

## An Introduction to the “Brainstorming 50% by 2030” Campaign

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We need to encourage as many people as possible to be thinking--and thinking to the point of brainstorming--about how we will achieve a 50% reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030.

We need to discuss this matter thoroughly, even to the point of workshops and informal discussions--in Neighborhood Learning Centers--in communities around the world.

We need to draw upon every source we know of to increase our capacity for good; we need to create, develop, and accelerate a full array of solution-oriented activity; and we need to contribute everything we can towards stabilizing, nourishing, and sustaining the greater good of the whole--for as many people, ecosystems, and other life forms, as possible.

This “Brainstorming 50% by 2030” Campaign proposes to streamline to the frontlines of public discourse the best 5-10 page overviews of how we can achieve a 50% reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030--and thereby catalyze local Community Visioning Initiatives, and contribute significantly to maximizing stakeholder participation in solution-oriented activity.

### Why Do We Need to Achieve a 50% Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030?

- 1) There has been much analysis, and many projections made, about how much time we have to achieve a 50% reduction in Greenhouse Gases to limit global warming to 1.5°C (before negative feedback loops carry us into very high risk global warming). However, the [“The IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C”](#), released on October 8, 2018, has been the most comprehensive, and carefully peer-reviewed, statement yet on how soon, and how urgently, we need to act.
  - a) “According to #SR15 (“The IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C”), pathways with limited overshoot of 1.5°C require global net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to decline by ~45% from 2010 levels by 2030 (40–60% interquartile), reaching net zero around 2050 (2045–2055 interquartile)...” [[from Glen Peters tweet](#)--complete tweet with graph also in Appendix, entry b)]. The SR15 Report includes:
    - “Limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society.”
    - “Every extra bit of warming matters, especially since warming of 1.5°C or higher increases the risk associated with long-lasting or irreversible changes, such as the loss of some ecosystems.”

The article [“We have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe, warns UN”](#) (October 8, 2018; Guardian) provides an overview (with details) of the IPCC 1.5°C Report, and quotes from three of the authors of the report.

2) Since January 1, 2019 there has been a spike in the number of local governments that have declared a Climate Emergency; so that as of April 25, 2019--

a) “Over 450 local governments have declared a Climate Emergency and committed to action to drive down emissions at emergency speed.”

b) “Over 40 million people are represented by a local government that has declared a Climate Emergency.”

[The above statistics are from [“Climate Emergency Campaign” \(“Emergency Declarations”\) webpage](#) at the website of The Climate Mobilization.]

3) For this writer, there are two tweets (with graphs) which clearly illustrate where we are, and the urgency of making the “unprecedented changes in all aspects of society”--

a) by Eric Holthaus @EricHolthaus Nov 1 2018

“Your periodic reminder of the news story of the millennium: We have left the 10,000-year climate ‘safe zone’ that gave rise to human civilization.” [\[complete tweet\]](#) (with very helpful graph) also in Appendix, see entry a)]

b) and the tweet by Glen Peters @Peters\_Glen Oct 12 2018

“According to #SR15 (“The IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C”), pathways with limited overshoot of 1.5°C require global net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to decline by ~45% from 2010 levels by 2030 (40–60% interquartile), reaching net zero around 2050 (2045–2055 interquartile), & go negative thereafter (my estimate).

“This is not easy....” [\[complete tweet\]](#) (with very helpful graph) also in Appendix, see entry b)]

Further evidence of the unprecedented nature of the Climate Emergency--and evidence for numerous other unprecedented challenges--and a summary of some of the essential solutions needed (from this writers point of view) are provided in the Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative Summary Paper [“Harvest Song”](#) (78 pages; Nov.-Dec., 2018; 3.9 MB). [Note: Building the CPCS Initiative ([www.cpcsi.org](http://www.cpcsi.org)) is a significant part of the contributions being made at this time, by this writer. For some of the other unprecedented challenges which now exist, see list on p. 8 of this document (below).]

Recently (March 15, 2019), students (mostly from middle schools and high schools) who--

- a) explored the research readily available on the Internet
- b) could see that much of what we now take for granted (about ecosystems, social cohesion, and civilization itself) might be seriously at risk if we failed to limit global warming to 1.5°C
- c) and who were possibly inspired by Greta Thunberg's (at age 15) school strikes--  
[the first student to do a school strike--because she realized her government (Sweden) needed to do far more than it was doing for her to have a future which included any secure foundations],  
--and [her speech to COP 24](#) (December 2-15, 2018 United Nations Climate Change Conference) participants--

[which included: "You say you love your children above all else, yet you are stealing their futures right before their very eyes" (i.e. "stealing" *by not stepping up action to the level which would match the scale and urgency scientists, non-profit organizations, businesses, mayors, activists, policymakers, etc. had repeatedly been saying is needed*)] [Note: This writer compiled a 28 item "Timeline of Reports, Articles, and other Educational Materials Warning About Global Warming" (1988-2013)--which includes excerpts from key documents. The timeline was a part of extensive research included in the CPCS Initiative document "[Invitation Package for Possible Board of Advisors](#)" (589 pages, 3.6MB; November, 2013)(timeline is on p. 273-301).]

