

Green Print 2020 – What we can do.

No-one made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do so little
Edmund Burke

The climate scientists agree that we have a short time to avert climate catastrophe – about five to 10 years to start to implement changes. Developing a model which would demonstrate what a low carbon economy and life-style would look like is urgently needed.

We need to cut CO₂ emissions by 80% before 2030. That requires massive societal and economic changes and expectations. It is the rich world which is causing most of the damage: 20% of the world's population consumes 80% of the world's resources and it is those who have caused little damage who are already suffering.

The single most effective thing you can do is to lobby your Member of Parliament and other influential bodies, including commercial companies: they must be convinced that there are votes and support in taking action to avert catastrophe. Change should present opportunities, not threats.

See **350.org** and/or **Possible** for information:

https://350.org/science/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw09HzBRDrARIsAG60GP-GUVzVEr04X8_w78m3xpn-YVjc6itClqkRGVDT0D6JTAOQQQQIbekaAsMFEALw_wcB; <https://www.wearepossible.org/>

And join campaigning groups such as Extinction Rebellion: <https://rebellion.earth/>

Lobbying, Getting Connected and Informed.

We are facing an extremely difficult and, what appears to be, an unpalatable situation:

If climate catastrophe is to be averted, who needs to do what, by when, and what, being realistic, might motivate them? It is important not to feel isolated and powerless.

We should all become advocates for a low carbon world. We must lead by example.

Poverty is exacerbated by the threat of climate change: it is already affecting the poorest. Some parts of the world will become uninhabitable and those living in such areas will need to move to more temperate areas.

All life is threatened by climate catastrophe. And extinction of species is already happening.

Actions:

- Information is power: become better informed and prepared to lobby and influence others: <https://www.tyndall.ac.uk/>, <https://www.theccc.org.uk/>; <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/climate-change/what-is-climate-change>

www.campaigncc.org/;

- Have a look at Contraction and Convergence: www.gci.org.uk/
- Being part of an organisation helps: such as **Global Action Plan**: www.globalactionplan.org.uk/, **Friends of the Earth**: www.foe.co.uk/, **Greenpeace**: <https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/> and/or **BioRegional**: www.bioregional.com/ and **Transition Towns**: <http://www.transitiontowns.org/>, all of which provide support and ideas.
- Take a look at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT): <https://www.cat.org.uk/>
- Do all you can to influence organisations with which you interact, including those that employ you and any voluntary organisations with which you are involved.

Write to your MP to exhort her/him to push for carbon rationing or any other of the climate emergency solutions: MPs have to take notice of their constituents, and a heavy postbag on one issue will really make a difference and will challenge their belief that ‘there are no votes in environmental issues’ – recently this seems to be changing. See www.theyworkforyou.com

Respond to Government consultations adding your weight to demands for decarbonisation and protection against air, sea and land pollution. Up until 15th July 2020 BEIS has launched a **Post-Pandemic Economic Growth super-inquiry** on “*the options available to Government to secure our economic recovery from the impact of Covid-19; covering investment, industrial strategy, jobs, skills, exports and sustainable growth.*” <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/365/business-energy-and-industrial-strategy-committee/news/146725/postpandemic-economic-growth-superinquiry-launched-by-beis-committee/>

LET US BUILD BACK BETTER

Resources:

The Future We Choose by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac (2020);

There is no Planet B by Mike Berners Lee (2019)

Climate Change by HRH The Prince of Wales, Tony Juniper and Emily Shuckburgh (2017) – a Ladybird Expert Book

Mary Robinson podcast: <https://www.mothersofinvention.online/>

Don't Even Think About It: Why Our Brains Are Wired to Ignore Climate Change by George Marshall (2014): <https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/18594475-don-t-even-think-about-it>

On Fire: the case for a Green New Deal by Naomi Klein: <https://naomiklein.org/on-fire/> (2019)

The Ecologist: <https://theecologist.org/>

A note about terms: many talk about what can be done to *Save the Planet* – the planet will be fine. It's all life – human and the natural world – that is under threat. Using the ‘save the planet’ phrase distances us all from the reality facing us all and depersonalises the truth.

This document started out as a Sustainability Framework in 2006. It has now been significantly revised and updated, and, no doubt, will continue to evolve. Ironically, the Covid-19 crisis might provide some opportunities:

https://www.democracynow.org/2020/3/19/naomi_klein_coronavirus_capitalism

Feedback and additional information and ideas are welcomed. The Green Print might have many destinations. There is no copyright but if it is circulated, I would appreciate its originator being acknowledged.

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