

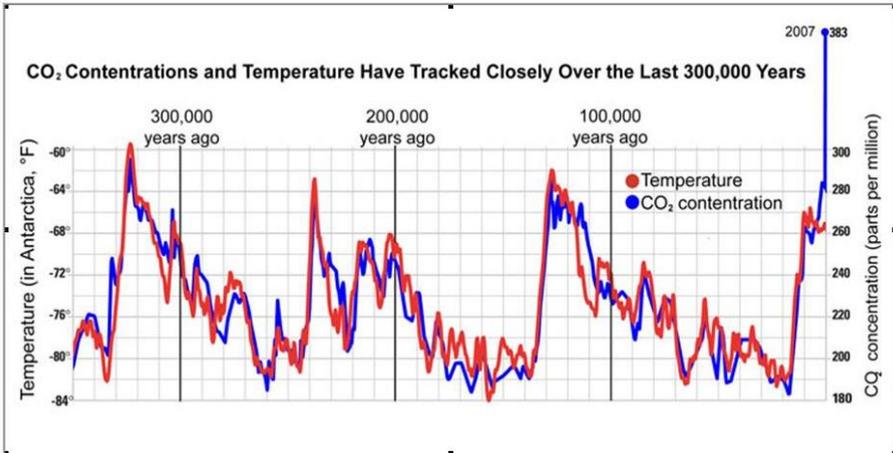
Change the System, not the Climate



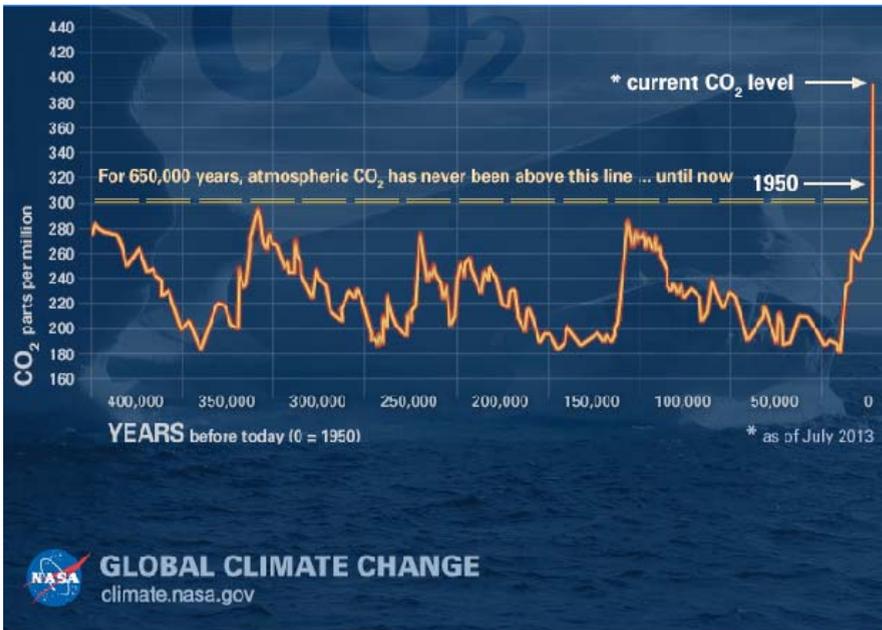
'Politicians discussing global warming' by Issac Cordal, Berlin

Committees of Correspondence for Democracy & Socialism

RedandGreen.org/C3 - Other materials on Preventing Catastrophic Climate Change.



Source: http://www.southwestclimatechange.org/figures/icecore_records



Source: <http://climate.nasa.gov/> Front Page Image source: <http://www.mindd.eu/minddinspiration/politicians-discuss-ina-alobal-warminia/>

Change the System, not the Climate

by the Climate Change Committee of CCDS

July 2014

John Case, Courtney Childs, John Crawford,
Peter Deutsch, Mary Elieisar, Marian Gordon,
Michael Kaufman, Sally McCoy, Joan Mencher,
Ted Pearson, David Pravica, Dick Riseling,
Laura Robinson, Stewart Robinson,
Zachary Robinson, David Schwartzman,
Randy Shannon, Walter Teague, Janet Tucker,
Barbara Whipperman, Denis White,
David Wilbourne and Steve Willett

Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism

This statement was produced by the Climate Change Committee of CCDS in 2014. This pdf version is made available by RedandGreen.org to further the efforts of the growing environmental movement, especially those working to prevent C3. Please check more materials and proposals at RedandGreen.org/C3.

Join US in Fighting for a Green New Deal!

We're inviting you to join the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism. We need your help in building a progressive majority for peace, justice, equality, and a green new deal—and then pushing on to a new society where these will be the rule, rather than the exception. Socialism is being more widely discussed today than any time since the 1960s, and you can't take part in it fully without a socialist organization.

Working with many others, CCDS aims to end existing wars and prevent new ones. We oppose the current austerity being imposed upon the working people, a burden made even heavier by militarism and the hidden costs of non-renewable energy systems. We need a global order based on peaceful relations among nations, mutual respect and human rights, and the creation of economies that can exist in harmony with nature.

You can make a difference. Lend a hand in organizing with others to fight for a progressive agenda in the streets, workplaces, communities of faith and schools. It's not crowded up front, so sign up today!

Fill out and mail today.

_____ Yes, I'd like to join the CCDS. Enclosed is my check for:

\$ _____.

I'd like a subscription to Dialogue & Initiative. Enclosed is my check for \$12.50 (Non-Members, \$15.00).

I know good causes need money. Here is my contribution of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Make check payable to Committees of Correspondence, and mail to:
CCDS Membership, 6422 Irwin Ct., Oakland, CA, 94609

Email: national@cc-ds.org Web: www.cc-ds.org

The Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism (CCDS) is a national organization dedicated to the struggle for justice, equality, democracy, peace and socialism. The annual membership is \$36 for individuals; \$18 for unemployed, seniors, youth, and others with low income; \$48 for households

Change the System, not the Climate

The Attack on Science

Science today possesses powerful tools of discovery, observation, and computation that far surpass its powers of only decades ago. The scientific community is measuring drastic changes in our biosphere and warning of the approach of an extinction finish line for many species of life on the planet. These tools have enabled widespread confirmation that scientists' ominous predictions of global physical changes have already begun occurring.

