

Scientists are virtually unanimous that we must act quickly to radically reduce the emission of gasses, especially carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels. The alternative is escalating average global temperatures that will result in massive loss of habitat for thousands of plant and animal species, melting of polar ice caps and mountain glaciers, rising sea levels and flooding of the most populous regions on the planet. Indeed, there is evidence that climatic feedbacks, such as melting sea ice, would result in runaway escalation of global temperatures resulting in devastation of our existing biodiversity. The very survival of billions of humans and much of life on this planet will be threatened as struggles escalate over water and land resources.

The People's Agreement of Cochabamba, Bolivia adopted by more than 10,000 people, from 135 countries of the developing world, meeting April 20-22, 2010, declared:

“Today, our Mother Earth is wounded and the future of humanity is in danger...

The capitalist system has imposed on us a logic of competition, progress and limitless growth. This regime of production and consumption seeks profit without limits, separating human beings from nature and imposing a logic of domination upon nature, transforming everything into commodities: water, earth, the human genome, ancestral cultures, biodiversity, justice, ethics, the rights of peoples, and life itself. “

We Dare Not Wait!

Often the left is divided over strategy. Some argue that since capitalism is the primary source of the crisis, resolving it requires socialism. Others argue that the priority is building the broadest support for immediate action, and tend to downplay the relationship between the climate crisis and capitalism. We in the CCDS believe this is a false dichotomy – we cannot wait for socialism to replace capitalism, but waging the fight for national climate legislation today that will rapidly reduce carbon emissions will create the economic and political base for a new 21st Century, ecologically sustainable socialism - “ecosocialism.”

We must look at the long term.

We agree with the sentiments expressed in the Cochabamba declaration – capitalism is not compatible with our continued survival on this planet. Many corporations, oil companies for example, have by their very nature an interest in continuing current patterns of resource waste. Some even persistently deny there is a problem. They are powerful and have huge bankrolls with which to influence and pressure law makers and government leaders at every level. They continue to make billions of dollars, even as they degrade and destroy our environment. These practices may cause the extinction of much of life on earth, including corporate supporters.

Faced with this crisis, what is to be done?

There are many solutions being offered; some are fraudulent, some are ineffective; some can work. The thing that distinguishes those that can work from those that won't is the yes or no answer to a simple question: will they result in rapid stabilization and then reduction of the greenhouse gasses in the Earth's atmosphere in time to prevent catastrophic and irreparable climate changes?

Fraudulent and/or ineffective proposals being floated in Congress won't work!

Fraud: Nuclear power as an alternative to fossil fuels is a fraud - The unsolvable problem of disposing of radioactive and poisonous wastes, and the terrible danger of another Chernobyl-type accident, should end any speculation on nuclear power as an answer. The huge investments needed to build nuclear power plants should be used instead to build wind, solar and other sustainable power facilities which go online much more quickly and create more jobs.

Fraud: Clean Coal. Technology for the capture and sequestration of CO₂ emitted when burning coal is, in the view of most scientists, a fantasy. The only clean coal is coal that stays in the Earth.

Fraud: Carbon offsets are also a fraud. Corporate interests propose that they continue to spew pollution through burning fossil fuels in exchange for *not* destroying existing carbon sinks, such as forests. This just leads to the status quo when what is needed is a *reduction* in atmospheric carbon. In any case they are unenforceable.

Ineffective: Cap and trade. This was the method of the Kyoto Accord – in those countries where it was adopted it proved impossible to monitor or enforce. In addition, some corporate interests see cap and trade as an opportunity to make even more billions by selling and speculating on carbon emission permits.

....Things That Will Work 

Things That Will Work

A Carbon Tax is the only real, effective method for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our current global market economy. However, such a regressive tax must be coupled with rebates to low income and working class people.

Tax credits for retrofitting existing homes, offices and factories for energy efficiency and solar power.

Direct Government Investment

* in the installation of wind and solar energy farms, and the necessary energy infrastructure.
* in research and development in new and existing technologies to capture the energy of the sun and the wind. The fruits of this research and development must be made available to the world without private profit.

We Need to See

- *National and international planning to protect the environment.*
- *A shift of power and resources from the military industrial complex to public needs.*
- *More “high-road” green enterprises and more worker owned and controlled cooperatives creating new technology.*
- *More government owned public transit and high-speed rail.*
- *A nationalized energy infrastructure.*
- *A peaceful and just world instead of the environmentally disastrous military adventures around the world..*

• For more information and details:

- CCDS: www.CC-DS
- Cochabamba: pwccc.wordpress.com
- 350.org: www.350.org
- Green Jobs: www.greenjobsconference.org
- Ecosocialism: www.cnsjournal.org
- www.redandgreen.org/Climate_Change

Members of the CCDS are working in many arenas to take up these and other challenges. If you would like to join us, or just get in touch, visit our website at www.cc-ds.org or fill out this form

Name _____

Address _____

City, St, Zip _____

Phones _____

Email _____

I want to join!

_____ Regular dues at \$36/yr

_____ Low income dues at \$18/yr

_____ Household dues (2 people) at \$48/yr

Enclosed is a contribution of \$ _____

And send it to us at:

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Local Contact Information



Prevent

Catastrophic Climate Change

A Green Future for All will require mass support for a worldwide plan.

If left to their usual games, governments and corporations will not do it in time.

Failure to put together a winning coalition for a progressive green energy program will mean the probable destruction of human civilization and biodiversity as we know it.



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