

We Can Fix It

Some people want climate change to be someone's else's fault, and they fear solutions will interfere with their comfortable life. Solution aversion is the concept that climate solutions are harmful. All too often solution aversion is based on identity politics and not science. Consider this, the 8 richest fossil fuel corporations are responsible for 20% of global carbon emissions. Exxon knew about climate change 50 years ago and sowed doubt into the public about the science we've understood since the 1800s. We need collective action between individuals, industry, and the government to make a difference. To turn opinions around, find solutions that show why climate change matters to Christians. Our response to any challenge should be characterized by love. Love is the key to acting on climate change. Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples".

When there were fewer people on Earth, life was sustainable. *Tragedy of the Commons* is an economic theory describing what happens when individuals exploit a shared resource in a community. In this case, the earth is the common resource and every person on the planet is a member of the community. Over-population and gross mismanagement are largely responsible for our situation. Our planet's shared space has limits. However, it is a myth that we must choose between the environment and the economy. Sustainable management often requires formal regulations.

Population control is a commonly proposed solution. As women's status and education improves, the birth rate falls. Overconsumption by the rich has more to do with climate change than population growth. We would need 5 planets if everyone lived like the US and Canada. The carbon footprint calculator, popularized by a BP advertising campaign, is meant to shift blame onto individuals. Corporations need to act to change, like BP's goal to be carbon-neutral by 2050, and unlike a Shell CEO who blamed global warming on eating strawberries out of season and buying too many new clothes. Countries can cap carbon by implementing legislation that allocates allowances for companies to emit carbon. If they exceed their allowance they either pay a penalty or buy allowances from companies that fall below their limit. Other policies like carbon pricing and targeted investment in research areas will spur innovation and new economies.

Everyone needs energy, but everyone does not need energy generated with fossil fuels. We need to use clean energy. Energy availability helps tackle challenges of

poverty, clean water, and food supplies. Wind energy is abundant in places like Texas. Other areas are perfect for solar installations. Big tech firms are buying renewable energy. We need to build efficient cars, buildings, home tech, industrial efficiency, electric ships, and transportation systems to reduce our energy consumption. We can clean up our act by doing things like planting more trees, creating biofuels, developing renewable energy, like agricultural waste turned into fuel. Regenerative farming is a solution to help farmers stay in business, by sequestering carbon into soil, and breaking the reliance on fertilizers which require a lot of fossil fuels to produce. By planting trees to preserve and restore current forests, we can transfer carbon from the atmosphere to the soil.

We need all options on the table with countries working together. Divesting from fossil fuels and creating investment opportunities in sustainable energy projects, facilities, businesses will bring economic growth and provide jobs. The real cost of climate change can be calculated by the cost of climate disasters; \$650 billion over 3 years ending in 2018. Fossil fuels have served their purpose well...they got us here. Standard Oil moved us from whale oil to petroleum. Now it's time to move to clean energy. It may be the biggest fight civilization has faced. We all need to be involved.