

“We interrupt this broadcast...”

(1566 words)

The Climate Emergency Era has begun, and it is not currently known how long it will last, *or if it will end.*

The Press Release (October 8, 2018) for the [“Summary for Policymakers of IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C”](#) included the following--

“Limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society....” (paragraph 1)

Since that IPCC Special Report was released, [“over 1180 local governments in 23 countries have declared a Climate Emergency”](#) (as of November 20, 2019).

However--

Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions *have not yet peaked--they are still increasing (NASA)* (monthly readings) and

“Renewables (while) supplying more than 26% of global electricity, (only) provide only 10% of the energy used for heating and cooling and just over 3% for transport.” [From the [“Renewables 2019: Global Status Report” \(REN21\) Press Release](#) (June 18, 2019; p. 2, paragraph 3)]

Further--

“Governments are planning to produce about 50% more fossil fuels by 2030 than would be consistent with limiting warming to 2°C and 120% more than would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C” [Press Release for [“Production Gap 2019 Report”](#) by Climate Analytics, CICERO, and UNEP et al.; (November 20, 2019; section “Key Messages”, first sentence)]

and

“Between the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2016 and the end of 2018, cumulative bank finance for fossil fuels amounted to USD 1.9 trillion.* (And) Global *subsidies* for fossil fuel consumption reached an estimated USD 300 billion in 2017... with at least 73 countries providing subsidies of more than USD 100 million each.” (See Figure 5)” [From [“Renewables 2019 Global Status Report”](#) by REN21 (released June 18, 2019; p. 34)] [*see also [“Banking on Climate Change: Fossil Fuel Finance Report Card 2019”](#) by Rainforest Action Network et al., (March 20, 2019; p. 3, paragraph 2 in Executive Summary)]

In addition, even--

“The editor of The Lancet, one of the most prestigious medical journals in the world, has come out officially asking all health professionals to engage in non-violent social protest to protect people from the climate & ecological breakdown.” [From [tweet with video](#) by @DoctorsXr; (October 24, 2019)]

In summary--

“The climate crisis has arrived and is accelerating faster than most scientists expected (figure 2, IPCC 2018). It is more severe than anticipated, threatening natural ecosystems and the fate of humanity (IPCC 2019). Especially worrisome are potential irreversible climate tipping points and nature's reinforcing feedbacks (atmospheric, marine, and terrestrial) that could lead to a catastrophic “hothouse Earth,” well beyond the control of humans (Steffen et al. 2018). These climate chain reactions could cause significant disruptions to ecosystems, society, and economies, potentially making large areas of Earth uninhabitable.” [From statement [“World Scientists’ Warning of a Climate Emergency”](#), with more than 11,000 scientist signatories from around the world (November 5, 2019; paragraph 7)]

and--

There is an extremely long list of organizations and institutions [news sources, governments (international, national, local), think tanks, NGOs, etc.] who have civic responsibility and community service obligations to be responders to this Climate Emergency, *but who are not moving with sufficient urgency.*

Here in this op-ed piece, I would like to make *absolutely certain* that people who *do understand* the present reality--and the future possibilities--of extreme suffering, and the *urgency needed to prevent catastrophic runaway Global Heating*, also understand that--

--*there are ways* Climate Emergency Action, collaborative problem solving, and peacebuilding can be carried out so that we (as in the human beings currently living on Planet Earth) exponentially accelerate solutions *in every field of activity* at this critical time.

Thousands of Positive Tipping Point Related Organizations...

What we need now is for as many people as possible to be able to examine, learn, and then *know* what their own personal best action plan efforts will look like to be a positive contribution to the unprecedented cultural transformation needed in the years and *decades* ahead. And there are thousands of organizations and institutions around the world which can contribute essential guidance at this critical time (I have listed 616 in 30 categories in Appendix 10 of my 157 page paper [“Brainstorming Zero Carbon ASAP Campaign”](#)).

