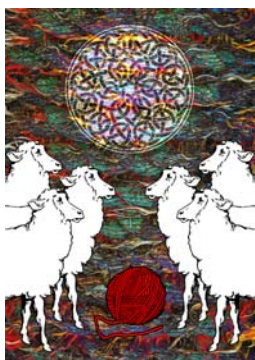


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# SURVIVING CLIMATE CHANGE AND OTHER DISASTERS

practical tips, skills, careers,  
illustrations, and activist resources



## THE E-BOOK

by Sage Liskey

*Author of The Happiest Choice and  
You Are A Great And Powerful Wizard*

# SURVIVING CLIMATE CHANGE AND OTHER DISASTERS E-BOOK\*

practical tips, skills, careers, illustrations,  
and activist resources

Written and Illustrated by Sage Liskey

Rad Cat Press

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# Foreword

This project started in 2014 with a zine titled *Surviving The Collapse of Society*. I wrote it in response to growing concerns about possible collapse scenarios in the world alongside the diminishing number of people able to survive without computer technologies. Following Trump's presidential victory, the zine became quite popular and I felt a desire to expand the content and focus on climate change while balancing it with artistic elements.

My interest in surviving collapse scenarios began with growing up in the pine forested mountains of Southern Oregon. My parents were from bustling cities and decided to escape the rat race on concrete for a quieter existence in the country. They grew their own food, had enough supplies for weeks without power, drank well water, cooked with propane, built structures, raised animals, and heated the house with a wood stove. While never spoken about openly, I quickly became aware of the negative impact humanity had on the natural world, and in turn began to question dominant culture, capitalism, and government policies. In college and the years after, I lived in several communities, worked on farms, studied various ancient skills, taught myself how to fix bicycles, hitch-hiked great distances, and along the way discovered like-minded activists devoted to bettering the world and fighting for the survival of life. It has been a difficult road, but a fulfilling one too.

My experiences have culminated into a system of political thinking that I call Post-Radicalism or Truthaganda. Its goal is to better conditions for all organisms on the planet with the most effective means possible. This is marked by making leftist ideas accessible through appealing to basic human needs, understanding human psychology, and predominantly using nonviolent tactics. Instead of relying on aggressive dogma or labels, it asks, “what is

the best way to implement these changes or make people do this thing?” For instance, the word sustainability deters some people, whereas saving money and being healthier is universally interesting. It's essentially the same thing, but one uses a label and one appeals to human needs. Post-radicalists also:

- Do not feel guilty for using privileges or making unsustainable actions for the greater good of life.
- Refuse to fall into notions of group think, and instead scrutinize each thought and action, even if it comes from a minority voice or respected member of a community.
- Look at problems as interconnected systems rather than simple individual components.
- Acknowledge that truth is relative, but many of those truths and the associated cultures act contrary to protecting life, and so must be changed or destroyed. Also that many ideas that have come out of liberal and radical thinking are inherently problematic, wrong, or do not help better conditions for all organisms on the planet even though they are poised as doing so.
- Communicate respectfully to each culture it attempts to transform by using the appropriate clothing, words, and body motions.
- Allow members from a diverse set of beliefs to participate without being labeled as bad.
- Believe in maintaining good mental health and healthy communities – toxic people are almost always good to remove.
- Prioritize large-scale projects that create long-term effects.
- Use accessible language by avoiding big words, labels, and technical terminology.



The words and accompanying digital collages contained herein were independently created and published in my free time, accounting for many hundreds of hours of work. Perhaps in the future I will write a third edition of this information when I have more energy to devote to such a task, but at the very least, I wanted to make this available to the public before society actually does collapse, as it seems to be quickly heading in that direction. If you would like to help spread this information and support my journey as an independent author, please leave a review on Amazon and Good Reads! My greatest motivation is hearing from readers. You can also share your thoughts by contacting me at:

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Finally, it important to note that the contents of this book are more about providing useful information to curious and concerned minds than it is to proving any points. As such, this book has been written expecting the reader to already be aware of well-documented facts such as climate change and corruption in government and corporate entities. If you require proof of these happenings, please consult the myriads of evidence found in research articles, news streams, history books, and the like. It will probably help you live longer.

there is hope,  
if we take action

# Introduction

It's the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the possibilities are endless – science has brought us fascinating new technologies to work with, we're planning trips to Mars, violent crime is at an all time low, medical advancements are curing the most deadly diseases, and more people have access to clean water and nutritious food than ever before – but it all comes with a price. Little thought has been given to the future survival of the human race, and at any moment, everything we have built could easily fall apart.

