



# Groundswell News

Newspaper of The Go-Back Club, a Simple-Living/ Action Brigade

*We Are A Global Family. News By and About Climate Activists.*

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

*A Celebration of Youth. [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org). Issue No. 51: June 2019*



Photo <https://extinctionrebellion.us/>

WE DECLARE NON-VIOLENT REBELLION AGAINST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR ITS CRIMINAL INACTION ON THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS.

## 'We Don't Know a Planet Like This': CO2 Levels Hit 415 ppm for First Time in 3 Million+ Years

"How is this not breaking news on all channels all over the world?"

By Jon Queally  
Common Dreams: May 13, 2019

Atmospheric levels of carbon registered 415 parts per million over the weekend at one of the world's key measuring stations, a concentration level researchers say has not existed in more than 3 million years – before the dawn of human history.

Taken at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the measure continues the upward trend of atmospheric carbon concentration that lies at the heart of the global warming and climate crisis.

Meteorologist Eric Holthaus, a journal-

ist who covers the climate crisis for Grist, contextualized the latest readings in a tweet that was shared widely on Sunday:

One person responded to the Holthaus tweet by asking, "How is this not breaking news on all channels all over the world?"

Rich Pancost, head of the School of Earth Sciences at the University of Bristol in the U.K., said that the best guess of the scientific community is that global atmospheric carbon levels have not been this high for "about 3 millions years... [m]aybe more."

Writing on his Informed Comment blog Monday, historian Juan Cole said that life on Earth in that pre-historic era, known as the Pliocene Period, is not a place humans would recognize:

- In the Pliocene, it was much hotter.
- In the Pliocene, oceans were much higher, maybe 90 feet higher.

That is our fate, folks. That is what 415

ppm produces. It is only a matter of time, and some of the sea level rise will come quickly.

Amsterdam, New Orleans, Lisbon, Miami – the list of cities that will be submerged is enormous.

Elsewhere online, reaction to the unsettling milestone was met with a mix of frustration, alarm, and fresh demands for urgent action to address the crisis.

Despite the new measurement, it is not as if humanity has not been endlessly warned that this is the path it's on.

"If the threshold seems unremarkable (it shouldn't)," wrote Jonathan Shieber at TechCrunch. "It's yet another indication of the unprecedented territory humanity is now charting as it blazes new trails toward environmental catastrophe."

As Shieber explains:

- "The increasing proportion of carbon

**Emergency** *continued on page 5*

# What on Earth is The Go-Back Club?

## A Simple-Living/Action Brigade

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

**Founder/Editor:** Iona Conner

**Wire Editor:** Allen Hengst

**Established:** September 2013

**Web site:** [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org)

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### Mission of Our Newspaper

The mission of *Groundswell News* is to be a beautiful, inspiring, uplifting newspaper which educates and enlightens people about climate change through scientific articles and stories by and about activists who are working to protect life on Earth and preserve natural resources.

### What is The Go-Back Club all about?

We want to change people's hearts. Our members live simply (or try to) so that our collective carbon footprint grows smaller and

smaller every day. We are working toward a common goal of reducing our individual impacts on climate change to protect future generations and all life.

### Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned about global warming and realize that they are part of the problem but don't know what to do. We invite them to join our Club. Please tell your family and friends about us. They can go to [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org) to learn more.

### What are we trying to achieve?

We want to rapidly increase the number of serious climate activists in the world and inspire them through stories from other activists. Our goal is to keep their spirits up, their energy strong, their hearts open, and their eyes bright and alive.

### Our Values

This newspaper is based on love for Earth, all people, all forms of life plus air, clouds, rain, snow, weather, oceans, forests, etc. We love Nature. We respect everyone and

are willing to share our experiences, both good and bad, with others who may profit from them.

We are a global family.

### Guidelines for Submissions

I do not get directly involved in fundraising. To submit a story, you need to write a regular article about your work and submit it in a Word document with 2 or 3 photos, including captions and photo credits and then email it to me at [gobackclub@pa.net](mailto:gobackclub@pa.net). If you need funding, mention that in your last paragraph and be sure to give your contact information.

Since *Groundswell News* is a climate change activist newspaper, please be sure to mention how your work connects with fighting global warming somewhere.

I can't promise when your story will be published. Don't worry too much about punctuation or spelling since I proofread everything, just give me the history, heart and soul, dreams, and current project description plus your contact information at the end. I'll be eager to see what you submit. Thanks so much.

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Fair Use Logo

# Activist Greta Thunberg Ignites Climate Action Among European Students

By Thin Lei Win

Thomson Reuters Foundation: May 8, 2019

Teenagers from across Europe gather at Milan food conference to call on adults to solve problems of climate change and hunger.

MILAN, Italy – Noticing bald and badly grown patches of grass near his home, 13-year-old Nikita Shulga co-founded a project in Ukraine that turned food scraps from his school canteen into organic fertilizer to create healthy soils.

British student Ayrton Cable was only eight when he learnt about homelessness, putting him on a path to activism and establishing the Water, Air, and Food Awards (WAFAs) for youths.

Giorgia Mira, 16, was mocked when, inspired by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, she started climate protests outside her school in southern Italy, but believes she is slowly changing the minds of both her peers and teachers.

They are all part of the nearly four dozen teenagers who called on adults to solve the problems of climate change and hunger without further delay at a four-day food industry conference this week in the Italian city of Milan.

“We should solve these problems, not



Photos by Thomson Reuters Foundation/Thin Lei Win

Italian student Giorgia Mira, 16, poses with a protest sign at the Seeds & Chips Summit in Milan on March 7, 2019.

close our eyes ... because if you don't do it, then nothing changes," Sophia-Christina Borisyuk, 13, Shulga's former classmate who co-founded the composting project, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "If we don't do anything, after 200, 300, or even 100 years, we all die because we use a lot of minerals and other resources but we don't replenish," added Shulga, whose project



Ukrainian students Nikita Shulga and Sophia-Christina Borisyuk, both 13, pose for the camera at the Seeds & Chips Summit in Milan on March 6, 2019.

has spread to 200 schools all over Ukraine.

Their goal is to get all of Ukraine's 17,000 schools to produce their own compost.

"We calculated that each school produces one ton of organic scraps every year. If all schools compost this waste, our landfills will decrease in size, our soil will see big increase in fertility, and our air

quality will improve," said Borisyuk.

Youth activism has been under the spotlight since Thunberg, 16, shot to prominence last year for weekly protests on the cobblestones in front of Stockholm's Parliament House, holding a "School Strike for Climate" sign.

Thousands of students around the world have since copied her protest for climate action and youth organizations have launched strikes involving students in more than 40 countries.

"These few years are crucial ... action needs to be taken now," said Cable, now 16, referring to scientists' warning that the world has about 12 years left to clean up its energy system or face potentially catastrophic consequences.

WAFAs Youth has engaged 100,000 students from more than 1,000 schools in 12 countries to look at issues around water security, said Cable, who has campaigned against wide-ranging issues including hunger, factory farming, and cyber bullying. This included students checking and calculating how much water is wasted in a day through pipe leakage, taps, making them understand the magnitude of the problem, and then how to solve it, he said.

Reducing the amount of water wasted through old, leaky pipes is also an activity that Mira, from the southern Italian city of

Students continued on next page

# *This Issue of Groundswell News is Dedicated to Greta Thunberg*

**Students** *continued from previous page*  
Bari, wants city officials to work on.

It is part of an action plan drawn up by the local branch of Thunberg's global movement, "Fridays For Future," to manage natural resources better.

"We also propose to plant a new tree for every kid born in the city," because Bari has very few green areas, said Mira, who continues her daily climate protests but said she wanted to broaden the topic.

They recently organized a meeting on the links between climate change and immigration.

Maria Helena Semedo, deputy director general at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, applauded the youths for taking a stand.

"If you look at the big challenges we have – to feed the growing population with less inputs, protect the environment, and change our behavior as consumers, it is important that we have, if I can say, this disruptive behavior," she said.

*Photo at right submitted by Fran Staret, Pennsylvania USA. "Our house is on fire," says 16-year-old Greta Thunberg of Sweden, who conducted her first Strike for Climate when she was 15 in September 2018. She sat alone on the ground in front of the Parliament building every day for three weeks with a large poster reading "SKOLSTREJK FOR KLIMATET" (School Strike for Climate). She wanted her government to honor the Paris Agreement by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. As her reputation grew, so did her opportunities to reach a wider audience of decision makers. "I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. We owe it to the young people, to give them hope," she said during her speech at the World Economic Forum in January. She has been nominated to receive a Nobel Peace Prize. She has done more for the climate movement than anyone else.*

**Source:** <http://news.trust.org/item/20190508065003-i5800>





Photo: julian meehan/flickr/cc

Young climate strikers march through Melbourne, Australia on May 3, 2019.

