

## ***The Urgency of the Climate Crisis***

*Set Up: Table in front for materials, 2 sticky walls, headings up and spaced for number of columns, script and wall charts ready, screen for video if possible or computer/iPad, action table*

### ***Welcome & Introduce Self***

***Logistics:*** Restrooms, cell phones

**Introductory Conversation:** (This should be done very quickly.)

- 1) Let's see who's here. We'll do it by generations. Who is here who is a Baby Boomers? (1944-64). GenX? (1965-79) Millennial? (1980-94) GenZ?(1995-?) War Babies/Greatest Generation?
- 2) When did you first hear about Climate Change?
- 3) In one sentence, what's one question about the climate crisis you hope gets addressed.

*Note: If group is small (under 10), you could have each person give their name and respond to all 3 questions. Ask them to be brief.*

### **Purpose:**

- Share a little of your own story about how became aware of climate change.
- I want to begin by reading something. Read *Warning to Humanity* from Scientists.
  - That was written and signed by 1,700 leading scientists in 1992.
  - 25 years later, in 2017, a Second Warning was issued, even more dire. This was signed by 15,364 from almost all nations. That number has grown to more than 20,000.
  - Two years later, in late 2019, 11,000 scientists declared a climate emergency.

- Before I get into this, I want to warn you that this could affect you deeply. It is not going to be easy to hear, but I'm guessing most of you already suspect that we're in trouble.
- So the really bad news is that most scientists think we are beyond the point where any human intervention can completely stop the warming. So, at best, we need to focus action on how we can mitigate or hold it back for a time. For those of you who feel we need a message of hope, that is pretty much it.
- An important reference point in the climate crisis happened in 2018 when the UN IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) issued a report on the state of the climate. It is the most comprehensive compilation of data we have, and it shocked the world. It says we have only until 2030 to cut emissions in half and until 2050 to reach zero emissions in order to avoid unimaginable catastrophe.
- That's 11 years from now. And to meet that goal, plans need to be in place and being implemented 16 months from now.
- Most scientists think that unless there is immediate, worldwide, unparalleled action to end the burning of fossil fuels, we will see a total, worldwide collapse of society in the future, possibly sooner than later, and possibly extinction of almost all living species.
- In case you think this is unlikely, this has already happened 5 times in the history of the planet, so this would be the sixth such mass extinction and, this time, it could include us, the human species. Actually, scientists say the 6<sup>th</sup> Extinction has already begun.
- So if we are to SLOW the change, REDUCE the harm, and SAVE what we can, it will require that masses of people realize the peril and call

for the political will to make massive, immediate changes to our current systems.

- Substantial progress on this needs to be made within the next 11 years (soon to be 10), so this is a wake-up call!
- That's why I'm here.

### **Presentation:**

- So you may be wondering what this blue wall is. We call it a sticky wall, and we're going to use it to put up the key points of this presentation.
- We've opted for this approach over a Power Point or video so you will be able to see the whole picture.
- The information will be put under these headings: (read HEADINGS).
- I'll be giving you a lot of information, but we'll take some time to reflect on it after each section, and, at the end, look at possible responses.
- Keep in mind that this is a quick overview. There is so much information on the Internet, so you can do your own research and ultimately come to your own conclusions.
- And because there is a lot of information to cover, I'm going to ask that you ***hold any questions or comments until we finish this section.*** Then we'll reflect together before going on to the next section.
- Presentation