Photo: Dr. Tas van Ommen with Antarctic ice core
Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-11-06/scientists-discover-worlds-oldest-ice-core/5071794>



Now scientists are targeted by campaigns of intimidation and threats that are reminiscent of the dark ages. A key focus of the attack on science is the "hockey stick" graphical representation of climate data. Scientists are harassed and belittled in order to discredit their work showing that the human impact on the climate has now reached an irreversible state.

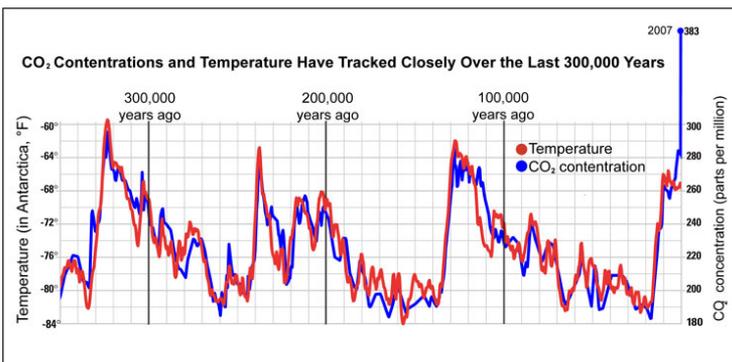
Professor Michael Mann filed a defamation suit against the Competitive Enterprise Institute, the National Review, and others for calling Mann's work on the famous "hockey stick" graph "fraudulent." In a recent victory for the integrity of the scientific community, a U.S. Superior Court dismissed the defendants' claims that Mann's suit violates their free speech rights. The Court held that:

Accusing a scientist of conducting his research fraudulently, manipulating his data to achieve a predetermined or political outcome, or purposefully distorting the scientific truth are factual allegations. They go to the heart of scientific integrity. They can be proven true or false. If false, they are defamatory. If made with actual malice, they are actionable.

...plaintiff alleges that...National Review republished the following defamatory statement: "Mann could be said to be the Jerry Sandusky of climate science, except that instead of molesting children, he has molested and tortured data in the service of politicized science that could have dire economic consequences for the nation and planet."

[T]o state as a fact that a scientist dishonestly molests or tortures data to serve a political agenda...is the very essence of defamation..

Since 1999 there have been many independent reconstructions of past temperatures, using a variety of proxy data and a number of different methodologies that confirm Mann's work. All find that the last few decades are the hottest in the last 500 to 2000 years.



http://www.southwestclimatechange.org/figures/icecore_records

Other research shows that additional warming will unleash uncontrollable positive feedback mechanisms that will radically alter the conditions for survival of all species on the planet. Recent reports confirm that irreversible melting of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet is underway, threatening a tremendous rise in sea level that will inundate major cities over the next century.

Science flourished as young capitalism expanded and rationalized commodity production for profit. Capitalism harnessed science to raise the living standards of the global population. Science still serves humanity, but now it stands in contradiction to our outmoded economic system, which is now in crisis and decline.

Irreversible Changes

In his 2011 book "Eaarth" Bill McKibben, founder of the environmental organization 350.org recounts some of the many features of our biosphere that have been permanently altered.

A NASA study in December 2008 found that warming on [1°C] scale was enough to trigger a 45% increase in thunderheads above the ocean...generating "supercells" with torrents of rain and hail. In fact, total global rainfall is now increasing 1.5% a decade. Larger storms over land now create more lightning...In just one day in June 2008, lightning sparked 1,700 different fires across California...

In October 2007 there was 22% less sea ice than had ever been observed before...and the Arctic ice cap was 1.1 million square miles smaller than ever in recorded history...The summers of 2008 and 2009 saw a virtual repeat of the epic melt.

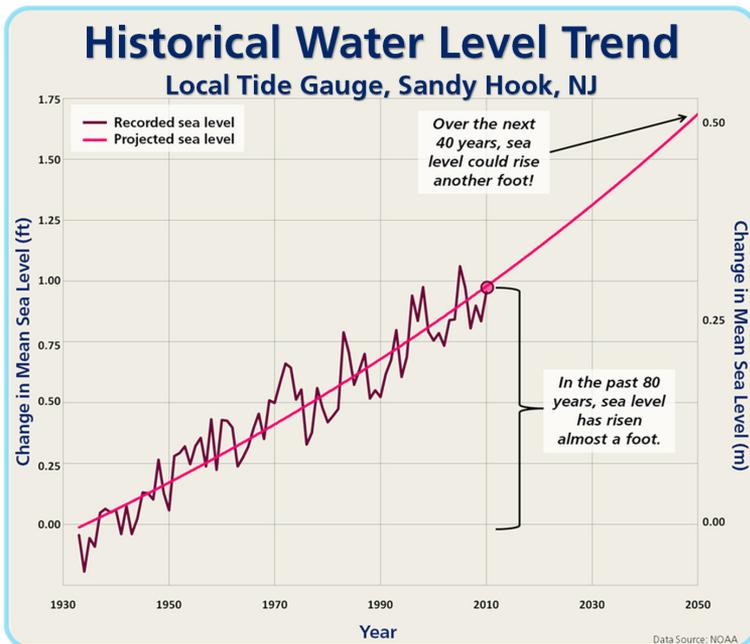
In August 2009 scientists reported that lightning strikes in the Arctic had increased twentyfold, igniting some of the first tundra fires ever observed. According to the center's Mark Serreze, the new data are "reinforcing the notion that the Arctic ice is in its death spiral."

On the last day of 2008, the Economist reported that the temperatures on the Antarctic Peninsula were rising faster than anywhere else on earth, and that the West Antarctic was losing ice 75% faster than just a decade before.

A US government team...concluded that..."a further 8.5 million square miles of the Earth are now experiencing a tropical climate." As the tropics expand, they push the dry subtropics ahead of them, north and south, with "grave implications for many millions of people" in these newly arid regions. Indeed by early 2008 half of Australia was in drought, and forecasters were calling it the new normal.

By the end of 2008 hydrologists in the United States were predicting that drought across the American Southwest had become a "permanent condition." But the damage is already happening: researchers calculate that the new aridity and heat have led to reductions in wheat, corn, and barley yields of about 40 million tons a year.