--organized schools strikes worldwide on March 15, 2019. The photo and text accompanying [a tweet by @StrikeClimate](#) (Australia)[complete tweet also in Appendix, see entry c)], reports that those worldwide strikes included 1.5 million + strikers, 2000 + strikes, and 100 + countries.

Unfortunately, one of the difficulties of limiting global warming to 1.5°C (or less) is that there is an extremely long list of institutions and organizations [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 (and also to all other unprecedented challenges), but who are not moving with sufficient urgency (or not giving any attention at all/or even denying the problem even exists) in response to what is, in fact, one of the most critical crossroads in the history of life on Planet Earth.

Lack of sufficient attention to the Climate Emergency, and to other unprecedented challenges (including the 6<sup>th</sup> Extinction)--*by not stepping up action to the level which would match the scale and urgency scientists, non-profit organizations, businesses, mayors, activists, policymakers, etc. had repeatedly been saying is needed* (repeated for emphasis)--

- a) reinforces the thinking of people--who have not explored much research on these matters--that there is no Climate Emergency
- b) creates a lack of confidence in such institutions
- c) contributes to the "they don't care, why should we" kind of cynicism which can cripple our best efforts at this critical time.

The Fridays for Future protests (involving mostly students whose future is seriously in doubt), and the Extinction Rebellion protests, have been a most sincere appeal to the “extremely long list of institutions and organizations [news sources, governments (international, national, local), think tanks, NGOs, etc.]” to “get moving”.

This “Brainstorming 50% by 2030 Campaign” recognizes the limitations of asking people who are not serious about guiding public discourse during global emergencies to “get moving”... and is an effort to open up many new channels for movement.

### How Does the “Brainstorming 50% by 2030” Campaign Work?

The “Brainstorming 50% by 2030” Campaign is based on brainstorming, “casting back”, community visioning, crowdsourcing, and other collaborative problem solving approaches involving a community of stakeholders, some known or unknown set of challenges--and either preconceived, or organically developed, goals.

[Note: And it cannot be said often enough that the community of stakeholders involved in decisions which could irreversibly damage the prospects of life on Planet Earth needs to include as many of the billions of people living now as possible--and needs to also consider the prospects of people, ecosystems, and other life forms not yet born.]

The “Brainstorming 50% by 2030” Campaign identifies institutions and organizations which are already contributing in trustworthy, verifiable, visible, and peer-evaluated ways to guiding public discourse towards achieving 1.5°C. The Campaign then asks them to provide a 5-10 page overview of how we will decrease emissions by 50% by 2030 (this writer has created a brief example with [“A Look Back from 2030—How Did We Do It”](#) ).

Yes, it’s true--many of these 5-10 page overviews will have similarities. However, this Campaign believes that the accumulation of short-enough-for-many-people-to-read, evidence-based overviews by many of the most trusted institutions and organizations in the world--which are saturated with doable solutions (including solutions which can be put into practice by citizens everywhere)--can streamline many much needed solutions to the frontlines of public discourse.

Further: there are still three to eight decades of unprecedented cultural transformation ahead of us. So--although we may think we have most of the solutions we need already, there may be many blind spots in our thinking, *and there is still much to do*. (And who knows from what sources the best ideas will come?) Therefore, the “Brainstorming 50% by 2030” Campaign also makes an open call for papers to people from all varieties of educational backgrounds, economic circumstances, occupations, cultural

backgrounds, and cultural world views--and asks them to submit a 5-10 page overview of how we will decrease emissions by 50% by 2030. (And the campaign will accept submissions even if they are written with a crayon on a piece of a paper bag... though the preferable form would be Word file/Pdf file by email, as translations can be more easily managed.)

We are at one of the most critical crossroads in the history of life on Planet Earth. We need to encourage as many people as possible to be thinking--and thinking to the point of brainstorming--about how we will decrease emissions by 50% by 2030. Anyone who has been a part of a Community Visioning exercise will understand that there are many ways and means which will help us achieve our goals which have not yet been brought up to the fore of public discussion. And even further: we--collectively--are far from having had significant public discussion on the full dimensions of the unprecedented challenges ahead (and solutions suggested) using the projections and analysis we already have. We need to discuss this matter thoroughly, even to the point of workshops and informal discussions--in Neighborhood Learning Centers--in communities around the world. Then we will be coming closer to understanding how much we need to be learning to be a part of the solutions, and how much we need to be on the same side helping each other.

