

Climate Emergency Action, Collaborative Problem Solving, and Peacebuilding  
when both ecological systems and social cohesion need all possible support  
(1648 words)

Emergencies Ahead

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--

- 1) “Limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society....” (paragraph 1)
- 2) “Global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) would need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching ‘net zero’ around 2050.” (paragraph 10)

[What “45% by 2030/‘net zero’ around 2050” looks like in a [graph](#) (from Gary Peters, Research Director, Center for International Climate Research--CICERO; Oslo, Norway)(@Peters\_Glen on Twitter)]

[Note: “The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (established by the UN in 1988) provides policymakers with regular scientific assessments concerning climate change, its implications and potential future risks, (and provides) adaptation and mitigation strategies.” (from above link--see first paragraph in section “What is the IPCC?”)/“Approval’ is the process used for IPCC Summaries for Policymakers (SPMs). Approval signifies that the material has been subject to detailed, line-by-line discussion, leading to agreement among the participating IPCC member countries (195--above link, in section “What is the IPCC?”), in consultation with the scientists responsible for drafting the report.” (from [“IPCC Factsheet: How does the IPCC approve reports?”](#))]

Since that IPCC Special Report was released, [“over 1150 local governments in 23 countries have declared a Climate Emergency”](#) (as of November 4, 2019).

And yet... Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions *have not yet peaked--they are still increasing (NASA)*.

In addition, negative feedback loops (consequences of global warming which increase already existing sources of global warming), are happening faster than predicted:

- 1) “... a new study revealed that thawing permafrost in Alaska appeared to be releasing 12 times more nitrous oxide than previously estimated.” [from article [“A warming Arctic could cost the world trillions of dollars: New science warns that melting ice and permafrost could set off feedback loops that make climate change worse”](#) by Stephen Leahy (April 23, 2019; National Geographic)(paragraph 13)]
- 2) “In June and July 2019, more than 100 long-lived and intense wildfires blazed within the Arctic Circle. Most of them burned in Alaska and Siberia, though a few raged even in Greenland.... One reason so

much carbon has been released into the atmosphere is because many of the fires are burning through peatlands.... Researchers worry that the increase in CO2 from the Arctic fires will warm the atmosphere even more, leading to drier peat soils and consequently more fires.” [From article [“Arctic Fires Fill the Skies with Soot”](#) by Kasha Patel (July 31, 2019; NASA Earth Observatory)(paragraphs 1 and 8)]

Further:

- 1) “Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history--and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world now likely....”
- 2) “... around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history.”

[from article [“UN Report: Nature’s Dangerous Decline ‘Unprecedented’; Species Extinction Rates ‘Accelerating’”](#)--about the new report from The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (May 6, 2019)(paragraphs 1 and 10)]

Both of the above emergencies—the Climate Emergency and the Species Extinction Emergency--will, if they are not sufficiently remedied, most certainly make every one of the current challenges listed below worse than it already is--

Water Deficits and Widespread Sanitation Issues

Lack of Equal Access to Food

Accelerating Migration and Displacement

Global Inequities and Cycles of Malnutrition, Disease, and Death

Deforestation (when what we need are *more* trees absorbing CO<sup>2</sup>)

[Floods at Chemical Sites](#)

[Lack of Acceptable Radioactive Waste Disposal](#)

Cultures of Violence and Corruption

[Note: Substantial evidence for the above list of challenges (and many other challenges) is provided 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).]

Here in this article I would like to make *absolutely certain* that people who *do understand* the present reality--and the future possibilities--of extreme suffering<sup>1</sup>, and the urgency needed to prevent catastrophic runaway Global Heating *and* significantly limit the accelerating extinction event, also understand that--

1. One example of evidence: [“Climate crisis: 11,000 scientists warn of ‘untold suffering’”](#) by Damian Carrington (November 5, 2019, Guardian)

--*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.

And though I will be referring to a project I'm working on (the "Brainstorming Zero Carbon ASAP Campaign"), I believe most readers will understand that my work--and this article--are *not* about monetizing products or services for personal profit [every document and resource on the CPCS Initiative website ([www.cpcsi.org](http://www.cpcsi.org)) is accessible for free]. My work--and this article--are about *making whatever contributions I can make, and helping other people to make their contributions, towards—*

--maximizing human participation, accelerating solution activity, and cultivating the time-tested sources of wisdom and compassion—

--*during the most profound convergence of challenges to human life that has ever happened in the history of human life on Planet Earth.*

#### Thousands of Tipping Point Related Organizations...

The "Brainstorming Zero Carbon ASAP" Campaign advocates for 5-10 page overviews on how to achieve Zero Carbon ASAP from thousands of tipping point related organizations (616 in 30 categories in Appendix 10 of the [complete 157 page "Brainstorming" paper](#)) ([press release also available](#)), which would—

- 1) provide the community service of appropriate and easily accessible Climate Emergency guidance from thousands of 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 (climate action; hunger; water scarcity; housing; land rights; biodiversity; stakeholder engagement; peacebuilding, etc.)
- 3) provide the equivalent of a needs assessment for local communities, of the kind which precedes Community Visioning ([many overviews of visioning best practices](#); [excellent example of visioning in 13 minute documentary](#))
- 4) provide focus and urgency for local surveys of key leaders (prior to Visioning; re challenges and solutions needed)--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 1150 local governments in 23 countries \(that\) have declared a Climate Emergency"](#) (as of November 4, 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 (re 6-12 months workshops, meetings, brainstorming, and prioritizing challenges and solutions), 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 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) 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".

This "Brainstorming Zero Carbon ASAP" proposal includes many forms of peacebuilding--as in creating processes by which people can work through differences, get on the same side, and help each other—and the kinds of collaborative problem solving, community education, and citizen peacebuilding described above can result in an exponentially accelerated accumulation of opportunities, for people around the world, to become part of a system of mutual support, encouragement, and positive tipping point action in their local communities.

## Cultivating the Time-Tested Sources of Wisdom and Compassion

If many people could see and feel the practical value of carrying out the kind of collaborative problem solving, community education, and citizen peacebuilding initiatives advocated for in this article (Brainstorming Zero Carbon ASAP; Community Visioning; Neighborhood Learning Centers; etc.), such collaborative, solution-oriented activity could become a common experience... a common cultural tradition... a cultural tradition which links many diverse communities of people together, in a fellowship of people working towards the greater good of the whole... and a cultural tradition which helps pass on to future generations the most treasured sources of wisdom and compassion human beings have accumulated in more than 5,000 years of human civilization.

Both we (those of us now living), and they (the people of future generations) will need as much wisdom and compassion as possible--in the everyday circumstances of community life--to *successfully* cooperate with our fellow human beings, and to *successfully* preserve the healthy ecological systems on which our lives depend, during this critical time.

For a Peaceful and Sustainable World,

Stefan Pasti, Founder and Resource Coordinator

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[“Brainstorming Zero Carbon ASAP Campaign” Press Release \(September 18, 2019\)](#)

Online version of this article (with active links) on homepage of [www.cpcsi.org](http://www.cpcsi.org)