Many collapse scenarios are possible. Natural ones include volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, gamma ray bursts, hurricanes, rapid weather changes stifling plant growth, the sun exploding, and a planet too hot for liquid water. On the other hand, human causes of collapse may involve war, nuclear fallout, extreme levels of pollution, destruction of the environment, participation in unsustainable practices which limit resources for future generations, idiocy, and climate change.

No one can predict how severe any given collapse scenario could be, especially as communities become better prepared and technological advancements create a diversity of energy sources to power the tools essential to a modern civilization. In many situations, such as in the case of most earthquakes and hurricanes, a collapse is temporary and a society can rebuild itself. A complete collapse would mean that a given group of people are no longer working together toward a common goal, either because they lack the resources to do so or choose to separate. This could be at a local or global scale. Some people would argue that this could be a really great thing and allow humans to finally live peacefully and



sustainably among one another! On the other hand, it will probably mean a lot of death, destruction, pain, suffering, starvation, disease, and other undesirable things.

The following pages include survival tips, business ideas, ideas on how we could improve society, and skills and careers that will be useful in the case of a collapse. By 'improve' I mean making fewer organisms suffer, including plants, humans, and other animals, while maintaining the highest quality of life and guaranteeing our long-term survival. Let's get prepared.

# Tips for Surviving Disasters

Considering how many possible human-made and natural disasters and collapse scenarios exist, chances are that you will experience at least one in your lifetime. As an individual or family, here are some general preparedness guidelines:

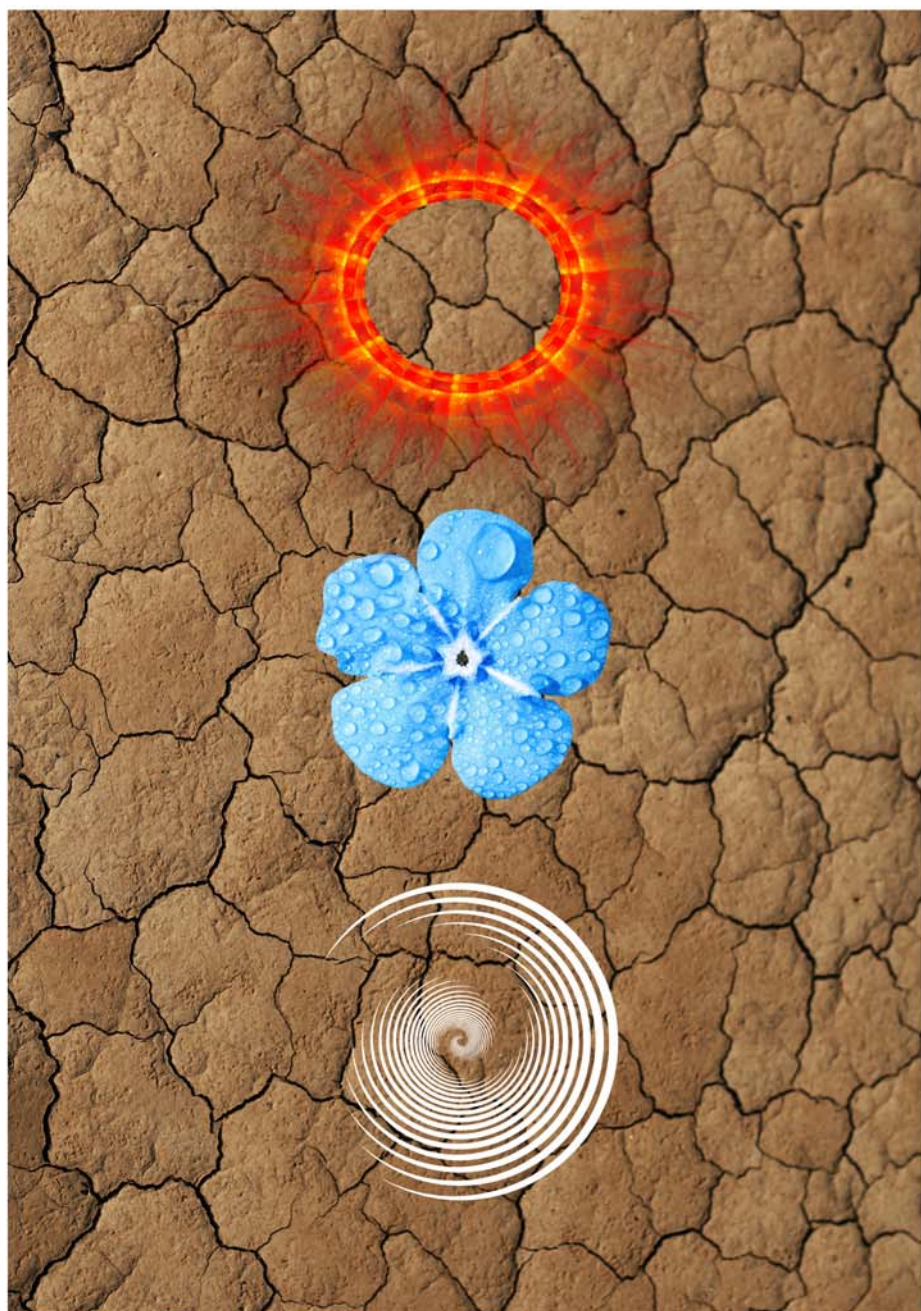
- Have at least 2 weeks of food and water stockpiled. Each person needs roughly one gallon of water and 2000 calories of food per day.
- Make sure the structures you are occupying can withstand natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes. Most older buildings cannot.
- Keep a survival kit in an air and watertight container with flashlights, batteries, life jackets, walkie-talkies, heat packs, medications, a crank-powered radio, first aid supplies, needle and thread, matches and tinder, a hatchet, blankets, rain gear, changes of clothes, air filtering face masks, gas mask, knife, water filter, plastic and trash bags, water purification chemicals, flares, toiletries such as toilet paper and toothbrush, and basic cooking equipment.
- Periodically restock a small fuel supply (gasoline has a limited shelf life).
- Have a disaster preparedness plan ready for yourself, your family, and neighborhood – know where to go, what parts of the house to seek cover in, and the locations of community shelters. Be ready to leave quickly.