If this “Brainstorming 50% by 2030” Campaign is sufficiently supported (especially by universities and colleges--higher education), it will be a matter of recognized social responsibility—(as in the global disclosure system CDP has developed for investors, companies, cities, states and regions to manage their environmental impacts)—for organizations and institutions to provide their 5-10 page overview. And those who do not participate will be so noted, in a way similar to having a showing, or not having a showing, in the Princeton Review’s “Top 50 Green Colleges” ([press release for the 2018 listings](#) ).

Thus, news sources, and/or citizens everywhere, will have a quickly accumulating--and highly relevant to their future well-being--compilation of public statements to explore, discuss, learn from, and act on.

Additionally, since this necessary cultural transformation needs to happen very quickly, news sources--and “Brainstorming 50% by 2030” Campaign clearinghouse websites--will be able to provide timely updates of such overviews.

When 100-150 of these kinds of 5-10 page overviews have been accumulated, and vetted for factual accuracy, social responsibility, practicality and replicability, cost effectiveness, and etc., such a collection of overviews can function as a “needs assessment”--of the kind which precedes local Community Visioning Initiatives.

Having such a “needs assessment” will help leaders and organizers at the local community level illustrate the need for Community Visioning Initiatives, and for many supporting Neighborhood Learning Centers.

## Community Visioning Initiatives: Critical for a Just and Peaceful (and Successful) Transition

Community Visioning Initiatives (CVIs) are series of community meetings designed to maximize stakeholder participation in identifying challenges, and in identifying solution-oriented activity. The more comprehensive Community Visioning Initiatives require steering committees; preliminary surveys or needs assessments; task forces; workshops; and collaboration between many organizations, government agencies, businesses, and educational institutions--and seek to build up consensus in the community for specific goals and action plans by encouraging a high level of participation by all residents.

For the purposes of this introduction to the “Brainstorming 50% by 2030” Campaign, the kind of Community Visioning this writer is referring to is summarized by the list below--

[Note: Keep in mind that the outline of a Community Visioning process provided below is brief, compared to the overview provided on p. 64-70 in the Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative Summary Paper [“Harvest Song”](#)--and, that this list and p. 64-70 represent this writers’ view of a comprehensive and effective Community Visioning process.]

- 1) Universities and colleges assisting with Community Visioning--and providing related curriculum, workshops, and teacher training, to support many Neighborhood Learning Centers (Example: Community Visioning--the 13 minute documentary [“Chattanooga: A Community with a Vision”](#)). [Note: The “Chattanooga: A Community with a Vision” video includes many interviews and how-to details, and documents two very successful Community Visioning Initiatives organized by the non-profit organization Chattanooga Venture (Chattanooga, Tennessee USA)--one in 1984, and a follow-up in 1993. The 1984 Chattanooga Community Visioning Project (“Vision 2000”) attracted more than 1,700 participants, and produced 40 community goals--which resulted in the implementation of 223 projects and programs, and a total financial investment of 793 million dollars.]
- 2) Many Neighborhood Learning Centers providing support for Community Visioning Initiatives; and providing places, in local neighborhoods, for discussion, information sharing, mutual support and encouragement, fellowship and friendship--so that the exchanging of information and resources also includes the building of close-knit communities of people with a healthy appreciation for each other’s strengths
- 3) Local Newspapers reporting on--
  - a) preliminary surveys of 150 key local leaders from a variety of fields of activity—(identifying challenges and solutions)[surveys initiated with the support of the 100-150 overviews (above) by organizations and institutions (and possibly other submitters) guiding public discourse towards achieving 1.5°C]—the results of which would inform priorities for Neighborhood Learning Centers workshops

- b) the different stages of the Community Visioning process [preliminary surveys; assembling a steering committee; planning and coordination with a variety of local leaders; brainstorming meetings identifying challenges; workshops prioritizing the challenges; brainstorming meetings identifying solutions; workshops prioritizing the solutions; providing access to priority solutions and action plans in a large meeting center (so that citizens can mark preferences and decide where they will participate)]
- c) the countless workshops, and other informal learning, at Neighborhood Learning Centers
- d) the job fairs at the end of the Community Visioning process

4) Residents (especially those who unemployed) who volunteer time and energy to assist with Community Visioning and Neighborhood Learning Centers--and to advance resulting action plans--receiving, as compensation, local currency (which, because it can only be spent in local community business, helps support the local economy)

5) The 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, and reconciliation--*and abstaining from violent conflict resolution*--as a way of bringing cycles of violence to an end and
- 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".

Many Colleges and Universities assisting with carrying out local Community Visioning Initiatives  
 + many supporting Neighborhood Learning Centers  
 = an exponential acceleration in solution-oriented activity.

1000 time-intensive Community Visioning Initiatives, in communities around the world, would create--

- a) an exponential acceleration in solution-oriented investment
- b) an exponential acceleration in solution-oriented employment and
- c) an exponential acceleration in our collective capacity to overcome the challenges of our times.