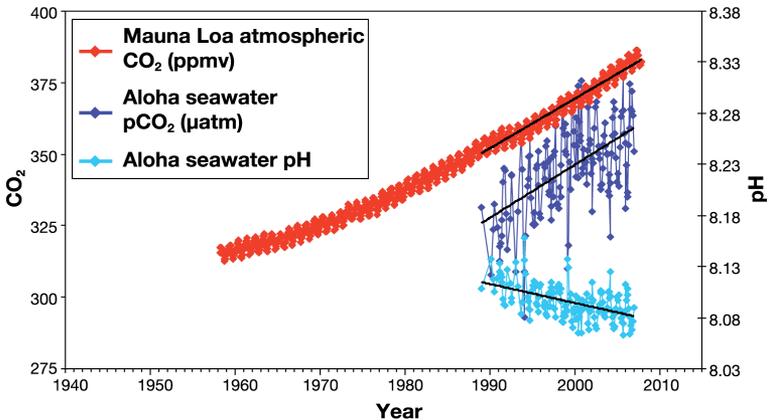
One hundred eleven hurricanes formed in the tropical Atlantic between 1995 and 2008, a rise of 75% over the previous thirteen years. They're stronger and stranger...According to the New York Times, "the last 30 years have yielded four times as many weather related disasters as the first three quarters of the 20th century combined."



<http://www.nps.gov/gate/naturescience/climatechange1.htm>

Even most oceanographers were shocked a few years ago when researchers began noticing that the seas were acidifying as they absorbed some of the carbon dioxide we've poured into the atmosphere...Already ocean pH has slipped from 8.2 to 8.1. The consensus estimate is that the pH will reach 7.8 by century's end. The sea is already 30% more acid than it would have been because of our emissions, a process that Britain's Royal Society described as "essentially irreversible." Already the ocean is more acid than any time in the last eight hundred thousand years, and at current rates by 2050 it will be more corrosive than any time in the past 20 million years. In that kind of environment shellfish can't make thick enough shells.

CO₂ Time Series in the North Pacific Ocean



Comparison of Atmospheric CO₂, Ocean CO₂, and Ocean Acidity
<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2013/10/ocean-acidification-and-northwest.html>

Now official reports are confirming McKibben's warnings. On May 6, 2014 the US National Climate Assessment report was released. It stated: "Climate change, once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present." A week later the CNA Corporation Military Advisory Board issued a paper "National Security and the Threat of Climate Change." It stated:

"Action by the United States and the international community have been insufficient to adapt to the challenges associated with projected climate change."

Climate Departure

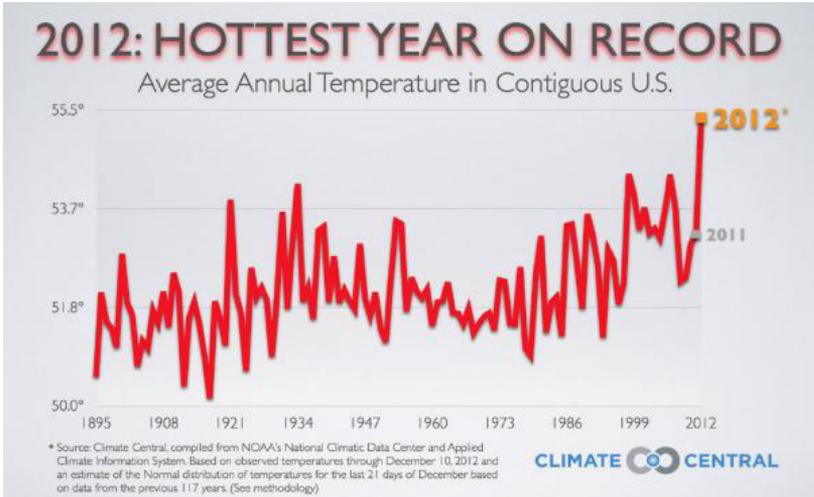
Scientists define climate departure as the point at which deviation from the average climactic conditions that have prevailed over the last 150 years becomes a permanent condition. This point varies for different climate zones and their species. The abundance of tropical biodiversity relative to polar regions is a result of higher temperatures and precipitation and lower variability in climate conditions at the equator. Climate departure and the resulting exacerbation of already rising rates of extinction will first occur in the tropics where the climate has historically been almost invariable. The extinction finish line is looming closest for the tropics.

Today, nearly 20,000 of the known species of animals and plants around the globe are considered at high risk for extinction in the wild. That's according to the most authoritative compilation of living things at risk by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

With climate departure, extreme terrestrial events become the norm. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) discussed this problem in "Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation." These extreme events have occurred with increasing frequency over the past several years. The dislocation of the polar vortex, extreme hydrological cycles of flooding and drought, superstorms that devastate population centers, and killer urban heat waves will become the new normal at climate departure.

Of all the risks climate change presents, its impact on the production and distribution of food is one of the greatest. We are already feeling the effects: 2012 was a bad year for farmers, with droughts and erratic weather decimating crops and pushing up global food prices. Food prices are at historic highs and there have been two global food crises in the last five years.

Climate departure is the point beyond which adaptation is no longer feasible for many species. Some scientists are arguing that climate extremes are already starting to decrease the ability of terrestrial ecosystems to sequester carbon and offset carbon dioxide emissions. Without vigorous action to slow, halt, and reverse emissions, scientists estimate that climate departure will occur by mid-century.



Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/08/2012-hottest-year-on-record_n_2433210.

Point of No Return

In 2013 the CO₂ atmospheric concentration reached 400ppm. The CO₂ equivalent concentration (including methane and other heat trapping gases) in the atmosphere had reached 478ppm. This level of CO₂ equivalent gases is already markedly destabilizing age old climate patterns. It is the direct cause of the greenhouse effect that has set in motion intense alternating droughts and floods, rising oceans, increasing ocean acidity, superstorms, rapid retreat of glaciers, and intense heat waves.