## 'Beautiful Trouble' Grows With Friday Climate Strikes on Multiple Continents

Over 700 strikes set to take place.

By Andrea Germanos  
Common Dreams: May 3, 2019

The momentum for the weekly climate strikes shows no sign of abating as young people in hundreds of communities across the globe are hitting the streets on Friday to make a stand against the environmental crisis.

"We can make a difference," said Matilda Lane-Rose, one of the protesters in Perth, Australia.

The Fridays for Future website has 725 strikes mapped out for the day. They cover the Americas from Canada to Chile, Europe from Norway to Italy, Africa from Maurita-

nia to South Africa, Asia from South Korea to India, and multiple marches in Australia and New Zealand.

Swedish teenage activist Greta Thunberg, who catalyzed the school strikes, said in a tweet that they, "Will be extra big in Canada, India, USA, Mexico, and Australia."

One of the Australian actions took place in the city of Newcastle. A social media user who captured a video of the youthful climate strikers there framed their action as "beautiful trouble."

Images of other rallies are being shared on social media. The global actions drew cheers from the Sunrise Movement – a driving force behind the pending Green New Deal legislation in the U.S.

New data on levels of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> backs up the protesters' demand for swift action to rein in greenhouse gas emissions.

Referring to April's average of 413.2 ppm, meteorologist and Grist writer Eric Holthaus tweeted, "This is an emergency."

On Twitter, follow the hashtags #YouthClimateStrike, #SchoolStrike4Climate, and #FridaysforFuture to follow the day's actions as they unfold.

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**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/05/03/beautiful-trouble-grows-friday-climate-strikes-multiple-continents>

### Emergency *continued from page 1*

dioxide in the atmosphere is important because of its heat-absorbing properties. The land and seas on the planet absorb and emit heat and that heat is trapped in carbon dioxide molecules. The NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) likens CO<sub>2</sub> to leaving bricks in a fireplace, that still emit heat after a fire goes out.

• "Greenhouse gases contribute to the planet maintaining a temperature that can sustain life, but too much can impact the entire ecosystem that sustains us. That's what's happening now. As NOAA notes,

"Increases in greenhouse gases have tipped the Earth's energy budget out of balance, trapping additional heat and raising Earth's average temperature."

While scientists have stated that much of the future warming is already "locked in," Cole points out that humanity's main focus must be to make sure all efforts are made to reverse the emissions trend in order to limit the scale of the destruction.

"What can be stopped is its getting any worse," Cole concluded. "But that would require moving with blinding speed to wind

and solar power and electric cars."

And the message from the global climate justice movement has been crystal clear: It's an emergency. Act like it.

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**Source:** <https://truthout.org/articles/co2-levels-hit-415-parts-per-million-for-first-time-in-over-3-million-years/>



Photo: Extinction Rebellion/Twitter

*Activists with Extinction Rebellion Youth chained themselves to the UK Parliament's gates on Friday.*

## Demanding Urgent Action on Climate Emergency, Youth Lock Their Necks to UK Parliament's Gates

“The government’s inaction up to this point has compelled us to act, and although we do not want to be doing this, we feel we have no choice.”

By Jessica Corbett  
Common Dreams: May 3, 2019

A small group of youth activists locked their necks to the UK Parliament's gates Friday to demand urgent government action to address the global climate crisis while young people worldwide took to the streets as part of the weekly school climate strike.

The demonstration came two days after Parliament made history by passing a motion put forth by Labour Party Leader Jeremy Corbyn to declare an environment and climate emergency.

But, as Extinction Rebellion London said on Twitter, “A declaration is not enough.”

“Desperate times call for desperate measures,” 14 members of Extinction Rebellion Youth – aged 13 to 23 – wrote in a letter to Parliament on Friday, detailing why they decided to lock themselves to the gates. “The government’s inaction up to this point has compelled us to act, and although we do not want to be doing this, we feel we have no choice.”

The letter included a pair of demands to follow Parliament’s emergency declaration:

1. Act Now – to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emission to net zero by 2025.
2. Beyond Politics – create and be led by a Citizens’ Assembly on climate and ecological justice.

“By meeting our demands, a future could be secured for not only our generation but all those still to come, but not doing so will condemn us further,” they wrote. “We are currently locked onto your gates and in doing this, hope to highlight our dependency on the government’s actions and our desperation.”

The youth activists said they planned to

stay locked to the gates for three hours on Friday and warned that, “If we do not see change in the coming weeks, we will have no choice but to escalate our actions further.”

The promise for bolder activism comes as a growing number of people in the United Kingdom consider the climate crisis a top priority for government action, according to polling released earlier this week.

Surging public support for ambitious climate policies and Parliament’s vote Wednesday followed a series of attention-grabbing demonstrations coordinated by Extinction Rebellion. In addition to the youth at Parliament’s gates, members of the group also joined the climate strikes in the United Kingdom and around the world on Friday.

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Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/05/03/demanding-urgent-action-climate-emergency-youth-lock-their-necks-uk-parliaments>

# UK: Climate Emergency is Official Policy

Major changes in the government's policy on fossil fuels will be vital to tackling the UK climate emergency that Parliament has recognized.

By Paul Brown

Climate News Network: May 3, 2019

LONDON – The United Kingdom has taken a potentially momentous policy decision: it says there is a UK climate emergency.

On May 1, British members of Parliament (MPs) became the world's first national legislature to declare a formal climate and environment emergency, saying they hoped they could work with like-minded countries across the world to take action to avoid more than 1.5°C of global warming.

No-one yet knows what will be the practical result of the resolution proposed by Jeremy Corbyn, the Opposition Labour leader, but UK politicians were under pressure to act following a series of high-profile strikes by school students in recent months and demonstrations by a new climate protest organization, Extinction Rebellion (XR), whose supporters closed roads in the centre of London for a week.

The Conservative government ordered its MPs not to oppose the Labour resolution, and it was passed without a vote.

## Zero Carbon by 2050

Hours after the MPs' decision, a long-awaited detailed report by the government's official advisors, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), was published. It recommends cutting the UK's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. The current target is 80%.

The report says the government should accept the new target immediately, pass it into law in the next few months and begin to implement policies to achieve it. The committee says that will mean the end of petrol and diesel cars on British roads, a cut in meat consumption, an end to gas boilers for heating buildings, planting 1.5 billion trees to store carbon, a vast increase in renewable energy, and many other measures.

It says, "We conclude that net zero is necessary, feasible, and cost-effective: necessary – to respond to the overwhelming evidence of the role of greenhouse gases in driving global climate change, and to meet the UK's commitments as a signatory of the 2015 Paris Agreement; feasible – because

the technologies and approaches that will deliver net zero are now understood and can be implemented with strong leadership from government; cost-effective – because of falls in the cost of key technologies."

The CCC says striving to reach the target would bring "real benefits to UK citizens: cleaner air, healthier diets, improved health, and new economic opportunities for clean growth. The science demands it; we must start at once. There is no time to lose."

The problem for the government is that

**"... IT IS A CITIZEN'S DUTY TO REBEL, USING PEACEFUL CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, WHEN FACED WITH CRIMINAL INACTIVITY BY THEIR GOVERNMENT."**

its current policies are chaotic and fall well short of reaching the existing target of 80% cuts by 2050, let alone the 100% the committee now proposes. Currently the government is expected to miss its existing 2025 and 2030 targets as well.

This is because there is no sign of the "strong leadership" the committee says is required, and all policy is at a standstill because the government is still mired in the Brexit controversy. It has no coherent energy policy, has cut schemes for energy efficiency, and virtually banned on-shore wind power. In April, ministers abolished subsidies for solar power.

The only bright spot for renewables is that the UK has the largest off-shore wind industry in the world, which is growing at a great pace and is encouraged by the government, although at the same time the Conservatives support fracking for gas and give large tax breaks and subsidies to the North Sea oil and gas sector.

It also has a policy to nearly double the size of London's main airport, Heathrow, by building an extra runway, which will increase the already excessive air pollution in the capital and add to UK emissions generally.

Tytus Murphy, campaigner for 350.Org, a climate campaign, said after the climate emergency vote, "Now that Parliament has officially recognized the true scale of the climate crisis, they must take appropriate measures. Across the UK people are demanding that MPs take emergency action to stop emissions from burning fossil fuels.

## Huge Change Needed

"This requires an immediate and permanent ban on fracking, bringing the North

Sea oil and gas sector into managed decline, kicking the third runway at Heathrow into the tall grass, ending UK finance that funds fossil fuel exploration and extraction around the world, and divesting pension funds from fossil fuel companies."

Although many Conservative MPs are keen to take action on climate change, it will need a massive U-turn to change government policy on Heathrow expansion and building new motorways. There is also a rump of right-wing MPs in the party who still refuse to accept climate change as a fact.