To prepare for disasters with effects lasting longer than 2 weeks:

- Work on your physical and mental health. Disasters are stressful and require a great amount of physical exertion such as walking, moving debris, and rebuilding structures.
- If you require medication for a condition, be aware of natural alternatives that you can source locally without pharmaceutical companies, or when possible, improve your health in such a way that you no longer need to use medication. If your supply of medication is cut off, you can use your remaining medication to slowly lower your dosage over the course of several months so as not to have symptoms of withdrawal (preferably with the assistance of a medical professional).
- Locate yourself close to or on functioning off-grid homesteads that have land to grow food on and a source of clean drinking water.
- Learn a number of the skills located later on in this book.
- Be adaptable and understand what life is like with only the bare essentials.
- Use cooking and heating methods that do not require electricity such as gas and wood.

Better than preparing as an individual is preparing as a whole community. At the very least participate in local politics – introduce legislation, run for positions, and vote for people and policies that can help increase the longevity of the human race. More ways to prepare yourself and your community as well as general methods of recovering from a disaster or collapse can be found in *Preventing Disasters* and the final chapter, *The Possible World*.





# Surviving Natural Disasters

At the moment, Earth is the only planet that we know of that harbors life, but it can still be an extremely hostile environment. In recent years scientists have shown that humans are increasing that level of hostility with fossil fuels and carbon dioxide warming the planet and changing climates, certain chemicals depleting the ozone layer, and practices of fracking triggering earthquakes. Because of this, “natural” disasters will continue to grow in frequency and severity, so you had better get ready for any and all of them to come visiting.

**Earthquakes:** Stop, drop, and hold tight. If in a building, brace yourself under a sturdy table, in a corner, or in a reinforced doorway away from windows or anything that could fall onto you. If outside, find an open area away from trees, buildings, and power poles. If driving, park your car as soon as possible in an open area. Cover yourself up with a heavy blanket or jacket, and put your hands over your face. When the ground stops shaking stay in safe areas in case of aftershocks over the following days. Avoid crossing bridges. If you are downriver from a dam, get to higher ground as soon as possible. Stay clear of downed power lines; do not try to drive or jump over them.

