



# Speak Out Now <sup>50¢</sup>

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## We Are Facing an Environmental Catastrophe

A pink sun looming through the thick, burnt orange sky was a sight seen in nearly every corner of the U.S. over the past summer as wildfires spanned the majority of Canada, Alaska, the western U.S., and even Maui, HI. At the same time, unprecedented storms with historic rainfalls brought record-breaking flooding across North America.

In many parts of the world, the lives of tens of millions of people are being destroyed as they are driven from their homes by climate extremes – massive flooding or droughts – making growing crops and raising animals impossible. These are not isolated incidents. This July was the hottest month on record with each day breaking records around the world. We can only expect an acceleration of the climate crisis in the months and years to come.

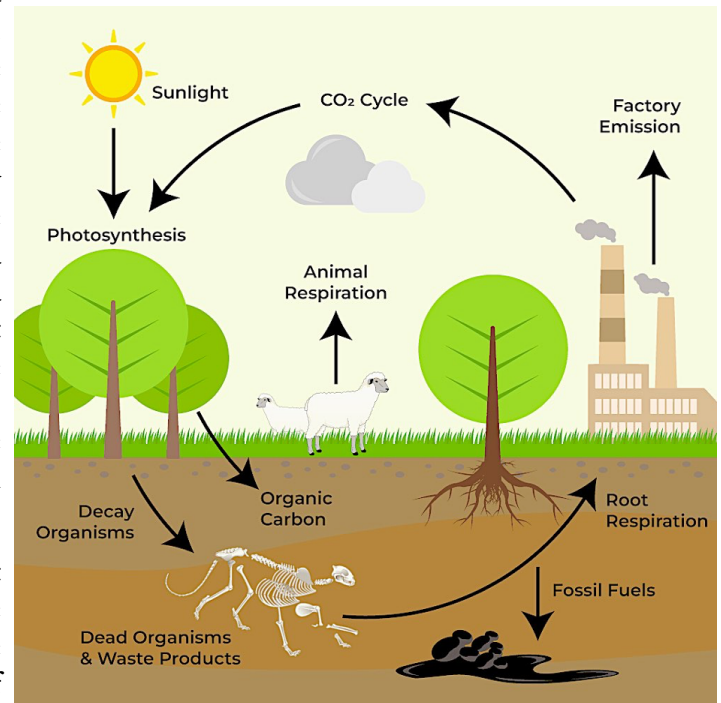
This is the situation we confront today. And we cannot ignore it. We are armed with the growing body of scientific analysis and modeling of the changing climate. Our challenge is to understand and act.

Scientific models warned us that the carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions are trapping more heat from the sun than is normal. This is heating *the entire planet*. This warming may be gradual, but its impacts can lead to a cascading series of impacts which can result in the total transformation of our environments. For instance, droughts are transforming once-fertile areas into deserts. Some scientists call this a tipping point, where the changes to the ecosystem are irreversible and will not recover to anything close to their earlier state.

Scientific models have predicted this possibility but have generally underestimated how soon we might see such severe changes. They are being challenged by the reality we confront today. Some of the worst-case predictions that consider these massive climatic shifts are becoming backed up by reality. This is especially true with the warming of the world's oceans – floods, and storms become more frequent, severe, and erratic. More dramatic is the prospect of ocean currents changing the *direction* of their flow, like the Atlantic Ocean, which could drastically change the climate of Europe and eastern North America.

