash

Text sources: <https://hmgroupp.com/news/hm-group-joins-the-fashion-industry-charter-for-climate-action/>  
<https://unfccc.int/blog/everything-you-wanted-to-know-about-the-fashion-charter>

# Fashion Charter

## 2018

The Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action was launched in December 2018, at COP24 (the UN Climate Change Conference) in Katowice, Poland, where brands, suppliers, NGOs and other industry associations sat down together to develop a climate action agenda for fashion. Involving the fashion industry came as no surprise, considering the estimation that between 2 and 4 % of global greenhouse gas emissions can be contributed to the industry's long supply chains and energy intensive production (causing fashion to consume more energy than the aviation and shipping industry combined).

In short, the priority of the Fashion Charter became the reduction of emissions in the industry by 30% by 2030. Any company (a brand, a retailer or a supplier) professionally involved in this sector can sign the charter and actively participate in achieving that goal by following the agenda and its guidelines.

More than 130 companies have joined the Charter since it was set up, including Burberry, H&M Group, VF Corporation, adidas, Kering, Chanel, Nike, and PUMA...



# Environmentalism

“Environmentalism is a movement and ideology that aims to reduce the impact of human activities on the earth and its various inhabitants. The movement has evolved to build resilience towards the effects of global climate change, in order to build a society capable of adapting to a rapidly changing earth and finding sustainable ways to live in it. Civic environmentalism adopts a global, regional and local role of advocacy, awareness and education through participation and collective action. The countries and people that have done the least to contribute to climate change are the ones that will be most affected by its devastating effects-- and we see this already everywhere around the world.” ([www.learningtogive.org/resources/environmentalism](http://www.learningtogive.org/resources/environmentalism))

Here is a list of the “17 Environmentalists You Should Know”:

John Muir, Rachel Carson, Edward Abbey, Jamie Margolin, George Washington Carver, Aldo Leopold, Winona LaDuke, Henry David Thoreau, Julia Hill, Theodore Roosevelt, Chico Mendes, Penny Whetton, Gifford Pinchot, Maathai, Gaylord Nelson, Hilda Lucia Solis, David Brower.”

(Read the article at: [www.treehugger.com/environmentalists-you-should-know-1709040](http://www.treehugger.com/environmentalists-you-should-know-1709040) to find out why)



# World Wide Fund for Nature

## 1961

World Wildlife Fund, with its recognisable Giant Panda logo (which is a homage to Chi Chi, the first panda - endangered species - in the Western world, transferred from Beijing to London Zoo in 1958) is an international NGO present in over 100 countries which addresses environmental issues such as conservation and ecology. Its headquarters in Switzerland changed its name into World Wide Fund for Nature in 1985.

Their work is focused on six ambitious goals:

“Create climate-resilient and zero-carbon world, powered by renewable energy

Double net food availability; freeze its footprint

Conserve the world’s most important forests

Secure water for people and nature

Safeguard healthy oceans and marine livelihoods

Conserve threatened wildlife and wild places to sustain life on Earth” ([www.worldwildlife.org/about/](http://www.worldwildlife.org/about/))

In recent years the organization has been accused of serious crimes. Check out (for example) this article:

[www.bbc.com/news/world-47444297](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-47444297)



Image: New Matilda (2020), Kangaroo Island in South Australia, Wikimedia Commons

Text: Nick Baker (2021),

[www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/one-year-australia-s-devastating-wildfires-anger-grows-climate-change-n1256714](https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/one-year-australia-s-devastating-wildfires-anger-grows-climate-change-n1256714)

# Wildfires

Wildfires are defined as unplanned events involving fire which happen in a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or prairie. They are caused by human activity or a natural phenomenon such as lightning. Human-caused fires include wildfires started by discarding cigarettes, debris burning, railroads sparks, power lines, fireworks, campfires, accidental ignitions, and arson. It is estimated that up to 90% of all wildfires can be connected to human activity, especially in summer, because hotter weather makes forests drier and more susceptible to burning.

Unfortunately, besides setting intentional or accidental fires, humans are equally responsible for the climate change, in this case - rising temperatures, which evaporate more moisture from the ground and dry out the soil, making vegetation more flammable. At the same time, another aspect of climate change is the fact that winter accumulation of slow-melting packed snow is melting about a month earlier than it used to, meaning that the forests are drier for longer periods of time. If we add prolonged rain-free periods in the wildfire prone regions, we have a recipe for a disaster. And, due to global warming – it is getting worse by the year.