To prepare for earthquakes, all buildings located above the edges of shifting tectonic plates should be reinforced to withstand the earth's motions, and detectors put in place to warn people early. Large cities also should not be planned directly over seismically active areas (oops). As an individual, apply safety film to existing

windows or replace windows with safety glass. You could also reinforce a part of your house, or have some sort of safe box that can withstand the force of falling debris.

**Hurricanes:** Get to a shelter as quickly as possible or out of the hurricane's direct line of impact. In preparation you can board up your windows and take in any loose objects from outside. If you are instructed to evacuate, do so as soon as possible.

**Tsunamis:** Following the eruption of an underwater volcano, a large body of water being struck by a meteorite, or the shaking of a strong earthquake by the coast, you'll next have to contend with a tsunami. Look for signs that the ocean water has receded a greater amount than is typical. Get to high ground at least 100 feet above sea level and if possible at least a mile away from the shoreline. Waves may continue making landfall for hours after the earthquake, so even after the initial wave, do not leave safe terrain. Do not evacuate by following streams as tsunami water can surge up these especially well. If you're in a boat out in the water, do not head to land. If you are going to be swept into the tsunami, you may be able to survive by holding onto a tree or something that can float.

**Floods:** More extreme weather will result in more flooding, and a warming planet means that many areas close to the ocean will disappear altogether. Cities can prepare for normal flooding by designing cities with great drainage and water retention systems such as stormwater planters and sewage systems. Permanent rises to the ocean however will need to be dealt with either by creating floating cities or relocating to higher ground.

**Volcanoes:** Evacuate fast to at least 10 miles away! Every volcano will produce a different size of blast, so listen to the news. There

are typically a decent number of warning signs for impending explosions. A supervolcano like Yellowstone will erupt again within the next 200,000 years and destroy most of the life on Earth, but we should be more concerned about other forms of . Engineers may one day develop a method of relieving pressure in a volcano before it can erupt at full pressure, but don't count on it any time soon.

**Disease:** While modern medical advances have greatly increased the human lifespan and prevented many diseases, a disease epidemic will likely result from super resilient bacteria and viruses bred through our increasing use of anti-bacterial soaps, medications, and laboratory experiments, though this may also happen naturally. Germs spread best without fresh air, so the more humanity spends indoors and in close proximity to one another, the more likely that deadly diseases will spread. This would especially be a problem if our ozone layer becomes depleted and climate-controlled domes need to be built to protect us from an uninhabitable outside world.

**Flipping Magnetic Poles:** Every 200,000 to million years the Earth's magnetic poles flip in which north becomes south and south becomes north. It has happened numerous times over the planet's history, the last being about 700,000 years ago, and it is showing signs of doing it again. During this flip the magnetic field that protects us from harmful space radiation weakens and could be catastrophic for not just life, but also electronics, likely shutting down communication and power grids. This said, we would probably make it through safely as these events have not corresponded to mass extinctions.

**Meteorites:** If you're not crushed by the meteor itself, you'll potentially have to contend with earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic

eruptions, and dust blocking out the sun and making unhealthy air conditions. In certain scenarios you may have fair warning ahead of time against falling meteors, but in others, anywhere from your city to the whole planet could be destroyed in an instant. Emergency warning systems must be able to detect potential collisions from space rocks early enough. Eventually a system may be developed to launch a device which can attach to meteorites and either drill into them and blast them apart, or nudge them off-course far enough to make them avoid hitting Earth.

**Other Things From Outer Space:** Gamma ray bursts are caused by giant stars collapsing into black holes and if close enough would disable satellites and melt the ozone layer, destroying our protection from radiation. Rogue stars and black holes whizzing through the universe would obliterate everything in their paths, including Earth. Some models of the universe predict that one day the constant expansion we have seen since the big bang will run out of energy and contract in upon itself. A large enough solar flare such as the Carrington Event of 1859 could not only damage the ozone layer, but also knock out the electric grid and communication systems. Changes in the sun over the next billion years will also make the Earth uninhabitable, and its conversion into a red giant sun in 5 billion years will potentially swallow up the planet altogether. While terrifying to know about, we likely have a very long time before any of these factors overtake us.

**Snowstorms and Freezing Weather:** While the earth is heating overall, that heat is simultaneously creating more extreme weather effects, including with more extreme cold weather. Even in areas where freezing cold is uncommon or unheard of, you should be ready with warm layers, chains for your car tires, snow shoes, and methods of heating yourself and home without electricity.