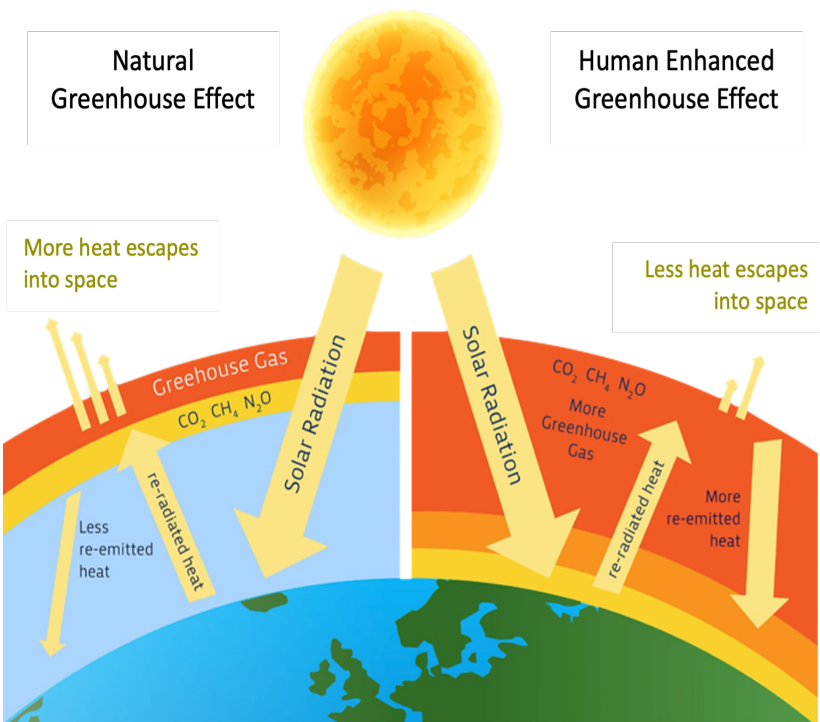
We should be alarmed. But we cannot be paralyzed or panic. To respond we must understand the cause of these changes. The massive discharge of carbon into the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels has disrupted the cycle of the circulation of carbon which is essential to life on the planet. This involves plants capturing CO<sub>2</sub> and through the process of photosynthesis, storing the carbon and releasing oxygen. The oil, coal and gas that is burned is the carbon stored in plants and animals that lived millions of years ago. Putting this ancient carbon in the atmosphere at such fast rates and high

quantities disrupts that balance of life on the planet. Not only does this disrupt the balance of life cycles, but the greenhouse effects of that excess carbon in the atmosphere are leading to other tipping points that warm our climate. This is the Carbon Cycle. Understanding the Carbon Cycle allows us to understand the problem - the releasing of ancient carbon by burning oil, gas and coal. And the solution - the necessity to stop releasing so much of our stored carbon and to recapture that carbon and sequester it - put it back in the ground or beneath the surface of the oceans and lakes of the world.



**The carbon cycle has been disrupted. We need to stop the dumping of carbon into the atmosphere and sequester the tons that have already poured into it.**

Is that possible? Hopefully so. First that means putting an end to the capitalist system that has no regard for life in its relentless drive for profits. Then to free scientific knowledge and exploration from the grip of the same forces that are only interested in profiteering. Only then can we engage the creativity of humanity to address the destruction this system has caused.



**The Greenhouse Effect - Heat from the sun is trapped by a blanket of carbon**

## Don't Blame Natural Disasters – Capitalism is Responsible!

The speed and severity of the disruption of the Earth's ecosystems and the overall climate of the planet is due to human activity. This also means that we, as humans, have the ability to alter our decisions to prevent the destruction of our natural world — the only home we have.

Scientists became aware of the problems created by the burning of fossil fuels in the late 1800's. Since the 1970s, the facts have been undeniable, carbon emissions are causing massive warming of the planet. In a sense, the impact is no different than putting poison in the food and water and air of billions of people and other life forms.

Actively continuing to burn fossil fuels at an increasing rate is a suicidal death sentence. And yet, it continues. This destruction is the consequence of the functioning of the system of capitalism which relies on coal, oil, and gas as its primary energy sources, with no regard for the consequences. It is a system that puts profits (or the generation of capital) before all else.

This system is incompatible with continued life on this planet as we know it. We are witnessing the impact of the rise in the Earth's temperature with extreme weather events. Despite the warnings from the scientific community, climate conferences, and promises from politicians around the world, the output of CO<sub>2</sub> is accelerating. Human energy production now emits the equivalent of around 50 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> each year. This is an increase of more than 40% of the emissions in 1990! In the U.S., domestic oil production has increased by 1.3 million barrels a day since 2022 and is expected to hit records in 2023 and 2024.

We are approaching a sixth extinction. A million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction, we have lost half of the world's corals and we lose forest areas the size of 27 football fields every minute. This is not solely due to the burning of fossil fuels. It is the entire engine of capitalism that is destroying our planet.