Here is a detailed (and horrifying) list of wildfire locations (by continent and country and the area affected/destroyed) in 2022 alone : [www.reuters.com/world/europe/wildfires-breaking-out-across-world-2022-07-19/](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/wildfires-breaking-out-across-world-2022-07-19/)



— 2024 —  
**TRIBAL**  
CLEAN ENERGY  
**SUMMIT**



Image: Photo by U.S. Department of Energy from United States, Public domain, on Wikimedia Commons  
<https://winonashemp.com/news/2019/10/28/indigenous-rights-and-climate-justice-leader-winona-laduke-urges-textile-industry-to-protect-the-earth-advocates-for-hemp-clothing>

# Winona LaDuke

## 1959 -

A Harvard graduate, Winona LaDuke is an internationally renowned environmentalist, economist, politician and author, but first and foremost, she is a Native American land rights activist working on issues related to climate change, Indigenous rights, human rights, green and rural economies, grass-roots organizing, local foods. She lives and works on the White Earth reservation in northern Minnesota where she founded the White Earth Land Recovery Project, one of the largest reservation-based non-profit organizations in the US and a leader in the issues of culturally based sustainable development strategies, renewable energy, and food systems.

LaDuke was also a two-time vice presidential candidate with Ralph Nader for the Green Party; and, in 2007, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

“Someone needs to explain to me why wanting clean drinking water makes you an activist, and why proposing to destroy water with chemical warfare doesn't make a corporation a terrorist.”

([www.inspiringquotes.us/author/6162-winona-laduke](http://www.inspiringquotes.us/author/6162-winona-laduke))



# Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) or Bee Genocide

Bees, undoubtedly the most important insects in nature, are responsible for about one-third of the food we eat and are in one way or the other connected to as far as 80% of the planet's resources. Most of human agriculture is dependent on bees to fertilize and pollinate their crops, fruits, vegetables. We need bees for our survival because, for example, a fruiting plant that we plant and grow won't have fruit without bees and pollination. A world without bees would simply be unsustainable and incredibly expensive, which is why the fact that for years now (since approximately 2006) honeybees around the world have been massively dying (we are talking millions, in some places up to 90% of loss in colonies), and no one knows why, is more than worrisome.

Scientists have narrowed down the list of culprits to the 4 Ps: parasites, pathogens, poor nutrition and pesticides – all easily linked to human activities and climate change.

“If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man.” - Albert Einstein

**Exxon**  
KNEW ABOUT  
**CLIMATE CHANGE**  
SINCE 1981.  
**DENIED IT ANYWAY**

→ OUR ←  
GENERATION  
← OUR →  
CHOICE

div  
inv  
divestu

Want  
9  
regenerative  
2000 2.9

Image: Johnny Silvercloud (2015), CC BY-SA 2.0, Wikimedia Commons

Text: [www.scientificamerican.com/article/exxon-knew-about-climate-change-almost-40-years-ago/](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/exxon-knew-about-climate-change-almost-40-years-ago/)

# #ExxonKnew

According to the <https://exxonknew.org/> website, ExxonMobil, the world's largest oil and gas company, "knew about climate change half a century ago. They deceived the public, misled their shareholders, and robbed humanity of a generation's worth of time to reverse climate change."

Namely, after eight months-long investigation, conducted in 2015, the Inside Climate News made a nine part series which described in detail how the Exxon's top officials had known since the late 1970s that its products cause global warming as well as everything about the climate change. Internal documents and interviews with former employees proved more than 40 years of company's misinformation campaign. The series was named a finalist for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service.

Check out the whole series at:

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/16092015/exxons-own-research-confirmed-fossil-fuels-role-in-global-warming/>

And here is ExxonMobil's response to the accusations:

<https://corporate.exxonmobil.com/sustainability/environmental-protection/climate-change/understanding-the-exxonknew-controversy#WhatIsExxonKnew>



# UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Rio de Janeiro 3-14 June 1992



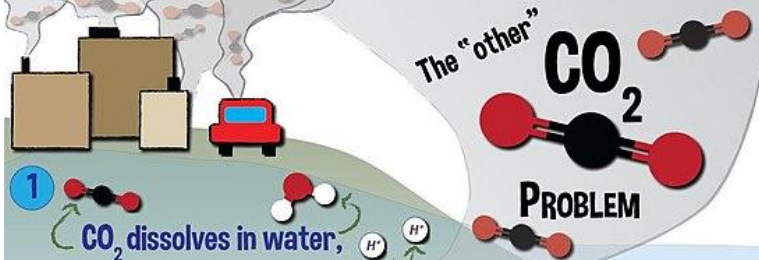
# UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

## 1992

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international environmental treaty negotiated and signed at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit, in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. It established a Secretariat headquartered in Bonn, Germany and entered into force on 21 March 1994. The 195 (now 198) countries that have ratified the Convention are called Parties to the Convention.

