



## **People Demanding Action**

# **Building an Inclusive Climate Movement to Create Community Power**

**May 8th through 10th  
David A. Clarke School of Law  
University of the District of Columbia**

# Conference Agenda

**Friday Evening: May 8th:** Reception 7-9 p.m. Floor 5

Welcome from Rev. Yearwood and Andrea Miller

**Saturday, May 9th:**

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Registration (Coffee) Floor 5

9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Plenaries and Breakouts

9 a.m. -9:15 a.m. Opening: Andrea Miller and Rev. Yearwood (Room 516)

**Invocation:** Minister Terrence Muhammad

## **Section 1: What is the problem?**

9:15 – 9:40 a.m. Bill McKibben, *350.org*

9:40 – 10:00 a.m. Dr. Michael Dorsey, *Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies*

10:00-10:30 a.m. Lester Brown, *Earth Policy Institute*

10:30- 11:00 a.m. Rev. Lennox Yearwood, *Hip Hop Caucus*

**11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Panel Discussion: What hinders a more inclusive movement?**

**Moderator: Reverend Glencie Rhedrick**

### **Panelists**

1. Leslie Fields, *Sierra Club*
2. Jacquelyn Patterson, *NAACP*
3. Gabriela Lemus, *Progressive Congress*
4. Mark Magana, *Green Latinos*
5. Professor Joel Rogers

Q&A Audience

12:00 pm Working Lunch

12:30 – 12: 45 p.m. Mustafa Ali, EPA, Office of Environmental Justice

12:45 -1:00 p.m. Professor Phillip Harvey, Rutgers University

1:00-1:30 p.m. Professor Mark Jacobson: “Moving Toward a 100% Renewable Energy Economy

# Conference Agenda

**1:30-2:30 p.m. Panel Discussion: Breaking Down the Institutions**

**Moderator: Andrea Miller**

**Panelists:**

1. Nikisha Glover, *community organizer*
2. Mike Ewall, *Energy Justice Network*
3. Dr. Michael Dorsey, *Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies*
4. Jeffrey Wolfe, *SEIA*
5. Anise Jenkins, *Stand Up for Democracy DC*

Audience Q&A

2:30 -2:45 p.m. Bathroom / Coffee Break

**2:45 – 3:45 p.m. Panel Discussion: Mapping out the Enemy**

**Moderator: Dr. Gabriela Lemus**

**Panelists:**

1. Rev. Lennox Yearwood, *Hip Hop Caucus*
2. Rev. Glencie Rhedrick
3. Chuck Rocha, *Solidarity Strategies*
4. Frederico Cera

Audience Q&A

3:45-4:00 Climate Change and Voter Protection, Barbara Arnwine

4:00- 4:15 p.m. The Desegregation of a Movement - Separate is not equal, Andrea Miller

## **Section 2: Building an Inclusive Movement**

**4:15 - 5:15 p.m. Panel: What does winning look like?**

**Moderator: Joel Segal**

**Panelists:**

1. Ted Glick, *Chesapeake Climate Action Network*
2. Andrea Miller, *People Demanding Action*
3. Patrice Zakia Howard, *Howard University*
4. Rev. Lennox Yearwood, *Hip Hop Caucus*
5. Deborah Mack, *US House Committee on Homeland Security*

Audience Q&A

# Conference Agenda

Working Dinner

## Dinner Presentations

- 5:55 – 6:10 p.m. Rev. Rodney Sadler - Creating a moral justice climate movement – Moral Monday and Beyond
- 6:10 – 6:25 p.m. Jay Winter Nightwolf - Respecting Mother Earth: Creating an all inclusive, racially diverse, and unified climate/social justice movement that can change America.
- 6:25 – 6:40 Krystal Williams - Mass Criminalization of Youth and the Baltimore Experience
- 6:40- 8:00 p.m. Creating Power -- “All Hands on Deck”
- 6:40- 6:50: Introduction by Senator Ben Ptashnik

## Breakout Sessions: 7:00- 8:15 p.m.

**Breakout Group 1:** Building Power through Democracy and Election Integrity  
**Facilitator:** Victoria Collier  
**Room:** 506

**Breakout Group 2:** Building Power through Legislation  
**Facilitator:** Senator Ben Ptashnik and Jeanne Dauray  
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**Breakout Group 3:** Building Power through Coalition  
**Facilitator:** Reverend Rodney Sadler and Corey Lanham  
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**Breakout Group 4:** Building Power through Media and Messaging  
**Facilitator:** Andrea Miller and Mike Hersh  
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8:30 - 9:00 p.m. Report Back - Senator Ben Ptashnik

9:00 p.m. Wrap Up Rev. Yearwood and Andrea Miller

## Sunday, May 10th

Doors open: 8:30 a.m. - (Breakfast / Coffee) Floor 5  
9 a.m. – 12 noon

## Section 3: Bringing it Home

9:00 a.m. Opening Altar for Mother Earth on Mother’s Day Room 516

Bring your gifts and talents to the altar. Something that represents your connection to the Earth - our Common Ground.

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9:30-9:45 a.m.          Recap of Yesterday - Reverend Yearwood and Andrea Miller

9:45- 11:15              Group Discussion of "Action Toolkit"

Facilitated by Andrea Miller, Rev. Yearwood, Russell Greene, Senator Ben Ptashnik

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- sustained communication
- integration of shared priorities
- shared knowledge
- issue training / update

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- replicating this conference
- future cities / states

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- building strength through petition partnerships
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- building strength through shared actions

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- exceptional organizing tool / establishes goal
- who can lobby? local, state or Federal

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- determining needs and best methodology

11:30 a.m. - 12 noon      Closing Remarks





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# Conference Sponsors



**Citizens' Climate Lobby**



When the Nazis came for the communists,  
I did not speak out;  
As I was not a communist.  
When they locked up the social democrats,  
I did not speak out;  
I was not a social democrat.  
When they came for the trade unionists,  
I did not speak out;  
As I was not a trade unionist.  
When they came for the Jews,  
I did not speak out;  
As I was not a Jew.  
When they came for me,  
there was no one left to speak out.  
~ Martin Niemöller

Those who come after, who inherit whatever's left of the world once this culture has been stopped are going to judge us by the health of the landbase, by what we leave behind. They're not going to care how we lived our lives. They're not going to care how hard we tried. They're not going to care whether we were nice people. They're not going to care whether we were nonviolent or violent. They're not going to care whether we grieved the murder of the planet. They're not going to care what sort of excuses we had to not act. They're not going to care how simply we lived.

They're not going to care how pure we were in thought or action. They're not going to care if we became the change we wished to see.

They're not going to care whether we voted Democrat, Republican, Green, Libertarian, or not at all. They're not going to care if we wrote really big books about it. They're not going to care whether we had "compassion" for the CEOs and politicians running this deathly economy.

They're going to care whether they can breathe the air and drink the water.

Deep Green Resistance: Strategy to Save the Planet

~by Derrick Jensen, Aric McBay, Lierre Keith



Your liberty is bound up with mine  
Whatever I don't have, you stand to lose

# Building an Inclusive Climate Movement to Create Community Power

## **Guiding Questions: Conference Moderators / Panelists**

How do we reach political 'critical mass' to stop climate chaos, and simultaneously tackle poverty and its accompanying social inequities?

The social ills that create poverty and accompanying social inequalities are created by the same mechanisms that thwart the proper response to climate change. How do we change them all together?"

Our objective is to build a movement of solidarity, which includes climate crisis action and the reestablishment of justice.

## Speakers - What is the problem?



### Rev. Lennox Yearwood

Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr., President and CEO of the Hip Hop Caucus, is a minister, community activist and one of the most influential people in Hip Hop political life. He works tirelessly to encourage the Hip Hop generation to utilize its political and social voice.

A national leader and pacemaker within the green movement, Rev Yearwood has been successfully bridging the gap between communities of color and environmental issue advocacy for the past decade. With a diverse set of celebrity allies, Rev Yearwood raises awareness and action in communities that are often overlooked by traditional environmental campaigns. Rev Yearwood's innovative climate and clean energy work has garnered the Hip Hop Caucus support from several environmental leaders including former Vice President Al Gore's Climate Reality Project, National Wildlife Federation, Earthjustice, Sierra Club and Bill McKibben's 350.org.

Rolling Stone deemed Rev Yearwood one of our country's "New Green Heroes" and Huffington Post named him one of the top ten change makers in the green movement. He was also named one of the 100 most powerful African Americans by Ebony Magazine in 2010, and was also named to the Source Magazine's Power 30, Utne Magazine's 50 Visionaries changing the world, and the Root 100 Young Achievers and Pacesetters. Rev Yearwood is a national leader in engaging young people in electoral activism. He leads the national Respect My Vote! campaign and coalition ([www.respectmyvote.com](http://www.respectmyvote.com)).

The Hip Hop Caucus registered and mobilized tens of thousands of young voters to the polls in 2012. In 2008, the Hip Hop Caucus set a world record of registering the most voters in one day: 32,000 people across 16 U.S. cities. This effort was part of the Hip Hop Caucus' 2008 "Respect My Vote!" campaign with celebrity spokespeople T.I., Keyshia Cole and many other recording artists, athletes, and entertainers.

It was in 2004 that he founded the Hip Hop Caucus to bring the power of the Hip Hop Community to Washington, DC. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Rev Yearwood established the award winning Gulf Coast Renewal Campaign where he led a coalition of national and grassroots organizations to advocate for the rights of Katrina survivors. The coalition successfully stopped early rounds of illegal evictions of Katrina survivors from temporary housing, held accountable police and government entities to the injustices committed during the emergency response efforts, supported the United Nations "right to return" policies for internally displaced persons, promoted comprehensive federal recovery legislation, and campaigned against increased violence resulting from lack of schools and jobs in the years after Katrina.

Rev Yearwood is a retired U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer. In the lead up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq he began speaking out against such an invasion. He has since remained a vocal activist in opposition to the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2007 he organized a national pro-peace tour, "Make Hip Hop Not War", which engaged urban communities in discussions and rallies about our country's wars abroad and parallels to the structural and physical violence poor urban communities endure here at home. Rev Yearwood is a proud graduate of Howard University School of Divinity and the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), both Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He served as student body president at both institutions.

## Bill McKibben

Bill McKibben is an author and environmentalist who in 2014 was awarded the Right Livelihood Prize, sometimes called the 'alternative Nobel.' His 1989 book *The End of Nature* is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change, and has appeared in 24 languages; he's gone on to write a dozen more books. He is a founder of 350.org, the first planet-wide, grassroots climate change movement, which has organized twenty thousand rallies around the world in every country save North Korea, spearheaded the resistance to the Keystone Pipeline, and launched the fast-growing fossil fuel divestment movement.



The Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he was the 2013 winner of the Gandhi Prize and the Thomas Merton Prize, and holds honorary degrees from 18 colleges and universities. *Foreign Policy* named him to their inaugural list of the world's 100 most important global thinkers, and the *Boston Globe* said he was "probably America's most important environmentalist."

A former staff writer for the *New Yorker*, he writes frequently for a wide variety of publications around the world, including the *New York Review of Books*, *National Geographic*, and *Rolling Stone*. He lives in the mountains above Lake Champlain with his wife, the writer Sue Halpern, where he spends as much time as possible outdoors. In 2014, biologists honored him by naming a new species of woodland gnat—*Megophthalmidia mckibbeni*—in his honor.

## Dr. Michael Dorsey, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

Dr. Michael Dorsey is an interdisciplinary scholar, policy analyst and intellectual. He is Interim Director of Energy and Environment at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington D.C. and advisor to the United Nations' NGLS—a UN inter-agency programme administered by UNCTAD. Dr. Dorsey is a recognized expert on global governance and sustainability.



For decades Dr. Dorsey has provided strategic guidance and advice to governments, foundations, firms and many others on the interplay of multilateral environment policy, finance and economic policy matters. In 1992, under President George H. W. Bush, he served as a member of the U.S. State Department Delegation to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, "The Earth Summit." From 1994-96 he was a task force member of President Clinton's Council on Sustainable Development. In 1997, in Glasgow, Scotland, Dorsey was bestowed Rotary International's highest honor, The Paul Harris Medal for Distinguished Service to Humanity. A "Life member" of the Sierra Club, Michael served seven years as a Director on the Club's national board.

From April 2007 until November 2008 Dr. Dorsey was a member of Senator Barack Obama's energy and environment Presidential campaign team. In July 2010 the US Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) Administrator, Lisa Jackson, appointed Dr. Dorsey to the EPA's National Advisory Committee (NAC). Administrator Jackson reappointed Dr. Dorsey to the US-EPA NAC in 2012.