## Further Comments on Why This “Brainstorming 50% by 2030” Campaign is Needed

1) There are many well developed approaches to achieving a 50% reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030--by many very qualified coalitions of organizations--which are now accessible to be read and discussed in public discourse [five examples: [“The IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C”](#); [“Project Drawdown: 100 Solutions to Reverse Global Warming”](#); [Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation’s “One Earth Climate Model”](#); [Zero Carbon Britain’s “Raising Ambition: Zero Carbon Scenarios From Across the Globe”](#) (a Centre for Alternative Technology project); and [“The Solutions Project”](#) (see also p. 50-52 of “Harvest Song” (next link below))].

However—

1) We need to understand the full dimensions of the unprecedented cultural transformation which we must achieve. And it must be clear and well understood that the work ahead of us is not only about achieving 100% renewable energy—and not only about achieving a 100% carbon neutral economy.

a) There are numerous unprecedented challenges which are also a part of the unprecedented cultural transformation which we need at this time--

(Examples: Cultures of Violence, Greed, Corruption, Cynicism, and Overindulgence; Global Inequities and the Cycle of Malnutrition, Disease, and Death; 6<sup>th</sup> Extinction Event; Gender Equality; More Health Care and Education Accessibility; Assimilating Accelerating Migration and Displacement; Improving Water Access and Sanitation; More Equitable and Circular Food Systems (including Significantly Reducing Food Waste); Protection Against Floods at Chemical Sites; Significantly Improved Solid Waste Management (especially efforts approaching Zero Waste); Ocean Health Management; Reducing Plastic Pollution; Reducing Deforestation; Reducing Cyber Threats; Increasing Media Literacy)

[The above examples are supported by substantial evidence in the Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative (which this writer is building) Summary Paper [“Harvest Song”](#) (78 pages; 3.9 MB; November-December, 2018).]

b) There is now so much information to assimilate that it is difficult to sort out what are the most important pathways for citizens everywhere to invest their time, energy, and money (their “votes”).

While some of the Green New Deals proposed ([detailed overview of proposed U.S. Green New Deal provided by Wikipedia](#)) for government interventions focus on some of the other unprecedented challenges besides achieving 100% renewable energy (or achieving a 100% carbon neutral economy), there is now so much information to assimilate that it is difficult to sort out what are the most important pathways for citizens everywhere to invest their time, energy, and money (their “votes”).

In other words, which--

from among the numerous unprecedented challenges listed above; the 100 Solutions described by Project Drawdown; the direct action approaches of Divest Invest, Climate Mobilization, Fridays for Future school striking, Extinction Rebellion; political campaigns to change the people who are in control of governance platforms; etc. and etc.

--best represent where and how citizens, in the everyday circumstances of local community life, can concentrate their "votes" of time, energy, and money to significantly diffuse and mitigate unprecedented challenges on the scale of a planetary emergency? True... all of the above is clearly a valid answer, but still... we are behind the curve, and we need more focus than that!

This writer believes we need anyone anywhere to be able to examine, learn, and then *know* what their own personal best action plan efforts will look like.

c) There is much that can go wrong with policies which either place the burden of transition on the poor and disadvantaged; on people who did little to contribute to Greenhouse Gas Emissions--or with policies which place the burden of transition on people who have had no opportunity to contribute to the decision making process.

2) We need collaborative problem solving on a scale most of us have never known before. Which means a significant majority of the 7.4 billion people now living on Planet Earth need to be at least close to being "on the same page" about where we are, where we are going, and how we are going to get there.

However--

a) We are only at the beginning of understanding how much the implementation of already known (and yet to be discovered) solutions--to all of the unprecedented challenges ahead--depends on understanding, and responding respectfully to, "a mix of economic, cultural and psychological barriers."

--"Whether the roadmaps are implemented rapidly, however, depends on social and political factors."

[from ["100% Clean and Renewable Wind, Water, and Sunlight All-Sector Energy Roadmaps for 139 Countries of the World"](#) Mark Z. Jacobson (Stanford University, CA) et al. in *Joule 1* (energy journal) (p. 108-121)(quote on p. 110) September 6, 2017 (The Solutions Project)]

--"*Changing how billions of people live on Planet Earth is a very special kind of problem, as the forces that shape our lives exist on many different levels. Rather than an unresolved technical challenge, it is increasingly accepted that we face a mix of economic, cultural and psychological barriers.*" [from the Executive Summary of [Zero Carbon Britain's "Raising Ambition: Zero Carbon Scenarios from Around the World"](#) (2018)(see p. 9)]

b) We live in the most complex cultural landscapes in the history of life on Planet Earth.