International Energy Agency

"The door is closing," Fatih Birol, chief economist at the International Energy Agency (IEA), said. "I am very worried - if we don't change direction now on how we use energy, we will end up beyond what scientists tell us is the minimum [for safety]. The door will be closed forever." There are now plans to build so many fossil fuel power stations, energy-guzzling factories and inefficient buildings in the next five years that it will become impossible to hold global warming to safe levels. The last chance of combating dangerous climate change will be "lost forever", according to this most thorough analysis of the world energy infrastructure. These

fossil fuel resources must be conserved for the necessary energy to make the transition to a solar infrastructure.

The IEA suggests "an energy pathway consistent with the goal of limiting the global increase in temperature to 2°C [would be] limiting concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to around 450 parts per million of CO₂." This is the "450 Scenario."

According to the IEA's 2011 report, "Four-fifths of the total energy-related CO₂ emissions permissible by 2035 in the 450 Scenario are already 'locked-in' by our existing capital stock (power plants, buildings, factories, etc.) If stringent new action is not forthcoming by 2017, the energy-related infrastructure then in place will generate all the CO₂ emissions allowed in the 450 Scenario up to 2035."



Between 1941 and 2004, Muir Glacier has retreated more than 12 km.
(Image courtesy of Bruce Molnia.)

Source: <http://scitation.aip.org/content/aip/magazine/physicstoday/news/10.1063/PT.4.0316>

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

In April 2014, the IPCC issued a new report, *Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change*. Concluding four years of intense scientific collaboration around the world, this report responds to the request of the world's governments for a comprehensive, objective and policy neutral assessment of the current scientific knowledge on mitigating climate change. The "Summary for Policymakers" has been approved line by line by member governments at the 12th Session of IPCC WG III in Berlin, Germany (7-11 April 2014). Some of its key points include the following:

Total anthropogenic GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions have continued to increase over 1970-2010 with absolute decadal increases toward the end of this period. Despite a growing number of climate change mitigation policies...GHG emissions were the highest in human history from 2000 to 2010.

Without additional efforts to reduce GHG emissions beyond those in place today, emissions growth is expected to persist [and] exceed 450ppm CO₂ by 2030 and reach CO₂ levels between 750ppm and more than 1300ppm by 2100.

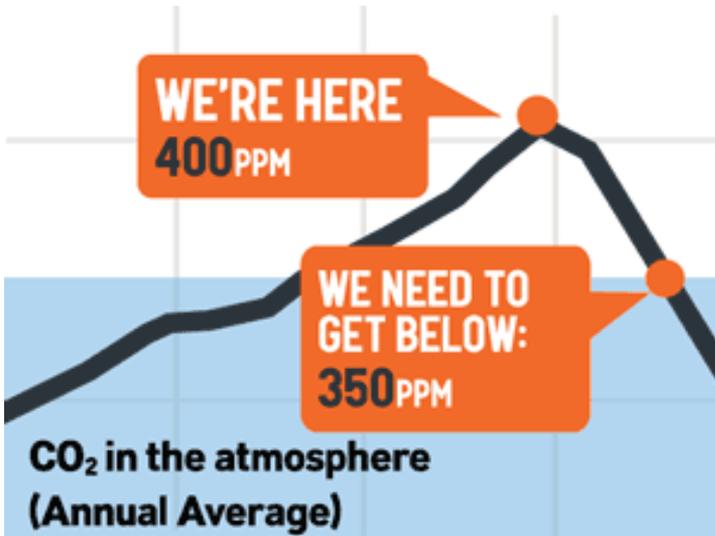
Mitigation scenarios in which it is likely that [average global] temperature change... can be kept to less than 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels are characterized by atmospheric concentrations in 2100 of about 450ppm CO₂. Mitigation scenarios in which temperature increase is...less than 1.5°C...by 2100 are characterized by concentration in 2100 of below 430ppm of CO₂.

Scenarios reaching atmospheric concentration levels of about 450ppm of CO₂ by 2100 include substantial cuts in GHG emissions by mid-century through large-scale changes in energy systems and potentially land use...In these scenarios global CO₂ emissions from the energy supply sector... are characterized by reductions of 90% or more below 2010 levels between 2040 and 2070...to below zero thereafter.

350.org

Jim Hansen, Bill McKibben, and other environmental scholars argue that 350ppm of CO₂ is the likely upper safe level of GHG. Immediate action to reduce CO₂ levels to 350ppm will limit the

future average global temperature increase to no more than 1°C. This level is required to avoid catastrophic climate change.



Source: <http://350.org/about/science/>

Hansen and others argue that the proposed limit of 2°C would set in motion climatic processes beyond humanity's control. They contend that the 2°C ceiling is not based on science. The IEA and IPCC goal of 2°C is based on a political assessment of the potential of leading carbon emitting countries to radically reduce carbon emissions without a massive social movement.

In 2013 in "Assessing Dangerous Climate Change" they wrote:

Evidence presented under Climate Impacts above makes clear that 2°C global warming would have consequences that can be described as disastrous. Multiple studies show that the warming would be very long lasting. The paleoclimate record and changes underway in the Arctic and on the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets with only today's warming imply that sea level rise of several meters could be expected.

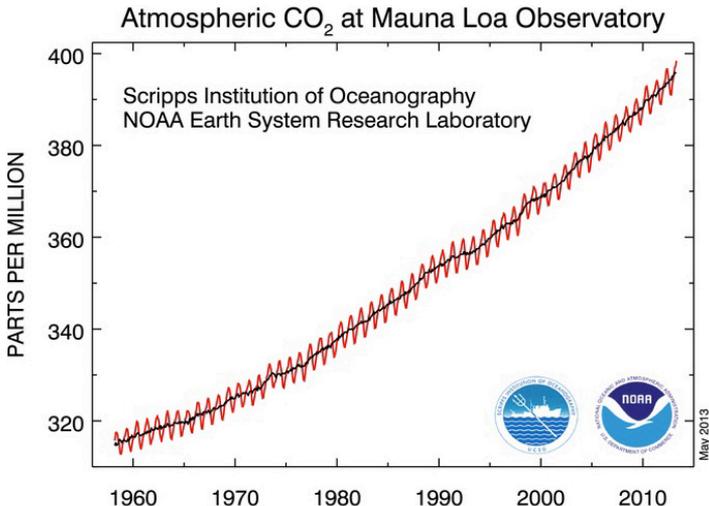
Increased climate extremes, already apparent at 0.8°C warming, would be more severe. Coral reefs and associated species, already stressed with current conditions, would be decimated by increased acidification, temperature and sea level rise.