Business leaders are backing the 2050 zero emissions target, including giants like Siemens, Legal and General, and Coca-Cola. Rain Newton-Smith, chief economist of the Confederation of British Industry, said, "The [committee's] recommendation marks a new dawn for climate change action." What was needed was timely policy from government to implement it.

Extinction Rebellion, the group that through its actions showed the strength of public feeling on the issue, said the 2050 date for zero emissions was too little, too late, and they were clearly distrustful of the government taking any of the necessary action.

## Delayed Targets Rejected

It seems likely that the group will plan more actions unless the government acts quickly. Nuala Gathercole Lam of XR said, "While we welcome the fact that MPs are talking about the emergency, change must start now. Targets that are set for 50 years in the future do not match the scale of the emergency."

In a statement XR said, "Time has almost entirely run out to address the ecological crisis which is upon us, including the sixth mass species extinction and abrupt, runaway climate change. Societal collapse and mass death are seen as inevitable by scientists and other credible voices, with human extinction also a possibility, if rapid action is not taken.

"Extinction Rebellion believes it is a citizen's duty to rebel, using peaceful civil disobedience, when faced with criminal inactivity by their government."

The organization's key demands are that the government "tell the truth" about the climate emergency, act to halt biodiversity loss, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025, and form a citizens' assembly on climate to lead on the issue.

Source: <https://climateneutralnetwork.net/uk-climate-emergency-is-official-policy/>



Photos: Extinction Rebellion

*On woman at this protest wrote, "No one knows what's next, but the rebellion will not be over until Extinction Rebellion's demands are met."*

## Personal Accounts from the Protest

By Leslie Stuart Tate, UK  
April 21, 2019

During my arrest I thought, when they put me through an interview with a solicitor present, that they were 'toughening up' on us during the Extinction Rebellion occupation of London. My arrest was later than Sue Hampton's and already orders were coming down (from the Home Secretary?) to take it further. Now it seems we're all going to get a record and possibly other punishments. I have to be careful what I say in public before facing a magistrate. I am a Quaker and I did it out of principle and conscience to protect the Earth and our children.

**Source:** <https://www.facebook.com/leslie.s.tate/posts/10216590642072793>

### Taking Action About Climate Change: My Arrest

An account, written on Easter Sunday, of my arrest in London during the climate change protest:

It's 8:30 a.m. and I've just got home after being arrested yesterday on Waterloo Bridge at about 4:00 p.m. – yes, I was part of the Extinction Rebellion London occupation!

I've been reluctant to be arrested up to now because I've been organizing some spoken words slots on our stage, but when Sue Hampton, my wife, got arrested on Thursday I found out about the process, which made it a lot less scary.

My arrest began when the police came in towards us in lined-up squads then suddenly cut through the crowds, aiming for the covered truck which we use as a stage with all its speakers, amplifiers, mikes etc. People dashed back from their sitting positions at the front (where we offer ourselves for arrest). I

was one of the last to dive in through the police cordon surrounding the vehicle – then waited for at least half an hour, singing songs and chatting (and trying to keep out of the blazing sun) until the specialist equipment squad arrived with their bags to unstick the people superglued to the underside of the truck and cut the tubes between people who'd locked-on.

When the police had got them free they then spread outwards from the truck, creating a space where they could come up and caution us to leave or we'd be arrested on two counts – obstructing a highway and non-compliance with a 'Section 14' condition the police have put on Waterloo Bridge.

I told my cautioning officer about climate change and my reasons for civil disobedience before saying I wouldn't walk away. She repeated what I was being arrested for and took me, with another police officer, down to a waiting transport van. I walked. Others lay of the ground or went floppy and had to be carried by several officers. One by one they picked us off and took us down to dozens of arresting vehicles. It was a massive operation and continued after I'd been taken to the police station, for at least 12 hours.

When I'd got into the van we then waited while it was loaded with four 'prisoners' as we were called and four accompanying officers. Then there was a much longer wait while they discussed on radio which police station might have space for us. The cells were all crowded, of course, with Extinction Rebellion 'prisoners'. Nearly all the officers were extremely respectful, pleasant, chatty, and open to information about climate (though they do their duty, as they see it, and don't question orders).

In the van one officer was a complete eccentric and debated social/political ideas in a surprising (and sometimes quite offensive) way. But he was an oddball in the group of police I met. One thing that came

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out was that none of the officers were Tories. When our van was finally assigned to Walworth Road Police station, we drove there within minutes, went in through the back gates, but then waited for hours before going in to have our details taken and then be locked up. This included fingerprints, DNA swabs, and photographs. I talked to all the officers, and the one who booked me turned out to be a lesbian who was soon getting married; the one who took my fingerprints was strongly on our side.

The cell they took me to was bare except for a lidless steel toilet and a bench with a thin mattress-cum-cushion + pillow. I waited in there overnight, getting very little sleep thanks to the passers-by who I couldn't see but heard clearly behind the heavy iron door. I'd had very little sleep on the bridge since Monday and at one point I had a rush of floaters across my eyes in a waterfall effect.

The officers were attentive, opening the view-hole to ask if I was OK, bringing me some pretty poor pre-packaged veggie food (for which the station officer in charge apologized) and pushing blankets through to me. The isolating effect dulls your senses and slows your mind to a crawl. My main thoughts were about Sue and how I'd get home afterwards. The officer in charge, as well as commenting on the food, gave me a clear picture of what would happen next and discussed how I would get home afterwards. He was obviously a caring man.

But even with the blankets I was cold, tired, and uncomfortable. Finally, after several hours, I was called to interview with the Extinction-Rebellion-recommended solicitor present. We discussed a statement in private beforehand, and then I was recorded answering an officer's questions (following

my solicitor's advice to say 'no comment'). I was returned to my cell briefly, then booked out and reunited with Extinction Rebellion support workers waiting to see me in the police station lobby.

The journey back to Berkhamsted was difficult at 3:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday, partly because Euston is closed for four days and partly because the tube doesn't run till later, so I visited Waterloo Bridge briefly to discover that the police had only just left, towing our vehicle-as-stage away after spending hours getting the brave souls on top of the vehicle down (sawing through the chains they'd used to attach themselves to the vehicle) and spending a further two hours repairing the lorry when the axle broke.

They've left a hole in our vibrant Waterloo space but the protestors are still there in numbers, catching a few short hours of sleep before we begin serving food, playing instruments, running workshops, meeting, and chatting with people from everywhere and sharing lots of hugs. Waterloo will renew. I'm home now and happy. Climate justice now!

**Sue Hampton writes:** "Leslie and I spent six days with Extinction Rebellion on Waterloo Bridge, where he was MC for the Spoken Word on the stage that was a lorry, and where we were both arrested for obstruction of the highway and breach of Section 14 because all sites except Marble Arch were 'out of bounds'. It was a profoundly inspiring experience, living differently with Green values and with love and respect for each other, the Earth, and the police binding us together and with the non-violent ethos of Extinction Rebellion holding under what was sometimes intense pressure as vans arrived and officers advanced on the 'heart line' of arrestables (people at the front who were willing to get a criminal record).

"I visited Oxford Circus when numbers

were needed and found it a more crowded but equally supportive space with a different energy. Once only Marble Arch remained, we spent a day there, and I heard a powerful speech from Caroline Lucas before heading over to take part in a die-in under the blue whale at the Natural History Museum with Extinction Rebellion families. As I write, no one knows what's next, but the rebellion will not be over until Extinction Rebellion's demands are met."

**Source:** <https://leslietate.com/2019/04/7251/>

### About Extinction Rebellion

Time has almost entirely run out to address the ecological crisis which is upon us, including the 6<sup>th</sup> mass species extinction and abrupt, runaway climate change. Societal collapse and mass death are seen as inevitable by scientists and other credible voices, with human extinction also a possibility, if rapid action is not taken.

Extinction Rebellion believes it is a citizen's duty to rebel, using peaceful civil disobedience, when faced with criminal inactivity by their Government.

Extinction Rebellion's key demands are:

1. Government must tell the truth by declaring a climate and ecological emergency, working with other institutions to communicate the urgency for change.
2. Government must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025.
3. Government must create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on climate and ecological justice.

**Website:** <https://rebellion.earth/>

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

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/ExtinctionR> hashtag #ExtinctionRebellion

# To New Zealand & Australia & Back ... I am a Changed Person...

By Mare Cromwell, Maryland USA

It's challenging to describe four weeks of events, practically daily spiritual activations, beautiful highs, and some serious lows in several short paragraphs. What is clear is that spending time in New Zealand and Australia has woken me up more and deepened my rapport and commitment to Mother, along with activated my healing gifts more. Mother Gaia clearly had a plan in sending me to that region of the world.

Some highlights and learnings from the intense trip 'down-under':

- It is important to ask permission from the Ancestors of the land before doing ceremony in that part of the world (and also Hawaii and the South Pacific, per a gifted friend of mine, Robin Youngblood).