From 2012-13 Dr. Dorsey was a visiting fellow and professor of environmental studies in Wesleyan University's College of the Environment. Prior to Wesleyan he was an assistant professor in Dartmouth College's Environmental Studies Program and the Director of the College's Climate Justice Research Project. In 2012 Dr. Dorsey was made a "Full member" of the Club of Rome. In the fall of 2013 the *National Journal* named Dr. Dorsey one of 200 national "energy and environment expert insiders".



### **Lester R. Brown, Earth Policy Institute**

The Washington Post calls Lester Brown “one of the world’s most influential thinkers.” The Telegraph of Calcutta refers to him as “the guru of the environmental movement.” In 1986, the Library of Congress requested his personal papers noting that his writings “have already strongly affected thinking about problems of world population and resources.”

Brown started his career as a farmer, growing tomatoes in southern New Jersey with his younger brother during high school and college. Shortly after earning a degree in agricultural science from Rutgers University in 1955, he spent six months living in rural India where he became intimately familiar with the food/population issue. In 1959 Brown joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agricultural Service as an international analyst.

Brown earned masters degrees in agricultural economics from the University of Maryland and in public administration from Harvard University. In 1964, he became an adviser to Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman on foreign agricultural policy. In 1966, the Secretary appointed him Administrator of the department’s International Agricultural Development Service. In early 1969, he left government to help establish the Overseas Development Council.

In 1974, with support of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Lester Brown founded the Worldwatch Institute, the first research institute devoted to the analysis of global environmental issues. While there he launched the Worldwatch Papers, the annual State of the World reports, World Watch magazine, a second annual entitled Vital Signs: The Trends That are Shaping Our Future, and the Environmental Alert book series.

Brown has authored or coauthored over 50 books. One of the world’s most widely published authors, his books have appeared in some 40 languages. Among his earlier books are Man, Land and Food, World Without Borders, and Building a Sustainable Society. His 1995 book Who Will Feed China? challenged the official view of China’s food prospect, spawning hundreds of conferences and seminars.

In May 2001, he founded the Earth Policy Institute to provide a vision and a road map for achieving an environmentally sustainable economy. In November 2001, he published Eco-Economy: Building an Economy for the Earth, which was hailed by E.O. Wilson as “an instant classic.” His most recent book is Breaking New Ground: A Personal History.

He is the recipient of many prizes and awards, including 25 honorary degrees, a MacArthur Fellowship, the 1987 United Nations’ Environment Prize, the 1989 World Wide Fund for Nature Gold Medal, and the 1994 Blue Planet Prize for his “exceptional contributions to solving global environmental problems.” In 2012, he was inducted into the Earth Hall of Fame Kyoto.

# Panel 1: What hinders a more inclusive movement?

## Moderator: Rev. Glencie Rhedrick

Reverend Glencie Rhedrick, an ordained Baptist minister preaching the gospel wherever God leads her, is currently an associate minister at First Baptist Church-West, where she leads the Bereavement and Youth Ministries and teaches an engaging weekly adult Bible study class. Additionally, she now serves as Interim Pastor for Life Baptist Church here in Charlotte, NC.



A graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, Reverend Rhedrick received a Master of Science Degree from National Louis University in Evanston, Illinois in Human Resources Management and Development with a concentration in Organizational Behavior. She also has a Masters of Divinity degree with an emphasis on Pastoral Care from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. She is certified by the Association of Professional Chaplains, a distinction that few African Americans have achieved.

She is an itinerant chaplain for several hospitals in the Carolinas HealthCare System network. Rev. Rhedrick is a beacon of hope and encouragement to patients, families and staff. Her specialty is working in the palliative care and trauma units. In addition to her work as Chaplain, she also teaches Pastoral Care for the MEC/ITC seminary satellite campus in Charlotte, North Carolina.

A community activist, Rev. Rhedrick is immediate past president of Mecklenburg Ministries, an interfaith organization of approximately 100 houses of faith. She is also an active member of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. An advocate for children and youth, Rev. Rhedrick is one of several First Baptist Church-West representatives to "Congregations for Kids", a community group focused on finding permanent loving and supportive homes for children in our foster care system. She works tirelessly on behalf of families regarding varied aspects of their lives. This may include advocating for excellence in education, eliminating bullying behavior, reducing the outcomes of trauma in instances of domestic violence and/or finding healthy and safe living environments. Children gravitate to her because of her unconditional love and compassion.

## Panelists

### Leslie Fields, Sierra Club

Leslie Fields brings over twenty years of international, federal, state and local environmental justice and environmental law and policy experience to the Sierra Club as the National Environmental Justice Director for the Sierra Club. She was formerly the Environmental Justice & Community Partnerships Program Director. Fields is the former International Director of Friends of the Earth-US (an environmental NGO) in Washington, D.C. Fields is currently an adjunct law professor at Howard University School of Law. She serves as a Commissioner on the Joint Center for Economic and Political Studies' Commission to Engage African Americans on Climate Change.



She has worked with community groups, nonprofit organizations, the private sector and all levels of government and is particularly interested in the intersection of environmental justice, democracy, corporate and civic governance and globalization. Fields has worked extensively on oil/gas natural resource extraction issues and climate change in East, West and Southern Africa.



### **Dr. Gabriela Lemus, Progressive Congress**

Dr. Gabriela Lemus is the Executive Director of the Progressive Congress, the non-profit partner organization affiliated with members of the Progressive Caucus since September 2013.

From 1994-2000, she served as an adjunct professor on U.S.-Mexico border studies, international economic development and comparative politics at a number of universities including San Diego State University and the University of Memphis. In 2000, Dr. Lemus became Director of Policy and Legislation at the League of United Latin American Citizens. She served there until 2007, when she was tapped to lead the Labor Council of Latin American Advancement, a constituency group of the AFL-CIO & CTW. In 2008, she was elected to serve as

Vice-Chair of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), later becoming chair where she where he helped to establish progressive policies for the Latino civil rights movement.

Dr. Lemus has served on numerous Inter-agency Task Forces, Boards and Committees including: the Board of Trustees, University of the District of Columbia; the Senior Policy Operating Group on Trafficking in Persons; the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA); the Washington Office on Latin America; the US Labor Education in the Americas Project.

Dr. Lemus has a B.S. from St. Mary of the Woods College and a Ph.D. in international relations from the University of Miami.



### **Mark Magaña, Green Latinos**

Mark Magaña is the Founding President and CEO of GreenLatinos, a national coalition of Latino environmental, natural resources, and conservation leaders. Mark is also the founder and principal of the Hispanic Strategy Group consulting firm.

Mr. Magaña was the first Latino to serve as senior staff at both the White House and in Congressional leadership -- as Special Assistant to President Clinton for Legislative Affairs and Senior Policy Advisor to the House Democratic Caucus Vice Chair Robert Menendez. Mr. Magaña also served as a politically appointed Congressional Liaison at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Additionally, he served as the

Legislative Assistant to Congressional Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA), as a Federal Legislative Representative for the City of Los Angeles, and as a Research Assistant for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO).

As an early supporter of Senator Obama's Presidential Campaign, Mr. Magaña founded the National Latinos for Obama in February, 2007. Through Latinos for Obama, he built a national grassroots organization and mobilization effort.

Originally from Los Angeles, Mark resides in Washington, DC with his wife and daughter, where he serves on the board of the League of Conservation Voters, Green 2.0, and the Children's Environmental Health Network.

## Jacqui Patterson, NAACP

Jacqui was born and raised on the south side of Chicago to a Jamaican immigrant father and an African American mother from Mississippi. She attended Boston University where she gained a Bachelors in Special Education while working in the Boston shelter system and participating in the “Housing Now” movement. During her 3.5 year term as a volunteer with the US Peace Corps in Jamaica she worked with the Community Environmental Resource Center which began due to the contamination of the Harbour View community water supply by the neighboring Shell Company plant. After Peace Corps, Jacqui went on to earn two Masters Degrees in Public Health and Social Work from Johns Hopkins University and University of Maryland respectively. She has worked as a trainer, organizer, researcher, program manager, and policy analyst on international and domestic issues and social justice movements with organizations including Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Baltimore City Healthy Start, IMA World Health, United for a Fair Economy, ActionAid, Health GAP, and the organization she co-founded, Women of Color United (WOCU). Jacqui is now the Climate Justice Initiative Director for the NAACP. Her work on climate justice before engaging with NAACP was through Women of Color United’s participation in a Movement Generation for Change Ecology Justice Retreat and partnership with the Women’s Environment and Development Organization on the From Katrina to Copenhagen Initiative. Last year she facilitated a partnership between NAACP and Women of Color United to engage in the “Women of Color for Climate Justice Road Tour” to uplift stories of differential impact, community local self reliance, and community resistance of women of color and communities of color.



## Joel Segal

Joel Segal is a longtime organizer, activist, and scholar. He served as a senior legislative aide to Congressman John Conyers for 13 years, and helped found and lead movements to reform healthcare, provide relief to AIDS victims in Africa, as well as for Peace in the Middle East. He serves as Chair of the Congressional Universal Health Care Task Force and senior advisor to the Chairman of the United States House Committee on the Judiciary, Congressman John Conyers of Michigan. Segal is also the founder of the Free China Movement in the United States, that comprises over thirty Chinese Democracy organizations inside and outside of China, working for peace and democracy.



## Lunch Speakers



### **Mustafa Ali, EPA Environmental Justice**

Mustafa Ali currently serves as the Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Environmental Justice at EPA. Ali describes himself as a trainer and facilitator on social justice issues for the past 20 years and focused on the issue of environmental justice for the past 19 years. During that time Mustafa has worked with communities on both the domestic and international front to secure environmental, health and economic justice.

Mustafa Ali is a founding member of the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) and has played a major role in the design and implementation of many of EPA's most successful programs focused on environmental justice and community revitalization. He currently serves as the Acting Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Environmental Justice. In this role Mustafa helps to elevate EJ issues to the highest levels of the agency and works across programs to integrate and strengthen all of EPA's EJ initiatives.

Mustafa's work promotes meaningful, working relationships with EJ communities, as well as builds strong partnerships to address some of the country's most persistent environmental challenges. Mustafa is the former Associate Director in the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Justice where he led the Communication and Stakeholder Involvement (CSI) team. In 2012,

Mustafa created and produced the Environmental Justice in Action Blog which currently has over 100,000 followers. The blog highlights innovative actions to address environmental justice, sustainability and climate change issues. He served as the Environmental Justice lead in 2010 for the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Additionally, in 2009 he served as the Designated Federal Official for the Workgroup on Nationally Consistent EJ Screening Approaches of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), a federal advisory committee to the U.S. EPA. Mustafa has been a National Speaker, Trainer and Facilitator on Social Justice Issues for over 20 years with a specific focus on the issue of Environmental Justice, Sustainability and Community Revitalization, both on the domestic and international front to secure environmental, health and economic justice.

### **Professor Philip Harvey, Rutgers University**

Philip Harvey is Professor of Law and Economics at Rutgers University where he teaches labor and employment law, economic and social human rights, and South African constitutional law. With a Ph.D. in economics from the New School for Social Research and a J.D. from Yale Law School, he describes himself as a human rights economist with a particular commitment to the goal of securing the right to work proclaimed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944 and recognized as a human right in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He is the author of *Securing the Right to Employment*, co-author of *America's Misunderstood Welfare State*, and has published over 50 articles on human rights law and economics. He has practiced labor and employment law in New York city, is still an active member of the bar in New York State, and serves as Counsel to the Board of Directors of the National Jobs for All Coalition. Copies of most of his writings can be downloaded from his website at [www.philipharvey.info](http://www.philipharvey.info).



### **Professor Mark Z. Jacobson**

Mark Z. Jacobson is a professor of civil and environmental engineering and director of the Atmosphere and Energy Program at Stanford University. The main goal of Jacobson's research is to understand better severe atmospheric problems, such as air pollution and global warming, and develop and analyze large-scale clean-renewable energy solutions to them.

To address this goal, he has developed and applied three-dimensional atmosphere-biosphere-ocean computer models and solvers to simulate air pollution, weather, climate, and renewable energy. In 1993-94, he developed the world's first computer model to treat the mutual feedback to weather and climate of both air pollution gases and particles, and in 2001, the first coupled air-pollution-weather-climate model to telescope from the global to urban scale.

With respect to energy, in 2001 he published a paper in *Science* examining the ability of the U.S. to convert a large fraction of its energy to wind power. In 2005, his group developed the first world wind map based on data alone. His students subsequently published papers on reducing the variability of wind energy by interconnecting wind farms; on integrating solar, wind, geothermal, and hydroelectric power into the grid; and on wave power.