The UNFCCC's main aim was the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere “at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interferences with the climate system”.

The treaty assigned different responsibilities for three categories of signatory states, i.e., developed countries, developed countries with special financial responsibilities, and developing countries. Every year from 1995 the Parties to the Convention meet in Conferences of the Parties (COPs) to assess their progress.



# What is Ocean Acidification and why should we care?

**1** **CO<sub>2</sub> dissolves in water, releasing hydrogen ions (H<sup>+</sup>)**

carbonate **CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>**

**2** **H<sup>+</sup> and calcium (Ca<sup>2+</sup>) compete for carbonate**

bicarbonate **HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>**

calcium carbonate **CaCO<sub>3</sub>**

She chose me!

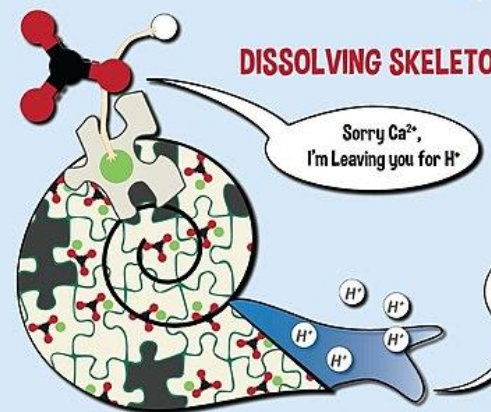
But I can't build skeletons w/o her!

**3** **The excess H<sup>+</sup> hogs the carbonate with disastrous consequences...**

**LIMITED BUILDING MATERIALS**



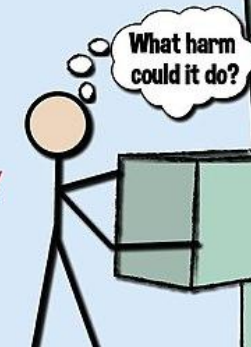
**DISSOLVING SKELETONS**



**WASTED ENERGY**



**ENTIRE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS**



# Ocean Acidification

Ocean acidification, which occurs when seawater absorbs CO<sub>2</sub>, lowers the pH of the ocean, making it harder for many marine animals like pteropods or shellfish (molluscs, crustaceans, sea-urchins, crabs and planktons) to build their shells and skeletons. Without proper shells and skeletal growth sea animals are unable to protect themselves from predators and diseases and coral reefs turn into rubble. More acidic water disrupts the ability of marine animals to breathe, grow and reproduce.

In short, everything is connected: burning fossil fuels leads not only to global warming and climate change, but, given the fact that oceans absorb about 30-50% of all human-produced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, to higher levels of CO<sub>2</sub> pollution in our oceans. Unfortunately, when CO<sub>2</sub> dissolves in salty seawater, it increases hydrogen ions. Those hydrogen ions then bond with carbonate ions to form carbonic acid. This leads to a lower ocean pH level which causes ocean acidification.

According to [www.oceana.org](http://www.oceana.org) more than one-third of the world's population live in 25 countries that will be most affected with ocean acidification. Japan ranks first as the most vulnerable, followed by France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Australia.

Here is a short video about the “Global Warming’s Evil Twin” - Ocean Acidification:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZGj0BbDT38](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZGj0BbDT38)



# Fairtrade International

## 1997

Fairtrade International is a non-profit organization founded in 1997 with one of the most recognizable sustainability labels in the world. Their main goal is to ensure better trade conditions for farmers and workers in developing countries through standards, certification, producer supports, programs and advocacy. There are over 1.66 million farmers and workers in 1.441 producer organisations in their system and over 30 000 products bear their logo.