In New Zealand and Australia, the Maori and Aboriginal Ancestors who are still powerfully there on the Spirit Plane in their home regions "challenged me" when I was about to go into full ceremony at two respective events with paid registrants. (This has never happened in North America or Europe.)

I had to communicate with the Ancestors on the Spirit Plane to tell them of my path of Surrender to Mother, and I have permission from her to do these ceremonies. And I come with a pure heart with my intentions and ceremonies. I also shared that my work is to help primarily those of European descent around the world to reconnect with Mother. Mother guided me carefully both times as to what to communicate to them.

In both instances, the groups of Ancestors did come around and accept me and finally offered to support my ceremonies. The Aboriginal ones actually told me that they have my back and were there for me for the full day event – a Sacred Gardening workshop that included ceremony. What an unexpected test those experiences were.

- The energy of the land in New Zealand is rather high and it was a sheer joy to experience that for more than two weeks. I better understand why so many people want to live there.

- My level of trust and surrender to Mother Gaia has only gotten deeper and more amazing. Pretty much every day was a rolling set of openings, messages, activations, goodness, and gifts that I did not anticipate. Just so much fodder for growth and richness kept on rolling in.

As a result, my trust in this journey of

surrender to Mother is at new levels, where again I am reminded again and again that I have "access to all the resources in the Universe."

- The final event of the whole trip in Bellingen, Australia on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> (Easter Day! And Earth Day weekend), was the pinnacle of the month-long trip. (My last newsletter was a call to join us globally in ceremony with that event to bring forth reconciliation and healing between all Native Peoples and settler groups that have perpetrated some awful massacres and other acts against the First Nations peoples globally.)

Mother Gaia only announced her "official" plan to myself and my friend, Sue Lennox, just two days before the event, though there were many weird and challenging tests in the planning prior to that day. That day, a beautiful group of Bellingen residents, Micklo Jarrett (an Aboriginal Elder) and I (along with one young Belgian woman) did ceremony and opened up the 'conversation' of how the town of Bellingen can start to make amends to the local Aboriginal tribe where more than 300 1<sup>st</sup> Nation peoples were killed in 1920 when arsenic-laced flour was given to them.

This was NOT what we thought we were going to do that day. But I suppose you could say that this is what Spiritual Surrender looks like. Mother gave me the full instructions while I was lying in the bathtub at my friend's home, at 6 a.m. after a rough night of very little sleep, just hours before we were scheduled to have a planning meeting with the Aboriginal elder Micklo Jarrett.

Since that day, Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, one of the women who attended the event received a profound spiritual activation from Mother. She is now working closely with Micklo to set up a strategic process for the greater 'healing' to happen. This is what she shared with me several days later:

*"Mare, since the ceremony and workshop with you, my life purpose is seeming loud and clear that I too have a place in the great turning other than being an observer tinkering with my little story. Thank you for this reminder that ceremony is a daily practice and opening to the Mother is not a once-off thing but a daily blessing. So much has changed and opened up in my awareness. I want to acknowledge Mother's wisdom and all that she shares. I take her into my heart as my guide. Many blessings to you, and huge humble thanks for the guidance."* S.K.



Photo by Sonya Kumar

*Photo of Micklo Jarrett, Aboriginal Elder and Mare at the end of the Ceremony on April 21<sup>st</sup> calling for Reconciliation for the 1920 Aboriginal massacre in Bellingen (New South Wales), Australia. Mother Gaia called for this ceremony to be done instead of the original workshop we had planned.*

Who knows? Perhaps what is coming together in Bellingen could be a model strategy for other communities to follow? Australia has an abysmal record of Aboriginal massacres ("at least 270 over 140 years") and from the little I have gleaned, many of the events have been swept "under the rug," if even recorded at all.

What I can honestly share with confidence is that Mother told me on that Easter morning that we were "holding space that day to invite forward what is meant to happen." And it is now starting to happen, which is most fun and exciting!

And Mother has a plan. Once again, that truism is surfacing for me, hugely. She is adamant that we all come into the Oneness. And reconciliation between all oppressed peoples and the oppressor groups (dominant society) is part of the Healing process into Oneness, to Mid-Wife the New Earth being born now.

Another truism that Mother shared with me is that for this New Earth to fully birth here on our Sacred Earth, we must relearn the wisdom from these ancient Indigenous cultures. They have so much to teach us to support this birthing process.

AND, on that note, I was given a most

**Gaia** continued on next page



Photo: Janina Timatano

*Maori Dancers at Voices of Sacred Earth Festival, March 2019.*

**Gaia** continued from previous page

high complement by another Aboriginal Elder named Uncle Paul Gordon who was in New Zealand with me at the Voices of Sacred Earth Festival, along with some of his students/apprentices. He told me that the messages in my book, *Messages from Mother... Earth Mother*, were what he taught also, and he was very curious about how the books were selling. I told him that the more I “show up to do this work,” the

better the sales are.

AND I know deep inside that I need to go back to Australia to spend time with the Aboriginal Elders, sooner rather than later.

P.S. To learn more about the Aboriginal Massacres in Australia, go to <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/04/the-killing-times-the-massacres-of-aboriginal-people-australia-must-confront>.

**Mare Cromwell is a Gaia Communicator and Priestess, Healer, Award-Winning Author, and Worm Herder. People can order autographed copies of her books at: [www.marecromwell.com](http://www.marecromwell.com) or unsigned ones at Alibris. The titles are *The Great Mother Bible*, *Messages from Mother...Earth Mother*, and *If I Gave You God's Phone Number... Searching for Spirituality in America*.**

**Source:** [https://mادميمي.com/s/8e0c6e#to\\_new\\_zealand\\_amp\\_australia\\_amp\\_back\\_i\\_am\\_a\\_changed\\_person\\_\\_](https://mادميمي.com/s/8e0c6e#to_new_zealand_amp_australia_amp_back_i_am_a_changed_person__)



Left photo by Sonya Kumar, right photo by Sue Lennox  
*Aboriginal Elder Micklo Jarrett (left) initiating Sue Lennox at beginning of April 21st ceremony; Mare (left) and Sue (right) in Bellingen, Australia.*



Photo: Clement Musonda

*Solar stove in Kanyama area; many lives were saved by using this cheap, simple technology to boil water and prevent the spread of cholera.*

## Demonstrating Solar Cooking in Zambia

By Clement Musonda, Zambia

We at Rosa Solar Stoves are passionate about sharing our solar cooking knowledge within our community. We need some financial assistance in order to give more presentations and demos.

Many people in Zambia use charcoal for cooking. This is contributing to deforestation, climate change, and health problems. Our project helps to combat all these issues by manufacturing and distributing solar stoves, allowing people to cook with sunshine, which is abundant on most days of the year in Zambia. Cooking with the sun has environmental, health, and economic benefits.

**Environmental:** When charcoal and firewood are used for cooking, this means valuable trees are cut down. Zambia currently has one of the highest rates of deforestation in the world. Cutting down trees can cause the loss of topsoil, a reduction in rainfall, and reduced soil fertility. By protecting trees and cooking with the sun instead of burning wood, we can also help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

and tackle climate change.

**Health:** Solar cookers can be used to boil or pasteurize water for avoiding water-borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid fever. We recently used our solar stoves to tackle cholera during a recent outbreak in Lusaka. Cooking with charcoal causes indoor air pollution and related health problems. A benefit of solar cooking is that it does not involve smoke, and so reduces health risks.

**Economic:** As long as the sun is shining, when a family has a solar cooker there is no need for them to buy or collect fuel. This means more time and money for other priorities. Solar cookers can be used for drying, to preserve food for longer.

We have experience with using a range of different solar cookers for cooking, drying, and water pasteurization. We are seeking funding for equipment to set up a workshop to make solar stoves in Lusaka, Zambia. Being able to obtain the tools we need will allow us to make these stoves locally, and to train more people in how to use energy from the sun.

Thank you for your support and for

enabling us to share this exciting technique with more people in Zambia.

Here is a photo of us cooking fish using simply the power of reflected sunshine:



**Contact:** Rosa Solar Stoves; 40/01 Twin park-Lusaka; Phone: +260974579031; Email: musondakankonba@gmail.com



Photo attributed to the rapidly vanishing Greenland Ice Sheet

*Climatey Jane atop the vanishing Greenland Ice Sheet on August 24, 2018. "Broke (breaks) my heart to see it retreating and shrinking so rapidly, and to hear the roar of the water just pouring off it. It is quite remarkable to witness. People 'down here' have NO idea! Leonardo DiCaprio's "Before the Flood" shows a good example of the water pouring off the ice sheet."*

## Climate Activist Visits Arctic, Changes Her Name to Reflect Her Passion

**From Climatey Jane's page with permission and Facebook chat with Iona:** One night several months ago I was reading the ever-more dire news about climate change and environmental destruction and my head just about exploded. I threw up my hands and yelled, "This is a calamity!!!" Calamity. Calamity Jane... Wait, my middle name IS Jane. And I am passionate about climate. Hmmm... "Climatey Jane" was born in that instant.

