

Here is where we are today, the beginning of June 2011

The Planet. <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/human-connection-to-precipitation-extremes-studies-say/> is what we consider the source of riches, but really what makes life possible. The planet feeds us and allows us to breathe. The planet made us who we are today through a billion years of evolution,. The planet changes; everything changes all the time. But until recently the planet had a period of a few million years of relatively minor changes. Temperatures fluctuating but within a narrow range, We were not hit by a foreign object for a long time, as happened 65 million years ago when the impact of a foreign object probably caused the extinction of dinosaurs and many other species. There have been any number of volcanic eruptions but none as powerful as the eruption of mount Toba, that caused the planet to be dark for two or more years, and therefore colder than normal. There were some ice ages between then and now but only minor ice periods. The ecology of the planet became richer and so also more stable. For a long, long time the planetary ecology supported all the millions of species, including homo sapiens. Archeologists and other scientists who study human origin generally put the emergence of beings who walked on two feet and so had two hands to manipulate with at between one and two hundred thousand years ago. Humans developed a brain. Not the biggest but perhaps the most complex brains. Scientific estimates vary wildly but somewhere around 50-, 60-, 70,000 years ago humans wandered from East Africa, were they originated, to the rest of the world.

Humans <http://www.newscientist.com/blogs/culturelab/2011/06/thoughts-within-thoughts-make-us-human.html> The latest idea about what makes us different from animals is what that scientist calls 'thoughts within thoughts'. What I call imagining, the ability to imagine things that never were, and also enables us to lie. Animals and primitive people cannot lie. Modern Man can and does. And thus can believe almost anything. In today's world a very few people who are enormously wealthy, and so have great power, are deliberately forcing all of humankind into a future that is very obviously (to me and to many others) not only unsustainable but lethal.

For most of their early history we lived not all that different from how other animals lived. As almost all species, we survived by life eating life. Except that we were among a minority of species that could and did survive either on an all meat diet, a no meat diet, or a mixed diet. There are a few other species that can do that, but not many. That and other qualities makes us masters at adaptation. We have adapted to living in the Arctic, in tropical jungles, in deserts, at altitudes where the atmosphere has less oxygen.

Today's Economy <http://robertreich.org/post/5993482080> is deliberately made downside up, to syphon all wealth from the bottom to the top. The rich get enormously richer, the poor get enormously poorer. And in the very near future there will be no in between, no so-called Middle Class, people who live well, have an education, can have a healthy diet, have enough leisure time to invent and advance technology and all sciences.

At the same time it must be said that seven billion people living as Middle Class Americans live is unthinkable, impossible, unsustainable.

Global warming, climate change, is here. Half of all Americans deny either that the weather is any different than it has been in their life times and/or deny that humans have anything to do with what changes are all too visible all over the globe. It seems unfair, but to be expected, that the poor of all nations and the not quite "developed" nations bear the brunt of the considerable disasters that are already happening: huge storms, drought, floods, in the U.S., Russia, Australia, Pakistan, and many other parts of the world. Among the latest facts of climate change is that it is now clear that what we expected to happen some time toward the end of this century, is happening tomorrow. Today.

How do we, humans, react to and deal with the changes we now know will occur?

A large segment of the educated middle class population believes that there must be things we can DO, must do, will do, that will slow down the consequences of our enormously wasteful life style.

Most scientists think of global warming as a side effect of the so-called industrial revolution, starting 300 years ago. I think it is the latest, or the last, chapter of a change that began ten thousand years ago when Man invented agriculture, sitting on a piece of land and growing the plants and animals he needed to live.

Instead of adapting to the environment we found ourselves in, we changed our thinking to imagine that we can change the environment to our needs and inevitably our wants. That was our great jump into the unknown. It was saying we are no longer IN nature but ON the earth as ground, soil, dirt. With our changed relationship to nature came the invention of the idea of OWNING, a concept never before known. Other changes were the invention of hierarchies, and ego. Some people are more or better or stronger than others. Probably we also changed from a goddess world to a male god world, a stern, revengeful god who held every individual on a leash. Everything we are today began then. Governments over governments over governments. Many varieties of government but all of them ruling (owning) subject citizens. Control of the planet and control of our fellow humans. Invention of money, economies, political parties.

Until today, the last chapter, when a very few people hold the fate of their own species and seem frantically to show that Man can NOT own the planet. We have been poisoning the planet for centuries. We have "conquered" innocent tribes for centuries, forcing other humans to join us in our glory. Today most of the almost seven billion humans experience, see, understand, that the planet is changing radically rapidly. Except half of all Americans who don't believe in climate change. Let's say there are 160 million people (men, women and children) who prevent this country and so the world from going green, from relying on solar, wind and other sustainable ways to generate power. That is 0.023% of all humans. And I doubt it is even 160 million people, maybe half of that. *Can you imagine that two out of every ten thousand people can hold up doing what we should have done ten years ago?*

Scientists know that the planetary warming and its consequences cannot be stopped. Even if by a miracle we could stop burning coal and oil and overnight make our world green, global warming would continue for at least 30 years. More hot summers, more droughts, more floods, more extreme weather all over the world. More food and water shortage, more people reacting to being without food by rebelling, fighting, fleeing, spilling across borders. However, 0.023% of all of us prevent us from even trying to slow down the poisoning of air, water and soil.

Our folly did not begin with the industrial revolution. That just speeded up our War on Terra and on ourselves that started ten thousand years ago. Today began when some people invented agriculture. Instead of adapting to the world as they found it, they figured they could do better, adapt the world s they found it to our needs, and of course wants.

