



Speak Out Now

April 12, 2024

mail@speakoutsocialists.org

speakoutsocialists.org

@sonbaltimore

We Must Address the Climate Emergency!

The world is burning up. On top of skyrocketing prices, inadequate wages, ongoing racism, sexism, and all forms of exploitation and oppression, including genocide, everyone in the world is faced with a real threat of extinction. The most serious crisis in our environment is global heating. Burning fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere that trap heat from the sun, in what is called the "greenhouse effect." Science has shown this for decades, but the impacts have been worse than predicted. The ten hottest years on record have been in the last decade. Currently, nearly one-third of the world's population is exposed to deadly heat for at least 20 days per year.

This heating contributes to increasing droughts, severe wildfires, and desertification. In 2023, there were fires from Chile to Canada and the Arctic, which created dangerous air pollution, as well as released huge amounts of carbon, which worsens the greenhouse effect.

Ocean temperatures are heating up drastically. This raises sea levels and makes storms and floods more severe and frequent. The ice caps are melting. So, there is less reflection of heat back into space. All this is due to human activity under the capitalist system. The class in power around the world is interested in increasing profitability and continuous growth of the economy. They have built their wealth over the last 200 years on burning fossil fuels. The devastation of the planet does not factor into their equations. All they care to evaluate is their bottom line.

Under capitalism, complex ecosystems containing billions of species, such as rainforests, have been clear-cut to sell lumber and other "cash crops." The industrial farming of single crops on hundreds of millions of acres worldwide requires a huge amount of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. These practices kill the ecosystems that keep soil healthy.

Plastics production is also a major contributor to global heating and increases all sorts of health risks, including cancer. About 400 million tons of plastic waste is generated annually, poisoning the oceans and other environments. This is on track to triple by 2060. Recycling does not solve it. Only 5-6% of all plastic in the U.S. is recycled. The point is to find safer alternatives.

Climate-related disasters have displaced most migrant people in the world today. Droughts, fires, floods, and heat

waves are devastating people's lives and livelihoods. As resources become scarcer, conflicts arise more frequently and sometimes wars break out.

The capitalist system prioritizes the private interests of giant corporations and financiers. Capitalism depends on constant expansion, extraction, and exploitation. Estimates are that, to prevent global heating beyond 1.5°C, we need to reduce emissions by at least 7.6% every year from now to 2030. Otherwise we will face irreversible, escalating catastrophes. That means right now! The capitalist class and their managers have shown no interest in sacrificing their investments to save life on our planet.

Working people do not benefit from the destruction of our planet. We suffer the consequences, by working in toxic industries while facing the brunt of the firestorms and hurricanes. We live with the consequences of global heating. Our whole life's savings can be wiped out by a single disaster.

We could have a world based on production for human needs that takes care of the environment we rely on. But to do this, it would require an entirely transformed system. There have been protests by young people to demand a sustainable future. They are right to fight for a planet we can live on! To transform this society and abolish the system destroying our planet, it will take a coordinated global movement. Young people have taken the lead. But working people of all ages, everywhere keep the system going with our labor. If we choose to, we can control it to benefit ourselves, the 99 Percent, and all life on Earth. We can organize ourselves to strike at the heart of capitalism, where we work and keep society running.

**Climate Destruction:
What's Our Solution?
Sat. 4/27 @ 3:30 - 5pm**

The climate crisis is getting worse with no solutions in sight. One thing is for sure: we can't rely on the people in power to save us. Meet up with Speak Out Now to discuss how capitalism is driving the climate crisis and what we need to do about it!

**Red Emma's Free School
3128 Greenmount Ave, Baltimore, MD 21218**

We Need System Change, Not Climate Change!

The system and economy we live under, capitalism, has brought about extreme devastation to humans and all forms of life. From increasingly intense wildfires and flooding to hurricanes and droughts, global heating has disrupted the lives of hundreds of millions, forcing millions to migrate.

While we face worsening crises, those in power are burning more fossil fuels. In this system, they must do so, since everything made is for the purpose of making profit. Capitalism needs constant growth to survive. It's a never ending cycle that is built off of destroying the environment and exploiting workers. The consequences are clear: life on Earth, including working people, can no longer live under these conditions.

Our Lives vs. Their Profits

Biden and the Democratic Party claim to be a “greener” option. However, their policies have actually expanded fossil fuel production. Their empty promises are illusions that have gotten us no closer to real solutions. Both parties defend the interests of big oil and use the military to defend U.S. corporate interests around the world.

The big oil companies and their politicians try to divide us. They say that moving from fossil fuels to other sources of energy will take away workers’ jobs. But that’s because they put the profits of the richest one percent before both a healthy world and workers’ livelihoods.

Working-class people always face the brunt of crises, like during economic downturns, or recently with the pandemic and inflation. The same will continue to be true with the climate crisis.

To solve this crisis under capitalism, it would take tremendous investments, which would undercut the profits of the very wealthy. So, those in power will not solve this crisis. Why should we lose our lives and planet for their profits?



We Need a Working-Class Fight to Save the Environment

The point is to both save the planet and ensure everybody can work at a good wage. That means we will have to use the wealth of the One Percent.

The solution to the climate crisis requires taking decision-making out of the hands of corporate owners and politicians and putting it into the hands of the people doing the work. We can bring a system into being that puts life at the center of all decisions. There are many ways to address the climate catastrophe: let’s get the scientists and engineers to help us plan for the best ways to make energy without destroying the world, by using wind and solar, and by developing other technological solutions we don’t even know about.

Some have said that environmentalists’ calls for banning the extraction of fossil fuels, auto and truck production, and scaling back many other industries means that workers will not be able to survive the transition to a sustainable economy. However, such arguments push workers into the arms of the bosses. There is plenty of work that needs doing and working people can divide it up among ourselves. With the working class in power, it would be possible to save the world by keeping everyone working who can and wants to work. The challenge is to get working people to see that we have a common need and must fight for it.

We can go into the streets in mass demonstrations again. And we should. But the real power in society is in workplaces. History shows us that by shutting down – or threatening to shut down – the economy, people can get what we demand. Working people are the majority of society and can impose our will on the bosses and politicians when we decide to.

The system, as it exists, cannot make the changes we need. So, it is not enough to mobilize—we have to make a revolution to shove aside the class that causes these problems.

We live in the wealthiest country in the world, and it is our labor that has created all of this wealth. We aren’t the ones who benefit from this. The super rich – the bosses of the big corporations and banks – keep the wealth and make all the decisions. Working people do the work that makes society run, and we can organize to unite our forces. When we do, we have enormous power to change things and make a better world.

**We Need to Organize!
Get in touch with us:**

speakersocialists.org

@sonbaltimore