I started the Climatey Jane page to add my voice to the growing concern, and to share relevant stories. It's taken off in the most beautiful way, connecting with

people and their projects and efforts all over the world. A friend concerned with the marine environment said, "Why bother? There are so many other people talking about climate right now." Ummm, that is exactly the point – many drops make a mighty ocean. I am adding mine to the issue. Have always been concerned about the environment, especially since taking a course in college back in the early '70s titled "Our Dwindling Resources," where we learned about alternative forms of energy and waste management.

So much has happened since then and now the world is in a dire situation. We

must all band together. Thank you so much for your very hard work (I edited and published an online public health journal for years and know how much work it is!). Your newspaper is fantastic, Iona. Best wishes to you, too!

I've been spending today trying to figure out how I can get back to the Arctic. Thank you for being in touch, Iona, and for doing such great work.

We are all in this together. I urge absolutely everyone to jump off the fence and lend their voices to the increasing crisis, and to take action in any way they can.

**IF YOU WANT TO BUILD A SHIP, DON'T HERD PEOPLE TOGETHER TO COLLECT WOOD AND DON'T ASSIGN THEM TASKS AND WORK, BUT RATHER, TEACH THEM TO LONG FOR THE ENDLESS IMMENSITY OF THE SEA.**

- Antoine de Saint-Exupéry -

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/3246522-if-you-want-to-build-a-ship-don-t-herd-people>



Photo: Böhlinger Friedrich, via Wikimedia Commons

*The lynx is a key species for rewilding.*

## Wilder World Can Slow Climate Change

By Alex Kirby  
Climate News Network: May 21st, 2019

If you want to tackle climate change and restore once-familiar animals at the same time, a wilder world can help – naturally.

LONDON, UK – Imagine a wilder world where many of the species humanity has almost wiped out are instead protected, cared for, and encouraged to thrive.

No – it's not Jurassic Park brought to life; it's still largely an idea waiting to happen. But if it does ever become reality, rewilding, as it's known, could do a lot for us.

Rewilding simply means re-introducing wild creatures which used to live in countries like the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe and North America. One example is the Eurasian beaver, hunted in the UK to near-extinction several centuries ago but now making a tentative return to Britain.

They began their UK recovery modestly: two families were imported from Norway in 2001, with more animals following later to increase genetic diversity.

Through their skillful lodge-building and engineering of woods and waterways, beavers show how they benefit humans

and other creatures. They create a range of habitats for birds, insects, fish, small mammals, and plants; one re-introduction project records that the 10 clumps of frogspawn laid in 2011 in its ponds had increased to 370 clumps by 2018, thanks to the improvements made by the arriving beavers. They slow water flow, prevent flooding, and store water for local use.

### Three Wins in One

The Rapid Transition Alliance (RTA) argues that beavers' lifestyles can prove a fast, cheap way to slow climate breakdown, to build resilience to its inescapable impacts, and to restore natural diversity.

Another good candidate for rewilding, almost a century after they were wiped out in northern Europe and the U.S., is the wolf, one of 21 key species identified by the Rewilding Britain group for re-introduction. Among the species the British journalist George Monbiot lists in his book *Feral* as suitable for rewilding in the UK are not only beavers and wolves but bison, lynx, wild boar, European sturgeon, and grey whales.

The reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone Park in the U.S. in 1995 shows how rewilding can work on a large scale to increase biodiversity. By the end of the 1920s almost all of the U.S. wolves had been killed off, mainly by ranchers protect-

ing their livestock. They cling on in small populations in the northern wildernesses along the border with Canada.

But within a few years the Yellowstone wolf packs had made favorable impacts on the whole ecosystem through their control of the elk population. They reduced overall numbers of elk, which are herbivorous, and without predators had grown enormous. This helped the grazing areas and let more trees grow.

Along river banks, the tree growth slowed the flow of water and reduced flooding during heavy rainfall. It also shaded the banks, allowing fish to flourish. And the wolves are bringing in money: wolf-watching is big business and earns an estimated four times more than elk hunting.

A 2018 report by the Royal Society, the UK's national academy of science, argued for rewilding because native herbivores produce less methane than modern cattle and maintain forests by dispersing seeds in their dung.

Much of the UK would naturally support trees that absorb carbon, but it has some of the lowest tree cover in Europe. Rewilding could change that. And the RTA says people would benefit from the increased encounters with wildlife that would be possible, citing a 2013 Woodland

**Rewilding** *continued on next page*

**Rewilding** *continued from previous page*

Trust estimate that if every household in England were provided with good access to quality green space, it could save an estimated £2.1 billion (\$2.67 billion) in healthcare costs.

Predators take livestock, admittedly, but its supporters say we can mitigate losses with planning, design, and compensation. For example, Germany sees few losses from herds because the farmers keep their livestock enclosed. Using specialist dog breeds to warn off wolves has also proved highly successful.

The UK badly needs rewilding. The 2016 State of Nature report noted that between 1970 and 2013 56% of species declined.

**Resident Nightingales**

In southern England, the Knepp Wildland project shows how rewilding can work. It is devoted to free-roaming herds of cattle, horses, pigs, and deer as the drivers of habitat creation. Since it began in 2001, the numbers of many endangered species returning to Knepp have increased sharply: it now boasts 2% of the UK's en-

tire breeding population of nightingales.

Elsewhere in Europe countries including Romania, Croatia, and Bulgaria, led by Rewilding Europe, an independent group based in the Netherlands and funded by the EU, are working towards similar goals.

If rewilding can work in Europe and North America, could it help in other parts of the world too? They certainly need it: the UN reported earlier this month in its *Global Assessment Report* that about one million of the Earth's animal and plant species are at risk of extinction.

There's just one snag. Historically, humans have exploited wildlife for fairly narrowly defined purposes: fur, feathers, and flesh, often. Now we just want to shove them aside so that we can exploit the entire planet. Wildlife that doesn't pay its way seldom gets the chance to stay. The *Assessment's* authors say the main cause of the extinction crisis is the change which humans are making to their use of the Earth's land and seas.

At that rate, the Rapid Transition Alliance thinks, it doesn't sound as though there'll be much room left by tomorrow to

re-introduce anything, unless rewilding is part of a much wider strategy, including an absolute reduction of human consumption.

*The Rapid Transition Alliance is coordinated by the New Weather Institute, the STEPS Centre at the Institute of Development Studies, and the School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex, UK. The Climate News Network is partnering with and supported by the Rapid Transition Alliance, and will be reporting regularly on its work. If you would like to see more stories of evidence-based hope for rapid transition, please sign up at <https://www.rapidtransition.org/>.*

*Do you know a story of rapid transition? If so, we'd like to hear from you. Please send us a brief outline on [info@climatenewsnetwork.net](mailto:info@climatenewsnetwork.net). Thank you.*

*Alex Kirby is a former BBC journalist and environment correspondent. He now works with universities, charities, and international agencies to improve their media skills, and with journalists in the developing world keen to specialize in environmental reporting.*

Source: <https://climatenewsnetwork.net/wilder-world-can-slow-climate-change/>

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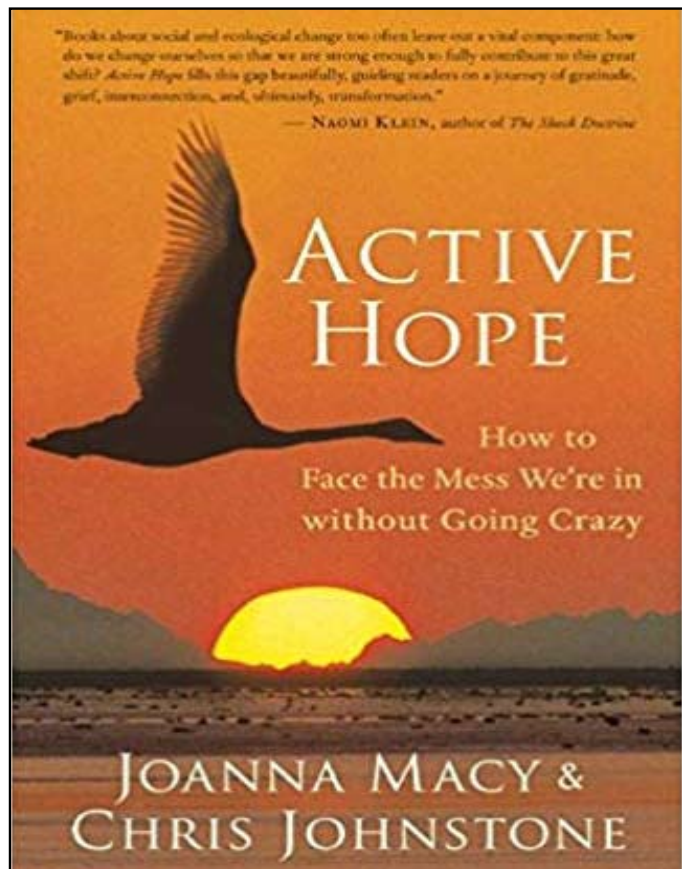
## Co-Author Joanna Macy's Five Vows

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:** *Active Hope* is a wonderful book. There is a description of how Joanna Macy was let to create five vows. Here they are.

