

Join the Climate Emergency Coalition

www.cecoalition.org

"It is not enough that we do our best; sometimes we must do what is required."

- WINSTON CHURCHILL

With the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the world political leadership began to awaken to the huge risks we face. The Agreement said that nations would stabilize climate "well below 2°C, pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C."

Yet nations' intentions—with reductions postponed and huge fossil fuel incentives still in place—mean a rise of 3.5°C this century,¹ vastly inconsistent with the 1.5°C-2°C goal. A central assumption for meeting the target involves the massive deployment of undemonstrated, wished-for negative emission technologies.² To deliver on Paris means instead an immediate, dramatic fossil fuel phase out.

Unfortunately, few people realize we are in a planetary emergency. Decades of rising emissions, while scientists incessantly explained the crisis, have closed the window of non-disruptive, gradual reductions. While a decades-long emissions reduction scenario such as the IPCC's RPC 2.6 may seem "politically realistic," it is not "scientifically realistic."

Our task ahead is clear: we either phase-out fossil fuels now or we end civilization. The case is overwhelming for an **"Emergency Climate Mobilization,"** producing a drastic emissions reduction, making it an over-riding priority for humanity's survival. Paris, with its stated intent of 1.5°-2C, actually proves the mobilization case.

Why We Must Mobilize Now

Climate change is already dangerous at just 1°C warming. Major impacts are apparent now that were

severely underestimated in computer modeling. The IPCC reports, based on 5-6 year old data, are at odds with quickly unfolding reality.

- West Antarctic glaciers are in "unstoppable" meltdown for 1-4 metres of sea-level rise,³ a tipping point that no scientists expected this soon.
- The Arctic Ocean is inevitably headed for sea-ice-free summer conditions, with accelerating warming, sea level rise, and risking large methane releases.
- James Hansen's recent sea-level research warns that Greenland and Antarctica will melt ten times faster than anticipated, "resulting in sea level rise of at least 10 feet in as little as 50 years."⁴
- Research clearly shows that even if we could pull CO₂ from the atmosphere, it would still remain in our oceans, poisoning marine life. The only fix is a drastic emissions reduction, starting now.⁵

Further Reasons

- **Today's greenhouse gas levels commit us to further warming**—due to the lag in ocean heating and "hidden warming" blocked by particulate pollution—even if we cut all emissions today.⁶ So today's levels are already dangerous.

What Is Mobilization?

Mobilization is a coming together as a people with a common cause—an emergency restructuring of a modern industrial economy, typically at rapid speed. It involves all citizens and impacts all areas of society. It is nothing less than a comprehensive social and industrial metamorphosis.

Mobilization summons a sense of collective destiny and moral purpose. Importantly, mobilization is not an indiscriminate use of government power. Rather, it is a specific economic approach that directs the collective force of industry away from petro-consumerism towards a fossil fuels phase-out.

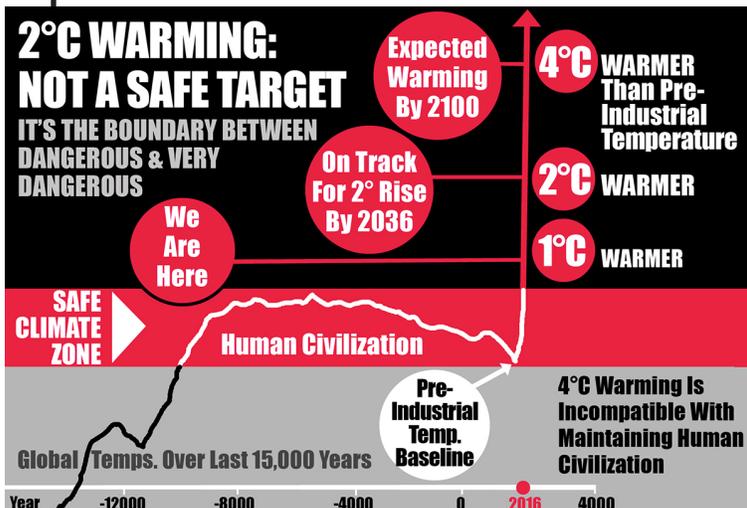


Chart: Jos Hagalaars / Adapted by Breakthrough National Centre for Climate Restoration / ATL

1 Joe Romm, "Misleading U.N. Report Confuses Media On Paris Climate Talks," ClimateProgress, November 3, 2015, www.tinyurl.com/obuele7

2 Kevin Anderson, "Talks in the city of light generate more heat," Nature, December 24, 2015, <http://tinyurl.com/jzbr8gz>.

3 Rignot, Mouginot et al (2014) "Widespread, rapid grounding line retreat of Pine Island, Thwaites, Smith, and Kohler glaciers, West Antarctica, from 1992 to 2011", Geophysical Research Letters 41:3502-3509, www.tinyurl.com/or7nsba.