In 2009, he coauthored a plan, featured on the cover of *Scientific American*, to power the world for all purposes with wind, water, and sunlight (WWS). In 2010, he appeared in a TED debate rated as the sixth all-time science and technology TED talk. In 2011, he cofounded The Solutions Project, a group that combines science, business, and culture to develop and implement science based clean-energy plans for states and countries. In 2013, his group developed individual WWS energy plans for each of the 50 United States.

To date, he has published two textbooks of two editions each and over 140 peer-reviewed journal articles. He has testified three times for the U.S. Congress. Nearly a thousand researchers have used computer models he has developed. In 2005, he received the American Meteorological Society Henry G. Houghton Award for "significant contributions to modeling aerosol chemistry and to understanding the role of soot and other carbon particles on climate." In 2013, he received an American Geophysical Union Ascent Award for "his dominating role in the development of models to identify the role of black carbon in climate change" and the Global Green Policy Design Award for the "design of analysis and policy framework to envision a future powered by renewable energy." He has also served on the Energy Efficiency and Renewables advisory committee to the U.S. Secretary of Energy and was invited to talk about his world and U.S. clean-energy plans on the Late Show with David Letterman.



## Panel 2: Breaking Down the Institutions

### **Moderator: Andrea Miller, People Demanding Action**



Andrea Miller is the Executive Director of People Demanding Action and Executive Producer of People Demanding Action Radio. She is the former Co-Executive Director of Progressive Democrats of America, was the Democratic Nominee in 2008 for House of Representatives in the Virginia 4th District.

Prior to running for office, Andrea was a part of Congressman Dennis Kucinich's presidential campaign, first as Statewide Coordinator for Virginia and subsequently as Regional Coordinator. From 2006 until leading the VA Kucinich campaign Andrea was MoveOn.org's Regional Coordinator for Central, Southwest and Hampton Roads areas of Virginia and West Virginia.

Andrea co-hosts, organizes and programs PDA's Blog Talk Radio show. She is also the lead designer and production team leader for PDA's websites and printed materials. Andrea co-directs PDA's Capitol Hill letter drops and Hill meetings.

## Panelists

### **Barbara Arnwine, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law**



Barbara Arnwine, president & executive director of the national Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (Lawyers' Committee) since 1989, is internationally renowned for contributions on critical justice issues including the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1991 and the 2006 reauthorization of provisions of the Voting Rights Act. She also created the legendary Voting Rights "Map of Shame" in 2011, which remains popular. A graduate of Scripps College and Duke University School of Law, she continues to champion civil rights and racial justice issues nationally and internationally in the areas of housing and lending, community development, employment, voting, education, and environmental justice.

### **Dr. Michael Dorsey**



Dr. Michael Dorsey is an interdisciplinary scholar, policy analyst and intellectual. He is Interim Director of Energy and Environment at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington D.C. and advisor to the United Nations' NGLS—a UN inter-agency programme administered by UNCTAD. Dr. Dorsey is a recognized expert on global governance and sustainability.

From 2012-13 Dr. Dorsey was a visiting fellow and professor of environmental studies in Wesleyan University's College of the Environment. Prior to Wesleyan he was an assistant professor in Dartmouth College's Environmental Studies Program and the Director of the College's Climate Justice Research Project.

In 2012 Dr. Dorsey was made a "Full member" of the Club of Rome. In the fall of 2013 the National Journal named Dr. Dorsey one of 200 national "energy and environment expert insiders".

### **Mike Ewall, Energy Justice Network**

Mike Ewall is the founder and director of Energy Justice Network, a national support network for grassroots community groups fighting dirty energy and waste industry facilities such as coal power plants, ethanol plants, natural gas facilities, landfills and incinerators of every sort. He has been actively involved in student and community environmental justice organizing since high school in 1990. He's taught hundreds of workshops at college campuses and activist conferences throughout the U.S. His grassroots support work has helped many communities achieve victories against power plants, landfills, incinerators, medical waste facilities and other polluting industries.



Mike's activism began while in high school, as a trash incinerator was planned for his home county near Philadelphia. His work against environmental racism started two years later when, at the age of 18, he was removed from chairing his home town's Environmental Advisory Board for questioning a waste company. The company was seeking a long-term waste contract from his township so they could build a waste facility in an African-American community in a neighboring town -- a facility that was soon defeated. Since this victory, his passion for environmental justice has led him to focus much of his work on supporting low-income communities and communities of color, and has led to numerous victories against proposed polluters in urban and rural communities throughout Pennsylvania and beyond.

### **Nakisa Glover, Community Organizer**

Nakisa Glover is community organizer who resides in Charlotte, NC. Her leadership skills have been acquired through years of corporate, community and service-based work. After leaving a secure career in the insurance industry Nakisa has found a passion for advocacy, activism and contributing positively to her community. Nakisa specializes in building strong relationships through collaboration. She currently works in Charlotte building a grassroots volunteer recruitment program.



She has built a great network in the community by developing relationships with small businesses, faith-based organizations, non-profits, elected officials, area colleges and high schools, to name a few. Through her work, she has gained experience working in politics, in the areas of electoral and issue based advocacy. For more than a year she has led efforts to organize members of the community to take action around environmental issues, such as EPA Carbon Standards, climate action, clean water, offshore drilling and renewable energy. During this time she developed a strong volunteer base that works on petitions, attends rallies, makes phone calls, and writes letters to decision makers and editors.

### **Anise Jenkins, Stand Up! for Democracy, DC**

Anise Jenkins is a proud native Washingtonian and Executive Director of Stand Up! For Democracy in DC (Free DC), a grassroots organization whose mission is to realize full American citizenship for DC residents through DC Statehood.

Anise earned both a BA in Political Science and a Master's in Business Administration from Howard University, and is a political junkie passionately committed to all forms of equal civil and human rights causes.





### **Jeffrey D. Wolfe, SEIA**

Jeff started his involvement in renewable energy when he was a teenager during the first Arab oil embargo in 1973. Since then he has made a career of understanding, creating, and implementing renewable energy and efficiency systems to solve the technical problems of energy consumption, and later, climate change. More recently, after leaving the CEO role at the nationwide solar energy company he founded, he has deeply explored technology to address climate change. His conclusion that we do not have a technology problem has led him to delve more deeply into the true underlying problems which drive our continuation of climate change creation. That work has resulted in the creation of the groundbreaking Our Children, Climate, Faith Symposium in Vermont, and has also

brought him to work on a broader cross section of social issues, working to mainstream those issues into the climate movement.

Jeff and his wife Dori began groSolar in 1998 as a residential solar installer in Vermont, and grew the company into a national brand. Today, groSolar doesn't do residential anymore, but distributes solar products, as well as acts as an EPC firm for large commercial and megawatt-sized projects.

In addition to growing a very small company into a very large one, Jeff has worked on SEIA's board for a number of years, has testified at Senate hearings, and remains an active educator about global warming.

## **Panel 3: Mapping Out the Enemy**

### **Moderator: Dr. Gabriela Lemus**

Dr. Gabriela Lemus is the Executive Director of the Progressive Congress, the non-profit partner organization affiliated with members of the Progressive Caucus since September 2013.

From 1994-2000, she served as an adjunct professor on U.S.-Mexico border studies, international economic development and comparative politics at a number of universities including San Diego State University and the University of Memphis. In 2000, Dr. Lemus became Director of Policy and Legislation at the League of United Latin American Citizens.



### **Panelists**

#### **Rev. Glencie Rhedrick**

Reverend Glencie Rhedrick, an ordained Baptist minister preaching the gospel wherever God leads her, is currently an associate minister at First Baptist Church-West, where she leads the Bereavement and Youth Ministries and teaches an engaging weekly adult Bible study class. Additionally, she now serves as Interim Pastor for Life Baptist Church here in Charlotte, NC.



## **Chuck Rocha, Solidarity Strategies**

Born and raised in Tyler, Texas, Chuck Rocha followed in his father's footsteps as a union worker for the Kelley – Springfield Tire Company. Chuck started his union career at the age of 19 as a member of the United Rubber Workers Local 746. Three short years later, he became the youngest officer ever to be elected of Local 746. Within eight years, through hard work, a string of electoral successes and his fiery public speaking ability, Chuck was appointed the National Political Director. He was one of the youngest people, and at the time, the only Latino, to serve as the National Political Director of a significant U.S. labor union.



In January 2010, taking from his 20 years of campaign and union experience, Chuck founded Solidarity Strategies, a consulting firm that would specialize in providing political services including mail, phones, and general consulting to unions and other progressive organizations. Solidarity had immense success in its first year and secured numerous clients including The Blue/Green Alliance, and several Congressional and Senate races. Solidarity also served as the General consultant for several non profits and political committee's

Chuck frequently makes appearances on the news providing insight on Latino issues and current political races. He is a regular contributor to MSNBC and FOX News as a Latino vote expert and as a democratic strategist. Chuck's ability for public speaking has allowed him the opportunity to become a national keynote speaker for several progressive organizations.

Chuck served as Dick Gephardt's and John Edwards' National Labor Director during the 2004/2008 presidential election cycles. He is a graduate of the Harvard University Trade Union program, and currently serves on the executive boards of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Labor Council of Latin American Advancement. He also serves as the Center for National Policy Fellow for the American Workforce.

## **Professor Joel Rogers**

Joel Rogers is the Sewell-Bascom Professor of Law, Political Science, Public Affairs, and Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and director of COWS and all of its subsidiary projects and initiatives (Mayors Innovation Project, Center for State Innovation, Efficiency Cities Network, State Smart Transportation Initiative, etc.). Rogers has written widely on American politics and public policy. His books include *On Democracy*, *Right Turn*, *Metro Futures*, *The Forgotten Majority*, *What Workers Want*, *American Society*, and, most recently, *Cities at Work*. He has also advised many governments, candidates, and movement leaders, and helped found and operate several progressive NGOs (Center for a New Democracy, New Party, Economic Analysis Research Network, Apollo Alliance, Emerald Cities Collaborative, ALICE, etc.). Along with many academic honors, he is a recipient of one of the MacArthur Foundation's annual prizes. Newsweek identified him as one of the 100 living Americans most likely to shape U.S. politics and culture in the 21st century.



## **Rev. Lennox Yearwood**

Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr., President and CEO of the Hip Hop Caucus, is a minister, community activist and one of the most influential people in Hip Hop political life. He works tirelessly to encourage the Hip Hop generation to utilize its political and social voice.

Rolling Stone deemed Rev Yearwood one of our country's "New Green Heroes" and Huffington Post named him one of the top ten change makers in the green movement. He was also named one of the 100 most powerful African Americans by Ebony Magazine in 2010.



## Afternoon Speakers



### **Barbara Arnwine, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law**

Barbara R. Arnwine, president & executive director of the national Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (Lawyers' Committee) since 1989, is internationally renowned for contributions on critical justice issues including the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1991 and the 2006 reauthorization of provisions of the Voting Rights Act. She also created the legendary Voting Rights "Map of Shame" in 2011, which remains popular. A graduate of Scripps College and Duke University School of Law, she continues to champion civil rights and racial justice issues nationally and internationally in the areas of housing and lending, community development, employment, voting, education, and environmental justice.

Ms. Arnwine's work also includes women's rights, immigrant rights, judicial diversity, criminal justice reform, racial profiling, health care disparities and LBGQT rights. A prominent leader in the civil and human rights community, she continues to fight for the preservation of affirmative action and diversity programs.

In addition to Ms. Arnwine's instrumental work leading to the passage of the 1991 Civil Rights Act, she has served in numerous other prestigious capacities, including international civil, human and women's rights matters. Under her leadership, the Lawyers' Committee continues to participate in monitoring treaty compliance and responding to reports written by the United States regarding the requirements of both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination following the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review.

Ms. Arnwine is a prominent leader of Election Protection (EP), the nation's largest nonpartisan voter protection coalition, launched in 2004 to assist historically disenfranchised persons to exercise the fundamental right to vote. Today, the coalition consists of more than 100 organizations and thousands of attorney volunteers. The 2012 elections marked the third Presidential election in which EP played a vital role in supporting and protecting voters.

Ms. Arnwine and the Lawyers' Committee began tracking suppressive voting legislation nationwide, and created the now well known "Map of Shame," which served as a wake-up call to the American people about states' proposals or disenfranchising legislation that primarily threatened the right to vote of minorities; students; low-income, disabled and elderly persons. Ms. Arnwine was at the vanguard of speaking out about this injustice and educating the public about these efforts to undermine our democracy - when no one was paying attention, including the mainstream media.

In 2001, Ms. Arnwine represented African descendants from the Americas in helping to draft provisions of the program for action of the UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance in Durban, South Africa.

In 2000, she convened the third national conference of African American Women in the Law in Washington, D.C. Some 250 participants in 15 workshops provided input into the preparation of a Report and Action Agenda for advocacy before the UN General Assembly Special Session on Women. In 1995, Ms. Arnwine served as the national convener of the National Conference on African American Women and the Law held in Washington, D.C. and subsequently led a delegation to the UN's NGO Forum and Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Her efforts there contributed to a UN Platform for Action that provides protection for women who confront multiple forms of discrimination.