“Choosing Fairtrade means standing with farmers for fairness and equality, against some of the biggest challenges the world faces. It means farmers creating change, from investing in climate friendly farming techniques to developing women in leadership.” ((<https://www.fairtrade.net/>)

Have this in mind next time you go shopping:

[https://vimeo.com/199811744?embedded=true&source=vimeo\\_logo&owner=12482548](https://vimeo.com/199811744?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=12482548)

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON  
climate change



# IPCC

## 1988

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body created to provide policy makers with regular scientific assessments, i.e., knowledge related to climate change. It consists of the UN member governments (195 at the moment).

“The IPCC prepares comprehensive Assessment Reports about the state of scientific, technical and socio-economic knowledge on climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for reducing the rate at which climate change is taking place. It also produces Special Reports on topics agreed to by its member governments, as well as Methodology Reports that provide guidelines for the preparation of greenhouse gas inventories.” ([www.ipcc.ch/about/preparingreports/](http://www.ipcc.ch/about/preparingreports/))

The IPCC shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former U.S. Vice-President Al Gore.

Check out the trailer for IPCC Sixth Assessment Report - “Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change”:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFSP-aoqzU4&t=29s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFSP-aoqzU4&t=29s)

SKOLSTREJK  
FÖR  
KLIMATET



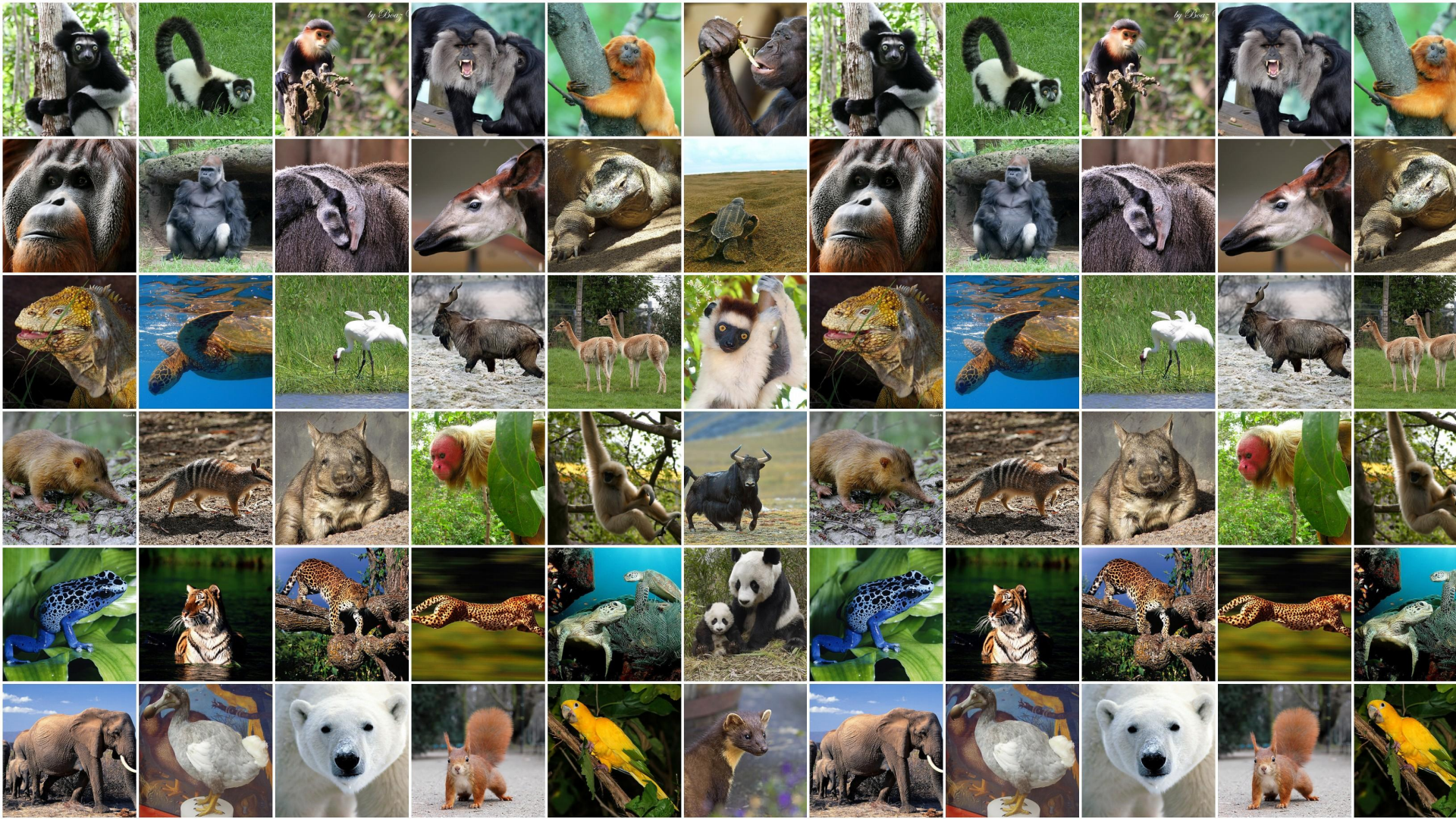
# Greta Thunberg

## 2003 -

"You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you?!"

Greta Thunberg (16), climate activist, at the UN's Climate Action Summit in New York City in 2019

Here is the rest of that famous speech of a young Swedish environmentalist to the world leaders:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAJsdgTPJpU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAJsdgTPJpU)



