



Greetings!

### CHANGING TOGETHER



15 year old climate activist, Greta Thunberg, gave a speech at the U.N. Climate Conference, COP24, that we all need to hear.

"Until you start focusing on what needs to be done rather than what is politically possible, there is no hope. We can't solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis. We need to keep the fossil fuels in the ground, and we need to focus on equity. And if solutions within the system are so impossible to find, maybe we should change the system itself."

[3 min. speech and transcript here.](#)

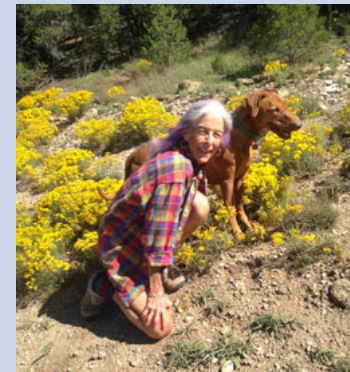
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**"... maybe we should change the system itself."**

[Earth Overshoot Day](#) was August 2nd for 2018. This is the day calculated when humanity's resources consumption for the year exceeds Earth's capacity to regenerate those resources that year.



"Our planet is finite, but human possibilities are not. Living within the means of one



**Good news, insights  
and action  
for positive change**

~ ~ ~

**PERSIST  
INSIST  
PROTECT  
DEFEND  
DEMAND  
DEFY  
DISRUPT  
GUIDE  
CREATE**

~ ~ ~

**"Imagine"  
John Lennon**

***Justice is what love  
looks like in public.  
Cornel West***

*Because I always have a  
choice, I choose love.  
Deepak Chopra*

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*Come, Come, whoever  
you are.  
Ours is not a caravan of  
despair. --Rumi*

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planet is technologically possible, financially beneficial, and our only chance for a prosperous future," said Mathis Wackernagel, CEO of the Global Footprint Network, the international research organization that uses UN statistics and other sources to calculate when overshoot day falls every year. This year marks the earliest overshoot date yet.

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## Overconsumption on a finite planet doesn't work!

### "Why Capitalism Can't Fix Climate Change"

*The economy needs to be properly integrated into the ecosphere.*

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### "When growing the economy is not the right answer"

Excerpts and transcript from The Next System Project

*I think we need to diagnose the problem as economic growth.*

*Economic growth inherently requires resource use, and we know that some*

*resources are nonrenewable. There's resource depletion. But also crucially, using said resources is damaging our climate, our biodiversity, and so forth. So the root problem is really economic growth.*

*Indeed it might well follow that de-growth, the process in which we move to an economy that uses fewer resources, that does not need to grow to function effectively, providing us all with a decent quality of life, is the way to go.*

*I think we shouldn't overly rely on what individual behavior change can do. What's more likely to lead to success is politicizing issues around consumption, around business practice, and asking for change from our legislators.*

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## CLIMATE ACTION NEWS

Denmark proposes food labels that reflect impact on climate change.

The list would include effects from transportation, pesticides, fertilizers, packaging, etc. [Here's more.](#)

### The top 6 ways we can help:

Waste less food, eat less factory-farmed

*Every single person on this earth has the power to change the world.*

Emma Thompson  
Actress and Activist

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*When the people lead, the leaders follow.*

Gandhi

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## FOR THE LOVE OF EARTH



Print by Mayumi Oda

### Why I have hope in the Face of Human Extinction

David Korten

When I ask an audience, "Who believes we are on a path to human extinction?" nearly every hand goes up. It's a sign of a growing awareness that humanity is on a path to self-imposed environmental and social collapse. For me, that awareness is a source of hope.

### Climate Change or System Change?

by Local Futures

[For the Love of Earth](#)