She has received numerous national, regional and local awards. In 2013, Ms. Arnwine received the Feminist Majority Foundation's Fearless Trailblazer Award and during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's (CBCF) 2013 Annual Legislative Conference, the CBCF, the women members of the CBCF and the Sojourner Truth Legacy Project awarded Ms. Arnwine with the Sojourner Truth, "Woman of Truth" Award. In May 2013, she received the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' coveted Hubert H. Humphrey Civil and Human Rights Award and in March 2013, Trice Edney Communications, LLC honored her with its inaugural Stateswoman for Justice Award.

In October 2011, she was one of five recipients of the prestigious Gruber International Justice Prize for her excellence in defending and promoting civil rights and gender equity throughout the U.S. In April 2011, the National Bar Association bestowed upon Ms. Arnwine the esteemed Gertrude E. Rush Award and in March 2011, she received the National Black Law Students Association's prestigious Sadie T. M. Alexander Award. In 2009, Ms. Arnwine received two prominent awards: the Washington D.C. Freedom's Sisters Award (sponsored by Ford Motor Company, the Smithsonian Institution and Cincinnati Museum Center which honors contemporary leaders who have fought for equality for people of color) and the Keeper of the Flame Award from the Boston Lawyers' Committee.

In 2008, Ms. Arnwine was selected as a prestigious Rockwood Institute Leadership Fellow. She is also the recipient of the National Bar Association's Equal Justice Award and the C. Francis Stradford Award in 2007, the highest honor bestowed by that organization. In 2002, she received the Charlotte E. Ray Award from the Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association.

## **Panel 5: What does winning look like?**

### **Moderator: Joel Segal**

Joel Segal is a longtime organizer, activist, and scholar. He served as a senior legislative aide to Congressman John Conyers for 13 years, and helped found and lead movements to reform healthcare, provide relief to AIDS victims in Africa, as well as for Peace in the Middle East. He serves as Chair of the Congressional Universal Health Care Task Force and senior advisor to the Chairman of the United States House Committee on the Judiciary, Congressman John Conyers of Michigan. Segal is also the founder of the Free China Movement in the United States, that comprises over thirty Chinese Democracy organizations inside and outside of China, working for peace and democracy.



### **Ted Glick, Chesapeake Climate Action Network**

For the last six years Ted has played a national leadership role in the effort to stabilize our climate and for a clean energy revolution. He was a co-founder in 2004 of the Climate Crisis Coalition and in 2005 coordinated the USA Join the World effort leading up to December 3rd actions during the United Nations Climate Change conference in Montreal. In May, 2006 he became the national coordinator of the U.S. Climate Emergency Council and is currently policy director for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. For three and a half months in the fall of 2007 he ate no solid food as part of a climate emergency fast focused on getting Congress to pass strong climate legislation.



Between the mid-70's and 2005, Ted was actively involved in community organizing efforts around environmental, tenant rights, community development and racial justice issues in Brooklyn, N.Y. and northern New Jersey. On a national scale he has been a leader in coalition-building and independent politics efforts. From 1995 to 2005, he was the national coordinator of the Independent Progressive Politics Network, with which he continues to work. He is the chair of the Essex County Green Party.



### **Andrea Miller, People Demanding Action**

Andrea Miller is the Executive Director of People Demanding Action and Executive Producer of People Demanding Action Radio. She is the former Co-Executive Director of Progressive Democrats of America, was the Democratic Nominee in 2008 for House of Representatives in the Virginia 4th District. Andrea is one of the leaders of the ERA 3 state strategy team, end mass incarceration and voter access/voter protection team.

In addition to her political activities she has been an adjunct college professor at Howard Community College and Johns Hopkins University for more than 30 years as well as a software developer.



### **Rev. Lennox Yearwood**

Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr., President and CEO of the Hip Hop Caucus, is a minister, community activist and one of the most influential people in Hip Hop political life. He works tirelessly to encourage the Hip Hop generation to utilize its political and social voice.

Rolling Stone deemed Rev Yearwood one of our country's "New Green Heroes" and Huffington Post named him one of the top ten change makers in the green movement. He was also named one of the 100 most powerful African Americans by Ebony Magazine in 2010.

## **Dinner Speakers**



### **Rev. Rodney Sadler**

Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler, Jr., an ordained Baptist minister, is Associate Professor of Bible (Charlotte, N.C., campus) and Chair of the Bible Department at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Rev. Rodney Sadler is a board member of the PDA, and the Middle East Peace Working Group. He is a national leader in the movement for universal health care and ACA Medicaid expansion. He frequently speaks at press conferences and Congressional briefings at the request of Members of the Congress. Rev Sadler also works closely with senior Obama Administration officials on issues pertaining to faith and social justice.

Rev Sadler lectures within the church and community on Race in the Bible, African American Biblical Interpretation, the Image of Jesus, Biblical Archaeology, and the Dead Sea Scrolls. Sadler was the managing editor of the African American Devotional Bible. His teaching experience includes courses in biblical languages, Old and New Testament interpretation, wisdom literature in the Bible, the history and religion of ancient Israel, and African American biblical interpretation. His book, *Can A Cushite Change His Skin? An Examination of Race, Ethnicity, and Othering in the Hebrew Bible*, was published in 2005. Rev. Sadler served as a visiting lecturer and interim co-director of the Office of Black Church Studies at Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC, and was an associate minister in Durham, NC.

## Jay Winter Nighwolf

Jay Winter NightWolf (Jay Gola Wahya Sunoyi) is the originator and host of “The American Indian’s Truths, Nightwolf, the Most Dangerous Show On Radio” with Co Host Verona Iriarte.

Nightwolf is of Taino and Shoshone, and a registered member of the Echota Cherokee Nation of Alabama. Nightwolf’s national program has aired for over 12 years and going strong. The mission of Jay Winter Nightwolf is to educate and bring awareness of the plight and history of the Native American Indian. Nightwolf’s program reaches more than 1.9 million listeners in the mid-Atlantic region alone.

Nightwolf is one of the founders of The National Congress of Black American Indians (NCBAI) which was created following one of Jay’s vision. The formation and of the NCBAI sought to remove the taboo of mixed ancestry and bring together those who could trace their ancestry to both communities. A subject often fraught with complicated questions of race, identity and citizenship.

“The Nightwolf” program is the only Native American program on FM radio in the mid-Atlantic region. Nightwolf’s guests has included Native American Tribal leadership, business people, lawyers, judges, spiritual leaders, members of the clergy, physicians (both traditional healers and western trained practitioners), heads of state, ambassadors, authors, university professors, artists, musicians and performers, political figures etc. Nightwolf’s show is not limited to just Native Americans, he encompasses the entire “Human Family”.

Nightwolf is an accomplished journalist, published in national press and a member of the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives press gallery. Nightwolf travels extensively throughout the U. S. and Canada lecturing on the issues and concerns of the Indigenous peoples of the Western Hemisphere focusing on the Native American Indian.

Nightwolf is also the first Native American Indian to serve as a national advisory member of “The Progressive Democrats of America- PDA” along with Diane Shamas, Mimi Kennedy, Advisory Board Chair, Congressman John Conyers, Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Cindy Sheehan, Thom Hartman, Joel Segal and many others.

He is also an active member of “The American Indian Society” whose purpose is to promote awareness of the vibrant existence of the Native American Indian of today.

For his many efforts in reaching out to the most needy of America and raising awareness of the plight of America’s oppressed people and the many hours he has spent in providing help, Maryland Governor Martin O’Mally has chosen Jay to receive the 2009 Governor’s Volunteer Award.





## **State Senator Ben Ptashnik**

Ben-Zion Ptashnik is a life-long human rights advocate, environmental activist, and philanthropist.

As a clean government activist and Chair of the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG), Ben organized the Vermont Campaign for Clean Elections in 1994, aimed at driving big money out of politics. He was elected to the Vermont Senate in 1996, where he served on the Government Operations, Health and Welfare, Agriculture, and Economic development committees. He became the chief sponsor of the Vermont Clean Elections Act, signed into law in 1997. This legislation limited

campaign contributions to and campaign spending, at the state level and demanded transparency for campaign contributions, and created public financing for the Governor's and Lt Governor's offices through a tax on corporate registrations in Vermont. Ben got it done in 1996. While in the Senate Ben supported a number of progressive initiatives such as legislation that increased support and equalized public education in low income towns. He also helped pass legislation against Monsanto's Bovine Growth Hormone (BGH) injections of cows, and was a proponent for the ground-breaking Vermont Civil Union Act. A

He served as Vice Chair of the Health and Welfare Committee, and supported Vermont's incremental moves towards Single Payer health care, and fought to control pharmaceutical industry prices.

He championed anti-tobacco laws and promoted the Vermont State suit against the tobacco industry.

In his earlier life Ben was a Civil rights activist and an anti war activist. Later he was an organic farming and co-op organizer, and he founded EarthRight Institute, an environmental organization which helped promote Vermont's mandatory recycling law.

Ben co-founded the Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR), a progressive business association focused on sustainable economic development, where he served as Public Policy Chair. VBSR now has over 1200 Vermont business members, and has championed various programs and legislation that has helped Vermont become one of the leaders in worker-friendly jobs, sustainable business development and protection of natural resources. At VBSR Ben helped initiate the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, a green economic development initiative still funded by the State.

Ben was also a successful entrepreneur and after he sold his international import-export business to a Fortune 500 Corporation in 1991, Ben and his wife formed the Stopnitz Fund, hosted by the Vermont Community Foundation. The Fund was dedicated to his parents family who were lost during World War Two in the NAZI concentration/death camps (his parents are both survivors of Buchenwald). The Stopnitz Fund has supported a variety of environmental education and action campaigns, progressive social change organizations, and human rights and indigenous rights programs.

Ben is a activist who tries to live his politics: He is a renewable energy industry pioneer in Mexico, and is currently the CEO of a successful wind and solar energy company, Solar San Miguel International, as well as founder of Alianza Energias Renovables- a consortium of Mexican and US based solar companies. He works and lives off-the-grid with his partner and co-conspirator Victoria Collier at an organic farm / non-profit institute called the Center for Ecological and Economic Sustainability, somewhere in the mountains of Northern Mexico.



# ROUNDTABLE GUIDELINES AND MATERIALS

CLIMATE ROUNDTABLES

THIS GUIDE COURTESY  
OF PROGRESSIVE  
CONGRESS ACTION FUND



## **DEAR PROGRESSIVE COLLEAGUE,**

This packet from is designed to make it simple for CPC Members, local allies, and PDA members to organize events around the need for our government to fight climate change and the inherent importance these efforts have for all communities throughout the country.

These events are meant to connect community members and progressive allies with their Congressional Representatives to discuss climate change and its economic impact, as well as to help Members capture compelling video and stories from their constituents so that the CPC can ensure their voices are heard. Inside are materials to help Members and staff run a successful event and to bring constituent voices back to Washington.

We hope to capture the stories of those affected by climate change and those who will be affected by climate change should we, as a country, continue on our current path. These stories are both powerful and moving and must be placed at the center of our national debate.

Republicans in Washington have a single-minded focus on debt and deficits. We need your help to continue the success that the CPC has had in ensuring investments in our infrastructure and in fighting climate change and its effects. These events will help to provide the ammunition needed inside Congress to do just that and will help Members of Congress to address the nexus between growing the economy and climate change.

Help us shift the dialogue in Washington by giving a voice to the millions of Americans crying out for Washington to take action against the devastating potential of climate change!



# EVENT LOGISTICS

## DESIGN:

Events are **Roundtables** with 15-25 participants to discuss the issue of climate change and communities.

## VENUES:

Venues are generally chosen on local availability and the feasibility for 15-25 individuals to speak in a roundtable format on the issues. Often, schools, churches, and community facilities (or local businesses willing to donate their medium to large sized conference rooms) can be relied upon for hosting these events.

Venues are selected on a number of requirements including the need for space for post-event media coverage.

## SECURITY:

Security is not required, but basic security is suggested due to Congressional participation. For most roundtables featuring a single Member of Congress, low level building security already present should be sufficient. For larger events featuring a number of Members of Congress, greater levels of security will be required. Security is highly dependent on the individual event and the Member. When in doubt, ask the Member of Congress's office what level of security their Member is comfortable with.





