

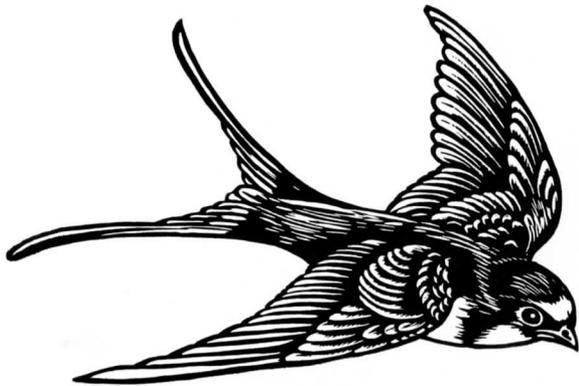


**WHY  
WE'RE  
TAKING  
ACTION AND  
WHY YOU  
SHOULD  
JOIN US**



**WAKE  
UP  
ACT  
NOW**

Why we're taking action and  
why you should join us



# TRUTH NOW

All of us, the ones we love and every other living thing on our planet, are threatened by the climate and ecological emergency. Extinction Rebellion are trying to prevent this and you can help. We need everybody to take action – right now.

## **We're running out of time**

The UN says we need to keep global warming below 1.5 °C. We're already at +1.1 °C from the baseline, and without urgent action we'll reach 1.5 °C in just 20 years.

## **We're not doing enough**

Even if every country delivers on all their current promises to reduce emissions, we're heading for warming of over 3 °C by 2100.

## **Small increases really matter**

For example, a 1.5 °C increase will destroy 70-90% of coral reefs – at 2 °C we'll lose over 99%; not to mention further increases in extreme weather – stronger tropical storms, longer droughts, hotter heatwaves and heavier downpours.

## **If we leave it too long to respond, it could get out of control**

The hotter it gets, the higher the risk of triggering dangerous irreversible feedbacks.

The beginnings of our planet's sixth mass extinction may be underway, driven by human actions. One million animal and plant species are already threatened with extinction this century. We depend on the natural world to survive, and biodiversity loss presents as great a risk as climate change. The impacts of all of this include:

## **Food shortages**

Yields of staple crops like wheat are already being harmed by changing weather patterns, and the loss of pollinators threatens food supplies (In just 25 years, monitoring of a network of sites in Germany found a loss of over 75% in the biomass of flying insects).

# "WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE. WE ARE LOSING THE RACE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE"

**UN SECRETARY-GENERAL  
ANTONIO GUTERRES.  
18 SEPTEMBER 2019**

## **Water shortages**

The UN predicts that by 2050, more than 5 billion people (around half the predicted world population) will suffer water shortages for at least one month a year.

## **Extreme weather**

Flooding, wildfires and storms will kill and injure many more. A 4 °C rise will leave 74% of people living in an area exposed to deadly heat.

## **Disease**

Higher temperatures and increasing poverty will promote the spread of disease. The geographic range of diseases such as malaria and dengue fever will be affected, putting hundreds of millions more at risk.

## **Forced mass migration**

Rising sea levels, combined with the issues above, will force people to be displaced from their homes on a scale far beyond anything seen in human history. The UN warns of anything from tens to hundreds of millions of climate refugees by 2050.

## **Conflict**

As resources become scarcer and societies are put under increased environmental stress the likelihood of war and conflict (potentially even nuclear) will increase.

## Societal collapse

The combined escalation of all these issues puts societies under threat. In the words of David Attenborough: “the collapse of our civilisations is on the horizon”.

For many people across the world these problems are already a reality. Even in the rich world, we face imminent and growing danger. We are the last generation who can act to fight this crisis – **it's now or never**.

**Events are unfolding even more rapidly than predicted.** In recent months we've seen wildfires across the world from Siberia to Australia, the Bahamas devastated by a huge hurricane worsened by warming oceans, and Arctic ice melting ever more rapidly (it's now expected to be ice free in summer before 2050). The UN says that disasters related to climate change are now happening at a rate of one a week.