More generally, humanity and nature, the modern world as we know it, is adapted to the Holocene climate that has existed more than 10,000 years. Warming of 1°C relative to 1880-1920 keeps global temperature close to the Holocene range, but warming of 2°C...could cause major dislocations for civilization.

However, distinctions between pathways aimed at ~1°C and 2°C warming are much greater and more fundamental than the numbers 1°C and 2°C themselves might suggest. These fundamental distinctions make scenarios with 2°C or more global warming far more dangerous; so dangerous, we suggest, that aiming for the 2°C pathway would be foolhardy.

A CO₂ level of 350ppm is the basis for the name of the international climate group 350.org, which works with a global network in 188 countries. This network is bringing masses of people into common action to pressure governments to act.

To reduce CO₂ level to 350 ppm will require curbing carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels in the very near future. This would be coupled with carbon sequestration from the atmosphere using agroecologies that store carbon in the soil, reforestation, and solar powered industrial sequestration into the Earth's crust.



Source: <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/>

Warsaw November 2013: 'Ratifying Our Own Doom'

The November 2013 Warsaw United Nations climate talks were the 19th round of international climate negotiations, known as the Conference of Parties or COP19. While climate change undermines planetary stability and the time of climate departure looms ever closer, these talks failed to advance any meaningful global agreement, much less a treaty.

Philippines top negotiator Naderev Sano urged the international community to "stop the madness...By failing to meet the objective of the convention we may have ratified our own doom." Bangladesh Commissioner Munjurul H. Khan stated that the developed countries "are behaving irrationally and unacceptably." Island nations are losing territory to the rising sea and suffering devastating super storms.

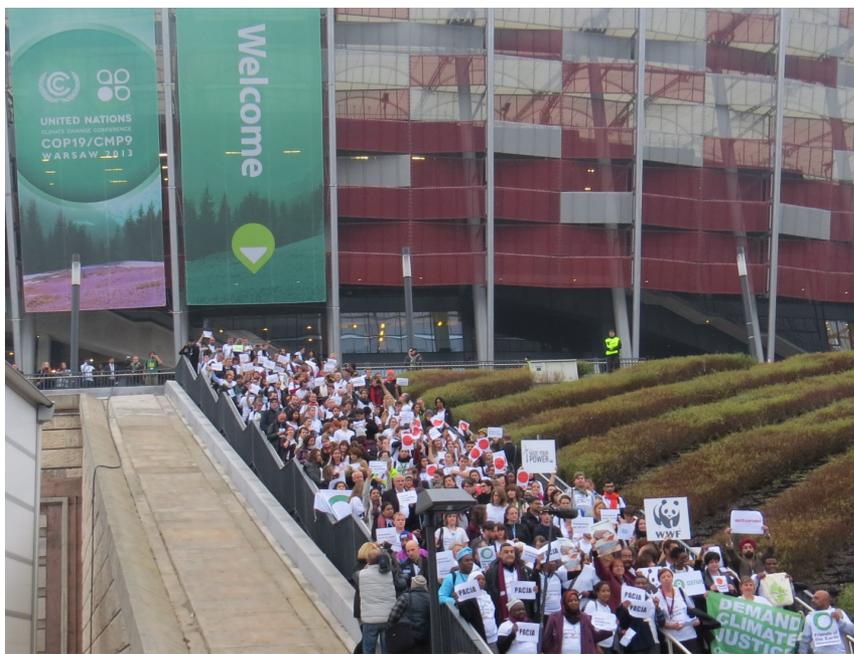
Government minister attendance in the delegations to COP19 was the lowest since international climate talks began. The presence of corporate sponsors including fossil fuel miners was unprecedented. Canada released a statement praising Australia for repealing the carbon tax, saying it "sends an important message." This important message is the triumphalism of global capital in its campaign to place profits over the survival of the planet. In 2012 the Canadian government, under pressure from major industrial polluters, withdrew from the Kyoto climate change agreement. Canada became the first nation to violate its good faith obligations to perform under the terms of the Kyoto agreement.

The Warsaw COP19 shows that the dominant grouping of global capitalists continues to reject science and to continue down a path of no return. Warsaw COP19 shows that investors in the fossil fuel sector still dominate the decisions in climate negotiations, and continue to block an effective program to avoid climate catastrophe. Nineteen years of talk, reason, appeals, and negotiations have had no effect on this tiny powerful elite. Instead they continue to work to defeat science, to frighten and confuse, and to expand carbon burning for profit.

To emphasize their global dominance, coal industry executives organized the International Coal and Climate Conference in Warsaw to coincide with COP19. The World Coal Association's War-

saw Communiqué argued for more funding and investment for "high efficiency" coal projects and technology to further spread coal burning around the world.

Between 2005 and 2013 twenty banks invested \$113 billion in coal mining, a 400% increase. These top 20 "mining banks" represent mostly US, Chinese, and European capital. Citibank, Morgan Stanley, Bank of America, and large British banks have led the financing of 1,200 new coal plants planned for construction.



Walkout of NGO Attendees at COP 19 in Warsaw

<http://power-to-the-people.net/2013/11/so-they-walked-what-else/>

The outcome of the COP 19 meeting demonstrated that the sector of global capital that finances the fossil fuel industries continues to block implementation of an effective program to avoid climate catastrophe. This is a profound crisis. It requires that the people, while continuing to support talks, begin to emphasize action. Talks will not succeed unless spurred by mass civil disobedience, demonstrations, a political wave of climate responsive candidates, a massive divestment and boycott campaign, and a global carbon tax. The climate movement must

raise the demand for the nationalization of the global banks that are driving the planet to destruction. Failure to act is not an option.

Enemies of Change

The first international climate treaty, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, was signed by President George H. W. Bush and ratified by the U.S. Senate over 20 years ago. After five presidential terms, we are no closer to curbing greenhouse gas emissions. Powerful enemies of change are embodied in an alliance among fossil fuel companies, the military, and the industrial interests bound up with it, all under the dominant leadership of finance capital. The U.S. military consumes more energy and emits more greenhouse gases than any other single institution on our planet.