## STAGING: (IMPORTANT)

Staging of events depends entirely upon the venue chosen for an event. However, there are some general guidelines which help guide the staging across all venues. **Primarily: The aim of these events is to provide a roundtable discussion for local communities to connect and engage with a Member of Congress about how Congress can engage in protecting our environment.**

## GUIDELINES:

- **ROUNDTABLES**—Events should be roundtables in design. Generally speaking, this means people sitting around a conference table in order to speak as equals. **The the Member of Congress should sit at the head or center of the conference table.**
- **SIZE**—Around 15-25 people should be expected to attend each roundtable. Events should fit the room they are housed in. The room should feel full when all guests arrive.
- **MODERATOR**—All events should have one person designated as the principal moderator and host. This person will convene the meeting, begin general introductions, introduce the Member of Congress, and get the discussion started.
  - In addition, they should work from the agenda and messaging document to keep the roundtable on track.
  - The moderator should let the momentum of the group flow and allow the Member of Congress to control the general pace of the roundtable.
  - The principal role of the moderator is to get the event started, keep the event on course, and help to ensure the event ends smoothly and on time. Remember, a Member of Congress is rigidly scheduled and will have a number of engagements that day. They may offer to stay beyond their booked time, but please be respectful of their time and schedule. If the Member of Congress brings a staff person, listen to their guidance.
- **MATERIALS**—Materials brought by organizers and participants should be collected at a table at the entrance of the event. In the interest of time, participants should avoid handing out materials during the roundtable itself. However, bringing materials is highly encouraged.
- **REFRESHMENTS**—Water, at least, should be available to all participants at the roundtable. Water should absolutely be made available to the moderator and Member of Congress. Additional food is often encouraged, but not required for a roundtable. Should more refreshments be made available, please be mindful of the GSA requirements limiting the cost of such refreshments, which are variable by city and state.



# SAMPLE AGENDA

***Based on a one hour event. Please adjust to fit the duration of your event.***

Below is a sample agenda for moderators to use during these events. This should be adjusted to reflect the requirements on the ground and needs of the event. Please use this only as general guidelines for steering the event.

Times are designed as the event beginning at hour 00:00 (hours:minutes). Negative times are meant to be done prior to the start of the event.

## **-01:00 (ONE HOUR PRIOR) SETUP**

**Organizers arrive and setup**—This includes the setup of tables, chairs, water, other refreshments, and tables for documents or other requirements. This time is reserved to make sure everything is in order prior to any guests arriving.

## **-00:30 (THIRTY MINUTES PRIOR) VENUE OPENS**

**Venue doors open**—Participants should be invited to arrive 30 minutes prior to the official start of the event. This will allow for guests to arrive in a timely manner and have time for small talk prior to the event starting. Setup of the event should also be concluded thirty minutes prior to start. The Member of Congress will arrive sometime in this window, likely very close to official start time. Ideally, the room should be full prior to the arrival of the Member of Congress.

## **00:00 EVENT BEGINS**

**Moderator call to order**—As close to the official start time as possible, the moderator should call the event to order and begin introductions.

## **00:00 - 00:15 INTRODUCTIONS**

**Moderator Introductions**—The first 15 minutes of the event should be dedicated to brief introductions. First with the moderator, then the Member of Congress, and then all the participants to the roundtable. Remind participants to be brief.

## **00:15 - 00:45 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**Moderator and Member lead roundtable**—The moderator should quickly transition into a roundtable discussion setting the tone of discussion for the roundtable by inviting the Member to offer comments and then helping to moderate a discussion between attendees. Please refer to the rules for moderation in regards to how to help supplement conversation and discussion.

## **00:45 - 1:00 FINAL COMMENTS & CLOSING**

**Moderator begins to move to final thoughts**—The moderator will often have to help conclude the event by transitioning to final thoughts and closing statements. This will often begin with the moderator offering a brief summary of what has come out of the discussion and a reminder about what the next steps after the event may be. The moderator should then offer concluding statements to the Member of Congress present.



# **RULES FOR MODERATION**

## **RULES OF THE ROAD:**

### **90 SECOND RULE**

- All attendees who wish to speak at the beginning of the event should be limited to 90 seconds to allow for all participants to speak.
- This also allows for a flow of discussion and keeps any one individual from dominating the conversation.
- The moderator should make it clear that “We want to give everyone a chance to speak,” in order to help enforce this policy.
- Following everyone’s opening statements and once the discussion is well under way, this rule will become more lax.

### **STAY ON TOPIC**

- Those speaking should be made aware that they must stay on topic.
- This means that steering participants towards the main topics included in the messaging documents.
- If any issue arises, the strategies listed above should be used to keep the speakers on topic.
- The moderator should not be afraid to interrupt and kindly remind individuals to stay on topic.
- Instituting a 90 second rule will help to ensure participants stay on topic. The moderator should include this in their opening remarks.

### **AVOID THE AWKWARD SILENCE**

Oftentimes, a moderator will need to spark conversation for the group in order to avoid the awkward silence that sometimes happens when a floor is opened to discussion and comments.

- The moderator can use their ‘moderator’s prerogative’ to get the conversation flowing.
- Prepare a couple of participants by asking them to bring up specific questions or points. Ask and inform them about this prior to the event. Then direct questions or conversations to these individuals whenever an ‘awkward silence’ may start.
- Ask pointed questions you know people in the audience feel strongly about. As the moderator, you know this audience better than anyone else. Do not be inflammatory, but bring out the passions you know the participants have.



## VIDEO & PHOTOGRAPHY

- During events, taking photos and video is encouraged. But all participants, and especially the Member of Congress, should be made aware of what level of exposure is planned.
- Do not plan to take video or record the event without notifying the Member of Congress and their staff about your intent to do this.
- Taking photos after the event is highly encouraged and always welcome. Please share these with the Member of Congress's office. They are very excited to meet with your group and love having photos of these events for their records as well.
- If media is going to be present, please let the Member know in advance. Media at these roundtables can be very beneficial, but no party should ever be surprised about the presence of journalists, nor should they find out that media is present when they arrive. In addition, consider that media presence during a roundtable may inhibit the candor of participants.





# ROUNDTABLE GUIDELINES AND MATERIALS

CLIMATE ROUNDTABLES

THIS GUIDE COURTESY  
OF PROGRESSIVE  
CONGRESS ACTION FUND



## **DEAR PROGRESSIVE COLLEAGUE,**

This packet from is designed to make it simple for CPC Members, local allies, and PDA members to organize events around the need for our government to fight climate change and the inherent importance these efforts have for all communities throughout the country.

These events are meant to connect community members and progressive allies with their Congressional Representatives to discuss climate change and its economic impact, as well as to help Members capture compelling video and stories from their constituents so that the CPC can ensure their voices are heard. Inside are materials to help Members and staff run a successful event and to bring constituent voices back to Washington.

We hope to capture the stories of those affected by climate change and those who will be affected by climate change should we, as a country, continue on our current path. These stories are both powerful and moving and must be placed at the center of our national debate.

Republicans in Washington have a single-minded focus on debt and deficits. We need your help to continue the success that the CPC has had in ensuring investments in our infrastructure and in fighting climate change and its effects. These events will help to provide the ammunition needed inside Congress to do just that and will help Members of Congress to address the nexus between growing the economy and climate change.

Help us shift the dialogue in Washington by giving a voice to the millions of Americans crying out for Washington to take action against the devastating potential of climate change!



# EVENT LOGISTICS

## DESIGN:

Events are **Roundtables** with 15-25 participants to discuss the issue of climate change and communities.

## VENUES:

Venues are generally chosen on local availability and the feasibility for 15-25 individuals to speak in a roundtable format on the issues. Often, schools, churches, and community facilities (or local businesses willing to donate their medium to large sized conference rooms) can be relied upon for hosting these events.

Venues are selected on a number of requirements including the need for space for post-event media coverage.

## SECURITY:

Security is not required, but basic security is suggested due to Congressional participation. For most roundtables featuring a single Member of Congress, low level building security already present should be sufficient. For larger events featuring a number of Members of Congress, greater levels of security will be required. Security is highly dependent on the individual event and the Member. When in doubt, ask the Member of Congress's office what level of security their Member is comfortable with.





## STAGING: (IMPORTANT)

Staging of events depends entirely upon the venue chosen for an event. However, there are some general guidelines which help guide the staging across all venues. **Primarily: The aim of these events is to provide a roundtable discussion for local communities to connect and engage with a Member of Congress about how Congress can engage in protecting our environment.**

## GUIDELINES:

- **ROUNDTABLES**—Events should be roundtables in design. Generally speaking, this means people sitting around a conference table in order to speak as equals. **The the Member of Congress should sit at the head or center of the conference table.**
- **SIZE**—Around 15-25 people should be expected to attend each roundtable. Events should fit the room they are housed in. The room should feel full when all guests arrive.
- **MODERATOR**—All events should have one person designated as the principal moderator and host. This person will convene the meeting, begin general introductions, introduce the Member of Congress, and get the discussion started.
  - In addition, they should work from the agenda and messaging document to keep the roundtable on track.
  - The moderator should let the momentum of the group flow and allow the Member of Congress to control the general pace of the roundtable.
  - The principal role of the moderator is to get the event started, keep the event on course, and help to ensure the event ends smoothly and on time. Remember, a Member of Congress is rigidly scheduled and will have a number of engagements that day. They may offer to stay beyond their booked time, but please be respectful of their time and schedule. If the Member of Congress brings a staff person, listen to their guidance.
- **MATERIALS**—Materials brought by organizers and participants should be collected at a table at the entrance of the event. In the interest of time, participants should avoid handing out materials during the roundtable itself. However, bringing materials is highly encouraged.
- **REFRESHMENTS**—Water, at least, should be available to all participants at the roundtable. Water should absolutely be made available to the moderator and Member of Congress. Additional food is often encouraged, but not required for a roundtable. Should more refreshments be made available, please be mindful of the GSA requirements limiting the cost of such refreshments, which are variable by city and state.



# SAMPLE AGENDA

***Based on a one hour event. Please adjust to fit the duration of your event.***

Below is a sample agenda for moderators to use during these events. This should be adjusted to reflect the requirements on the ground and needs of the event. Please use this only as general guidelines for steering the event.

Times are designed as the event beginning at hour 00:00 (hours:minutes). Negative times are meant to be done prior to the start of the event.

## **-01:00 (ONE HOUR PRIOR) SETUP**

**Organizers arrive and setup**—This includes the setup of tables, chairs, water, other refreshments, and tables for documents or other requirements. This time is reserved to make sure everything is in order prior to any guests arriving.

## **-00:30 (THIRTY MINUTES PRIOR) VENUE OPENS**

**Venue doors open**—Participants should be invited to arrive 30 minutes prior to the official start of the event. This will allow for guests to arrive in a timely manner and have time for small talk prior to the event starting. Setup of the event should also be concluded thirty minutes prior to start. The Member of Congress will arrive sometime in this window, likely very close to official start time. Ideally, the room should be full prior to the arrival of the Member of Congress.

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- Following everyone’s opening statements and once the discussion is well under way, this rule will become more lax.

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**H.RES. XX****National Economic Competitiveness and National Security through the Transition to Clean Energy, Full Employment, and Infrastructure Modernization Resolution of 2015**

Expressing the sense of the Senate and the House of Representatives that the policies of the United States should support a transition to clean energy, full employment and a sustainable economy to promote national economic competitiveness and national security to reflect the most recent credible scientific findings concerning the current and potential adverse impacts of changing climate conditions for the purpose of avoiding climate catastrophe.

Whereas, leading economists, policy experts and business leaders conclude that transitioning to a clean energy economy would create millions of green jobs, improve our living standards and boost economic growth in coming years;<sup>1</sup>

Whereas, a Stanford University study concludes that the United States energy supply could be based entirely on renewable energy by the year 2050 using current technologies. A study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) states that 80 percent of the U.S. energy supply could come from renewable energy using current technologies by 2050;<sup>2,3</sup>

Whereas, hundreds of thousands of jobs can be created in the conversion to renewable energy, in the development and installation of energy generation projects such as industrial wind generation and industrial solar parks, as well as solar system installations on rooftops of residences, businesses, and public buildings; jobs that pay decent wages and can be quickly created in cities and rural towns;<sup>4</sup>

Whereas, consumers, clean tech companies and related businesses and research centers stand to benefit from the development of clean renewable energy technologies and the expansion of clean energy-based local, national and global markets and economies;<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Stanford scientist unveils 50-state plan to transform U.S. to renewable energy, *Stanford News*, February 26, 2014. <http://news.stanford.edu/news/2014/february/fifty-states-renewables-022414.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Stanford scientist unveils 50-state plan to transform U.S. to renewable energy, *Stanford News*, February 26, 2014. <http://news.stanford.edu/news/2014/february/fifty-states-renewables-022414.html>.

<sup>3</sup> *Renewable Electricity Futures Study (RE Futures)*, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2012. [http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/re\\_futures/](http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/re_futures/).