*I vow to myself and to each of you:*

- 1. To commit myself daily to the healing of our world and the welfare of all beings.*
- 2. To live on Earth more lightly and less violently in the food, products, and energy I consume.*
- 3. To draw strength and guidance from the living Earth, the ancestors, the future generations, and my brothers and sisters of all species.*
- 4. To support others in our work for the world and to ask for help when I need it.*
- 5. To pursue a daily practice that clarifies my mind, strengthens my heart, and supports me in observing these vows.*

Source: <https://www.servicespace.org/blog/view.php?id=26844>



Order book at <https://www.activehope.info/>

# The Green Connection Documentary

By Diane Christin Zenchenko-Esser, Pennsylvania USA

I have spent these few last years garnering environmental education that led me to a head-spinning tipping point. When I heard Sarah Charlop-Powers, Director of Parks in New York City, say there is still a disconnect with the boots-on-the-ground resiliency and sustainability workers, to our governmental bodies...from boroughs to states, I dug in to go broader and deeper and create a documentary and show that speaks to that disconnect.

I joined the forces of states and organizations and world government websites that speak to climate education. I visited climate museum exhibits, including the Smithsonian's stellar Sant Ocean Hall <https://ocean.si.edu>. I got a wonderful response from the Smithsonian to work with them to juxtapose education from Ocean Hall into my documentary! I also interviewed our government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other world organizations working diligently on our climate education and science exposing the existing crisis at hand.

We have seen billions of dollars of damage to cities....hundreds of thousands of people displaced, and thousands of lives lost. For the lives lost, I cannot accept climate deniers skewed comments (a propaganda industry et al., fueled by energy companies creating videos who prefer profit numbers to loss of life numbers).

We are an ocean planet, and warming ocean waters create horrific climate events, and warming oceans are causing havoc in acidification that is killing our coral reefs... the food chain for our sea life, which feeds our human civilization.

I am just a small, small part of what is a large, large planet of smart world organizations including our [www.climate.gov](http://www.climate.gov) and our [www.toolbox.climate.gov](http://www.toolbox.climate.gov). I have been privileged to speak personally to the creators of these NOAA organizations. I have co-operation with the [www.wmo.int](http://www.wmo.int) - International World Meteorological Organization, the creator of [www.ipcc](http://www.ipcc). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body



Photo: Justin Mason, Solar Revolution

*Diane Christin Esser speaking the the Girard Borough, Girard, Pennsylvania about the importance of townships, boroughs, and cities embracing vibrant urban infrastructure and ordinances for a climate resilient and sustainable community.*

for assessing the science related to climate change.

Our children are learning about climate change, and those children need all levels of our governments from boroughs to townships to cities to step up to the plate and get on board with practices that will give them a resilient and sustainable future. That includes understanding that our urban forest is important to our carbon sequestration and heat index reduction and storm water mitigation.

It is an insult to our children's intellect when the profit-minded, fossil-fuel faction speaks nonsense and blatantly nonsensical baseless claims such as "CO2 is good for you" and global warming will be beneficial. We know the opposite is true. The Competitive Enterprise Institute once ran pro-CO2-pollution ads claiming that, "They call it pollution, we call it life." These reckless, internet-fueled fantasies are created to delay action to act toward sustainable practices. It is reckless rhetoric, and not fair to our children's future.

Our energy sources need to be renewable energy sources of wind, solar, and hydro energy for future sustainability. We need to understand the importance of our urban community forest. We need to turn away from the CO2 Darth Vader of our Planet and educate the climate deniers.

Our people, our children, are more important than fossil fuel profits every day of the week. At least on the calendar that I own.

*Diane Christin Zenchenko-Esser is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators and Producer The Green Connection Documentary.*

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<https://youtu.be/edgHSoifRbA>  
<http://iamaplanetkid.org/> (I Am A Planet Kid)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Diane-Christin-Zenchenko-Esser-232248413499851/>

**LinkedIn:** Diane Esser - Erie

SO WITH A BOUNDLESS HEART SHOULD ONE CHERISH ALL LIVING THINGS,  
RADIATING KINDNESS OVER THE ENTIRE WORLD.

- Buddha -

Submitted by C. B., Pennsylvania USA

<https://fromashramstoen.tumblr.com/post/27986385588/e-sangha-for-me-praying-is-not-a-request-to-a>



# What You Should Know About Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze, the Designer and Director of Greening Burundi Project

By Niyonkuru Prosper  
*Region Week*: April 23, 2019

In Burundi, finding young people who think to invest in the environmental field is almost a dream. Yet, exceptions are not lacking. Saddened by the drought that plagues his home province and the consequences it causes, a young student from the province Bubanza wants to make his country all green.

In an interview with *Region Week*, Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze, a formidable defender of the environment tells us about his project.

## **Who is Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze?**

**With a little smile on his lips, Emmanuel presents himself:** “My name is Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze, a young 24-year-old native of Bubanza province. I am a social actor often acting in the sector of environmental protection but also health, peace-building to ensure sustainable development within the community, make our world better, and contribute productively as a future generation. I am the designer and director of the project “Greening Burundi.”

**You started the project called “Greening Burundi.” Can you tell us about it?**

**To make Burundi green is his dream.**

“Greening Burundi” is an environmental project aimed at multiplying and planting trees in order to fight against climate change and its negative impacts. I would like to make Burundi green full of trees with a well protected and preserved environment.

**What drove you to invest in the environmental field? Where did this idea come from and where did you get funds to start up your project?**

**Initially, his vision is to plant a million trees in three years in order to fight against climate change.**

“Climate change is underway in Burundi and even the impacts of climate change such as deforestation, desertification, soil erosion, climate warming ... are existing and causing serious problems.

The main activity in Burundi is agriculture and more than 80% of Burundians are farmers. Due to the effects of climate change, this has caused insufficient agricultural production, poverty occurrence, and/



Photo Courtesy Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze

*Emmanuel works so hard with so little support that it's always a pleasure to publish his stories.*

or increase of diseases related to malnutrition. After confirm this I was Convinced, motivated, and alarmed to fight against these plagues and I started that project by setting up a nursery of more than 40,000 trees without any support that is financial or material and used my meager means to my disposition,” he replied.

**What is your vision in the next 10 years?**

My vision in 10 years is to have a better and sustainable world with a well-pre-

served and protected environment devoid of climate change and its impacts.

**Emmanuel has realized this big project by planting trees in different environments including schools of the province of Bubanza. We tried to know whether he is supported or not, his response seems to be astonished.**

**Do you have any local or international partner to support you in achieving your project?**

**Emmanuel** continued on next page

## Greenline Paper Company, Recycled Products from Pennsylvania Business

(NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: I love these products and have used them for many years.)



### The revolutionary plant-based alternative to plastic bags.

Strong & sturdy BioBag items include various sizes of compostable liners (trash bags), shopper bags, produce bags, zipper food bags, and dog waste bags. Since they are certified compostable and made from plants, they breakdown as intended, and can be properly composted where available or placed in the trash.

(left to right) BioBag Compact Produce Bags made from plants, BioBag 8 gallon Bag, BioBag 96 gal compostable bags



Contact Greenline Paper at [www.greenlinepaper.com](http://www.greenlinepaper.com); 1-800-641-1117, or 631 S. Pine St., York PA 17403

#### Emmanuel *continued from previous page*

I have not found any local or international partners yet. I alert anyone interested in “Greening Burundi” to support me financially and/or materially for this project to be well done. After having planted 43,700 trees in the first phase, I prepare for the second phase and install a nursery of 200,000 trees soon. I ask for help to do this effectively.

**Such a project can’t miss challenges. Emmanuel tells us the most hindrances he encountered in his project.**

“The obstacles that prevent me to implement effectively are the lack of financial and material resources. This project costs me a lot and I am not able to succeed it alone”, he stressed.

**He ends up by giving a piece of advice to young people to make the environment their treasure.**

“We young people are the future generations and we must prepare our future. Young people must take care, protect, love, preserve, and respect the environment and save their future/Planet.”