# Animal Extinction

An endangered species is an animal (or plant) that is threatened by extinction (death of all its members) due to catastrophic events, evolutionary problems or human interference (loss of habitat or development for example).

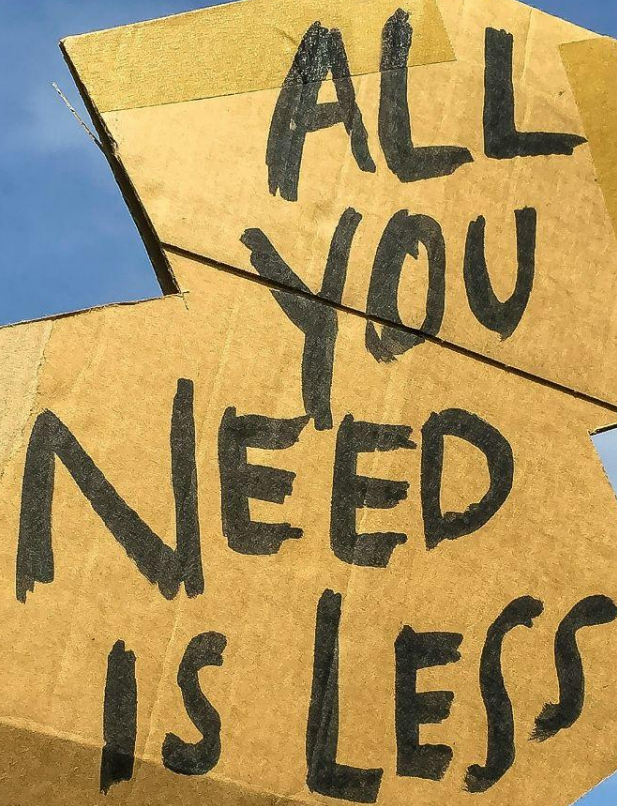
According to <https://ourworldindata.org/extinctions> “99% of the four billion species that have evolved on Earth are now gone.” So, the Dodo bird (see below), native to Mauritius, is indeed just a symbol of a human-induced extinction (~1690, due to over-harvesting, habitat loss and introduction of predators - pigs and cats).

“One of the most dramatic examples of a modern extinction is the passenger pigeon. Until the early 1800s, billions of passenger pigeons darkened the skies of the United States in spectacular migratory flocks. Easy to trap or shoot, passenger pigeons became a popular, cheap food. Commercial hunters killed them in vast numbers, eventually decimating the population. The last passenger pigeon, named Martha, died in the Cincinnati Zoological Garden in 1914, and was donated to the Smithsonian Institution.”

(<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/education/teaching-resources/paleontology/extinction-over-time>)

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) keeps a “Red List of Threatened Species” with seven categories/threat levels: least concern, near threatened, vulnerable, endangered, critically endangered, extinct in the wild, and extinct. ([www.iucnredlist.org/](http://www.iucnredlist.org/))





A protest sign made of cardboard, featuring the text "ALL YOU NEED IS LESS" written in black marker. The sign is mounted on a wooden stick and is positioned against a blue sky with scattered clouds. Green foliage is visible in the background on the left and bottom right.

ALL  
YOU  
NEED  
IS LESS

# Reducing Your Carbon Footprint

According to [www.britanica.com](http://www.britanica.com), carbon footprint is the “amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions associated with all the activities of a person or other entity (e.g., building, corporation, country, etc.)”.

