

What Now?

Possible Responses to Climate Change

- Take some time to come to terms with this in your own life. It is a lot to absorb. Most people will experience deep sadness, fear, and anger, blame, etc.. It's good to let ourselves feel this; it's normal when facing something of this magnitude.
- Educate yourself so you can talk intelligently to others. Have conversations that include the possibility of inevitable collapse. Unless we have them, we lose our chance of at least helping in some way. Consider that informing someone of their terminal diagnosis is the responsible thing to do.
- Look up Jen Bendell's paper, *Deep Adaptation*, or listen to it on YouTube. Learn about the "Four Rs": Resilience (How do we keep what is in line with our most important values and needs?), Relinquishment (What do we need to let go of in order to not add to the crisis?), Restoration (What can we recover from the past to help us with the coming difficulties and tragedies?) and Reconciliation (What can I make peace with to lessen suffering?). These may be a guide for discussions and for your own work.
- See the pending extinction as we would our own death with compassion, wonderment and love. (Advice from the Dali Lama.)
- Don't stay in the confines of your own mind or isolate yourself. Become part of (or form) a group of others who are trying to come to terms with seemingly inevitable collapse. Have conversations about things like: What does it mean to be human? What are the things we really value? What would it look like to mobilize as though we were facing World War 111? What understanding of life would help people through this? What are our greatest fears? What are the basic things people need to survive? What are the valued norms and behaviors that human societies will wish to maintain as they seek to survive? What can we learn from other cultures facing catastrophe? What values would be needed in a new lifestyle?
- Get involved in actions that might help mitigate the temperature rise. These actions, including things like consumer boycotts, civil disobedience and lobbying, might buy us more time.
- Work at the neighborhood and community level to figure out ways to increase community resilience. These could include aggressively promoting green energy sources, conserving water, updating building codes, strengthening local food systems, and establishing communication systems that are not tech-based.
- Understand and accept that some people will be motivated to take some kind of positive action and some won't. We will all respond differently.
- Be accepting of those in denial.
- Be clear that our current systems that are based on growth and profit cannot respond to what is needed without a major transformation.
- Don't be afraid of stirring things up. It is no longer "business as usual."
- Consult Drawdown.com for *100 Things We Can Do*.

Resources for Additional Research

(Note: These resources are some we have found helpful and will lead you to many others.)

Key scientific Reports

- IPCC (UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), 2018
- UN Report: Nature's Dangerous Decline, 2019
- IPCC report on land use, August, 2019

Note: There are many other reports on particular aspects of climate change.

Recent Books

- The Uninhabitable Earth, David Wallace-Wells
- Losing Earth: A Recent History, Nathaniel Rich
- Coming Back to Life, Joanna Macy
- The Sixth Extinction, Elizabeth Kolbert
- The End of Ice, Dahl Jamail
- Dangerous Years, David W. Orr
- On Fire, Naomi Klein

Web Sites

There is much information about climate change on the internet. We have found it most helpful to search for a particular aspect of climate change, such as melting ice caps or causes of climate change, etc. But here are a few to get you started:

- A site for calculating your own carbon footprint: www.nature.org. Select *Carbon Footprint Calculator*.
- Jem Bendell's paper on Deep Adaption: <https://jembendell.com/2018/07/26/the-study-on-collapse-they-thought-you-should-not-read-yet/>
- Jem Bendell on Hope & Vision: <https://jembendell.wordpress.com/2019/01/09/hope-and-vision-in-the-face-of-collapse-the-4th-r-of-deep-adaptation/amp/>

YouTube

There are many informative speakers on YouTube. Just Google Climate Change, one of the people listed below, or, again, a particular aspect of climate change, and a number of things will come up. Some that we have found especially helpful include:

- Jem Bendell
- Greta Thunberg
- Rupert Read
- David Wallace-Wells
- Dr. Peter Wadhams

Local Organizations

- *Citizens' Climate Lobby*. Works closely with Congressional Committee on carbon pricing. Contact: redlands@citizensclimatelobby.org.
- *350.org Riverside*. Lobbies for climate legislation at local, state and federal levels. Contact: 350Riverside@gmail.com.
- *Xtinction Rebellion*. Chapter starting in Los Angeles. Google to sign up.
- *Sierra Club*. Has a number of local climate initiatives. Contact Sierra San Gorgonio Chapter, (951) 684-6203.