

The planet is experiencing advanced symptoms of global warming, such as the vanishing Arctic sea-ice now expected to disappear entirely in summer as early as 2010, a century ahead of the IPCC's projections, extreme weather events and prolonged droughts across the globe.

We have a climate emergency.

The world's eminent climate scientists, such as NASA's James Hansen, say that serious climate-change impacts are already happening more rapidly and at lower global temperature increases than they had originally projected.

Since current GHG levels are believed to be 382ppm (CO2 equivalent) yet temperatures have only risen 0.8 degrees C above pre-industrial levels, we will no doubt feel further heating effects due to lags in response to carbon already present in the system.

The scientists are telling us now that sustained atmospheric concentrations of GHG above 350ppm will lead to the loss of countless species and condemn the remaining life on Earth to an existence of unpredictable and ferocious weather patterns, marked by severe shortages of fresh water.

To avoid the devastating impacts of human induced climate change, we must take all action now to reduce GHG levels to as near as humanly possible to pre-industrial levels and to start actively cooling our planet. We cannot afford to wait; we will not have this chance again.

This submission requests that the following responsible steps be taken immediately to reduce our nation's contribution to GHG emissions:

- Halt all subsidies (currently around \$10 billion per annum) for fossil fuel based energy and commence a just transition for workers to move from polluting industries into sustainable, renewable energy projects and into carbon sink projects such as bio char (terra preta de indio) to pull down atmospheric carbon.
- Replace our current energy system which is based on maximum energy sales and encourages consumption and waste (ie through volume discounts) with one that provides incentives to conserve energy and reward energy efficiency (such as California's successful Flex Your Power program)
- Through an effective carbon pricing mechanism, ensure that ALL polluting industries pay a high price for their devastating impact on our environment
- Use proceeds from the carbon pricing scheme to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects
- Halt all native forest logging because our forests are our most valuable carbon sinks, water catchments and wildlife habitats
- Halt the hidden subsidies for cars and road freight transportation
- Legislate energy star ratings and standards for all appliances

- Through retrofits to homes and public housing (as opposed to cheaper energy offers), ensure that low income earners are the first in the community to be supported through the transition to a sustainable economy.

The results of not taking this responsible action and experiencing further impacts of climate change will be horrendous.

We are no longer debating the fine points of computer climate models; we are watching glaciers at both poles calve into the oceans.

We have a climate and sustainability emergency that demands a commensurate response and no time to waste.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent submission,

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