According to the University of Oxford-based Trillionthtonne.org:

Emissions of carbon dioxide since 1750 comprise just over half a trillion tons of carbon, and are estimated to have caused just under 1°C of global warming. Emitting a further half trillion tons will commit us to a most likely warming of around 2°C, widely regarded as the threshold for the most serious global impacts of climate change. The trillionth ton could be released in less than 40 years' time, or, if we take the measures necessary to avoid dangerous climate change, it could never be released.

Data reported by Carbontracker.org shows that proven fossil fuel reserves owned by private and public companies and governments are equivalent to 2.8 trillion tons of CO₂. Thus, to avoid sending civilization over the brink, over 80% of current proven fossil fuel reserves must remain in the ground. The priority is locking up the coal and non-conventional petroleum, in particular, oil from tar sands and oil shale, and gas from unconventional drilling (fracking).

In a 2012 essay in Rolling Stone, Bill McKibben of 350.org clarified Wall Street's economic stake in opposing action to stop global warming:

Yes, this coal and gas and oil is still technically in the soil. But it's already economically aboveground-it's figured into share

prices, companies are borrowing money against it, nations are basing their budgets on the presumed returns from their patrimony. . . . John Fullerton, a former managing director at JP Morgan who now runs the Capital Institute, calculates that at today's market value, those 2.8 trillion tons of carbon emissions are worth about \$27 trillion. Which is to say, if you paid attention to the scientists and kept 80 percent of it underground, you'd be writing off \$20 trillion in assets. The numbers aren't exact, of course, but that carbon bubble makes the housing bubble look small by comparison.

The Driving Force

In 2007, Al Gore received the Nobel Peace prize for bringing to popular masses what had been known to scientists for years: Earth's climate is undergoing an adverse change and human activity is largely responsible. We are now beginning to understand the adverse effects of human activity on the topsoil, available fresh water supplies, and the ocean ecology. Human economic activity powered by the consumption of fossil fuels has set these stupendous changes in motion.

The driving force in consumption of fossil fuels is the current global economic system. Capitalism forces corporations and their principals to act only for the accumulation of private wealth without regard for the well-being of people or the planet. The notion that unregulated markets and self-interest is the most efficient way to meet the needs of the population is bankrupt. At a minimum, economic activity in the energy production sphere must be brought under popular democratic control.

Karl Marx recognized the relationship between humans and the natural environment in several of his writings.

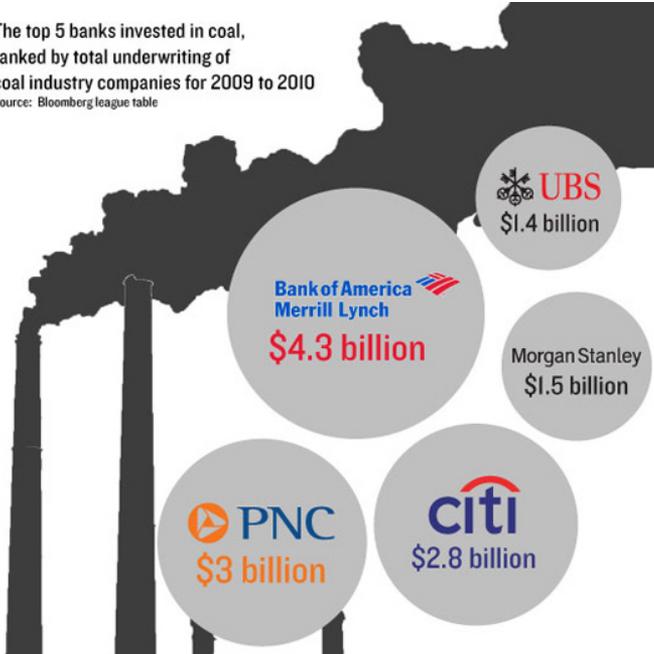
Even an entire society, a nation or all simultaneously existing societies taken together are not owners of the earth; they are simply its possessors, its beneficiaries, and have to bequeath it in an improved state to succeeding generations, as good heads of households. (Capital, V.3)

History shows that economic systems evolve and that humans consciously participate in that evolution. The economic system that evolved into capitalism has outlived its usefulness as soci-

ety grows more connected and unified while, at the same time, the disparity in wealth and economic benefits widens. Capitalism now challenges the global ecosystem of life that it can only regard as a resource for exploitation. In order to protect the future profits of a small powerful economic sector, the ruling elite are willing to sacrifice our civilization. The attack on science and scientists reflects the growing irrationality of global capitalism in crisis.

There is growing awareness that a new economic system must take shape and replace the outmoded and crisis ridden system of today. This transition always requires a struggle. The shrinking minority that profits from the old dying system and controls the levers of power will not willingly surrender control to the democratic will of the people. Today, the future of humanity rests on the struggle over who controls the allocation of financial resources. Democratic social control of financial resources will remove them from speculation in carbon-based energy and invest them in renewable energy production and distribution. This transition is an increasingly urgent necessity.

The top 5 banks invested in coal,
ranked by total underwriting of
coal industry companies for 2009 to 2010
Source: Bloomberg league table



Source: <http://www.reapinfo.org/our-projects/coal/>

Achieving Sustainability

Today, in the midst of a global recession that has cast tens of millions out of work and into deepening poverty, capitalist efforts to solve the economic crisis make the environmental problem worse. Financialization has intensified the practice of externalizing the costs of production to the environment. The real challenge is to achieve sustainability, equality and well-being for present and future generations.

In April, 2012, the Royal Society of London, a world-renowned scientific body, issued a report entitled “People and the Planet.” It provides an evidence-based foundation to address our present life-and-death battle for sustainability. Its recommendations are frank and hard-hitting.

Recognizing that sustainability cannot be achieved without addressing the results of the long exploitation of the Third World by the developed capitalist countries, the report opens with these recommendations:

First, the world’s 1.3 billion poorest people need to be raised out of extreme poverty. This is critical to reducing global inequality, and to ensuring the well being of all people. It will require increased per capita consumption for this group, allowing improved nutrition and healthcare, and reduction in family size in countries with high fertility rates.

Second, in the most developed and the emerging economies unsustainable consumption must be urgently reduced. This will entail scaling back or radical transformation of damaging material consumption and emissions and the adoption of sustainable technologies, and is critical to ensuring a sustainable future for all.