# Support Ads from Friends of The Go-Back Club

**Send out Love energy at least twice a day and watch how your world changes.”**

I support all your hard work.  
Love, Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA

Dear sis Iona, Greetings from Tabora, Tanzania. I would like to re-encourage you to keep going with the *Groundwell* newspaper though life isn't so easy when it comes to the up-keeps. Thanks for featuring me and Subehude Tanzania in the *Groundwell* newspaper. I send you my cordially heartfelt appreciate to your work you are doing on this planetary Earth. Cheers, Mayaya Mack, Tanzania

Dear Lona, Thank you for your brilliant idea. Something small you might add is, "Helping hand is what others need to make their dreams come true." I hope through you and other generous people we shall achieve our desired goals. Thank you very much for your helping hand. I am thankful to you because you're thinking how to help the orphans and vulnerable in Uganda.

Blessings and love always, Mark Uwineza, Uganda

I am participating within the global Entrepreneurship Competition with the project Clean Water and Sanitation SDGs6. Please vote for my project 2019 as best ideas. Please follow the link to vote for my project Clean Water and Sanitation with a comment at the bottom of the page. Your vote and your comments are important. <https://www.entrepreneurship-campus.org/ideas/24/12503>.

Here we are very busy teaching and training volunteers how to teach. Those kids are my students. I taught them at my institute. All of them are fatherless but mothers still alive but nothings to do with not enough money to educate or health but just they are good now and safe. The place here is safe and enjoyable. Now we are trying to transfer to a big school. They

were hopeless and homeless and fatherless but now they are very well with teachers and other staff.

I'm in blue Nile state Damazein, where there is a civil war. Those children graduated yesterday at my Institute as well as the secondary school students.

Juma Kodu Teamsah Teamsah, Sudan



(left to right) Front row: Mohammed Ali James, Hafize Ahmed, Osman Ahmed Ali. Second row: Hussein Salab, Sarah Yassier Ali, Saaba Abdalla sSlman, Naaba Abdalla Silman, Abdalla. Rear: Salam Ahmed, Jonh Jack Issa, Alitha Ahmed Osman, Ali Ahmed



Photos Courtesy Juma Kodu

(left) Juma wrote, "Saddam Adam is in the red coat. He helped me so much by teaching those children. We gave him a certificate as honor teacher. (right) Ahmed Alnour and Abab Awad are new teachers who studied in our institute developing skills." The girls shown in all three photos are new graduates. All of us came from differ ways to help the children to get educeted .



Parents in the Age of  
Climate Change

Image credit: Pixabay CC

## Parents in The Age of Climate Change

We must inspire them to be part of the solution but we can't wait for them to grow up – it will be too late then.

~ Michael Mann ~

By Rolly Montpellier  
The Below 2 ° C Digest: May 21, 2019

“Climate change offers a unique parenting challenge: a steadily-rolling disaster to which we all contribute, punctuated by periodic events and mounting scientific evidence. It calls into question the very way we live and the world we will leave for our children,” as stated in Yale Climate Connections.

Many parents and caregivers may be uncomfortable and believe it best to leave climate discussions to school science teachers. That's fair and understandable – and in a perfect world, it would be ideal.

The climate crisis can be a challenging topic to discuss – especially with younger children.

That's why it's so important for parents to understand that in many places, climate change is sometimes not taught in schools at all, just skimmed over, or presented as a theory rather than a fact or as an ongoing scientific debate with two equal and opposing sides.

Which often means the parent or caregiver has to be the first line of defense in their child's climate education.

Read on for some quick tips on how to get started making sure your child is age-appropriately engaged in conversations

about climate change, its impact on the future of the planet, and what they can do to be part of the solution.

### At School

Get to know your school's approach to climate science education. And be sure to advocate loudly in your community for science instruction that includes robust, standards-based curricula on climate change.

“Parents can play a strong role, climate education advocates say, in facilitating the adoption of those standards and development of robust curricula in their states and states across the country,” according to Yale Climate Connections. “Supportive parents also can stand up for teachers who may face political pressures or resistance from parents, the community, and even other teachers and administration, within the school.”

### At Home

Be sure to turn as much as you can into a teaching experience.

If you're lucky enough to be able to travel, consider taking your kids to see places and things that you can turn into a climate discussion. For example, few things can bring home the magnitude and power of the ocean better than seeing it – and with the waters lapping against the shore, a quick discussion of sea-level rise may feel more concrete.

As you make energy efficient upgrades to your home – right down to swapping out your old lightbulbs – make sure you're telling your kids why you're doing it.

The same goes for other everyday things you do to lead a more climate-friendly

life, from keeping the thermostat set at a reasonable temperature to buying local produce at the farmers market.

Modeling and discussing these smaller behavior changes for your kids can go a long way toward instilling a strong sense of personal responsibility for the planet as well as helping to make the larger climate solutions we need seem infinitely more achievable.

### Next Steps for Parents

Learn more about how to begin the climate discussion with your child, the appropriate information to share for their stage of cognitive development, and how to play to their existing interests to make your conversations on this important-but-sometimes-overwhelming (and occasionally a little scary) topic productive and useful with our free e-book, *Beginning the Climate Conversation: A Family's Guide*.

Kids today will face the challenges of a warming world head-on. And as a parent, guardian, and/or caregiver, you have a responsibility to do your best to make sure they're ready.

Download our free e-book to learn more about how to get started today at <https://www.climaterealityproject.org/family>.

When your child grows up into a responsible, compassionate adult who cares as much about the future of the planet as you do, you'll be glad you started the conversation.

**This article was first published in the Climate Reality blog.**

**Source:** <https://below2c.org/2019/05/parents-in-the-age-of-climate-change/>

# Hand Stitching Creates Clothing, Saves Electricity, Uses No Fossil Fuels

By Iona

Have you ever wondered about life before electricity? Sometimes I do when I'm trying to reduce our electric bill or my contributions to the changing climate.

One of my favorite examples was the day I decided to hand stitch a new dress. I must express gratitude to my grandmother, mother and step-mother, all of whom had enough patience to teach me how to sew hour after hour when I was a little girl.

First my grandmother. My memories include happy days spent making doll clothes and felt doll hats plus doing little needlework samplers by hand.

The next generation of mothers (I was blessed to have had two) helped me learn how to use patterns, choose fabric, cut it out and then use a sewing machine to create new clothes for myself. Oh my, did they ever have patience! I made dozens of garments for myself and them, too, plus curtains, bedspreads, napkins and sometimes even hankies from old flannel sheets.

I loved sewing, even mending and altering my old clothes. One day I realized that all of this sewing was using energy from coal, oil, natural gas or nuclear plants and I was dismayed.

Now what?

When my faithful Kenmore sewing machine (a high-school graduation gift) died after 30 years of service, I found an old treadle, foot-powered Singer. With glee I installed a new belt and sat down to sew, this time letting my feet do most of the work. Alas, it never worked right for me so I gave it away.

O.K., what's next?

I cut out a dress, threaded my needle and stitched it entirely by hand.

Silence.

No roaring motor, no thumping

pedal. My needle moved noiselessly through the material stitch by stitch. Twenty years later I can still recall the thrill of it all, not to mention that I had created a unique dress without using any energy but my own.

So far this story includes three generations but there's a fifth coming up. I have two sons whom I never taught to sew; however, one has a very clever daughter who loves to create things.

Unfortunately, I live five hours from her but one day when I was visiting, her mother asked if I'd teach my granddaughter how to crochet. I was excited. We sat down together with a crochet hook and some yarn. My granddaughter then showed me a project she had already started to work on. She had learned how to crochet on YouTube! I was proud of her but felt kind of useless. So instead, we sat and hand-stitched some doll clothes for her little "girls."

This summer their whole family came to visit us. The two children spent the night with us while their parents had some time alone nearby.

The next morning my granddaughter and I were talking about our long hair and some problems we have styling it. I confessed that every time I try to tie a bow in my ponytail, it comes out crooked. She



Photo by John Conner

*Iona poses wearing the dress she stitched by hand using zero electricity and only her own energy.*

excitedly told me she had the answer.

After they got home, she sent me a link to a YouTube done by a pre-teen girl showing us how to make a hair bow that would lie straight with no sewing at all.

Now my granddaughter is teaching her grandmother.

All it takes is a little (or a lot) of patience and we can work together or alone to solve some of our problems, tiny or huge. Or are they really the same?

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## Hand Stitching Returns

Who's Doing What About Climate Change? Iona is **GOING BACK** to some previous Earth-friendly practices.

By Iona

I had created the hand-stitched dress above about 25 years ago and then resorted

to my electric sewing machine for many other projects.

Last week I bought my husband some new clothes and all the pants needed to be hemmed. My sewing machine was all set up on the dining room table and I sewed one pair of sweatpants on it.

By the time I sat down to pin up the pajama bottoms, it dawned on me that I could and **SHOULD** hand stitch them. So I did!

I like to sew. I sat in my comfortable armchair in the living room next to the glorious, beloved Norfolk Island Pine tree, threaded my needle, and started stitching. It felt good. No noise. It felt right. And the best part was that since the door was open, I could hear the birds singing and talking to each other – and to me!

