



Greetings!

We hope you're having a wonderful summer so far. Please read and enjoy Our Task's second newsletter to our friends, volunteers, and community members.

If you have any feedback, items of interest, or future topics for blogs, please send them directly to leslie@ourtask.org.

Good news

Pope Francis Uses Religious Authority to Push Climate Change Awareness
by Jatin Dasgupta



Pope Francis has taken another step towards a more harmonious coexistence of science and faith by speaking out against man-made climate change in an encyclical titled "Laudato Sii", which uses both scientific and theological arguments to urge all humans, not just Catholics, to help fight against the ongoing crimes against our planet that threaten the health of all people worldwide.

In convincing the world of the urgency of climate change reform and finding more clean sources of energy, it is important to add a strong moral angle, which the Pope provides, in addition to the existing scientific and economic principles supporting the environmental message. The Pope's message says that "ultimately politics and technology have failed to save the earth" and the populace must reform in personal ethics and morals before the problem of our ailing world can truly be solved.

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Spotlight

Meet Ally Turco - Researcher and Communications Volunteer at Our Task

By Jatin Dasgupta



Born in Philadelphia and residing in the DC area most of her life, Ally has been concerned with environmental issues ever since she read as a child that global warming might cause polar bears to be extinct within a few generations. Ever since, she has been an ardent follower of climate change news and has demonstrated unending dedication to improving the world however she can, even beyond the realm of environmental problems.

Ally has lots of experience with philanthropic and humanitarian work in addition to environmental studies. At the Georgetown private school she attends, she founded a club dedicated to spreading awareness about and preventing human trafficking. Through her school, Ally has also done volunteer work in Camden, New Jersey ([considered the most dangerous city in the United States](#)) such as working with local churches and helping provide food for the impoverished. Additionally, Ally has experience working with another nonprofit and managing their social media and communications, developing skills that have proved helpful in her work with Our Task. She is currently researching a German Advisory Council report on ocean currents for Our Task and will soon be embarking on a journey to the Dominican Republic to stay at an orphanage where she will help care for abused children. The selfless dedication to her admirable work Ally displays is a quality we would like to see in all of Our Task staff, and our generation at large. With a team of people like her, perhaps we truly can find solutions to the world's environmental problems.

Ally believes that young people like her can improve the world through small personal changes in their own lifestyles that reduce the negative effects of consumption. By becoming more aware of the effects their habits have on the world at large and attempting to influence those around them to do the same, young people can have a more positive effect on the environment. Even small steps, like eating vegetarian and fair trade shopping, when taken together, can move the world forward into a better and greener tomorrow.

From the Blog

We Are Not Doomed
by Max Pablonia



"We are not doomed." That's the mantra I whisper silently to myself as I read articles on the current and future impacts of climate change, because if I don't have hope for the future I won't be able to keep fighting for there to be a future.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) released a report on Monday with a clear message for policymakers and the general public: Our current initiatives to lower carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are not strong enough to achieve the goal of limiting the global average surface temperature by 2 degrees Celsius by 2100. The report came to the conclusion that while we as a country plan to make significant changes in an attempt to combat climate change, these changes will not be sufficient to meet our goal. We need stronger initiatives despite the short-term sacrifices we will have to make. The IEA calls for action by five different methods to combat climate change: 1) an increase in renewable energy 2) a decrease in the use of coal 3) more investment in energy efficiency 4) lowering subsidies for fossil fuels 5) capping emissions of methane. These methods to combat climate change are difficult tasks that will require a lot of international cooperation and a will to risk slowing economic growth.

[Read more...](#)

Updates

Earth 2100 Conference: The Global Food Challenge, rescheduled to spring 2016

The 2016 Earth Conference will take place in the spring of 2016. The conference will continue to focus on long-term global issues; this time, with particular emphasis on the **global food supply chain**. Stay tuned for updates!

New volunteers

Please join us in welcoming our newest volunteers!

Rebecca De Los Rios, Coordinator and Mentor, and the following Researchers for the Global 2100 Project: **Ryan Jennings, Molly Bashay, Toni Sanders, Leigh Huffman, Saeed Kamara, and Shereene Tailor**. We are excited to have you join our team!

Also, Our Task is looking for a short-term, temporary Graphic Designer volunteer to create a logo for the conference. Click [here](#) for a list of OT's volunteer needs.

At last

Launch Global 2100 Project

The young adults of Our Task have launched a project to describe how young people around the world would manage human affairs on Earth if they were leading right now. Here's a note from Ken, the Global 2100 Project Research Coordinator:

I joined Our Task because I am passionate about the environment and want to create a more sustainable future. I have a degree in Environmental Economics from the University of Maryland and am excited to be leading the research efforts for the Global 2100 Project. Currently, a team of young researchers is summarizing outlook reports that contain "Plan A" (or "business as usual") scenarios on topics such as climate change, energy, population, nutrition, and education. Once these summaries have been completed and compiled into one report, the research team will move on to developing the "Youth Plan B." The "Youth Plan B" is an opportunity for young adults to provide input into what type of changes they want to see in the future, and determine what decisions they would make if they were in charge. Our Task is looking for more enthusiastic and visionary volunteers who can contribute to the research and the "Youth Plan B." If you're interested, please contact us!

Global 2100 Project is a huge project. To get it off the ground, we need to raise \$10,000 over the next two months. Please help by opening our [CrowdRise proposal](#) and making your personal contribution, and by sharing it with your family and network of friends! Follow project updates on the [Global 2100 Facebook page](#).

Thank you for making a difference to these young people and the future of our planet!

Best Regards,
Our Task Team