In other words, countless choices we make every single day leave a mark on the environment because we can choose to “produce” more or less greenhouse gasses which affect our climate. Some of the greener options are suggested on the cover, but, if you want to be proficient in “carbon neutrality talk”, watch this short video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pPso2acew](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pPso2acew)

And here is just one of many available tools for assessing your own impact (to help you determine if you are carbon neutral, positive, negative...): [www.carbonfootprint.com/measure.html](http://www.carbonfootprint.com/measure.html)



# Pakistan Floods

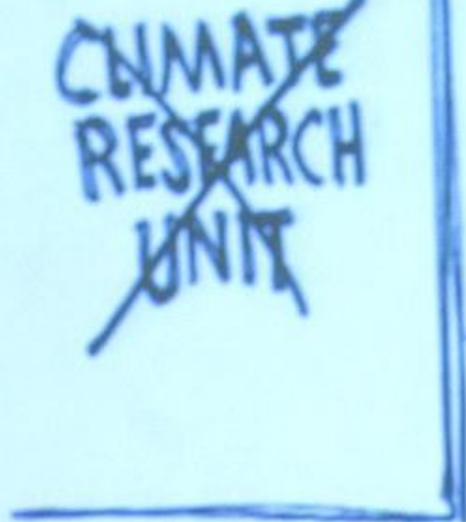
## 2022

From June to October 2022, torrential monsoon rains of great proportions caused the most severe flooding in Pakistan's recent history. The "climate catastrophe", as the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called it, washed away entire settlements, leaving millions of people homeless and prone to diseases and malnutrition.

"Hundreds of thousands of homes have been damaged or destroyed, while many public health facilities, water systems and schools have been destroyed or damaged. As the floodwaters have receded, the crisis has become an acute child survival crisis. Frail, hungry, children are fighting a losing battle against severe acute malnutrition, diarrhoea, malaria, dengue fever, typhoid, acute respiratory infections, and painful skin conditions as well as physical ailments, the longer the crisis continues, the greater the risk to children's mental health." (from the Pakistan Floods Appeal, issued by UNICEF, in November 2022)

Estimated losses according to [www.Reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com):

Deaths	At least 1,700 people
Displaced	7.9M people
People affected	33M people
Buildings destroyed	372,823
Affected area	At least 809K ha
Property damage	\$10-40B
Flooding depth	3.4 m



H. Payne  
©07



\* BURN THE



# Climategate 2009

The Climate Research Unit email controversy (or Climategate for short) from 2009 involves stealing and publishing more than 1,000 emails exchanged between scientists at the Climate Research Unit of the U.K.'s University of East Anglia by an unknown hacker. The event was exploited by the climate change skeptics and denialists who made claims that the emails demonstrated scientific misconduct which goes in favour of their theory that the man-made global warming is just a fabrication.

A fact-checking website proclaimed it unfounded, because: "The messages, which span 13 years, show a few scientists in a bad light, being rude or dismissive. An investigation is underway, but there's still plenty of evidence that the earth is getting warmer and that humans are largely responsible."



# **ACT NOW FOR CLIMATE & NATURE!**

**I'M BACKING THE  
CLIMATE & ECOLOGY BILL  
FOR A LIVEABLE FUTURE**

**ZERO HOUR** 

Image: <https://www.zerohour.uk/campaign-materials/>:

Text: [www.zerohour.uk/news](http://www.zerohour.uk/news)

# Zero Hour 2017

Zero Hour is an organized group of young people brought together by Jamie Margolin, Nadia Nazar, Madelaine Tew and Zanagee Artis in summer of 2017 with a mission “to center the voices of diverse youth in the conversation on climate and environmental justice. Zero Hour is a youth-led movement creating entry points, training, and resources for new young activists and organizers (and adults who support our vision) wanting to take concrete action around climate change. Together, we are a movement of unstoppable youth organizing to protect our rights and access to the natural resources and a clean, safe, and healthy environment that will ensure a liveable future where we not just survive, but flourish.”

Watch “How Teens started the Zero Hour Movement”: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z\\_j3eJXD09o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_j3eJXD09o)



# Pandemic in the Time of Climate Change

The health effects of climate change, according to [www.cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) include “increased respiratory and cardiovascular disease, injuries and premature deaths related to extreme weather events, changes in the prevalence and geographical distribution of food- and water-borne illnesses and other infectious diseases, and threats to mental health.”