Widespread access to the search engines on the Internet; Wikipedia; YouTube; Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.); professional networks, etc. on Ning Platforms; iPhones and iPads; television networks; cable networks; newspapers; and radios mean that however carefully schools--and other educational institutions--attend to their social responsibilities, there are countless ways in which unworthy features of our complex world can counteract, rather than reinforce, important educational goals. [Ironically, the reverse is also true: these innovations can, at their best (and especially during emergencies), make it possible for students and adults from all varieties of circumstances to improve on the curriculum choices of educational institutions, and structure active responses "on the fly"]

c) Further, *our complex cultural landscapes* include many different kinds of people, with many different kinds of moral compasses--who are attempting to navigate complex cultural landscapes they are only just beginning to understand.

Thus, any one of us, in the course of any week of the year, are likely to know; come into contact with through work, recreation, or chance; hear about from friends, acquaintances, or co-workers; or learn about through news sources

many people who have--

--different ideas about morality and the best way to live

--unyielding loyalties to beliefs, identities, and livelihood

--long histories of experience with "us vs. them" narratives

--little interest in collaboration narratives

--very difficult life circumstances

--dysfunctional, irrational, and even violent tendencies

--and many people who are simply not able to adapt and change in response to unprecedented challenges as fast as other people.

In addition, there are very real possibilities that our best efforts to achieve a 50% reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030, and resolve other numerous unprecedented challenges, could be crippled by cultures of violence, greed, corruption, cynicism, and overindulgence--which have been a part of our human heritage for thousands of years.

Unfortunately, much of the real treasured wisdom of religious, spiritual, and moral traditions now seems to be hidden--and thus in need of being re-discovered. These "hidden" resources include teachings which inspire and encourage people to:

--sacrifice personal desires for the greater good of the whole

--find contentment and quality of life while consuming less material goods and ecological services

--prefer peacebuilding which supports and actualizes mutually beneficial understandings, forgiveness, and reconciliation—and *which abstains from violent conflict resolution*—as a way of bringing cycles of violence to an end

--use resources carefully, so that there is surplus available for emergency assistance

--support 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”.

Consider:

--“... every article in the bazaar has moral and spiritual values attached to it...” (from “Why the Village Movement?” by J.C. Kumarappa, economist who worked with Mahatma Gandhi)

--“Popular programming reflects a level of acceptance and shared values among large numbers of people.” [from “International Communications: A Media Literacy Approach” by Art Silverblatt and Nikolai Zlobin M.E. Sharpe July, 2004 (most content accessible at Google Books)]

--“Global advertising expenditure is predicted to reach \$581 billion at the end of 2018...” [from the article [“Global advertising expenditure to grow 4.5 percent in 2018: Zenith”](#) (September 23, 2018) at the Reuters website]

--“It would be foolish to underestimate the challenge of checking the consumption juggernaut...” [From the Worldwatch Institute webpage titled “State of the World 2004: Richer, Fatter, and Not Much Happier” (about “State of the World 2004: Special Focus—The Consumer Society”)(in last paragraph)(quote from Christopher Flavin, former Director at Worldwatch Institute)[Note: Worldwatch Institute website is currently down (or inaccessible), so no link can be provided.]

--“It is estimated that 842,000 deaths per year, are attributable to unsafe water supply, sanitation and hygiene—including 361,000 deaths of children under age five, mostly in low-income countries.” [From the World Health Organization section on “Water, Sanitation, Hygiene” [on the webpage “Diseases and Risks”](#) (2014)]

--“By the end of 2017 (i.e during 2017), 68.5 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations.... We are now witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record.” [[Refugee Statistics; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#)]

--“The global drugs trade and the global arms trade are integral to violence in both developing and industrialized countries. Even modest progress on either front will contribute to reducing the amount and degree of violence suffered by millions of people. To date, however--and despite their high profile in the world arena--no solutions seem to be in sight for these problems” [from p. 32-33; [Summary: “World Report on Violence and Health” \(2002\)](#); World Health Organization]

--“There are over 1 billion firearms in the world today, including 857 million in civilian hands--with American men and women the dominant owners, according to a study released Monday. The Small Arms Survey says 393 million of the civilian-held firearms, 46 percent, are in the United States, which is

‘more than those held by civilians in the other top 25 countries combined.’” [[from Chicago Tribune; June 18, 2018](#)]

--“(Stockholm, 2 May 2018) Total world military expenditure rose to \$1739 billion (\$1.7 trillion) in 2017, a marginal increase of 1.1 per cent in real terms from 2016, according to new figures from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).” [from the [press release for SIPRI’s comprehensive annual update of the SIPRI Military Expenditure Database](#)]

Considering the above evidence [1) a), b), and c)--and 2) a), b), and c) above]—and including what is supplied by news media every day; what we can see in the everyday circumstances of our lives; and the extensive research in longer CPCS Initiative risk assessment documents [["IPCR Critical Challenges Assessment 2011-2012: Summary Report"](#) (444 pages; January, 2012) ([Table of Contents](#)); ["Invitation Package for Possible Board of Advisors"](#) (589 pages, 3.6MB; November, 2013) ([Table of Contents](#))]

--and adding to that the unprecedented cultural transformation necessary to limit global warming to 1.5°C—and to respond to numerous other unprecedented challenges (see list on p. 8)

--and what we have ([if we feel clarity of vision requires us to comprehend the full dimensions of the unprecedented challenges ahead](#)) is a picture of the near and not so near future where our capacity to live in harmony with planetary ecosystems, our ability to maintain social cohesion, and the strength and depth of our spiritual resilience, will be tested like never before.

