

SOS PLANET - SURVIVAL ACTION

(This is the list of information that pushed us to launch our initiative)

LAST CALL TO AVOID ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE AND THE MASS EXTINCTION OF FLORA, FAUNA AND MANKIND IN LESS THAN 4,000 YEARS

The carbon crisis is the greatest, most urgent challenge humanity has ever faced (...Covid-19 is nothing compared).

Yet instead of negotiating to share a finite, science-based carbon budget low enough to keep us within 1.5°C of the pre-industrial average, the Paris Agreement allowed each nation to set their own dangerously inadequate carbon reduction targets.

If met, scientists say the Paris targets will lead to higher temperatures of around 3-4°C by 2100. However, global carbon emissions continue to increase, putting us on track for an even greater rise in average temperature by the end of this century.

In short, our current behaviour is destroying the environment on which we depend. If such rapid and irreversible environmental change continues at the current pace, the entire human race and countless other species will most likely become extinct within 2,000/4,000 years.

Nevertheless, scientists say we can still avoid the tipping point to irreversible, exponential changes to our environment and climate, but the window of opportunity for action is closing fast (apparently max 10 years).

In October 2018, the IPCC published a report about the carbon targets required to keep the rise of average temperature in 2100 within 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels (i.e. 0.5°C above today's average).

Its key message is that carbon emissions from human activity must be almost halved over the next ten years, become net carbon neutral by 2050 and increasingly net carbon negative thereafter.

This is a massive challenge. Depending how the biosphere reacts to rising temperature and the release of methane through melting permafrost in Arctic regions, the IPCC calculates we will need to remove between 100 - 1000 GtCO₂ from the atmosphere between 2050 and 2100.

So great a range underlines uncertainties about the way the biosphere will react to rising temperatures, how soon we cut carbon emissions, the preservation of natural carbon sinks and success in developing technology to scrub billions of tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere.

For these reasons, even if its recommendations can be implemented, the IPCC gives no more than a 66% chance of keeping the rise of temperature within 1.5°C before the end of this century. It follows that the odds of success will be far less if we fail to meet the IPCC carbon targets.

These uncertainties left anyway many leading scientists think that 1.5°C is not a safe target. Instead, they say we must take urgent action: (i) to reduce the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere from the current 416ppm (and the 500ppm of CO₂ equivalent if we include also the other greenhouse gases into account) to 300ppm of CO₂ only, its level in 1940 (that would correspond in terms of CO₂ equivalent to circa 385ppm) and (ii) to stop immediately the emissions of the greenhouse gases other than CO₂ produced by humans.

The delay in creating a low/zero carbon infrastructure means the only immediate option for SURVIVAL consists in a profound behaviour change by organisations, businesses and individuals in cutting urgently and drastically carbon emissions. Failure will condemn humanity and countless other species to the risk of EXTINCTION.

The harsh reality is that our future depends on urgent, unprecedented and coordinated global collaboration to cut carbon emissions. We can no longer afford to wait to hear what governments say is feasible. From this moment, **we are all morally obliged to make the avoidance of fossil fuels our most urgent and absolute priority.**

Scientific data shows that the long-term future of humanity depends on our ability to make deep cuts in fossil fuels over each of the next ten years. **This makes the next decade THE MOST CRITICAL MOMENT IN HISTORY!**

Our survival depends on resolving six key factors without delay:

1. Public understanding of the threats that will be triggered by inaction.
2. A sense of responsibility towards future generations.
3. Belief in our ability to make a difference as individuals.
4. As a consequence of the above: political will.
5. The development of Hydrogen technology to make ships and airplanes carbon neutral.
6. The development of the technology to clear billions of tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere.

As the results of our opinion polls in Europe (Russia, Germany, Italy, France, UK, Spain and Switzerland), US, China and India show that the large majority of citizens of these countries is in favour to turn their respective countries CO₂ neutral by 2030, our action plan must be linked to an urgent and global communication strategy as a catalyst for a sea-change in public policies leading to turn all our countries CO₂ neutral by 2030. This will help governments introduce effective measures, including carbon taxes and a ban on using fossil fuels for land transport, heating and energy production by 2030.

The majority of scientists state that we should have become carbon neutral already more 20 years ago. Therefore, according to such scientists, if we continue to pollute by 2030 even at half of the current rate (as it is recommended by the IPCC and the European, UK and Swiss Parliaments), the year 2030 will be the final date after which we would very likely lose control of climate change and fall into an irreversible path.

THE YEAR 2030 IS A FEASIBLE TARGET! For example, during the Second World War, companies such as Ford and General Motors had to change their production from cars to tanks in a few years! During the current pandemic from Covid-19, almost all countries of the world have been taking bold and challenging actions in order to limit the contagions and bend the curve down! These examples clearly demonstrate that if there is (political) will, the goal can be achieved.

OUR REQUESTS / ACTION PLAN

(What should be done in order to become CO₂ neutral by 2030)

A: WE ASK ALL INDIVIDUALS & ORGANISATIONS TO IMMEDIATELY:

1. Consider our carbon footprint and stop wasting energy. Buy renewable electricity, off-set emissions through trustworthy schemes, improve insulation of existing buildings, replace old boilers with solar heating and electric heat pump systems. Make new buildings CO₂ neutral.
2. Minimise car use and air travel. Walk, cycle or use public transport. Buy zero emission vehicles and replace fossil fuelled vehicles by 1/1/30.
3. Reduce as much as possible the consumption of meat, fish, eggs and dairy products.
4. Divest from companies that have any involvement with fossil fuels.

B: WE ASK ALL NATIONS TO:

1. By 1/1/21: A) End all subsidies to fossil fuel producers/products. B) Introduce carbon taxes/fee to discourage fossil fuel use. C) Introduce incentives to install solar panels on roofs. D) Lower the price of electricity produced from renewable sources. E) Introduce a binding global agreement to end deforestation and plant new forests (one tree on 20m2 of land per person per year). F) Encourage plant-based diet. G) Improve soil management to protect and increase natural carbon sinks. H) Increase public investment in research into zero carbon and Hydrogen based technologies. I) Impose tariffs on imports from countries that do not behave as above and use the revenues to fund programmes under the above C), D), E) and H).
2. By 1/1/24: A) Ban the sale of all coal and oil powered electricity and the construction of new fossil fuelled energy power plants. B) Ban the sale of fossil-fuelled vehicles including leisure boats and recreational aircraft.
3. By 1/1/30: A) Ban use of fossil fuels for land transport, heating and energy production (all electricity to be generated from renewable energies). B) Turn aviation and shipping CO2 neutral by carbon offsetting their emissions.
4. By 1/1/35: Require all new ships and aircraft to have zero CO2 emissions.
5. By 1/1/45: Ban ships and aircraft which do not have zero CO2 emissions.

C: WE ASK THE UNFCCC TO: agree a fair, math-based rationale for sharing a safe finite, science-based global carbon budget, so the use of fossil fuels for land transport, heating and energy production is cut to zero by 1/1/30 (like Norway). This will enable nations to check their actions against what is required, create international peer pressure to cut emissions and establish principles for a sustainable and fair post carbon global economy.



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