**Heatwaves and Fire:** Increasing levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are causing the planet to warm up, making large fires and deadly heatwaves more common. If there is a fire within 50 miles, be ready to evacuate. Under the right conditions a fire can spread up to 15 miles per hour! If you are in a fire-prone area such as a forest, clear all trees and brush around your home and build with stone rather than wood. Purchase a fire safe to store important documents within, and wear a dust mask to avoid breathing in the dangerous smoke particles.

During heatwaves stay in a cool environment, avoid being in the sun, and keep hydrated. Cities are typically hotter than the country because buildings, black roofs, and pavement trap heat. In the short term heatwaves can be mitigated by planting more trees in your city and using light colors like white for rooftops. In the long-term, greenhouse gases will have to be removed from the atmosphere to prevent increasing temperatures from causing intolerably hot temperatures.

# Surviving Human-Made Disasters

Human life exists within a thin margin of temperature, air quality, radiation exposure, availability of clean water, and the many microscopic processes which allow our food to grow. Signs of the environment weakening increase every day. Polluted water, toxic fish, catastrophic weather, drying aquifers, acidic oceans, and dying bee populations are just a few of the current realities threatening the backbone of human survival. Studies indicate that Earth's life is at the beginning of a sixth mass extinction, unparalleled since the mass extinction of dinosaurs (*Gerado*).

With industrialized nations as the primary cause of this mass extinction, humans are the most likely cause of their own collapse. Without major legislative and corporate reforms, technological advances, restoring damaged ecosystems, improving conditions for marginalized and impoverished communities, and individuals caring about the world as a whole, more and more of humanity will feel the consequences of our short-sighted decisions.

**Climate Change:** Earth has been on a warming spree since the 1880s due to greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere, in turn raising ocean levels, dangerously shifting weather patterns worldwide, and making it difficult for many species to live (*NASA*). We are well on our way to increasing the global temperature beyond the 2° Celsius threshold that climate scientists have established as a catastrophic level of warming to avoid before the end of the century. This has largely been caused by the destruction of natural areas and burning of fossil fuels.



Unless serious measures are implemented before 2030, climate change will continue to increase in severity until life is impossible for larger organisms. Some estimates even place humanity as extinct by 2050. Be prepared for shifts in weather with extreme heat, cold, droughts, flooding, and hurricanes. Side-effects of these weather patterns will increase the risk of diseases, pest infestations, crop failures, forest fires, theft, violence, and wars.

In order to deal with this diversity of extreme weather, individuals should have a water collection system in place, as well as excellent drainage around their house. Homes should be built with materials great at naturally regulating the temperature without using electricity. Beyond these points, follow the guidelines already mentioned previously and learn some of the skills outlined in *Skills and Careers*.

To stabilize warming temperatures, humanity must implement a number of potential solutions: removing greenhouse gasses such as carbon and methane from the atmosphere, balancing the amount of greenhouse gas released with the amount of greenhouse gas absorbed by things like plants and technological processes, preventing the ocean from acidifying any further, using way less energy, genetically engineering plants, and reversing the desertification of land by promoting water retention with terraforming and planting drought tolerant trees. There are a number of more extreme methods suggested by scientists, but their efficacy and consequences are questionable. Implementing climate stabilizing ideas and technologies is covered in the next chapter, *Preventing Disasters*.

Should the climate crisis not be appropriately dealt with, climate-controlled greenhouses will be needed to produce food within. In extreme cases, climate-controlled living units or even whole cities



will be needed to maintain living conditions, such as the biodome experiments. Other people, likely including the poor and underprivileged, will have to figure out how to safely live with the gasses, moisture, and lack of sunlight found underground.

With a sci-fi and transhumanist spin, humans may only be able to exist by changing their bodies through merging with machines into cyborgs, genetic manipulation, or by uploading their consciousness into a computer system. In another extreme perhaps only artificial intelligence will have the ability to survive in the harshness of future climate. Hopefully it will not have to come to that, but at least some of those technologies are not far off from being ready and could grant us major survival upgrades.

Climate change is the greatest and most immediate threat posed by humans, but there are many others to prepare for.

**Nuclear Fallout:** In the case of a nuclear explosion, get underground as quickly as possible, with thicker flooring and walls providing greater protection. Within a couple days the majority of nuclear debris will have fallen and you can work on getting as far away from the blast site as possible. Once in a safe area, wash your whole body, including hair, thoroughly with soap. Be sure to include potassium iodine in your first aid kit and take some if you have symptoms of radiation sickness. Living away from nuclear power plants will also keep you safe from contaminants released in case of a meltdown.