Hopefully, such pictures (here and elsewhere) can stir--

the innate desire for hope; the seemingly inexhaustible capacity of human beings to innovate; the grit, determination, and perseverance pioneers in human history have had to somehow find; and the wisdom and common sense which comes from having overcome many challenges in the past

--and move many readers to the point where this writer is... which is (designated by the four ----):

----This writer prefers that priorities (for urgently and drastically cutting global emissions) be given to small cities, towns, and villages:

--which have less complex infrastructure and less complex vulnerabilities

--which are more sustainable-friendly in the long run

--where more emphasis can be given to downsizing and focusing on what basic necessities are most needed

--where it is easier to see the results of our actions and

--where a truly natural circular economy (sewage treatment; food miles; less packaging; zero waste; etc.) is much easier to implement, and more likely to actually happen.

*“The smaller the circumference, the more accurately can we gauge the results of our actions, and (the) more conscientiously shall we be able to fulfill our obligations as trustees.”* (J.C. Kumarappa, economist who worked with Mahatma Gandhi)

----We should be very clear in our minds about the need to integrate peacebuilding approaches into every aspect of solution-activity--and most conscientious and thorough about including peacebuilding approaches at every level, from the grassroots community work to top level government collaboration and international agreements.

[Special Note on Peacebuilding and Reconciliation: In this time of unprecedented challenges--and especially in the context of collaborative problem solving on a scale most of us have never known before--there are going to be countless opportunities for reconciliation. There are going to be countless opportunities for arriving at a new appreciation of the personal qualities, skills, and beliefs of our neighbors and fellow citizens--personal qualities, skills, and beliefs which we once might have thought were only being directed towards outcomes with serious negative consequences for many people. And there are going to be countless opportunities for all of us—ourselves, our neighbors and our fellow citizens—to become part of a system of mutual support and encouragement in our local communities, as we respond to multiple, unprecedented challenges. Many of us have already seen that these kind of opportunities arise during the cooperative efforts needed to recover from massive natural disasters. At this critical time, we need to multiply such cooperative efforts by 10,000, or even 100,000, to curb global warming before there are too many of the kind of natural disasters from which we cannot recover.]

Anticipating such tests to our capacity to live in harmony with planetary ecosystems, our ability to maintain social cohesion, and the strength and depth of our spiritual resilience—*and also believing that there is so much unrealized potential in the spiritual wisdom we have accumulated in 5,000 years of human history*—is why this writer has emphasized, for decades now, the value of collaborative problem solving and community education approaches like Community Visioning Initiatives and Neighborhood Learning Centers. Again, readers are urged to examine carefully the overview provided on p. 64-70 (and, in this context, also p. 74 on “Interfaith Peace Vigils”) in the Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative Summary Paper [“Harvest Song”](#). [Even further, another of this writer’s Summary Papers for the CPCS Initiative--[“13 Steps for Long Term Culture Change”](#)--gives much attention to the difficult challenge of integrating wisdom and compassion into the everyday circumstances of community life--at this critical time when wisdom and compassion are so urgently needed.]

Thus, we need collaborative problem solving on a scale most of us have never known before.

We need collaborative problem solving and community education approaches which make the most of everyone’s skill and knowledge at the local level; and help us realize how much we need to be on the same side helping each other.

We need solutions--to the Climate Emergency, and to numerous other unprecedented challenges--which recognize the need for peacebuilding, and thus recognize the need to re-discover and apply wisdom and compassion in the everyday circumstances of community life--at this critical time when wisdom and compassion are so urgently needed.

We need to draw upon every source we know of to increase our capacity for good; we need to create, develop, and accelerate a full array of solution-oriented activity; and we need to contribute everything we can towards stabilizing, nourishing, and sustaining the greater good of the whole--for as many people, ecosystems, and other life forms, as possible.

3) There are billions of people who could be investing their time, energy, and money (their “votes”) in the everyday circumstances of their community life--and such “votes” could lead to countless ways of earning a living which are carbon-neutral, sustainable, socially responsible, and spiritually meaningful--if they only knew how.

This point #3 refers to the following “cause-effect” relationships:

- a) The ways we “invest” our time, energy, and money have a direct impact on the “ways of earning a living” that are available.
- b) The investments of time, energy, and money that each of us make in our everyday circumstances becomes the larger economy.

