



Greetings!

Whatever It Takes



"We are prepared to do whatever it takes." This was the commitment spoken by a 17 year old organizer of the Sunrise Movement, a youth-led climate justice organization, as he announced the launch of the **Green New Deal for Schools**. Fifty high schools around the country have joined to demand their districts implement various policies to address the climate crisis. [Read more here.](#)



The same commitment to do whatever it takes can be said for a number of issues facing us today.

A partial list of things to address would include: protecting the future of our democracy; women's reproductive freedom; a functional, ethical government responsive to the American people; climate crisis reversal; free and fair elections; responsible gun safety laws; respect for LGBTQ and other marginalized groups. No matter what public issue we are most passionate about it's time to do whatever it takes in non-violent action to help the cause and make progress.



Stories, insights and action for a world that works for all of us

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*Justice is what love looks like in public.*

Jim Hightower

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Favorite Resources

[Future Crunch](#)

[Reasons to be](#)

[Cheerful](#)

[Chop Wood, Carry](#)

[Water](#)

[350.org](#)

[Climate Reality](#)

[Project](#)

[Local Futures](#)

[Desert Rose Press](#)

[VirginiaMudd.com](#)

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## Speaking Out: Taking Action

### **Pope Francis speaks out, again**

**In 2015 Pope Francis called for "Care for Our Common Home."** In his most recent exhortation on the climate crisis, the Pope says that "our responses have not been adequate, while



the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point.”

**In "Laudate Deum" the Pope doubled down on his earlier call for urgent action to tackle climate change, while also criticizing a failing global response to the crisis.** But he also called out Americans for having an oversized

influence on the climate. “If we consider that emissions per individual in the United States are about two times greater than those of individuals living in China, and about seven times greater than the average of the poorest countries, we can state that a broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with the Western model would have a significant long-term impact,” he writes. “As a result, along with indispensable political decisions, we would be making progress along the way to genuine care for one another.”

**The Pope warns against believing that our problems will be solved by technical interventions saying, “We risk remaining trapped in the mindset of pasting and papering over cracks.**

**Bill McKibben comments** on the Pope's writing saying, “Yes, the engineers have done their job. Yes, the scientists have done their job. But it’s high time for the human heart to do its job. And that’s what we need this leadership for so, so badly.” [Read more here.](#)



## **Action Sites for Climate and Democracy**

**Cimate Action**  
[100 Things You Can Do to Help in the Climate Crisis](#)  
[15 Actions to Make a Difference](#)

### **Protect Our Democracy**

[Chop Wood, Carry Water](#): Provides daily actions for our democracy.

[thecivicscenter.org](#) : Mobilizing the youth vote in America.

[civicinfluencers.org](#): Also working to register young voters.

[vote.org](#): Everything you need to know to vote.

[steady.substack.com](#): Dan Rather's excellent commentary on current affairs.

[RobertHubbell.substack.com](#): Reflections and summary on today's news.

[guides.vote](#): Non-partisan guide to how candidates stand on issues.

[commoncause.org](#): An organization working for all aspects of democracy.

[votefwd.org](#): Write letters to encourage folks to vote.

[postcardstovoters.org](#): Here you can write postcards to encourage voters.

[citizen.org](#): Public Citizen is another organization working for democracy.

[statesproject.org](#): An pro-democracy organization working at the state level.

**Voter ID Help**: Every state has different rules for Voter ID. [VoteRiders](#) will tell you what you need to know in order to ensure you can vote. [This YouTube](#) will explain further. (Thanks to reader Jeanne B. for sending this in.)

**Remember, as Dr. Seuss says, "[Every Voice Counts!](#)"**

## **Good News**

**Cleaning up the  
Great Pacific  
Garbage Patch**





The "GPGP" is twice the size of Texas. The 3rd generation of this massive plastic cleanup operation is now

underway, bringing home 45 tons of plastic with each trip. An estimated 80,000 tons of plastic is in this area. "Once we remove it, we aim to ensure this plastic never again re-enters the marine environment by recycling it into sustainable new products, providing a full-circle solution to ocean plastic pollution."

[Beginners Guide to The Ocean Cleanup](#)  
[Watch the YouTube here.](#)



### Eco-friendly Apparel Manufacturing in Bnagladesh

The garment

industry in Bangladesh is a \$45 billion industry employing over 4 million people, mostly rural women. They have set an exmple for green and sustainable manufacturing. "As a businessman, I have the responsibility to protect the Earth for the next generation and curtail environmental impacts while manufacturing clothing items," said one managing director. Read about Bangladesh [here](#), and what the EU is doing [here](#).



### Rainforest nations collaborate to save biodiversity

Three major regions, which include the Congo, Amazon, and Asia-Pacific basins, are home to two-thirds of the world's terrestrial biodiversity and 80 percent of the world's tropical forests. *Three Basins Summit* began the process of working together to end deforestation and protect ecosystems. [Read more here.](#)



### Netherlands' call for coalition to end fossil fuel subsidies

Spain and the International Energy Agency (IEA) are joining this effort proposed by the Dutch. [Read here.](#)

## Wisdom for Our Time



—Jay Kuo

We will need all hands available in the coming year, because it is no exaggeration to state that our entire American national experiment—which has experienced a civil war, two world wars, a civil rights awakening and now the rise of American fascism—is squarely on the line. Not one of us can afford to sit this out.

## IMAGINE



### My Column

I have reprinted Dan Rather's post of 11/3, "All These Emotions,"



The James Webb telescope and [this article](#) present a fascinating look at a "star being born." Diagrams and time-lapse photos make this a totally engrossing piece.

*Wishing you all a starry season of wonder and joy.*

*Virginia / Gibi*

because his insights about the time of crises we live in and how it impacts our common humanity are well worth reading.