**Tyranny and Dictatorship:** A collapsed society may lead to huge struggles of power forming tyrannical dictatorships. Either join them or rebel by forming a guerrilla army and creating underground propaganda. Becoming a Jedi or recruiting a superhero could be useful. Unfortunately people are easily swayed

to do mean things to one another, so the best course of action is to move to friendlier places.

**Pollution:** Everyone should have a carbon filtered gas mask, water filter, and water and soil test kits. Household plants will be essential for maintaining quality indoor air. Some of the best plants for filtering pollutants out of the air include English ivy, spider plants, bamboo palms, and Chinese evergreens, but almost all plants help to some extent.

**Mass Extinction of Non-Human Life:** Humans have already caused thousands of species to either go extinct or nearly extinct. As this trend continues we will have to either work with the consequences or rebalance the natural systems by introducing similar foreign species (something that can also have undesirable results). For instance, as bird populations decline, disease spreading mosquitoes and crop-eating grasshoppers can explode in population.

**Economic Collapse:** Between war, capitalism being based on infinite growth within a finite world, huge piles of debt, bad business practices, and an unruly global marketplace, our economy will continue to periodically collapse in small to major ways. What do you do when your money, representative of all material goods, is good for nothing? Some cities are creating their own local currency, holding barter fairs, setting up small buildings where people can leave things for others to take for free, or playing around with a time-exchange in which doing one hour of work grants you one hour of another person's labor.

### **Running Out Of Energy Resources:**

Oil and natural gas are running out. If alternative systems are not established, a war or major natural disaster could leave huge

populations without transportation and electric power. Some options include collecting methane from human and cow manure, nuclear power, solar panels, and wind turbines.

**Running Out Of Clean Water:** Water aquifers are drying up and existing bodies of clean water are being polluted, making water for daily and agricultural use harder to come by. On an individual level it is important to keep several weeks worth of clean water (1 gallon per day per person) on hand. Keeping some form of water purification can also work, including physical filtration methods or chemical sterilization like chlorine or iodine. On a large scale, cities must develop better water storage techniques that help divert rain runoff into reservoirs, farmers need to learn how to water their crops more efficiently, and bottled water corporations must be prevented from robbing communities of their drinking water. Developing technologies that efficiently desalinate water would also help immensely. Of course, people must also learn how to use less water by utilizing composting toilets, capturing rain runoff, not watering lawns, watering during the cool parts of the day to prevent evaporation, and growing drought-tolerant crops.

**Artificial Intelligence:** If robots decide they are superior to their creators and would be the finer choice for ruling the planet, humanity could face a robot uprising. Hopefully all engineers design an emergency kill switch into their creations, but otherwise AI with physical bodies should be fairly easy to hack, starved of energy, overloaded with a jolt of electricity, or have vital sensors blocked or destroyed. The more frightening possibility is an AI not limited by a physical body, but instead connected directly to the internet. This entity could destroy economies, erase financial and stock information, or tap into control mechanisms for vehicles, ships, and military supplies. The only way to survive that one is getting far away from modern civilization.



# Preventing Disasters

The best way to survive the collapse of society is to prevent it altogether. While more difficult than controlling our personal actions, we do have some control over natural disasters. For instance, we can position cities away from earthquake prone areas, make buildings earthquake, hurricane, fire, flood, or tsunami resistant, localize our energy and food resources, have defenses ready to alter the course of giant asteroids on route to collide with Earth, and so on.

Human-made disasters, while theoretically more easily controlled than natural ones, are still quite an undertaking. We are deeply embedded within several potential disaster situations including nuclear war, resource depletion, overpopulation, destruction of natural environments, and most pressing of all, climate change.

## How We Got Here

To continue on with our current way of life means collapsing alongside nearly all other species on the planet. We have the power to reverse this terrifying outcome, but it will require dedicated effort from the whole human race coming together. In order to better understand how to solve this crisis, it is important to first explain how we got here.

**US Politics:** I can't imagine that the current political world is what the founders of the USA were hoping for, especially as the constitution was written in a very different cultural and technological time. Even beyond the founders' initial insights, there are vast improvements to be made. For instance, gerrymandering has allowed for states to bolster the power of

specific parties by redrawing voting districts to their advantage, single vote polling reinforces a two party system even when everyone would be happier with a third party candidate, the number of dollars spent is the greatest indicator of who will win an election, and corporate interests sway officials with money to provide them future favors – these political problems and many more disempower people who might care about the environment from challenging existing systems.