<sup>4</sup> Richardson, Jake, "174,000 US Solar Jobs Now!," *Clean Technica*, January 15, 2015. <http://cleantechnica.com/2015/01/15/174000-us-solar-jobs-now/>; German Energy Transition – Arguments for a renewable energy future, Energy Transition, Federal Government of Germany, 2012. <http://energytransition.de/2012/10/key-findings/>

<sup>5</sup> 2013 Clean Energy Industry Report, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. <http://www.masscec.com/content/2013-clean-energy-industry-report>.

Whereas, an overwhelming scientific consensus of credentialed climate scientists and scientists in related scientific fields, in the United States and abroad, National Academy of Sciences, World Meteorological Organization, U.S. Department of Defense, National Intelligence Council, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), support the findings that climate change is happening and that human activities are a key contributor to it,<sup>6,7,8,9,10,11</sup>

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Intelligence Council warn that climate destabilization threatens U.S. national and global security by contributing to increased violent conflict and failed nation states suffering from water shortages, food scarcity and poverty;<sup>12</sup>

Whereas, an increase in the global average temperature, if not stopped, will have major adverse impacts on both the natural and human-made environments and will increase human suffering and loss of life due to heat waves, prolonged droughts, water scarcity, food insecurity, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, mass species extinctions, increasing number of refugees, and intensification and frequency of extreme weather events,<sup>13</sup>

Whereas, atmospheric temperature measurements show an estimated warming of 0.85 degrees Celsius (1.5 degrees Fahrenheit) since 1880 according to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5);<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Summary for Policymakers, Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, 5th Assessment Report, IPCC, [http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WG2AR5\\_SPM\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WG2AR5_SPM_FINAL.pdf). <http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm>.

<sup>7</sup> Climate Change Evidence and Causes, Royal Society and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, February 27, 2014. <http://nas-sites.org/americasclimatechoices/events/a-discussion-on-climate-change-evidence-and-causes/>.

<sup>8</sup> "WMO Annual Climate Statement Highlights Extreme Events," WMO, March 24, 2014. [http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press\\_releases/pr\\_985\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/pr_985_en.html).

<sup>9</sup> Climate Change: Basic Information, U.S. EPA. <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/basics/>.

<sup>10</sup> Climate, NOAA. <http://www.noaa.gov/climate.html>.

<sup>11</sup> 2014 National Assessment Report (Third), U.S. Global Change Research Program, 2014. <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report>.

<sup>12</sup> Quadrennial Defense Review, U.S. Department of Defense, p.8.

[http://www.defense.gov/pubs/2014\\_Quadrennial\\_Defense\\_Review.pdf](http://www.defense.gov/pubs/2014_Quadrennial_Defense_Review.pdf). "Climate Change Deemed Growing Security Threat by Military Researchers," *The New York Times*, May 13, 2014.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/14/us/politics/climate-change-deemed-growing-security-threat-by-military-researchers.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/14/us/politics/climate-change-deemed-growing-security-threat-by-military-researchers.html?_r=0). [http://www.cna.org/sites/default/files/MAB\\_2014.pdf](http://www.cna.org/sites/default/files/MAB_2014.pdf).

[http://www.dni.gov/files/documents/GlobalTrends\\_2030.pdf](http://www.dni.gov/files/documents/GlobalTrends_2030.pdf). <http://www.npr.org/2012/12/10/166895624/the-world-in-2030-asia-rises-the-west-declines>.

<sup>13</sup> Summary for Policymakers, Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, 5th Assessment Report, IPCC, [http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WG2AR5\\_SPM\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WG2AR5_SPM_FINAL.pdf). <http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm>.

<sup>14</sup> Summary for Policymakers, Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis, 5th Assessment Report, IPCC, p. 5. [http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/report/WG1AR5\\_SPM\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/report/WG1AR5_SPM_FINAL.pdf), <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/>. <http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm>.

Whereas, thirteen of the fourteen warmest years on record have all happened in the 21st century - each of the last three decades has been hotter than the prior one and 2001-2010 was the warmest decade on record according to the World Meteorological Organization;<sup>15</sup>

Whereas, global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide exceeded 400 parts per million in April 2013, a level not reached in at least 800,000 years;<sup>16</sup>

Whereas, since 1990, when the IPCC issued its First Assessment Report (AR1), global carbon dioxide emissions have increased by nearly 60 percent;<sup>17</sup>

Whereas, the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report concludes that human emissions of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, are chiefly responsible for the increases in the global average temperature;<sup>18</sup>

Whereas, public health experts have documented the health impacts of climate change, including the spread of infectious diseases, risks to worldwide food supplies, increase of cancer and asthma, as well as the direct physical effects of more frequent and extreme weather events;<sup>19</sup>

Whereas, climate change has a disproportionate adverse impact in the United States and throughout the world on people of color and lower incomes, on marginalized women such as refugee and displaced persons, sexual minorities, religious or ethnic minorities, adolescent girls, women and girls with physical and mental challenges, and those who are HIV positive and women in poor and developing nations where they regularly assume increased responsibility for growing the family's food and collecting water, fuel, and other resources;<sup>20</sup>

Whereas, climate change will cause a major increase in unemployment in our nation's agricultural sectors, threaten our food supply and increase the cost of fruits, vegetables, and grains for consumers due to droughts and dwindling water supplies for irrigation. Likely climate-linked events in recent years that harmed American agriculture and communities include a historic drought in California and the Southeast, record heat waves and flooding in the Midwest,

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<sup>15</sup> "WMO Annual Climate Statement Highlights Extreme Events," WMO, March 24, 2014.

[http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press\\_releases/pr\\_985\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/pr_985_en.html).

<sup>16</sup> "Carbon Dioxide at NOAA's Mauna Loa Observatory reaches new milestone: Tops 400 ppm," NOAA, May 10, 2013.

<http://research.noaa.gov/News/NewsArchive/LatestNews/TabId/684/ArtMID/1768/ArticleID/10061/Carbon-Dioxide-at-NOAA%e2%80%99s-Mauna-Loa-Observatory-reaches-new-milestone-Tops-400-ppm.aspx>.

<sup>17</sup> "Global CO2 emissions to hit 60% above 1990 levels, ITV, November 19, 2013.

<http://www.itv.com/news/update/2013-11-19/global-co2-emissions-to-hit-60-above-1990-levels/>.

<sup>18</sup> 5th Assessment Report, IPCC. <http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm>.

<sup>19</sup> Jonathan Fowler, "Climate change poses growing health threat: UN," AFP, August 27, 2014.

[http://news.yahoo.com/climate-change-poses-growing-health-threat-un-](http://news.yahoo.com/climate-change-poses-growing-health-threat-un-170547801.html)

[170547801.html](http://news.yahoo.com/climate-change-poses-growing-health-threat-un-170547801.html); [\\_ylt=AwrBJS3rgNUahQAwNbQtDMD](http://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/default.htm). Climate and Health: Health Effects, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). <http://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/default.htm>.

<sup>20</sup> Charles Lee, "Climate Justice," EPA website, April 24, 2014. <http://blog.epa.gov/ei/2014/04/climate-justice/>.

Women, Gender Equality and Climate Change, United Nations website.

[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate\\_change/](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/).

powerful storms like hurricanes Katrina and Sandy in the South and East Coast and the widest F5 tornado ever recorded occurring in Oklahoma;<sup>21</sup>

Whereas, urban areas have distinct sensitivities to climate change impact including amplified heat waves due to increased absorption of heat during the day as a result of the characteristic concrete paved landscape, and increased adverse impacts due to higher population densities and aging infrastructure;<sup>22</sup>

Whereas, rural livelihoods and communities are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to decreased agricultural crop production, damage to natural resources, tourism and recreation, and the lack of financial and emergency capabilities to cope with severe weather impacts;<sup>23</sup>

Whereas, climate change will make it more difficult and costly for people to insure their homes, businesses, or other valuable assets in high risk areas;<sup>24</sup>

Whereas, a growing number of scientific, economic, religious, academic and other governmental, business and civil society leaders believe steps must be taken to avoid catastrophic effects of climate change;<sup>25</sup>

Whereas, many religious leaders and organizations in the United States and worldwide have stated that we all have a moral obligation to be good stewards of the Earth and that there is a moral imperative for bold action on climate change;<sup>26</sup>

Whereas, many Native American communities have taken the lead in warning of the dangers of climate change, possessing unique knowledge and Native wisdom drawn from a long history of living in sacred relationship with the Earth, which includes the need to live sustainably to ensure a healthy planet for the next seven generations to come;

Whereas, indigenous people and communities, who make up 5 percent of the world's population and live sustainably off the earth, often in poverty and in under-resourced areas, are especially

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<sup>21</sup> Nick Kirpatrick, "California's drought: What losing 63 trillion gallons of water looks like," *Washington Post*, August 28, 2014. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/08/28/californias-drought-what-losing-63-million-gallons-of-water-looks-like/>. Widespread Flooding Threatens Midwest Crops, *Pro Farmer*, June 23, 2014. <http://www.profarmer.com/perspective-opinion/more/guest-columnists/martell-widespread-flooding-threatens-midwest-crops>.

<sup>22</sup> Climate Change, United Nations Habitat. <http://unhabitat.org/urban-themes/climate-change/>.

<sup>23</sup> IPCC AR5, March 2014. [http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WGIIAR5-Chap13\\_FGDall.pdf](http://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WGIIAR5-Chap13_FGDall.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> Maggie Koerth-Baker, "Mutually Insured Destruction," *New York Times*, August 27, 2013. [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/01/magazine/mutually-insured-destruction.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/01/magazine/mutually-insured-destruction.html?_r=0).

<sup>25</sup> Text of the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment. <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/about/commitment>.

<sup>26</sup> Gregg Zoroya, "Taking to the pulpit against climate change," *USA Today*, July 15, 2014. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/07/15/climate-religion-kansas-church-global-warming-evangelical/12515665/>.

vulnerable to a changing climate that threatens their traditions and way of life, including the destruction of small island communities from rising sea levels;<sup>27</sup>

Whereas, numerous nations, municipalities, organizations, businesses and academic institutions throughout the world have set a goal to achieve carbon or climate neutrality, including over 680 college and university presidents who have signed the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment;<sup>28</sup> and

Whereas, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report recommends a global goal of achieving near zero greenhouse gas emissions or below, which is necessary to stabilize the global average temperature to avoid climate catastrophe, and that an unprecedented level of international cooperation is urgently required between now and 2030 to reduce the costs of cutting global greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>29</sup>

Be it Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, shall

(1) support shifting the energy supply strategy of the United States from coal, oil, natural gas and other fossil fuels to solar, wind, geothermal, and other clean renewable energy sources along with increased energy efficiency and conservation to significantly reduce and eventually end dependence on fossil fuels to promote national economic competitiveness and strengthen national security;

(2) establish a national goal of 50 percent of electricity to be derived from renewable sources by January 1, 2030;<sup>30</sup>

(3) set a national goal of a 50 percent reduction in petroleum use by cars and trucks below 2015 levels by January 1, 2030;<sup>31</sup>

(4) establish a national goal doubling efficiency of existing buildings from 2015 levels by January 1, 2030;<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Climate Change and Indigenous People, United Nations.

[http://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/pdf/Backgrounder\\_ClimateChange\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/pdf/Backgrounder_ClimateChange_FINAL.pdf).

<sup>28</sup> Text of the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment.

<http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/about/commitment>.

<sup>29</sup> Summary for Policymakers, Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change, 5th Assessment Report, IPCC, see p. 13. [http://report.mitigation2014.org/spm/ipcc\\_wg3\\_ar5\\_summary-for-policymakers\\_approved.pdf](http://report.mitigation2014.org/spm/ipcc_wg3_ar5_summary-for-policymakers_approved.pdf).  
<http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm>. [http://ipcc.ch/pdf/ar5/pr\\_wg3/20140413\\_pr\\_pc\\_wg3\\_en.pdf](http://ipcc.ch/pdf/ar5/pr_wg3/20140413_pr_pc_wg3_en.pdf).  
<http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/04/13/us-climatechange-un-factbox-idINBREA3C06820140413>.  
[http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-04-13/news/chi-un-climate-report-20140413\\_1\\_greenhouse-gases-ipcc-greenhouse-gas-emissions](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-04-13/news/chi-un-climate-report-20140413_1_greenhouse-gases-ipcc-greenhouse-gas-emissions).