It is a generally accepted estimate that air pollution represents the most severe form of environmental damage killing seven million people around the world every year. Furthermore, 9 out of 10 people breathe air that exceeds World Health Organisation’s guideline limits on pollutants.

Having that in mind, the following “ironic” fact (confirmed by the scientists) came as a “shock” when it was first published: the first official pandemic in the world “as we know it”, the COVID-19 one, caused the significant improvement in air quality in certain regions of the world in a matter of days. It turned out that due to numerous restrictions and limitations at the very beginning of the outbreak - industries, aviation, and other means of transportation stopped, resulting in noticeable reductions in air pollution, especially in countries severely affected by the virus, such as China, Italy, and Spain. Of course, memorable mentions go to working from home, online education and Internet shopping for playing their part in the swift reduction of carbon emissions.



Image: WangXiNa, Freepik

Text: Kathryn Newey, <https://kathrynrosenewey.com/environmental-fiction-save-earth/>

# Eco-Fiction

Often called “fiction with a conscience”, eco-fiction is a branch of literature which became popular roughly 50 years ago (together with environmental movements). Also called environmental fiction and cli-fi (climate fiction), books involve “what is now” and “what might be in the future” assessment of human impact on nature.

“The fertile earth, the straight tree rows, the sturdy trunks, and the ripe fruit. And children dying of pellagra must die because a profit cannot be taken from an orange. And coroners must fill in the certificate - died of malnutrition- because the food must rot, must be forced to rot. The people come with nets to fish for potatoes in the river, and the guards hold them back; they come in rattling cars to get the dumped oranges, but the kerosene is sprayed. And they stand still and watch the potatoes float by, listen to the screaming pigs being killed in a ditch and covered with quick-lime, watch the mountains of oranges slop down to a putrefying ooze; and in the eyes of the people there is the failure; and in the eyes of the hungry there is a growing wrath. In the souls of the people the grapes of wrath are filling and growing heavy, growing heavy for the vintage.”

[www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2931549-the-grapes-of-wrath](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2931549-the-grapes-of-wrath)

The Grapes of Wrath, a 1939 novel about the effects of the Dust Bowl (severe dust storms) on farming families in the US, is “the mother of all eco-fictions, a book that chronicles a man-made climate disaster before we knew what to call it.” [www.theguardian.com/books/2020/feb/12/top-10-books-of-eco-fiction](http://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/feb/12/top-10-books-of-eco-fiction) (Check out the rest of the list!)

# GENDER JUSTICE & CLIMATE JUSTICE

## THE #WORLDWEWANT



[www.climatenetwork.org/WorldWeWant](http://www.climatenetwork.org/WorldWeWant)

# Climate Action Network

## 1989

Founded in Bonn, Germany, the Climate Action Network - International (CAN) is a global non-profit and non-governmental network of over 1,800 environmental organisations in over 130 countries working to promote sustainable collective and individual action to limit human-induced climate change and achieve social and racial justice.

Their current European campaigns include: #EnergySuperheroes, Together for 100% Renewable Europe, Renewables Heating Campaign, Anti-Energy Charter Treaty, Europe Beyond Coal, Unify, Coalition for Higher Ambition ( <https://caneurope.org/campaigns/> )



I JUST TOOK  
A CO<sub>2</sub> TEST  
TURNS OUT  
I'M 100% DYING



ONLY 1  
FUTURE

I ❤️ MY  
MOTHER

We Must Rise  
Before The Tide  
Does

# Environmental Policy

According to the Glossary of Environmental Terms ([www.gdrc.org/uem/ait-terms.html](http://www.gdrc.org/uem/ait-terms.html)) an Environmental Policy is “a statement by an organization of its intentions and principles in relation to its overall environmental performance. Environmental policy provides a framework for action and for the setting of its environmental objectives and target.”