Now this planet is reacting to our hubris, arrogance, to think we are the boss. The very few of us who now own all the money and so all the weapons we have so cleverly invented and made — those few who own governments and the Media tell us to be nice and quiet, Be happy don't worry, they'll get to fixing it when the time is advantageous to them.. When it is convenient to Big Money is almost certainly too late.

You ask "what can I do?" Keep in mind that it is our doing that has brought all this about. My thought is that we must find again the wonder of belonging to the earth, not the earth belonging to us. We must adapt to what we ourselves have wrought. There is no way to fix it in the short run. the below link has this sentence in it: "Stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide at 450 ppm or lower is not politically possible today — not even close — but is certainly achievable from an economic and technological perspective, [as I and others have said for years.](#)" And what, may I ask, is politics? Is it politics that will spell the end of humans as we were for a few hundred thousand years? That sounds... well, very human. Humans who

valued politics over survival. Are we really that stupid? We who pride ourselves on our brains. We who continue to think that it is we who have to "do" something that we ourselves did wrong. Yes, of course, what we must do is live as if we lived on a closed ecology planet, live much simpler lives, care for each other, share with each other. Some very useful hints at this Blog of a friend. <http://rebellasworld.wordpress.com/>

Stop burning (and digging up) the last oil and the last coal, stop destroying all the forests of the planet (the "lungs" of the planet). Stop driving two ton cars to move one person from here to there and back. Stop wasting. Stop waging wars on regular people, women and children, and men. Stop wasting water, wasting food, stop shipping raw food across the planet to make what we have come to think of as food in factories. Stop watching television, stop believing politics is more important than surviving!

We know all that. We've known it for half a century or more. We know perfectly well what we must do. We don't because we think we don't have to quite yet. And the TV says climate change is a hoax. And so on.

<http://thinkprogress.org/romm/2011/01/10/207320/the-full-global-warming-solution-how-the-world-can-stabilize-at-350-to-450-ppm/>.

And every now and then, when surfing the web (we don't say that any more, do we) I come across wonderful stories. This is a story I found and saved four years ago. These people really got it!

Everyday People: Astoria Couple Throws Out Lifeboat of Ideas to Save Energy, Resources

By Kara Hansen
The Daily Astorian
Monday 08 October 2007

After spending two years working to convert a 1970s Tudor-style Astoria home into a low-impact, energy-independent household, Caren Black and Christopher Paddon are finally going off the grid - or coming as close as possible to being entirely self-sufficient.

That means making no purchases, producing no garbage, cutting off all outside utilities and fueling their Honda hybrid with just one tank of gas over the entire month of October.

And they'd like their North Coast neighbors to do the same.

"We cannot continue to use and waste power. People are going to have to learn to conserve," said Black, a longtime teacher and school administrator from California.

"That's one of the reasons for this challenge: Learn while you can, while you're still on the grid. It's easier to learn now, when if you make a mistake there's still backup."

For Black and Paddon, their October Green Fest is a "test" of the homestead they've developed, "a time to check and see how we're doing," according to the couple, who began the nonprofit Titanic Lifeboat Academy in 2005 for education and research on issues related to peak oil - the uppermost point before global oil production descends into terminal decline. They also hoped their home could become a sort of demonstration center for sustainable lifestyles, systems and technologies.

"The whole point of coming here was to found a homestead that was self-sufficient and erase the footprint," said Black, who is also involved with the county's Community Emergency Response Team. "If we can take this house off the grid, if we can erase the footprint of this house, anyone can do it."

Paddon, a volunteer firefighter for the Lewis and Clark fire district who has worked in industrial design, as a solar-panel installer and once managed a 40-acre ranch in California, added insulation to the home and installed thermal windows. Two goats provide the couple with milk; chickens supply eggs and fertilizer. They also recycle rainwater, using much of it to irrigate a garden and the property's scattered fruit and nut trees.

However, while they can generate about half of their monthly electricity with solar panels on the roof (about 10 kilowatt-hours per day) and a wind turbine (about 6 kWh) in their front yard, unplugging from outside utilities is nearly impossible.

"Both of those systems are grid-tied so any excess (energy) we produce is fed back into the grid system," said Paddon. "If we just disconnected from the grid completely, we would lose the advantage of being able to bank any surplus energy we produce and then use it later."

And while Earth-friendly technologies will help in the struggle to save oil and slow climate change, they won't solve the overall problem, the couple explained.

"What will replace this energy is not some new alternative or some new technology," said Black.

"Technology will not save us," said Paddon. "But if we use and conserve the amount of oil that's left - a scarce amount of oil - we can make that transition easier and the fall a little bit softer."

Efforts to cut back on energy use can be fairly simple, they said, such as changing out standard lights for energy-saving compact fluorescent bulbs; eliminating purchasing for a week; or starting a carpool. They also recommended eating foods in-season and buying only local, organic products, which reduces the need to fuel trucks for shipping it across the country.

Despite growing awareness of resource depletion and global climate change, they said more needs to be done.

"We have a heightened sense of urgency," Paddon said.

"People who insist on living in yesterday are making tomorrow way more difficult than it needs to be," said Black. "People aren't willing to stop to really look at how we're consuming and what the patterns are and what needs to change. There's going to be no easy way down off the cliff, other than straight down."

YES, they said it all

robert wolff, 6 june 2011