<sup>30</sup> Governor Jerry Brown's 2015 Inaugural Address <http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18828>

<sup>31</sup> Governor Jerry Brown's 2015 Inaugural Address <http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18828>

<sup>32</sup> Governor Jerry Brown's 2015 Inaugural Address <http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18828>

(5) establish policies and programs to modernize the national infrastructure for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, transition toward full-employment with millions of new green jobs and build a sustainable economy;

(6) provide educational and job training programs, transitional financial assistance and job opportunities for coal miners and other fossil fuel industry workers displaced due to the transition to a renewable energy-based economy;

(7) provide retraining and re-employment for green jobs for military veterans, including those returning from military service in Iraq and Afghanistan;

(8) provide increased funding for educational, training and job assistance programs for rural residents and for increased emergency preparation and assistance to damaged rural communities due to the adverse impacts of climate change;

(9) help the people of the United States to establish resiliency to withstand the significant impacts of climate change that are already occurring and that are expected to accelerate in years ahead.

(10) establish policies that capture and store carbon by protecting forests, improving land and agricultural practices, and planting and greening of urban landscapes;

(11) support trade policies to maintain American labor and environmental standards and, through tax incentives, promote the growth of jobs in the United States, including manufacturing jobs, for the purpose of achieving full employment and protecting the environment;<sup>33</sup>

(12) phase out all subsidies for fossil fuels; and

(13) support a policy of the United States to work with the United Nations and other international organizations and nations to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions as soon as necessary to avoid catastrophic impacts from global climate change; and to set a national and global goal to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> <http://blogs.sierraclub.org/compass/2014/09/why-the-climate-movement-cannot-ignore-trade.html>

<sup>34</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jamie-henn/the-climate-talks-find-an\\_b\\_6308094.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jamie-henn/the-climate-talks-find-an_b_6308094.html)

**H.RES. XX**

Expressing the sense of the Senate and the House of Representatives that climate change is real and poses a significant immediate and long term national and global security threat, and is primarily caused by human activity emitting greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution as concluded by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,<sup>1</sup> National Academy of Sciences,<sup>2</sup> International Meteorological Organization,<sup>3</sup> American Meteorological Society,<sup>4</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Defense,<sup>6</sup> U.S. National Intelligence Council,<sup>7</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,<sup>8</sup> National Aeronautics and Space Administration,<sup>9</sup> British Royal Society<sup>10</sup> and many other major scientific and governmental organizations.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=18730>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.wmo.int/media/sites/default/files/1152\\_en.pdf](https://www.wmo.int/media/sites/default/files/1152_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2014/20140717\\_stateoftheclimate.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2014/20140717_stateoftheclimate.html)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/basics/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://news.yahoo.com/climate-change-immediate-risk-pentagon-says-132532129.html>,

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/220575-pentagon-unveils-plan-to-fight-climate-change>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.dni.gov/files/documents/GlobalTrends\\_2030.pdf](http://www.dni.gov/files/documents/GlobalTrends_2030.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2014/20140717\\_stateoftheclimate.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2014/20140717_stateoftheclimate.html)

<sup>9</sup> <http://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=18730>



**TABLE: Federal Legislation Relating to Mass Incarceration 4/7/15**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<b>Senate Sponsor</b>	<b>House Sponsor</b>	<b>Brief Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
HJ Res 25	No Same as	Pocan (D-WI) 31 cosponsors	Constitutional Right to Vote	grants every U.S. citizen of legal voting age the fundamental right to vote in any public election held in the jurisdiction in which the citizen resides
HR 12	No Same as	Lewis (D-GA) 175 cosponsors	Voter Empowerment Act	helps ensure equal access to the ballot for every eligible voter, will modernize our voter registration system to help more Americans participate, and takes steps to eliminate deceptive practices and voter fraud that deter voters from casting their ballots
HR 429	No Same as	Johnson (D-GA) 27 cosponsors	Grand Jury Reform Act	requires the appointment of a special prosecutor to conduct an investigation and present the results to a judge in a probable cause hearing, open to the public, whenever a police officer kills an individual while acting in the line of duty
S 502/HR 902	Lee (R-NV) 10 cosponsors	Labrador (R-ID) 24 cosponsors	Smarter Sentencing Act	gives federal judges more discretion in sentencing those convicted of non-violent drug offenses
S 675	Rand (R-KY) 1 cosponsor	No Same as	REDEEM Act	Record Expungement Designed to Enhance Employment (REDEEM)
HR 676	No Same as	Conyers (D-MI) 48 cosponsors	Expanded and Improved Medicare for All	Single-payer health care
HR 1000	No Same as	Conyers (D-MI) 34 cosponsors	Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act	aims to provide a job to any American that seeks work and to, ultimately, create a full employment society
HR 1102	No Same as	Johnson (D-GA) 12 cosponsors	Police Accountability Act	expands the Department of Justice's authority to investigate wrongdoing by police by making it a federal crime for police officers to commit murder and manslaughter
HR 1232	No Same as	Johnson (D-GA) 44 cosponsors	Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act	places restrictions and transparency measures on the Department of Defense (DOD) Program that transfers excess military equipment to state and local law enforcement agencies

HR 1459/S 772	Cardin (D-MD) 9 cosponsors	Conyers (D-MI) 26 cosponsors	Democracy Restoration Act	creates uniform federal standards for returning the voting rights of ex-offenders to vote in federal elections (related bill S.457/Rand)
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# STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

**...don't cut it.**

## Bills Introduced in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress to Expand Social Security

Bill Name	Changes to Social Security	Lifts the cap	CPI-E	Extends Solvency	Other Benefits
<b>Social Security Expansion Act S. 731</b>  Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)	Immediately subjects earnings above \$250k to the payroll tax. Creates temporary “doughnut hole” of earnings not taxed between current cap and \$250k, which will close steadily as the current cap grows to \$250k. Switches to the more accurate CPI-E. Changes the benefit formula in a way which boosts benefits for all Social Security beneficiaries by approximately \$65 per month.	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>The Social Security 2100 Act H.R. 1391</b>  Rep. John Larson (D-CT-1)	Provides an across the board 2% increase for all beneficiaries so that all Social Security recipients would see an immediate benefit increase starting in 2015. Switches to the more accurate CPI-E. Protects the lowest income beneficiaries by ensuring that those who paid into the system receive a minimum benefit equal to 125% of the poverty line. Over 24 years, increases the payroll tax on workers and employers from 6.2% to 7.4%. This is a 0.05% increase each year would be the equivalent of 50 cents per week cumulatively. Lift the cap by applying the payroll tax to earners making more than \$400,000. Ensures the solvency of the DI Trust Fund through a clean reallocation of the payroll tax.	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>The Same-Sex and Marriage Equality (SAME) Act S.753 &amp; H.R. 1404</b>  Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI-3)	Confer Survivors Benefits to any individual legally married in United States. Eliminate the requirement that the surviving spouse reside in a state that recognizes same sex marriage in order to be eligible for Social Security benefits. Ensures spouses legally married outside the United States are eligible for Social Security benefits.				✓
<b>Social Security Enhancement and Protection Act H.R. 1756</b>  Rep. Gwen Moore	Increases the special minimum benefit paid to workers who have spent long careers in low-wage jobs. Gives credits of up to five years toward the minimum benefit for a parent who leaves the workforce to raise a child younger than six years old. Provides a 5% increase for the very old. Restores the benefits of survivors in	✓		✓	✓

	college up to age 22. Eliminates the cap on taxable income and gradually increases FICA.				
<b>Protecting and Preserving Social Security Act</b> <b>S. 960 &amp; H.R. 1811</b>  Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL-21)	Switches to the more accurate CPI-E. Lifts the cap and asks higher income earners to pay Social Security on all their earnings in order to increase the program's revenue stream and extend the overall solvency of the program. Extends Social Security's solvency by gradually eliminating the tax cap over 7 years.	✓	✓	✓	

# Rev. Yearwood: How We Reach Critical Mass to Stop Climate Chaos

This upcoming weekend at the University of the District of Columbia Law School, [Bill McKibben](#), Dr. Michael Dorsey, [Lester Brown](#), Professor Mark Jacobson, Mustafa Ali from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Professor Phillip Harvey, Barbara Arnwine, Rev. Rodney Sadler, Jay Nightwolf, Krystal Williams, Joe Uehlein, [Ted Glick](#), Chuck Rocha, Professor Joel Rogers, Nikisha Glover, Mike Ewall, Jeffrey Wolfe, Joel Segal, State Sen. Ben Ptashnik, Jacquelyn Patterson, Terrence Muhammad, Mark Magana, Dr. Gabriela Lemus, Leslie Fields, Andrea Miller and many, many more, will address these two central questions in a convening sponsored by [People Demanding Action](#):

1. How do we reach the political “critical mass” to stop climate chaos, and simultaneously tackle poverty and its accompanying social inequities?
2. The social ills that create poverty and accompanying social inequalities are created by the same mechanisms which thwart the proper response to [climate change](#). How can we change them all together?

The objective of this convening is to build a movement of solidarity which includes climate crisis action and reestablishment of justice.

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Many in the climate movement will agree that these questions must be answered, but will also wonder silently, why stop and deal with this question of building an inclusive climate movement now, when we are starting to win on so many fronts?

Last year was the biggest year of climate activism ever. More leaders from various sectors—from environmentalists and scientists, to CEOs and business leaders, to faith and moral leaders—

are now lending their considerable influence to call for climate action at all levels of government, as well as in civic institutions and corporations.

Yet, to some degree, we are singing to the choir. The next critical step for the climate movement is contending for indelible mainstream cultural relevance. Put plainly, if the climate movement does not become more inclusive, the goal of transitioning from [fossil fuels](#) to [clean energy](#) will not happen.

This is the key to winning public support and political will for climate action that will meet the demands of science.

The modern environmental movement, some 50 years old, has invested tremendous amounts of resources in predominantly white and predominantly elite communities to fight for clean air, clean water, open space and a sustainable planet for all of us. This movement model has achieved incredible victories for the public good. The reality, however, is that there is not enough power in the environmental community alone to lead a global transition from fossil fuels to clean energy. The movement needs to expand, and to do so we need to re-frame the issue of climate change to make it an everyday, every person issue.

This gathering at UDC School of Law will bring together some of the brightest minds in the progressive, climate, human and civil rights movement to discuss how the climate movement builds an inclusive climate movement to create community power.

This [free conference](#) encourages community participation (although space is limited). The conference will work to bring new voices of great value to the climate movement. Through both democratic and economic strategies we are working to empower diverse communities to mobilize for powerful climate solutions.

I'm proud that we can have this ongoing conversation in the climate movement of what following people of color-led work is and means. With each iteration of the conversation we get closer to making fundamental change within our movement, which is a process we must model, because we are fundamentally asking the entire world to make some big and important changes for an equitable, sustainable, 100 percent clean energy future. It's quite simple, we (the climate movement) must be the change we want to see in the world.

Original article published in EcoWatch

<http://ecowatch.com/2015/05/05/critical-mass-climate-change/>

# A Zero Emissions Manifesto for the Climate Justice Movement

Written by Rev. Lennox Yearwood and Tom Weis | EcoWatch

*[“Zero emissions is an ambitious but achievable goal.”](#) —UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon*

Zero has become the most important number for humanity. Why?

Any chance of stabilizing the climate hinges on transitioning to [zero greenhouse gas emissions](#) as quickly as humanly possible. Simply slowing the rise of emissions will not work. For the first time, the world’s leading climate authority, the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC), has embraced a goal of [near zero](#) greenhouse gas emissions or below.

[Top military experts](#) and government institutions like the U.S. Department of Defense and National Intelligence Council warn that climate destabilization threatens our [national security](#), yet global emissions just keep going up. Leading biologists like [E.O. Wilson](#) warn that the sixth great extinction is now upon us, yet emissions keep going up.

By heating the globe at such a relentless rate, we are playing a deadly game of planetary Russian roulette. In the words of [Michael Mann](#), professor of meteorology at Penn State University: [“There is no precedent for what we are doing to the atmosphere. It is an uncontrolled experiment.”](#) If you believe your own eyes that [climate chaos](#) has already gone too far, the only logical response is to stop making things worse.

We are not suggesting ending the use of fossil fuels tomorrow. Decarbonizing our industries, homes, transportation, power generation and food production will take years of concerted effort and require every ounce of courage, ingenuity, patience and humility we possess. But intergenerational justice demands that we commit ourselves now as a nation to leading this [green industrial revolution](#).

Some will no doubt call this goal unrealistic, saying it cannot be achieved, but they would underestimate the creative genius of the American people. What is unrealistic is thinking we can continue with business as usual and leave a habitable planet for our children. Americans are a supremely resourceful people with a long history of meeting, and exceeding, monumental challenges. While we have never faced anything as daunting as the global climate crisis, there are precedents for the U.S. overcoming seemingly insurmountable odds.

When destiny came knocking during World War II, we initially resisted, then answered by leading the allied forces to victory in three and a half short years.

It took a Civil War to end the scourge of slavery, and a monumental civil rights struggle to outlaw segregation, Jim Crow laws and discrimination, but we not only overcame, we elected a person of color as President of the United States.