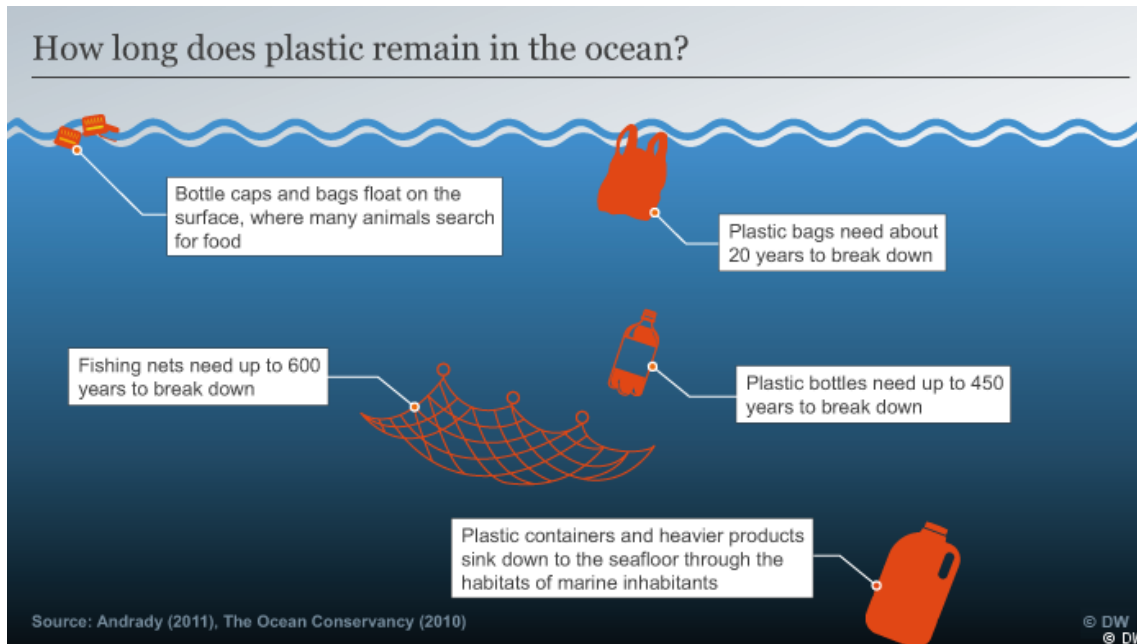


meat, consume less energy and water, lobby representatives, talk with folks and find common ground with others, and join organizations working to address climate change.

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## PLASTIC ACTION AROUND THE WORLD



A larger version of this illustration of the long life of plastic is in this first article

### In Tübingen, Germany, plastic products are taxed.

The mayor says, "By making the production of waste more expensive, we eliminate financial disincentives." [Read more.](#)

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### UN report says 50 countries target plastic pollution

Along with the article is a good video about ["How to break up with plastic."](#)

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**The UK's Co-op ditches single-use plastic bags** for biodegradable ones and plans to use 50% recycled plastic in other products. [Read here.](#)

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### Who are the World's Worst Plastic Polluters?

Coca Cola, Pepsi and Nestle lead the list. [The article](#) emphasizes the need to educate the public about the problem so we can lobby government to create infrastructure to help increase recycling rates.

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**In Australia a ban at supermarkets shows 80% drop in plastic bag consumption nationwide.** A spokesman for the National Retail Assoc. says, "Everyone delivering things in a package needs to take

David Korten

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## UPLIFTING STORIES & INNOVATIONS



### Cutting Food Waste

Thanks to Selina Juul, a passionate Dane who took on the cause, Denmark has cut food waste 25% in the last 5 years.

The USDA estimates that 40% of food produced in the US is thrown away. [Here's how to change that.](#)

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### [No-kill eggs go on sale in Berlin](#)

A new testing method would eliminate the killing of billions of male chicks.

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responsibility for what they deliver in." [Read here.](#)

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Do you know



how your state makes electricity?

This [NYTimes article](#) gives a state-by-state review.

*Overall, fossil fuels still dominate electricity generation in the US. But the shift from coal to natural gas has helped lower CO2 emissions and other pollution. Last year coal was the main source of electricity for 18 states, down from 32 states in 2001.*

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## WISDOM FOR OUR TIMES



*If we can recognize that change and uncertainty are basic principles, we can greet the future and the transformation we are undergoing with the understanding that we do not know enough to be pessimistic.* Hazel Henderson



*There has to be a response that matches the size of the crisis. I've always known that the cure for depression is action.*  
Yvon Chouinard

*Don't ask what will happen.  
We are what will happen.*  
Rebecca Solnit



## Beautiful New Packaging

The beauty industry uses excessive plastic packaging, but these makeup brands are working with alternatives packaging for their products.

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## FAVORITE RESOURCES

[350.org](#)

[Climate Reality Project](#)

[The Small Planet Institute](#)

[Local Futures](#)

[Network of Spiritual Progressives](#)

[Project Heaven on Earth](#)

[Yes! magazine](#)

[The Optimist Daily](#)

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[VitginiaMudd.com](#)  
[Desert Rose Press](#)

My Column  
this month is  
about  
*We the people,  
and everythig else*





This is the Museum of Tomorrow in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, one of 18 incredible structures posted on the Project Heaven on Earth website. As the new year moves forward may these images ignite our imagination and energy for a new today, and a new tomorrow, on Earth. [See them all here.](#)

*Virginia / Gibi*

It's about the stories and beliefs we live by and how we must write a new story about our life on Earth so we can all thrive. I call it "WE FIRST," or "Stories We Could Live, or Die, By?"

[Read more.](#)

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### **PASS IT ON**

If this newsletter has contributed to your life in some way, please send it along. We all need to play our part in creating the New Story for Earth

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