In this context, it will be helpful to remember that such cultural transformation at the grassroots level (billions of people, and their “votes”) is exactly how the [“100 companies responsible for 71% of global emissions”](#) (Guardian) (CDP’s [“Carbon Major Report 2017”](#) ) found their way to the positions they now hold in the “status quo”.

Thus, through workshops and other informal education (and associated local learning networks), people everywhere need to gain greater awareness of how all the “little events” in everyday community life have a positive and cumulative effect on the challenges-solutions-investment-training-employment sequence... and thus how all the investments of time, energy, and money (the “votes”) each of us make in our everyday circumstances become the larger economy. Citizens from every variety of circumstances can learn how to wisely cast such “votes”. Wisely directed, such “votes” can result in countless ways of earning a living which contribute to the peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts necessary to drastically reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and minimize other related challenges. As the ancient Chinese proverb says: “Many hands make much work light.”

4) We need to maximize stakeholder participation in solution-oriented activity.

## Concluding Comments

We are at one of the most critical crossroads in the history of life on Planet Earth.

There is no culture or association of societies that ever existed on planet Earth which has had to resolve the kind of challenges the next few generations of people will have to resolve.

In the near and not so near future our capacity to live in harmony with planetary ecosystems, our ability to maintain social cohesion, and the strength and depth of our spiritual resilience, will be tested like never before.

*Anticipating such tests--and also believing that there is much unrealized potential for good in the spiritual wisdom we have accumulated in 5,000 years of human history--is why this writer has emphasized, for decades now, the value of collaborative problem solving and community education approaches like Community Visioning Initiatives and Neighborhood Learning Centers.*

We need to encourage as many people as possible to be thinking--and thinking to the point of brainstorming--about how we will decrease emissions by 50% by 2030.

We need to discuss this matter thoroughly, even to the point of workshops and informal discussions--in Neighborhood Learning Centers--in communities around the world.

We need solutions--to the Climate Emergency, and to numerous other unprecedented challenges--which recognize the need to integrate peacebuilding approaches into every aspect of solution-activity, and thus recognize the need to re-discover and apply wisdom and compassion in the everyday circumstances of community life--at this critical time when wisdom and compassion are so urgently needed.

We need to draw upon every source we know of to increase our capacity for good; we need to create, develop, and accelerate a full array of solution-oriented activity; and we need to contribute everything we can towards stabilizing, nourishing, and sustaining the greater good of the whole--for as many people, ecosystems, and other life forms, as possible.

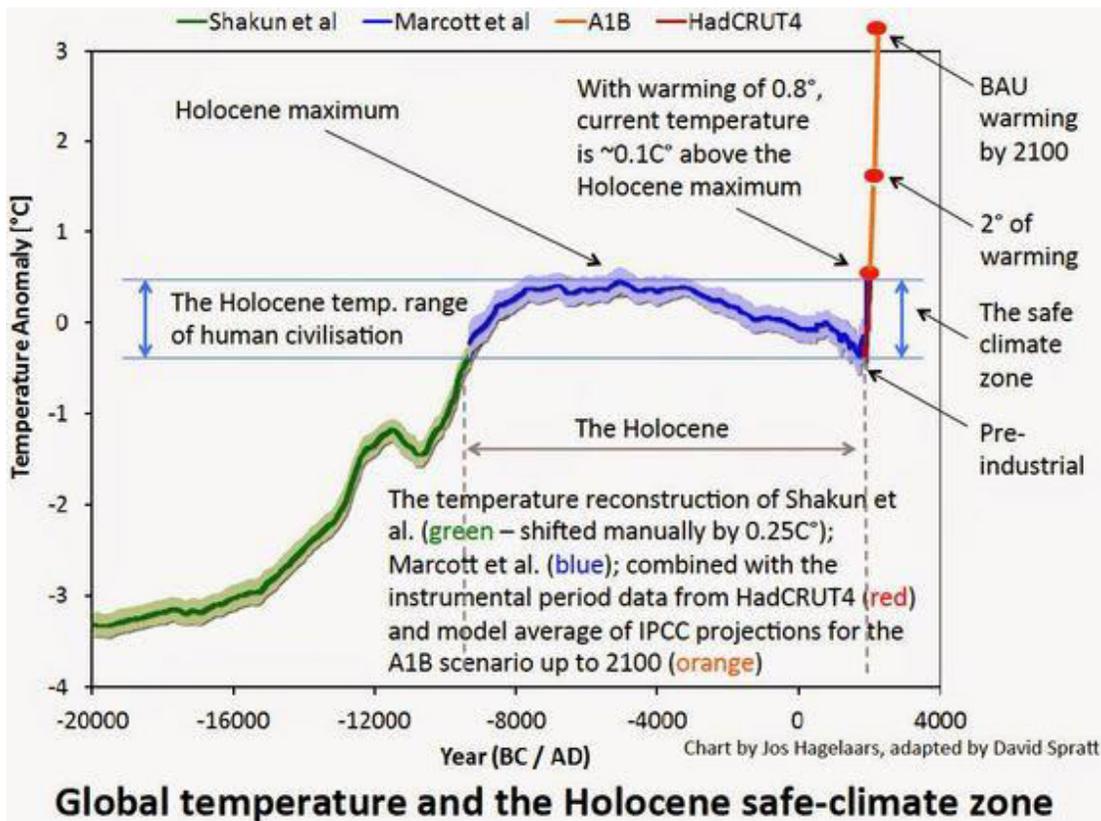
Then we will be coming closer to understanding how much we need to be learning to be a part of the solutions, and how much we need to be on the same side helping each other.