When President John Kennedy [boldly challenged America](#) to land a man on the moon in less than a decade, our best and brightest responded by accomplishing this seemingly impossible task ahead of schedule.

It is now time for our generation to do something great.

### **Zero Emissions Bandwagon**

It may surprise you to learn that zero emissions has already been embraced as a goal by business leaders as well-known as [Bill Gates](#), and world leaders as prominent as UN Secretary-General [Ban Ki-moon](#); OECD Secretary-General [Angel Gurría](#); UN climate chief [Christiana Figueres](#); [Prince Charles](#); and former [President Jimmy Carter](#), former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu of [The Elders](#).

Again, even the conservative, consensus-based IPCC supports near zero emissions or below, albeit on a year 2100 timeline that belies the urgency of their August [draft report](#), which warns of “irreversible impacts” from continued emissions.

Major corporations, like [Google](#), have embraced a zero carbon goal. Others like [Microsoft](#) and Deutsche Bank are moving in this direction by committing to net zero emissions, or carbon neutrality (using carbon offsets or carbon credits to balance out remaining emissions). [684 college and university presidents](#) (and growing) have taken a similar climate neutrality pledge. And a [fossil fuel divestment movement](#) is picking up steam on college campuses (including [Stanford University](#), [Sydney University](#) and historically black colleges and universities) and in houses of worship around the world.

[Sweden](#), [Iceland](#), [Costa Rica](#) and the [Maldives](#) are among the nations vying for carbon neutrality. [Denmark](#) is committed to becoming fossil fuel free, with [Copenhagen](#) seeking to become the world’s first carbon-neutral capital by 2025. In the U.S., cities like [Austin](#) and [Boulder](#) are striving for carbon neutrality, with [San Francisco](#) pledging to generate all of its [electricity from renewables](#) by 2020.

[Scotland](#) is on track to generate 100 percent of its electricity from renewables by 2020. The [Philippines](#) aims to shift the country’s fuel system to 100 percent renewables in ten years. The German state of [Schleswig-Holstein](#) is set to go 100 percent renewable this year. [Munich’s](#) goal is 100 percent renewables by 2025. The [British Labour Party](#) wants to decarbonize the [UK’s electricity grid](#) by 2030. And the island nation of [Tokelau](#) is already 100 percent renewable.

In stark contrast, neither the U.S. President, nor a single member of the U.S. Congress, has yet publicly called for a zero emissions goal for America.

### **2°C Wrong Target**

Just because the governments of the world accept 2° Celsius of heating above the preindustrial average as the agreed-upon target does not make it the right target. To the contrary, [last](#)

[December](#), preeminent climate scientist James Hansen and seventeen co-authors released a study in the scientific journal PLOS ONE revealing the UN-approved 2°C ceiling is based on politics, not science, and would unleash “disastrous consequences” beyond our control.

Dr. Hansen, economist Jeffrey Sachs, and others [argue](#) that “morality” demands a rapid and dramatic cut in global carbon emissions to stay as close as possible to a 1°C ceiling (we are already at 0.85°C). Here’s what they [said](#) about the urgency of dropping from the current level of [400 parts per million](#) (a level not reached in at least 800,000 years) of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million (ppm), the level many consider the uppermost safe limit for civilization:

“It is instructive to see how fast atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> declines if fossil fuel emissions are instantly terminated. Halting emissions in 2015 causes CO<sub>2</sub> to decline to 350 ppm at century’s end. A 20 year delay in halting emissions has CO<sub>2</sub> returning to 350 ppm at about 2300. With a 40 year delay, CO<sub>2</sub> does not return to 350 ppm until after 3000. These results show how difficult it is to get back to 350 ppm if emissions continue to grow for even a few decades.”

We’re obviously not going to achieve zero emissions by 2015. The point is we need to do it as soon as necessary to avoid catastrophe impacts from global climate change. Every day we delay buries us deeper in the climate hole.

### **Failure of Moral Leadership**

The United Nations, Congress and the White House are all failing in their moral obligation to stem the tide of this gathering storm.

The United Nations is not leading on this issue, as it must. Since 1990, when the IPCC issued its first report, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have increased by approximately [sixty percent](#). Last year in Warsaw, after 19 successive sessions of the UN Conference of the Parties (COP) failed to achieve meaningful emissions reductions, labor and environmental groups [walked out](#) after deciding governments were performing so poorly they could no longer legitimize the climate cop-out with their presence.

Congress is not leading on this issue, as it must. Since refusing to ratify the 1997 Kyoto protocol, the U.S. Congress has failed to enact any significant climate legislation. The closest they came was a Wall Street-friendly “cap and trade” bill passed by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives in 2009. Described as an “unacceptable compromise” by [Greenpeace](#) and “a step backwards” by [Friends of the Earth](#), it called for a modest 17 percent reduction of carbon emissions by 2020. Five years later, too few members of the Republican-controlled House of Representatives are even willing to admit humans are changing the climate.

The White House is not leading on this issue, as it must. The EPA’s proposed rules to limit carbon pollution from existing coal-fired power plants are a step in the right direction, but President Obama’s widely heralded “climate action plan” will be [more PR than plan](#), with no chance of stabilizing the climate, unless the White House takes bold action. In fact, the administration’s attempt to please all during this climate crisis with its all-of-the-

above [energy](#) strategy promises more climate chaos by promoting natural gas [fracking](#); [mountaintop removal mining](#); deepwater and Arctic oil drilling; [tar sands](#) mining; and [deafening seismic oil and gas exploration off the Atlantic coast](#). That the President has not yet denounced a scheme as “[absurdly reckless](#)” as [Keystone XL](#)’s northern leg speaks volumes.

Even the renewable energy industry is not leading on this issue, as it must. Four years after it was [first pointed out](#), America’s largest wind, solar and geothermal trade associations continue to embrace incrementalism, when the times call for revolutionary change.

Because the climate crisis threatens all life on Earth, it is first and foremost a moral issue. We have already seen how the poor and [communities of color](#) bear the brutal brunt of fossil fuel extraction and [suffer the most](#) from extreme weather disasters. Three out of four African Americans live within 30 miles of a [coal](#)-fired power plant. African-American children have an 80 percent higher rate of asthma, and are nearly three times more likely to die from asthma, than their white peers. The moral urgency of this crisis requires a rainbow coalition of people – reflecting the diversity of our great nation – [coming together](#) to solve it.

Alarming, latest projections by the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#) have fossil fuels supplying almost 80 percent of the world’s energy use through 2040, with carbon dioxide emissions rising 46 percent from 2010 levels. If this perilous trend is not reversed, runaway [climate change](#) could cause most of life on Earth to go [extinct](#), testing the survival of humanity itself.

As the nation that historically contributed the most to global climate pollution, and is in the strongest position to respond, the U.S. has a moral imperative to lead this global charge.

## **Making the Great Transition**

It is time for America to unleash its entrepreneurial can-do spirit through a [wartime-like mobilization](#) to help save America, and the world. Innovating to zero emissions will not only help ensure our collective survival, it is the key to revitalizing our ailing economy and putting America back to work. But we don’t have until 2100, or even 2050, to transition off of fossil fuels. Scientists are calling for [deep cuts](#) in emissions now. Leaders showing us how to get there include:

- The National Renewable Energy Laboratory, which in 2012 commissioned a [Renewable Electricity Futures Study](#) showing that 80% of all U.S. electricity demand can be met with currently commercially available renewable energy technologies at the hourly level every day of the year.
- Former Vice President [Al Gore](#), who in 2008 boldly called for [100% renewable electricity for the U.S. by 2018](#).
- [Lester Brown](#), who in 2008 mapped out how to achieve [80% carbon cuts worldwide by 2020](#) in his authoritative book Plan B.

- [Marc Jacobson](#) and Mark Delucchi, who in 2009 released a plan to power the planet with [100 percent renewables by 2030](#), a vision that spawned [The Solutions Project](#) (a plan to transition all 50 states to 100 percent renewables).
- The prestigious [Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research](#) in London, [Zero Carbon Britain](#) and Australia's [Beyond Zero Emissions](#), all of which are working to achieve zero emissions.

## **Zero Emissions Mandate**

We have solutions. They even have names: conservation; energy efficiency; solar power; wind power; geothermal power; standing forests; organic farms; industrial hemp; electric vehicles; bicycles; mass transit; wave energy; tidal power; [zero waste](#) ...

Here and there aggressive initiatives are underway. China is developing a single 38,000 MW wind project large enough to electrify a country the size of Poland. Four states in Germany already get more than 50 percent of their electricity from wind power, while in the U.S., Iowa and South Dakota are generating more than 25 percent of their electricity from wind farms. But progress is not being made at anything close to a speed and scale commensurate with the scope of the planetary emergency we face.

On, Sept. 23, a [UN Climate Summit](#) is being held in New York City. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has challenged world leaders to bring their pledges to set the world on a low-carbon path. We entreat Mr. Ban, who calls zero emissions an “achievable goal,” to challenge attendees of the UN Climate Summit to bring their zero emissions plans to COP20 in Peru this December and to COP21 in France in 2015. Anything less will show our governments are not serious about solving this existential threat.

Our colleague Bill McKibben, who earlier this year called out the Obama administration for [sabotaging](#) the 2009 Copenhagen climate negotiations through NSA spying, has issued a “[call to arms](#)” inviting all who “give a damn about the biggest crisis our civilization has ever faced” to gather in New York City on Sept. 21 for a [People's Climate March](#) to demand bold climate action at the UN Summit. We ask, what could be bolder than zero emissions?

Earth is the only known habitable planet in the universe, making the climate risks to humanity so great as to warrant the utmost precaution. Now is the time for the climate justice movement to rally around a goal of zero emissions, with the U.S. leading the way by enacting zero emissions policies at the local, state and federal levels. For the love of humanity, and our children, we must act now.

Zero emissions: because the first step to making things better is to stop making things worse.

Article originally published September 3, 2014; link to original article in [EcoWatch](#)

# Conference Sponsors



**Citizens' Climate Lobby**



When the Nazis came for the communists,  
I did not speak out;  
As I was not a communist.  
When they locked up the social democrats,  
I did not speak out;  
I was not a social democrat.  
When they came for the trade unionists,  
I did not speak out;  
As I was not a trade unionist.  
When they came for the Jews,  
I did not speak out;  
As I was not a Jew.  
When they came for me,  
there was no one left to speak out.  
~ Martin Niemöller

Those who come after, who inherit whatever's left of the world once this culture has been stopped are going to judge us by the health of the landbase, by what we leave behind. They're not going to care how we lived our lives. They're not going to care how hard we tried. They're not going to care whether we were nice people. They're not going to care whether we were nonviolent or violent. They're not going to care whether we grieved the murder of the planet. They're not going to care what sort of excuses we had to not act. They're not going to care how simply we lived.

They're not going to care how pure we were in thought or action. They're not going to care if we became the change we wished to see.

They're not going to care whether we voted Democrat, Republican, Green, Libertarian, or not at all. They're not going to care if we wrote really big books about it. They're not going to care whether we had "compassion" for the CEOs and politicians running this deathly economy.

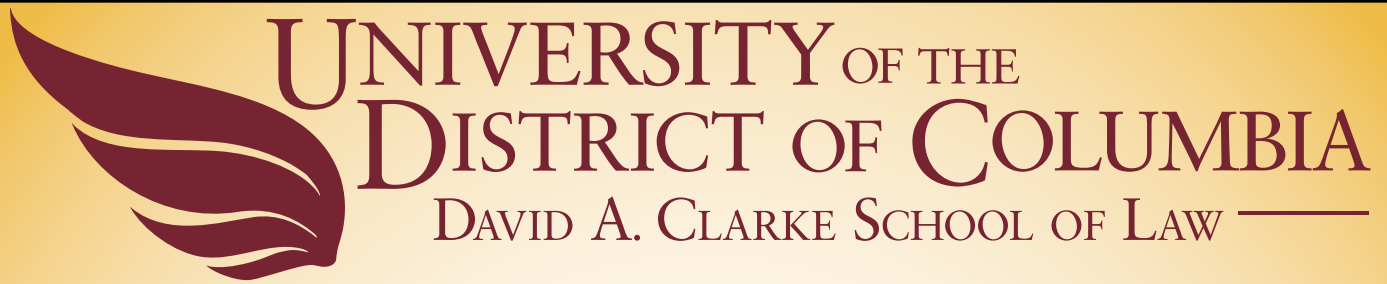
They're going to care whether they can breathe the air and drink the water.

Deep Green Resistance: Strategy to Save the Planet

~by Derrick Jensen, Aric McBay, Lierre Keith



Your liberty is bound up with mine  
Whatever I don't have, you stand to lose



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