In the “Brainstorming Zero Carbon ASAP Campaign” paper, I advocate for accumulating 5-10 page overviews on how to achieve Zero Carbon ASAP--including guidance on adaption--from these organizations and institutions (overviews which will be updated as needed, for the duration of the emergency). Such 5-10 page overviews, organized for easy access on a clearinghouse website, can—

1) provide the community service of appropriate and easily accessible Climate Emergency guidance from organizations and institutions with decades of high visibility and high credibility experience

- 2) provide a clear visualization of transformations needed in every aspect of our lives--since different organizations will focus on priorities in their fields of activity (food systems; water scarcity; migration, housing; land rights; biodiversity; civic engagement; peacebuilding; emergency assistance, etc.)
- 3) provide the equivalent of a needs assessment for local communities, of the kind which precedes local Community Visioning ([many overviews of visioning best practices](#); [excellent example of visioning in 13 minute documentary](#)) [Note: Community Visioning Initiatives can be described as a series of community meetings designed to maximize citizen participation in identifying challenges, and in solution-oriented activity.]
- 4) provide focus and urgency for local surveys of key leaders (prior to Visioning; which identify local-specific challenges and local-specific solutions)--the responses to which can demonstrate the need for Community Visioning, and many Neighborhood Learning Centers
- 5) open up many new lines of discussion on how people can work through differences, get on the same side, and help each other
- 6) build awareness that everyone's investments of time, energy, and money ("votes" which are made more frequently than election votes) can have a positive and cumulative effect on the solutions-investment-training-employment sequence--and create countless solution-oriented jobs
- 7) be a great asset to the ["over 1180 local governments in 23 countries \(that\) have declared a Climate Emergency"](#) (as of November 20, 2019)

...as Catalysts for Thousands of Local Community Visioning Initiatives

Thousands of local Visioning Initiatives, in communities around the world, can activate the most possible human participation (by way of 6-12 months of workshops, meetings, brainstorming, and prioritizing challenges and solutions) (with the process repeated periodically in the future), and help build a high level of consensus for specific action plans in the shortest amount of time, with support from—

- 1) Universities, colleges, and thousands of positive tipping point related organizations developing related curriculum--and offering classes, workshops, and teacher training, to support the development of Neighborhood Learning Centers
- 2) Neighborhood Learning Centers helping to create the necessary knowledge base and skill sets by providing accessible space for workshops, discussion, information sharing, mutual support, encouragement, fellowship, and friendship
- 3) Local newspapers supporting this multi-faceted solution-oriented path with ongoing coverage--and a new section for reader contributions which identify helpful people and valuable resources, and reinforce important community goals
- 4) Residents (especially those who are unemployed) volunteering time and energy to assist with Community Visioning and Neighborhood Learning Centers, and to advance resulting action plans--who then could receive, as compensation, local currency (which, because it can only be spent in local community businesses, helps support the local economy)

5) Job fairs at the end of the Community Visioning Initiative process, which provide opportunities for all key stakeholders in the community (businesses, organizations, institutions, government, etc.) to demonstrate their upgraded awareness--and their interest in the welfare of the community--by offering and facilitating new employment opportunities.

6) Local leaders of religious/spiritual traditions stepping up on every frontline possible to help people understand the urgent need to

a) sacrifice personal desires for the greater good

b) choose forgiveness, reconciliation--and *abstaining from violent conflict resolution*--as a way of bringing cycles of violence to an end

c) create community life and cultural traditions which "... bring to the fore how many good people there are, how many ways there are to do good, and how much happiness comes to those who extend help, as well as to those who receive it".

... May be a Way of Successfully Managing the Unprecedented Cultural Transformation Ahead

Education during the process of a comprehensive Community Visioning Initiatives, and especially in Neighborhood Learning Centers, can result in residents everywhere knowing--

a) if they are in an area of surplus (in which case their surplus can help others with emergency needs)

b) where to buy what material purchases they absolutely needed to make--so that they contribute the most possible to carbon-neutral supply chains

c) what kind of businesses to boycott so that the most carbon neutral and circular local economies can be established in the shortest amount of time

If this kind of selective buying is done in cooperation with thousands of Community Visioning Initiatives with supporting Neighborhood Learning Centers, it may be a way of successfully managing the unprecedented cultural transformation ahead... and it may be enough of a downsizing of the Total World Energy Demand to match up with the efforts at supplying electricity from 100% renewable energy sources. Also, once it becomes clear that local residents are "getting together" on selective buying, and that thousands of local communities are determined to "drive" local economies to Zero Carbon, changes may come more quickly in the governments, international corporations, international banks, etc., which have, up to this point in time, been slow to respond to this Climate Emergency.

Stefan Pasti, Founder and Resource Coordinator

The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative (www.cpcsi.org)

305 Sycamore Street

Fulton, MO 65251

(703) 209-2093

@StefanPasti on Twitter