## Appendix



a) **Eric Holthaus** [Verified account](#) @EricHolthaus Nov 1 2018

Your periodic reminder of the news story of the millennium: We have left the 10,000-year climate "safe zone" that gave rise to human civilization.



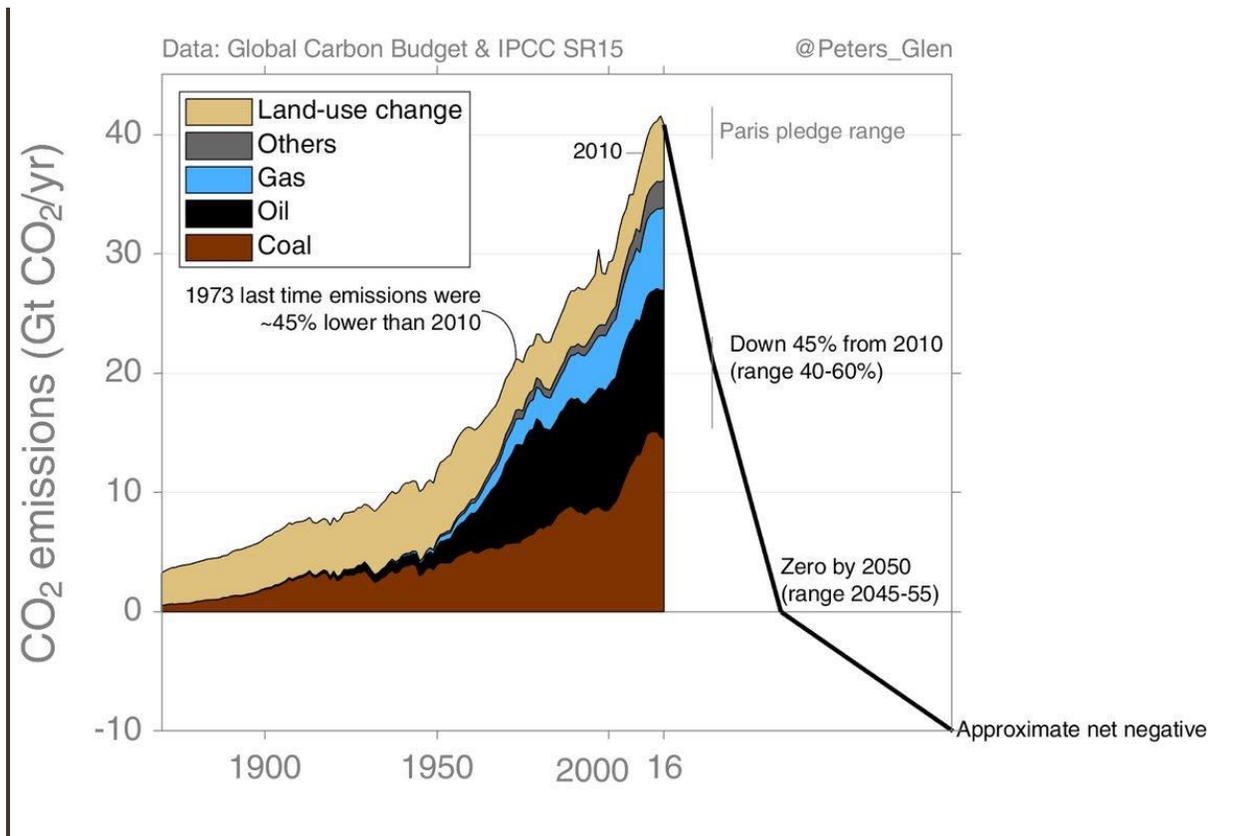
72 replies 2,984 retweets 3,093 likes



b) **Glen Peters** @Peters\_Glen Oct 12 2018

According to [#SR15](#), pathways with limited overshoot of 1.5°C require global net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to decline by ~45% from 2010 levels by 2030 (40–60% interquartile), reaching net zero around 2050 (2045–2055 interquartile), & go negative thereafter (my estimate).

This is not easy...



22 replies 248 retweets 249 likes