4 Holthaus, Eric, "Earth's Most Famous Climate Scientist Issues Bombshell Sea Level Warning," Slate, July 20, 2015, www.tinyurl.com/pmb3fmv.

5 Radford, Tim, "Stop burning fossil fuels now: there is no CO₂ 'technofix', scientists warn," The Guardian, August 3, 2015, www.tinyurl.com/No-Technofix.

6 Michael E. Mann, "How Close Are We to 'Dangerous' Planetary Warming?" Huffington Post, December 23, 2015, www.tinyurl.com/oshr6xv.

- **Research now shows that methane's greenhouse impact is far stronger than previously realized**, 102 times more than CO₂ when first released.⁸ We must reduce methane use now; natural gas is a bridge to ruin.
- **Even the "safest" IPCC budget (RPC 2.6) assumes an unacceptably high-risk level of exceeding 2°C, at 33%.** No one would board a plane with a 33% chance of crashing. With a low-risk pathway, less than 10% chance of exceeding 2°C, **there is no carbon budget left now.** The only responsible pathway is to cut emissions quickly. What isn't being discussed is this: given the fossil fuels we have already burned, even if we stopped right now, we'd have less than a 90% chance of staying below 2°C.⁹

It is time to declare a global climate emergency and mobilize nations on the scale of WW2 to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions at wartime speed. We must look beyond notions of "what is politically possible" to "what must be done." The necessity is zero US emissions by 2025 and globally by 2030.

How Will We Mobilize?

Very few of us understand the scope, scale, and urgency actually required to avoid catastrophe. The public does not see climate as an immediate problem, and our policymakers are stuck in a trance of complacency and denial. The climate movement has avoided using its greatest asset—the truth—instead selling green jobs and half measures.

Yet in the face of denial and passivity, how do we catalyze an Emergency Climate Mobilization quickly enough to sustain a livable Earth? History proves that change of this magnitude only happens through galvanizing the public and then organizing. **Importantly, it only takes 3-4% of engaged, impassioned citizens—those most concerned—to comprehensively change the situation.**¹⁰

It is time to tell the truth¹¹ and drive a cultural conversation. To quickly create support for a large-scale US Emergency Climate Mobilization, a broad-based climate education program is needed to alert, inform, and galvanize citizens to demand mobilization and climate stabilizing policies.

An **Climate Emergency Coalition Campaign**¹² will provide climate education events offering personal, face-to-face

dialogue, and moral conversations in tens of thousands of faith and civic spaces across the US. Citizens must grasp the necessity of: an all-out mobilization, a carbon price, eliminating fossil fuel subsidies, a climate justice framework, US leadership, and collective responses to meet the daunting challenges. The curriculum is riveting, inspiring, and designed to catalyze action.

An **Climate Emergency Coalition Demonstration Project**¹³ will employ the existing southwest network of interfaith organizations to coordinate the events across six states. The program will quickly go nationwide to achieve US consensus on mobilization within two years.

"I heartily support the Climate Emergency Coalition and its work to shift philanthropy to organizations and initiatives fighting the threats to humanity brought by climate change."

– PAUL R. EHRLICH

The **Climate Emergency Coalition (CEC)**¹⁴ coordinates the Campaign. The CEC can expand the size and urgency of the climate movement and bridge its disparate and separate elements. It provides a means for allies to expand their missions to mobilization. Critically, the CEC provides coordination, resources, and curriculum for groups who understand that an emergency mobilization is necessary. The Climate Emergency Coalition Fund attracts more funding support than organizations could find separately.

We include justice with equity in our mobilization call. Less developed nations will continue to burn fossil fuels and clear forests unless they have dignified places at the survival table. Similarly, we fully support the provisions of the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change; that demand the more wealthy nations help with funding, technology, and personnel to support nations who cannot afford low carbon energy.¹⁵

With funding, we can deploy this grassroots campaign across the US showing why an Emergency Climate Mobilization is required. The Coalition is a non-profit charity program of the Association for the Tree of Life.

Join by taking the Climate Emergency Coalition Pledge. For more information: www.cecoalition.org



8 "Natural Gas and Climate Change," Climate Central, May 2013, www.tinyurl.com/h6etups.

9 Spratt, David, "Recount," Breakthrough National Centre for Climate Restoration, 2015, www.nocarbonbudget.info/.

10 Chenoweth, Erica, "My Talk at TEDxBoulder: Civil Resistance and the '3.5% Rule,'" RationalInsurgent, November 4, 2015, www.tinyurl.com/noonxsv.

11 Salamon, Margaret Klein, "The Transformative Power of Climate Truth," www.theclimatemobilization.org/transformative.

12 "Education and Advocacy Campaign," Association for the Tree of Life, 2015, www.tree-of-life.works/ed_campaign.

13 Ibid.

14 "Join the Climate Emergency Coalition," Association for the Tree of Life, 2015, www.tree-of-life.works/coalition

15 "Climate Justice," Association for the Tree of Life, 2015, www.tree-of-life.works/justice.