Capitalism is a parasitic system and it is devouring the basis of its existence. It isn't guided by long-term survival. It's "health" is dependent on constant expansion, which requires more energy production. Everything is guided by one thing – profitability. And that profitability is short term. We do not live on a planet with infinite resources that can sustain this abuse.

We can't rely on politicians or elections to bring about the changes we need. They are the guardians of a system that must expand to maintain what economists refer to as "the health of the system" and this is coming at the expense of the health of all living things - including us.

This is our time! We are the majority! They have no choice but to continue on their suicidal course, but we do have a choice. With decision-making in the hands of the majority, guided by those who do the work, we can bring a system into being that puts life at the center of all decisions. The health of the Earth and our lives depend on it!

# Climate Change - Today's Reality

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, there are at least 20 million people who are forced from their homes because of severe climate changes each year. The people most impacted now live in the parts of the world that have been dominated, politically and economically, by the major capitalist powers. They are often the most vulnerable to climatic disasters.

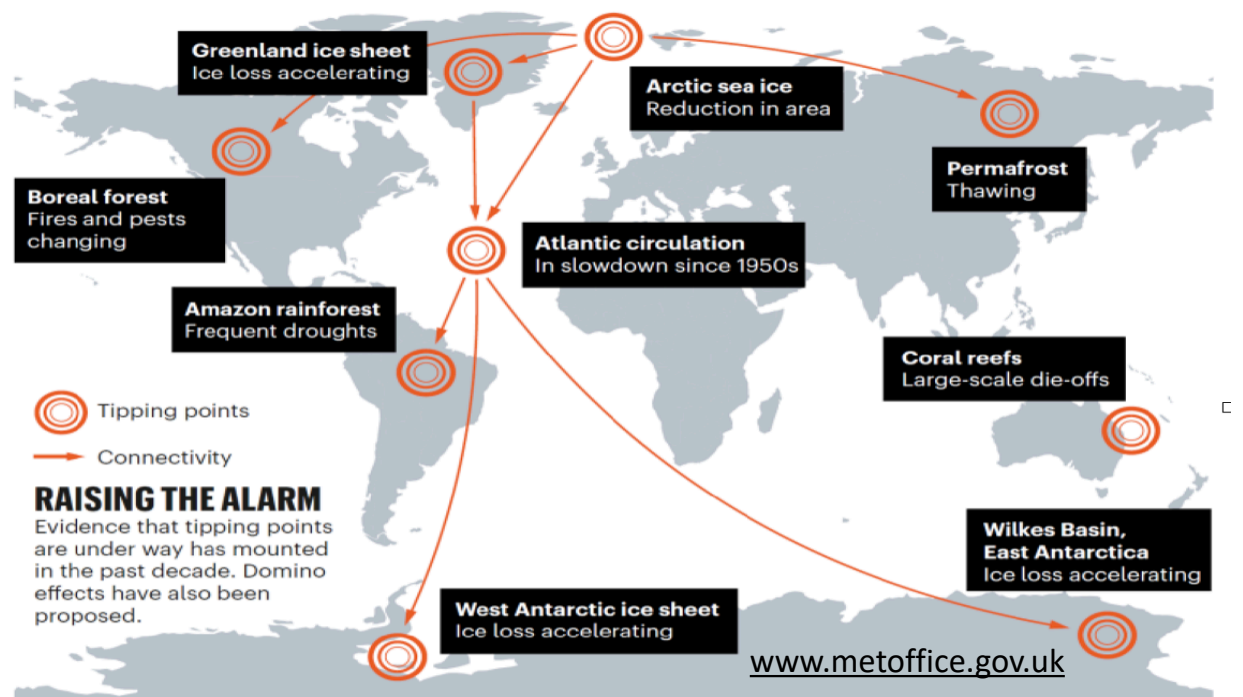
The Horn of Africa, the northeastern part of Ethiopia down to Kenya is facing massive desertification, the drying of already arid lands, with crop failures and major die-offs of animals, both domestic and wild. China's massive desertification, is now affecting 400 million people. Meanwhile the heaviest rains in 140 years have flooded Hong Kong.

When we look at the currently vulnerable parts of the world, we are getting a glimpse of the future we will all be facing if we allow the continued burning of fossil fuels.