With its concluding recommendation, the report lays bare the inability of capitalism to address the climate crisis:

Collaboration between National Governments is needed to develop socio-economic systems and institutions that are not dependent on continued material consumption growth. This will inform the development and implementation of policies that allow both people and the planet to flourish.

The Royal Society recommendations for achieving “reduction in family size” are controversial. We recognize that the empowerment of women and elimination of poverty will result in reduction in family size in countries with high fertility rates. The majority of humanity, living in the global South, now suffer from energy poverty and the lack of material consumption necessary to realize its full human development, namely nutritious food, shelter, education and health services.

David Schwartzman, in his 2014 *Science & Society* article “Is Zero Economic Growth Necessary to Prevent Climate Catastrophe” states:

...if robust solarization and the reduction of carbon emissions to the atmosphere begin in the coming decade, humanity will have a fighting chance to implement an effective prevention program to avoid C3 (catastrophic climate change). And this transition will necessarily require an increase in the material production and consumption of energy supplied by the global construction of a wind/solar power infrastructure, with many countries of the global North, such as the US, decreasing their wasteful consumption, while most of humanity, living in the global South receiving a significant increase, reaching the rough minimum of 3.5 kilowatt per person...Supplying the minimum 3.5 kilowatt per person for the present world population of 7 billion people requires a delivery equivalent to 25 TW [25 million megawatts], with the present delivery equal to 18 TW [18 million megawatts].

In a 2014 *Capitalism Nature Socialism* article, “Ted Trainer and the Simpler Way: A Somewhat Less Sympathetic Critique,” Schwartzman states:

Further, our modeling of a full wind/solar transition demonstrates that with only 1-2 percent of current annual consumption of energy (85% derived from fossil fuels) being used for wind/solar power creation per year, using current wind/solar technology (which will only get more efficient during this transition), a global-scale transition can be achieved in no more than 30 years [from now], completely phasing out all fossil fuels and other energy sources.



110 Gwh/year Gemasolar Plant

<http://www.torresolenergy.com/TORRESOL/gemasolar-plant/en>

Creating the political will required to save the future must encompass a much broader challenge to the prerogatives of finance capital. Production of commodities whose value lies in their usefulness and durability must replace the planned obsolescence of commodities that mainly churn demand for profit. A self-sustaining economy will invest capital in innovative and more efficient means of production that enhance the quality of life.

Industrial agriculture currently relies on a massive waste of energy in chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Agricultural products are transformed into huge quantities of food that are high in fat and calories and low in essential nutrients. Sustainable productive organic agriculture must be supported along with small farmers and producers who lead the way in production of low-cost, nutritious foods.

Meeting the needs of humans and nature in a sustainable future will require radical reduction of the military industrial complex. Its primary function is to safeguard the control of markets and scarce natural resources by global capital. Solidarity with every nation's right to self-determination without the threat of military

intervention is a critical part of the struggle to end the domination of the military industrial complex.



Source:<http://www.trekearth.com/gallery/Europe/Denmark/East/Kobenhavn/Copenhagen/photo65260.htm>

Priorities for Action

In 2009, the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy & Socialism asserted:

Geophysical scientists today are virtually unanimous in their estimate that unless something is done quickly to radically reduce the emission of gases that act as a greenhouse canopy over the Earth, we are faced with escalating average global temperatures. This rise will result in massive loss of habitat for tens of thousands of plant and animal species, melting of polar ice caps and mountain glaciers, rising sea levels and inundation of some of the most populous regions on the planet. Indeed, there is evidence that geophysical feedback loops could result in a runaway escalation of global temperature resulting in devastation of the planet. The very survival of the human species could be at risk as struggles over water resources and land escalates along with the temperature.

Growing public awareness of the impending crisis has been reflected in some limited victories – the delay of a decision to approve the Keystone XL pipeline, the legal recognition by US Courts and the EPA that CO₂ is a pollutant, public hearings on new regulations for coal-fired generators, and several bills in Congress to regulate fracking and tax carbon.

But the failure to make significant progress in curtailing CO₂ emissions and stopping new carbon burning projects has gradually caused a shift in thinking within the climate movement. Direct action has come to be seen as an important means both to galvanize a climate change prevention constituency as well as to pressure ruling forces. For the first time in its 120-year history, the Sierra Club joined with others in a massive climate justice rally and civil disobedience protest against the Keystone XL pipeline at the White House in February 2013.

A divestiture campaign against the fossil-fuel interests has been launched. Christina Figueres, U.N. climate chief, has called on investors to pull their money out of fossil fuel linked funds and invest in green assets instead. Under the slogan “It’s Wrong to Profit from Wrecking the Climate,” 350.org is organizing a divestment campaign focused on U.S. colleges, religious institutions, and government bodies



Tar Sands Protest Civil Disobedience

Source: <http://www.npr.org/2011/09/01/140117187/for-protesters-keystone-pipeline-is-line-in-tar-sand>

In April 2014 Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu called for an anti-apartheid-style boycott and disinvestment campaign against the fossil fuel industry for driving global warming, just days ahead of a landmark UN-sponsored IPCC report on how carbon emissions can be slashed. In an article in the Guardian Tutu said:

We live in a world dominated by greed. We have allowed the interests of capital to outweigh the interests of human beings and our Earth. It is clear [the companies] are not simply going to give up; they stand to make too much money. People of conscience need to break their ties with corporations financing the injustice of climate change. We can, for instance, boycott events, sports teams and media programming sponsored by fossil-fuel energy companies.

A newly formed U.S. Senate Climate Action Task Force held a press conference in January, 2014. Senators Bernie Sanders and Brian Schatz said the task force will initially question why the U.S. media has ignored the issue. Sen. Sanders said:

We have the scientific community telling us that climate change is the greatest crisis facing our planet and the major networks on their Sunday news shows have devoted all of 8 minutes to discussing that issue in 2012.

A new international campaign, "Unions4Climate action campaign" was launched at the World Congress of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in Berlin in May 2014. The movement aims to draw attention to the potential of the low carbon economy, with a focus on green job creation. ITUC research shows that 48 million new jobs could be created in just 12 countries.

