

Do Something
By Keanu Arpels-Josiah

When I was in 3rd grade at PS 276 in Battery Park, a “green school,” I came to realize how important the issue of climate change is. It threatens to wipe the entire human species off the face of Earth; it has already caused the extinction of 1 million species of plants and animals, has the potential to wipe entire nations off our map, such as the Maldives, and kill entire ecosystems, such as the Great Barrier Reef. It impacts every corner of our planet, from the deepest part of the Ocean, to the top of Everest to your door.

My 3rd year at PS 276 was the 6th year of the Obama Administration, which decreased carbon emissions, by 9%; however, our current administration has undone almost everything Obama did to address climate change. They have withdrawn from the Paris Agreement, frozen fuel efficiency standards, weakened methane regulations, boosted fossil fuel companies, as well as outright denied the problem even exists. The planet’s surface temperature has risen an unprecedented 1.62° F since the late 19th Century, a change that puts thousands of species in danger of extinction. These rising temperatures are due to the carbon dioxide increase in our atmosphere, a majority of which has taken place over the past decade, with 2019 being the warmest year on record. Climate-change deniers such as President Trump, have written tweets like, “It’s freezing in NY where the hell is Global Warming?” This mentality is just out-right wrong and threatens the safety of the planet.

After decades of fossil-fuel use and ignorance, the youth of our planet awakened. Last September, over 4 million people took to the streets demanding action on the climate. Most of these strikers were children in middle or high school, people who can't vote yet, people making their voices heard, people demanding a future.

To secure our future, do something. Be mindful of your carbon footprint. From turning off the lights, to picking public transportation over using an Uber, or reducing the amount you fly; every small action counts. Attend local rallies, spread awareness about this issue, or email your local representative. If we are to prevent the worst effects of global warming we must unite as a planet and fight this issue, together as one, and now.

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When I was in 3rd grade at PS/IS 276 in Battery Park, a “green school”, I came to realize how threatening an issue climate change is. It threatens to wipe the entire human species off the face of Earth; it has already caused the extinction of 1 million species of plants and animals, threatens to wipe entire nations off our map, such as the Maldives, and entire ecosystems, such as the Great Barrier Reef. It impacts every corner of our planet, from the deepest part of the Ocean, to the top of Everest to your door. Climate Change is when CO₂ and other air pollutants, such as methane, are released into our atmosphere. This causes an unnatural amount of solar radiation to be reflected back into our planet, thus increasing the planet’s temperature.

My 3rd year at 276 was the 6th year of the Obama Administration, which had decreased carbon emissions, by 9%; however, our current administration has undone almost everything Obama did to address climate change. They have withdrawn from the Paris Agreement, frozen fuel efficiency standards, weakened methane regulations, boosted fossil fuel companies, as well as outright denying the problem. The planet’s surface temperature has risen an unprecedented 1.62° F since the late 19th century, a change that puts thousands of species in danger of extinction. These Rising temperatures are due to the carbon dioxide increase in our atmosphere, a majority of which has taken place over the past decade, with 2016 being the warmest year on record. Climate change deniers such as President Trump, have been making tweets like, “It’s freezing in NY where the hell is Global Warming?” This mentality can threaten the safety of the planet we live on and are just out-right wrong.

After decades of fossil fuels and ignorance, the youth of our planet have awakened. Last September, Over 4 million people took to the streets demanding action on the

climate. Most of these strikers were children in middle or high school, people who can't vote yet, people making their voices heard, people demanding a future.

How can we make a difference? For starters, be mindful of your carbon footprint. From turning off the lights, to picking public transportation over using an Uber, or reducing the amount you fly; every small action counts. Attend local rallies, spread awareness about this issue, or email your local representative. This is a serious issue, one that threatens the communities, lives, and future of many Americans. Use your voice and speak up for what you believe in. If we are to prevent the worst effects of global warming we must unite as a planet and fight this issue, together as one.

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