And our oceans are heating as well. The island nations of the Pacific are facing the reality of sea level rise and climate change

making some portions of the island nations uninhabitable. Planned relocations of entire villages are underway. If we would look at the Earth as an island in space, we might begin to

look at our situation through the eyes of the people on the islands. We are in this together. No one is exempt.



## Back to the Streets!

In 2019, millions of people flooded the streets in over 125 countries, united in our understanding that life and our natural world need to be saved from a human-enhanced catastrophe. One teenager in Sweden, Greta Thunberg, staged a school strike every Friday. Media coverage of her protest captured the imagination of people everywhere. Hundreds of thousands of young people around the world joined in, understanding that their future is on the line and that they had to take responsibility for what their future would be.

Politicians like Biden made big promises to halt the expansion of this insanity. He said, "no more drilling on federal lands, period." But once elected it was business as usual, with the continued construction of pipelines and opening up new areas for exploitation. With an election looming, Biden recently backed off the massive Willow Project, which would have opened up a vast area of northern Alaska to oil extraction. What woke him up was the response – with some demonstrations, but mainly in social media and petitions.

That's a start but the fight is not over. Changes in administrations or the courts can overturn this. No matter who is in office, we need to say loud and clear "No!" to burning fossil fuels. The Earth is not the political ping pong ball of the banks and the oil companies.

We have to go further than we have gone before – not aiming to pressure those in power or trying to get favorable media coverage. Our aim should not just be to challenge power, but to take power out of the hands of the banks and corporations.

## What Can We Do?

There are already millions around the world out in the streets demanding an end to the destruction of the environment. Faced with the environmental crisis that threatens their lives, millions of farmers, in India, Mexico, East Africa, and around the world have mobilized. And tens of millions of workers have demonstrated around the world against the attacks on their lives by corporations. Our forces can be unified in the face of the crises we face.

science from the interests of profit to develop new energy systems based on fossil-free sources, reorganizing agriculture and food distribution to control carbon emissions, redistributing work to allow more for our most urgent needs and ending for-profit production.

solution becomes more apparent. Instead of placing our hopes on politicians or limiting our goals to targeting one company, we can reach out, involve others, and find every opportunity to engage everyone around us to take this on, together. Collectively, our forces can make a real difference.

It will be necessary to organize production around the maintenance of life, not the generation of capital. This would be very complex, organized, and planned globally and locally employing current scientific knowledge and expanding it in service of this project, experimenting and involving and engaging

Of course, our response would also mean planning for the foreseeable continued crises of food production, displacement of people, and the preservation of species of all sorts. It would be our focus as we move toward the construction of socialism. The only way this can be achieved is to remove the obstacle - the global capitalist system.

This trajectory requires taking decision making out of the hands of corporate owners and politicians and putting it into all of our hands: the people doing the work to keep us alive and functioning. This process won't be easy, but it requires each of us, prioritizing these goals and the actions that take us there right now. Imagine what we could do if we all prioritized defending our lives and our world in this way. We have no time to wait and a world to win.

Though this sounds like a tall task, and we may feel powerless, we are often in situations where we can exercise our power alongside our co-workers, neighbors, and communities. By

### Where We Stand

The world we live in today is increasingly ruled by prejudice and fear, under a system of widespread violence and war, where exploitation and oppression are the rule, with the many dominated by the few. The name of this system is capitalism.

### The Force For Change Exists Today

Everywhere, working people's labor makes society run. Working people have the power to bring this system to a halt and bring about the changes needed. Like slavery, feudalism and other systems that enriched the minority at the expense of the majority, capitalism's removal is long over due.

### We Stand For Socialism

- A world based on peaceful collaboration and international cooperation of working class people – not the exploiters who rule today.
- The common ownership and sharing of the world's resources and productive capacity.

- An egalitarian and democratic government, organized and controlled by those who do the work.
- Protection of the world's ecological systems, putting science to work to sustain life, not destroy it.
- A society where human relations are based on respect, equality and dignity of all peoples, not racism, sexism, homophobia, or other prejudices.

### Who We Are

We believe the international working class is the social force that can transform society and create a new world. But to do so, revolutionary organizations must be built in the working class. For this reason our group aims its activity primarily at workplaces, where struggles have the most potential to transform the world. What a handful of people decide today can determine our future. Join us to work for a better future – that is both necessary and possible.



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