For example : “Disney is determined to please companies that have made it a giant by using zero net direct greenhouse gas emission policies within all its facilities. In addition, it is working at reducing the indirect greenhouse gas emissions through the reduction of electrical consumption. Disney also has a zero waste policy meaning that there is nothing that would end up in landfills. The entertainment giant also uses technology that saves water and is working on lowering the footprint of its product manufacturing and distribution. This is tied up to the company’s policy of having a net positive environmental impact that has made Disney a leader in environmental responsibility.”  
[www.smartcitiesdive.com/ex/sustainablecitiescollective/9-companies-great-environmental-initiatives/1193165/](http://www.smartcitiesdive.com/ex/sustainablecitiescollective/9-companies-great-environmental-initiatives/1193165/)



# **EARTHJUSTICE**

**BECAUSE THE EARTH NEEDS A GOOD LAWYER**

Image: Bernard Landgraf, CC BY-SA 3.0 , Wikimedia Commons

Image and text source: <https://earthjustice.org/> and <https://scroller.com/so-happy-otter-3hv3i7h26r>

# EarthJustice

They are a San Francisco based non-profit “in the business of building a better future.” They “go to court to defend the planet and its people” and they are doing it “free of charge”. (<https://earthjustice.org/>) Their 190 lawyers work with over 500 clients. Here is just one example of a case from their website:

“California sea otters — once thought to be extinct — are now swimming free and towards a full recovery. On behalf of the Humane Society and other clients, we defended the end of the ill-advised “No Otter Zone,” which excluded otters from parts of their coastal habitat. The case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which allowed the decision to stand by declining to review the appeal.”

“We are here because the earth needs a good lawyer.”





WELCOME  
TO GLASGOW  
HOME OF  
COP26

# COP 26 & the Glasgow Climate Pact 2021

COP26 (or the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties, i.e. meeting of members, of the 'United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change'(UNFCCC) was held in the UK (every year host is a different country, in 2022 it is Egypt) at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow from 31 October – 13 November 2021.

## Successes at COP26:

1. Green finance for the net zero economy
2. Disclosure and transparency for the private sector
3. Increasing the pace of implementing the Paris Agreement

## Shortcomings at COP26:

1. Failure to meet 1.5°C target (which is expected to have extreme consequences)
  2. Not securing \$100 billion climate finance
- ([www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/climate-change/reflecting-on-cop26-what-were-the-key-outcomes](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/climate-change/reflecting-on-cop26-what-were-the-key-outcomes))

**WE Demand  
CLIMATE  
JUSTICE!**



# Client Earth

## 2008

According to [www.clientearth.org](http://www.clientearth.org), environmental justice is “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, colour, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies”. (NRDC, 2019)

“Operating in London, Brussel, Warsaw, Berlin, and Beijing, Client Earth is a leading organization which brings major environmental cases before courts and prosecutes the responsible ones. Founded in 2008 and aiming to fight for a right to a healthy environment, Client Earth gathered eminent experts covering the following areas: access to justice, biofuels, air pollution, and coal industry.

For example, so far in 2022 they have : “started legal action against Shell’s Board of Directors for not managing the climate risk; joined legal action against TotalEnergies over misleading advertising and greenwashing; suing the UK Government over its inadequate net zero strategy; challenging the European Commission to review what it considers ‘sustainable investment’; started legal action against the EU Commission for supporting 30 disastrous gas projects in Europe; and they joined Fossielvrij NL in taking legal action against Dutch airline KLM for misleading marketing that promotes the 'sustainability' of flying.”



Image: Photo by Evgeni Tcherkasski on Unsplash

Text: <https://www.rightsofnaturetribunal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ENG-Universal-Declaration-of-the-Rights-of-Mother-Earth.pdf>

# Universal Declaration of Rights of Mother Earth 2010

(Presented April 22, 2010 to a crowd of 35,000 people in Cochabamba, Bolivia)

## Article 1.

1. Mother Earth is a living being.
2. Mother Earth is a unique, indivisible, self-regulating community of interrelated beings that sustains, contains and reproduces all beings.
3. Each being is defined by its relationships as an integral part of Mother Earth.
4. The inherent rights of Mother Earth are inalienable in that they arise from the same source as existence.
5. Mother Earth and all beings are entitled to all the inherent rights recognized in this Declaration without distinction of any kind, such as may be made between organic and inorganic beings, species, origin, use to human beings, or any other status.
6. Just as human beings have human rights, all other beings also have rights which are specific to their species or kind and appropriate for their role and function within the communities within which they exist.
7. The rights of each being are limited by the rights of other beings and any conflict between their rights must be resolved in a way that maintains the integrity, balance and health of Mother Earth.

Here is the rest of the Declaration:

<https://www.rightsofnaturetribunal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ENG-Universal-Declaration-of-the-Rights-of-Mother-Earth.pdf>