

CLIMATE CHANGE IS HERE. IT'S TIME TO ACT.

The natural world is now out of balance and it's starting to affect all life on Earth. Negative impacts are visible worldwide as weather patterns become less predictable and natural disasters become more frequent and extreme. Here in the Pajaro Valley, our crop production is being impacted by changing weather patterns. This is affecting farmers, local businesses, and even the wildlife that depend on our rich sloughs and natural resources for survival. Most upsettingly, those of us who have fewer resources are unfairly suffering from more of these effects, since we have fewer resources to respond to the changing conditions. Climate change is an injustice to our Earth and to the people who did the least to cause it.

Worldwide, tons of fuels that were underground have been mined, sold, and burned to power industrialized societies.



This industry has made small numbers of people very rich, but it is having catastrophic effects on the earth and its inhabitants, especially the majority who have few resources.



Oil, gas and coal release carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere when they are burned to produce energy. These gases trap the sun's heat in the air and ocean like a blanket around the earth and cause global temperatures to rise.



Did you know?
70% of emissions were caused by 20% of people in the world!



The rise in global temperatures has caused more extreme and unpredictable weather. It has brought drought, floods, extreme heat, smoke from wildfires, and heavy rains.



Heavy rains and winds have damaged homes, roads, and structures. Unpredictable weather costs us all more money to produce, sell, and buy food.

Starting today, we can take action to reverse global warming and protect limited resources.



We can conserve water by taking shorter showers & closing the faucet while we brush our teeth or soap up dishes. We can collect and use rainwater for our plants and to wash our cars.



We can walk, bike, and take public transit or carpool to reduce CO2 emissions.



We can refuse plastic - which is made from petroleum - by using reusable shopping bags, reusing containers for storage, bringing reusable utensils to work/school, and by buying products with less packaging.



We can eat more locally-sourced, plant-based foods to save fuel and water needed to transport and grow the food, and we can be conscious to reduce our food waste to keep it out of landfills where it creates methane gas.



We can discuss fossil fuel pollution with others and show them how it's linked to what we care about: the future security of younger people, animals at risk of extinction, increasing rates of asthma, etc.



We can ask local elected officials and community leaders what they are doing to protect our community from climate impacts.



We can transition quickly to all renewable energy and power our activities by the sun, wind, and water or our muscles.

Starting today we can act together to protect life in our beautiful Pajaro Valley by keeping fossil fuels in the ground!



SOLUTIONS

The climate crisis provides us the opportunity to re-design our societies to sustain life and put people before profit. We need to tax CO2, find ways to remove CO2 from the atmosphere, transition to renewable sources for all our energy needs, provide housing close to work and school, and end divisions between people so we can all work together to protect life for future generations. We can create good jobs to accomplish all of this.

It may seem impossible but the alternative is unthinkable!

Food

- **Grow food** Plant vegetables, rent a box from Mesa Verde Gardens (water included!), or request installation of a community garden in your neighborhood.
- **Buy local produce** from the Farmer's Market on Fridays or from local fruterías
- Check the "local produce" sections in your nearest grocery store and ask a manager of the store to carry more locally-grown produce
- Buy organic foods and eat less meat
- **If you need food**, visit a free food drop-off provided by the Second Harvest Food Bank. Find the nearest one to you and the current drop-off times here: thefoodbank.org/find-foodcomida/, or call (831) 662-0991



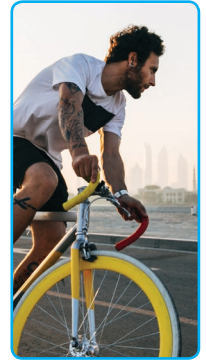
Save Money!

- **Reduce or refuse** to buy single-use plastics
- **Buy Used:** shop yard sales in the City, Craig's List, Facebook Marketplace, LetGo, and second hand stores.
- Call Central Coast Energy Services, Inc. to see if you qualify for free home weatherization and utility payment assistance. **Call** 1-888-728-3637 or (office) (831) 761-7080 x 126
- **Bring your own** plate, cup, and water bottle to school/work to cut back on using single-use, disposable plates and cups
- **Drink water from the tap** instead of purchasing bottles or jugs of water. Watsonville's tap water is safe for drinking.
- **Make the switch to LED!** Install low energy light bulbs in your home to save money in the long run.
- See if you are eligible for rent assistance and immigration support at cabinc.org
- The money you save can be directed at products that are better for you and for the environment.



Transportation

- Walk or bike when possible. Share rides, or take the bus or train.
- Take the stairs instead of using elevators
- Ask employers to sponsor carpools or vans, or purchase bus passes for employees.
- Buy or lease a new or used electric vehicle. Call Monterey Bay Community Power at 1-888-909-6227 about discounts and charging station availability. Gas cars will soon be a thing of the past!



Learn More and Spread the Word

- Ramsay Park Nature Center
- Watsonville Wetlands Watch (*at Pajaro Valley High School in the upstairs parking lot*)
- watsonvillewetlandswatch.org
- montereybayaquarium.org/education/teen-programs/watsonville-area-teens-conserving-habitats-watch
- climatejusticealliance.org
- acespace.org
- climate.nasa.gov/blog/
- peoplesdemands.org/#read-the-demands-section
- drawdown.org

Advocate for a Just Transition off fossil fuels

- Email, call or visit City Council members and speak at council meetings, which are held 6:30 pm every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at Civic Plaza
- Demand that elected officials protect the environment for our children
- Share what you know: Make sure everyone around you knows that climate change has caused a humanitarian crisis and we must act quickly to protect the environment for future generations.



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