Feedback loops such as the reducing albedo effect, where the sea absorbs more heat due to loss of reflective ice, add to the problem. Elsewhere in the Arctic, melting permafrost is releasing more carbon dioxide and methane, which then creates even more warming. Delay increases the risk that we'll pass tipping points, beyond which our ability to prevent further warming is reduced. It's impossible to overstate the severity of the threat and the urgency of taking action. **We must not keep calm and carry on – we must act now.**



# CHANGE NOW

**The climate and ecological emergency represents a direct threat to all our children and all other life on Earth.** Many are being affected right now, and for some it's already too late. Every one of us needs to recognise this truth and act now.

**If we thought our child had a life threatening illness, we'd act immediately.** We wouldn't say it didn't matter as it wasn't us that was ill. We wouldn't say we were too busy with work to think about it. We wouldn't say that the treatment interfered with our holiday plans or going shopping. We wouldn't give up and say it was too difficult.

**Placing faith in future technological solutions is a reckless gamble.** We wouldn't reject existing treatments for our child and hope for something new to be invented. New technology may well help us in the future, but we don't have time to wait for its arrival and production on the necessary scale. The resource we need most at this time is courage. We have no guarantee of a positive outcome. We do know that acting now gives our children the best chance.

**Our current way of life is unsustainable. We must accept what this means** – it cannot continue. Each year we're using 1.7 times the resources the earth can absorb and regenerate; it's like spending nearly twice as much as we earn. Whether we wish to believe it or not, our planet cannot support this.

The science is crystal clear on the changes we need to make and the urgency of doing so. If this is not achieved rapidly through a managed process, the planet will force change upon us with ecological and societal collapse.



# THE TIME IS NOW

**The conventional approaches of voting, lobbying, petitions and protests have failed** to produce the change needed. Powerful political and economic interests have continued to stand in the way. Since 1990, when the risks of climate change were made entirely clear, carbon emissions have increased by 60%. Even now, as we stand on the precipice, oil and gas giants are racing to ransack the melting Arctic, ranchers burn the Amazon, and our ecological onslaught continues to grow.

**This failure is why Extinction Rebellion came into existence** and is pursuing a strategy of non-violent, disruptive civil disobedience – a rebellion. Historical

evidence shows that this is the most effective way to achieve the rapid political and economic change we need. You can find more about the reason we're using these tactics on our website [www.rebellion.earth](http://www.rebellion.earth).

We're asking for immediate action to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. **The next 18 months are critical for putting in place the policies that will move this forward rapidly.** Climate change is already here, but the progress we make during the next decade will determine whether we avoid the most devastating future impacts.

The IPCC says that restricting warming to 1.5 °C requires "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society". **We're not proposing specific solutions; we believe these should be decided upon by the people through a citizens' assembly.** You can read more about this on our website.

We appreciate that our protests may impact negatively on ordinary people and we regret this. However, we believe that in the current circumstances they are morally justified and absolutely necessary. Our actions, alongside the global climate strikes, have really helped focus attention over the last year and increased pressure on governments to act. We need to keep doing this in support of those on the front lines around the world who continue to take action, often at great risk to their lives.



# EVERYBODY NOW

We're not simply acting in our own interests, we're acting for all humanity and future generations. We act out of love for our planet and all life on it and we appeal to you to join with us. We need everybody now.

This is a pivotal moment in history: we are the last chance humanity has to change its course. Future generations will not have this gift and we must not let them down. We know what we need to do and together we can do it.

**Ready to save the world? We need your help. Whether it's sharing this pamphlet with others, making new friends at one of our actions or sites, or joining one of our support teams - your planet needs you.**

See [www.rebellion.earth](http://www.rebellion.earth) for more #everybodynow

**Title:** Wake Up Act Now

**Organisation:** Extinction Rebellion

**Date:** 2019

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