Maybe I'll use the machine for some jobs but from now on, as much as possible, I'll be **GOING BACK** to hand stitching.

AS I WALKED OUT THE DOOR TOWARD THE GATE THAT WOULD LEAD TO MY FREEDOM, I KNEW IF I DIDN'T LEAVE MY BITTERNESS AND HATRED BEHIND, I'D STILL BE IN PRISON.

- Nelson Mandela -

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/pictoquotes/11230538153>

# Consumer Liberation

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

*Join The Go-Back Club today!*

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



## Groundswell News

An activist publication bringing readers struggles and successes as well as climate-change news in the U.S. and around the globe. People everywhere are working to make change. Our beautiful newspaper will inspire and encourage you. Sign up today at [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org) or email [ionaconner@pa.net](mailto:ionaconner@pa.net). It's free but donations are gladly accepted. 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. As we are an alternative newspaper, we have an alternative ad policy. Send me your material 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. Our distribution is small now but we hope to grow quickly and our readers are wonderfully supportive people!

*Thank you.*



*Remember your dreams.*



## Messages from Our Friends



### Hello Iona!

Happy Earth Day Iona!  
I pretty hope you are enjoying the fruitfulness of this beautiful day where you are.  
Thank you so much for the amazing wishes and I'm much appreciated to receive your warm wishes. And will love you forever. You are amazing person and I always wish you and John well anytime I say prayers.

I will consider the offer to compose some nice story either by orphanages or slavery. I still have passion in this and I visited the orphans just last month, spent couple of days with thoroughly encouraging and teaching. It was good to be with them.

And I still have the slavery issue at heart. Of which I will love to do something little about it and to create some awareness out there to minimize the racism in the world.

May the spirit help us to carry such great task and may the spirit help you as well to move on successful as you start doing something now.

I'm really hoping that someday to come soon you will be able to make it here in Ghana and we will have a good memorable quality time together, you will appreciate nature and I pretty hope you will love it on your visit too.

Have a nice and great time over there and take care of yourself as well.  
Love and respect.  
My best wishes to you.

**Maxwell Nana Maankwah**, Ghana.

I started reading *Groundswell*. I really liked the "cathedral" article. So true and loved those pictures! Rebuild this.... great concept!!!

Well Iona, as I read I couldn't help but think and hear so many voices here in Idaho .. that don't believe in this. You don't know how many time times people just laugh... they really think climate change is a joke! Especially when we have snowy winters! Maybe it's because this is such a Republican state people seem to think this isn't important!

It makes me nuts and very sad!  
**Linda L.**, Idaho USA

So glad we will still have the pleasure of your informative blog! Wishing you good health and good luck! Thanks for all the great articles!  
"G," Pennsylvania USA

**March 6, 2019:** Hello sister Iona thanks for the donations we had a good meal.  
We just need our own land to grow our own food....

**May 6, 2019:** These days it has been one of the hardest days in our life, I and children.

But when we pray for others, God hears us and blesses them.  
So when you feel safe and happy remember

that someone has prayed for you and God is our strength.

Mother, our major problem is that if we get land of about \$3,500 we would start a simple farm and poultry for the kids.

Mother, life had been so hard for the kids, especially in holiday. We get hard time on feeding and rent for kids.

### For more info:

Instagram:ssengendo\_yasin\_signalaminat  
Messenger:ssengendo yasin signalaminat  
Whatsapp+256759273161  
Twitter:@signalaminat  
Email: ssengendo80yasin80@gmail.com  
**Ssengendo Yasin Signalaminat**, Uganda

*Messages continued on next page*



Photos by Ssengendo Yasin Signalaminat

**NOTE FROM IONA:** *The sign on the left says, "Thank you Iona Conner for feeding us" and the one on the right says, "We need land for growing our own food." Jeannette and I sent \$53 but I can't do that now. Will someone please open your heart and help these children? There are 36 kids. Contact either Ssengendo or me. I will be happy to see that they get donations via Western Union. Thank you.*

### Messages *continued from previous page*

Congratulations, Iona, wonderful work – may I suggest that you send it out as a pdf file and if you still have time among all that, please think about a short article.

Warm wishes,

**David Crookall**, UK

**Hi Iona,**

Im glad your newspapers are changing the minds of people on climate change. Such impact. Thank you for the emails. God bless u...trust you're safe? Bye  
**Prince Timmy**, Nigeria

**Hi Iona,**

I have been following your emails. Sorry to hear about John, I am sure you have your hands full. We all pray that John will heal. He is good man, and has his heart & mind in the right place.

Meantime, I have also noticed, that you are trying with your club helping families in Africa. Based on this approach, as you know I have been in the forefront for organic products. Thus, if you have someone from your club who can handle sending things overseas to your Africa families, I have organic shirts, tees, sweats that are a bit damaged, but can be fixed; most have small holes.

Now I certainly do not expect you to handle this, but I trust you will find someone who would be able to do this.

I will need minor expenses to cover shipping and handling. This would greatly help your situation with your newspaper, helping the families n Africa.

Meantime, keep well and looking forward to John's recovery.

**Al Ades**, New Jersey USA

*(Facebook post)*

**Today's to do list:**

1. What ever you are doing, do it with passion.
2. Ignore the negativity around you.
3. See the magic in everything.
4. Relax your shoulders. Breathe.

#ShineOn

#SnapDayThoughts

#MondayThoughts

#iamSnapPhotography

**DavidStar Donald**, Nigeria

**Iona,**

Ghita was a student of mine and would like to make a career in sustainability - i think she would appreciate your newspaper.  
**David Crookall**, France

**Iona**

Thank you for your quick response. I am Ghita (Rita). As Professor David mentioned, I would like to follow an SD (Sustainable Development) career but always

keep myself in the business environment. After reading articles and a few magazines about SD, my interests lie more specifically in climate change, water waste, and food management.

I would love to be part of your email list to read about *Groundswell News*. :-)

For the moment, I am in Thailand working in the marketing department in the healthcare industry. I am not 100% passionate about it, but I need to keep working to survive. In my free time, I try to attend seminars about plastic usage in ASEAN and other events in SD.

It's quite difficult to do everything at the same time (especially in a big city like Bangkok) so I am trying my best to keep myself in the loop of SD news.

My goal now is to move back to Europe (ideally Germany), start a new job in SD but related to my degree (International Business), and keep reading/meeting new people around the SD field, to hopefully migrate from "marketing" to "sustainable marketing" or "marketing sustainability" or be part an organization and work in their Sustainable Development department.

**Ghita Assouab**, Thailand

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:** I was so pleased with the way David introduced me to Ghita that I decided to put in part of the conversation. Since I'm trying hard to boost the subscriber base for *Groundswell News*, I'm hoping that other readers will be kind enough to do this sort of thing, too.

But please remember that I prefer emails to me at [gobackclub@pa.net](mailto:gobackclub@pa.net) over Facebook. I don't use Facebook often so that's not a good way to reach me. People can also look at my website, [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org). Thank you for helping The Go-Back Club grow!

Good to have you back.

Have shared the article you wrote loads of times!

I have decided that the best way I can help is by sharing ideas and making practical suggestions of things you could do that are achievable.

**Valerie Wood-Gaige**

Learn With Grandma, Wales

**Iona,**

I am going to be taking conservation science courses at George Mason – at least I plan to participate in their summer program where you get to do work for an area scientist, probably at the zoo. So many animals and plants going extinct I need to learn more science.

Maybe I will write about it.

**Bill Boteler**, Washington DC, USA

I'm working as a self directed writer. That is my major project right now. I am writing for climate action. I'm tired of watching it unfold and just writing about it, I'm rebel writing! The rebellion is now!

Though I am thinking of going and planting trees after the Rebellion for writers inspiration.

**Joe A. Nagy**, Canada

I believe we are seeing an awaking .. history is being made .. we must act with authority .. I am already being attacked on social media however those people have no power over my sword named Science.

I expect the attacks .. bring it on as it shows we are pushing the right buttons .. this is a battle between Science and Greed .. thanks for your support .. we will beat these evil humans.

**Raymond Ford**, British Columbia, Canada



The activities of the second phase of this project continue relentlessly. Objective is 200,000 trees in place that will be planted since September.

Join me and support financially, materially and morally. I need Bags, material to build a nursery tent, seeds, watering cans, fertilizer, etc.

#GreeningBurundiProject

#YouthClimateActivist

#UmuntuMovementBurundi

**Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze**, Burundi

**NEWS FLASH, MAY 27, 2019 FROM SEEDS FOR PEACE:**

“Our seeds have landed in Burundi! I am quite proud of the work done by Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze, he operates Greening Burundi, planting thousands of trees to combat climate change. Burundi is one of the poorest countries on Earth.”