More than 50 trade unions across the globe are demanding that governments deliver an ambitious climate agreement at the UN-FCCC 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris next year. The international gathering is the deadline for determining the post 2020 climate framework and widely recognized as a crucial meeting for delivering meaningful climate action.

In the United States, the need for climate education has become more urgent than ever. The moment is ripe for mass information about the facts of global warming and greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the Pew Research Center's annual policy priorities survey, the U.S. public rated climate change at the bottom of its priorities, with just 29% of respondents listing it as a top concern in January 2014, an increase of 1% over 2013. This has fallen off from 38% in 2007. This is a result of the mass disinformation campaign by conservative funded think tanks.



Source:<http://sierraclub.typepad.com/scrapbook/2012/11/big-tar-sands-rally-in-washington-dc.html>

CCDS and the Left need to support the movements for alternative energy, especially those that are based in the Labor Movement, like the “Good Jobs-Green Jobs” movement led by the Steelworkers and other major unions.

The most important issue facing movements for environmental justice and for curtailing greenhouse gas emissions is how to unite around a program that can accelerate mass action and win victories on the ground that becomes government policy.

In order to do this the movement must also address improving the conditions of life for those suffering from the policies of global capital in everyday life. An essential step in this direction is a radical reduction in the global militarization of international relations spearheaded by the United States.

The young people of the planet are in the forefront of the movement to stop climate change. The growing involvement and leadership of younger generations is essential to building a successful movement to stop climate disaster. The millennial generation is looking to the future and finds the vision offered by capitalism unacceptable. The unity, organization, and mass action of tens of millions are possible and will create the political will to avert climate catastrophe.

The left can help build the movement by focusing attention on three key tasks:

1. mass investment in a sustainable, renewable energy infrastructure
2. mass divestment from the fossil fuel infrastructure
3. social control of capital up to and including nationalization of the energy and finance sectors of the economy.

Immediate Priorities

- o massive investment in sustainable renewable energy
- o green jobs program to fund solar infrastructure
- o a national renewable energy investment bank
- o fight back against the ALEC funded attack on state renewable energy programs
- o the rapid phase-out of fossil fuels with the highest carbon footprint
- o phase out coal mining, end coal exploration
- o halt tar sands mining
- o stop the Keystone X-L pipeline
- o moratorium on unconventional gas and oil drilling (fracking)
- o stop the Cove Point, Maryland gas-to-liquid export center

- o a moratorium on oil drilling in dangerous and sensitive environments such as the Alaska North Slope and the deep ocean.
- o replace fossil fuel intensive GMO-driven and industrial agriculture with organic agriculture informed by ecological knowledge.
- o slash the military budget and direct funds to research, development, and rapid deployment of green energy facilities.

Green New Deal: A Legislative Agenda

This legislative agenda has emerged in various quarters, including the 2012 Green Party presidential campaign in the United States, and in other countries as well. Key items of the Green New Deal are:

- o Government-led investment in energy efficiency and micro-generation
- o Wind and solar energy infrastructure redevelopment as a job creation strategy
- o A directed windfall tax on the profits of oil and gas companies (already established in Norway) with expanding renewable energy and energy efficiency investment
- o Further financial incentives for green investment and reduced energy usage, including reduction of private bank interest rates for green investment
- o A carbon use tax, levied at the point of extraction, with robust provision for protection of the income security of low-income and working class people
- o Re-regulation of international finance including capital controls with increased scrutiny of financial derivatives

Ecosocialism

Ultimately everyone will pay the price of failure to maintain our current climate. The alternative is the destruction of biodiversity and a serious struggle to maintain our current level of civilization. A winning coalition for a progressive green energy program will be based on the reality that the vast majority must act to avoid the consequences of climate disaster.

In 2009 Carl Davidson, National Co-Chair of CCDS wrote in “Eleven Talking Points on 21st Century Socialism:”

We need to redesign communities, promote healthier foods, and rebuild sustainable agriculture—all on a global scale with high design, but on a human scale with mass participation of communities in diverse localities. Socialism will treasure and preserve the diversity of nature's bounty and end the practice of genetic modification to control the human food supply. We need growth, but intelligent growth in quality and wider knowledge with a lighter environmental footprint. A socialism that simply reproduces the wasteful expansion of an earlier capitalism creates more problems than it solves.

Thus winning the fight for a sustainable future will bring us to forms of socialism with ecological concerns embedded in the political economy and culture. In this way, ecosocialism is the most viable socialism of the 21st Century. The ecosocialist movement raises the question of the nature of capitalism and its centrality to the reactionary resistance to the essential change necessary for the survival of civilization.



This statement was produced by the Climate Change Committee of CCDS in 2014. This pdf version is made available by RedandGreen.org to further the efforts of the growing environmental movement, especially those working to prevent C3. Please check more materials and proposals at RedandGreen.org/C3.

Get a free sub to our weekly e-letter.
Go to <http://cc-ds.org> and sign in!



CCDSLlinks

News & Views From Posts We Like

Radical Ideas for Radical Change

July 11, 2014

In This Issue

Full Employment
Energy Wars
Nuclear Rebirth
Solar Way Out
Green New Deal
Energy and Change
Fusion Politics
Transforming Turkeys
Urban Guerrilla Tactics
Music: Siles Cunningham

An Invitation to CCDSers and Friends...

**Can We Get
Enough Clout
Before a Climate
Doomsday?**



We're the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism... Do you have friends who should see this? Pass it on... Do you have a blog of your own? Others you

love to read every day? Well, this is a place where you can share access to them with the rest of your comrades. Just pick your greatest hits for the week and send them to us at carld717@gmail.com!



[A New Freedom Summer Started in North Carolina](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



Barbara Lee Takes on Cheney, Opposes Funding for New War on Iraq

Most of all, it's urgent that you oppose war on Iran, defend voter rights, plan for 2014 races now, oppose austerity, support the "Moral Mondays" in North Carolina, the Congressional Progressive Caucus' "Back to Work Budget"! We're doing more than ever, and have big plans. So pay your dues, make a donation and become a sustainer. Do it Now! Check the link at the bottom...

[Twenty-First-Century Energy Wars](#)

[CCDS Statement on Detroit](#)



Global Conflicts Are Increasingly Fueled by the Desire for Oil and Natural Gas... and the Fossil-Fuel Companies