**Economic System:** Money is a useful tool backed by our belief in it – it eases the work of making transactions efficiently for any material object or service; just imagine a car dealership having to barter for every car it sold! However, almost any economy based on material exchanges, rather than on the sharing of wealth, creates uneven distributions of power and harms the environment. This is especially true of capitalism.

In the USA and similar economies, capitalism is based on the notion of infinite growth in a finite world. It is therefore impossible to maintain forever. As a competitive system it guarantees that a certain percentage of the population will always be without jobs, food, and money even when it demands more people have more jobs, more resources, more food, more robots, more houses, more toys, more everything. Since capitalism is purely profit driven without ethical or moral standards, it exploits the labor of marginalized and impoverished communities. As can be seen in political lobbying efforts, one aspect of this exploitation is that businesses externalize as many costs as possible to the public, mostly in the forms of taxes and pollution. According to a worldwide study conducted by Oxfam in 2018, the 42 richest people control as much wealth as the 3.7 billion poorest. This is an obvious indication of a broken system that has been manipulated to strongly favor the rich.



Perhaps a capitalist monetary system could work well under certain conditions, but as it stands it is primarily a destructive force. The existence of franchises, corporations, interstate trade, the global market, certain laws and taxes, banks, and different skills being more monetarily valued than others, causes money to be hoarded by a select few rather than used. Since money is a unit of exchange for almost any material good (or even emotion), hoarding money cuts down on the availability of everything people need to survive including food, shelter, medical support, general well-being, and so on. This wouldn't be a big problem if working full-time for minimum wage (another form of exploitation) was enough to survive on, but that isn't the case in most cities, especially with a family (*Aleem*). Since people have to work so much to survive, they don't have time to care about the world around them, including the environment. They also don't have money to afford sustainable alternatives, or take time off work to protest their situation, they're just trying to survive in the game. Granted, people often lack resources due to personal choices as well – many are too independent to have community, live together, and share resources to drive down costs, but I'll talk about that later.

**Human Biology:** The biology which founds the basis of our decision making processes greatly influences the modern day world and our willingness to steward the environment. For instance, being territorial as well as desiring as many resources as possible fuels our development of war technology, and our desire to live as long as possible drives us to improve medical science. Due to our social and reproductive behaviors, we can populate densely. This is possible because we have no limiting factors besides resources – and those are primarily collected from around the globe, making it difficult to know how little we really have until a disaster strikes. Even though the advent of phones,

television, and the internet have allowed humans to be conscious of more than ever before, we are still stuck with a localized sense of perception. By that I mean our senses are wired to care about what is happening directly to us. We are only aware of a small fraction of events in the world. For instance, the parts of a smartphone might be made by dozens of people working in many different countries for wages ranging from slavery to six figure salaries and conditions between toxic mine shafts and air-conditioned skyscrapers. Between the mining of metals, melting them into basic components, piecing those into parts, and then assembling the actual phone, the owner typically only sees the phone, not how it came to be or the lives that helped create it.

**Cultural Divides:** Culture is beautiful. There is such a rich diversity of ideas, fashions, foods, spiritual paths, and religions throughout the world – but different cultures often don't get along in subtle or quite obvious ways. Humans are culturally territorial, but also exceptionally social. Although neuroscience has shown us that new experiences and continuous learning is essential for a healthy brain and preventing degenerative diseases, people tend to be comfortable in homogeneous environments – any drastic change can be initially overwhelming and generally uncomfortable. This is understandable within cultures and community; you want to be able to have conversations and celebrate with people who relate to what you believe in. The USA is a sort of experimental mixing pot of cultures. You cannot assume what anyone believes, and some of those cultural ideas have trouble coexisting with others. To be culturally sensitive, you have to know each person's communication style, gender pronouns, religious beliefs, preferred holidays, and past traumas – it can be stressful always worrying about what is right and what is wrong to so many different people. In part because of the diversity in the USA, discrimination and divisiveness run rampant

throughout the country, making working together toward a common goal such as gaining power back from corporations or fixing the environment very difficult tasks.

**Science:** Industrialized nations have generally come to value science and logic over intuition and feelings. Scientific discoveries have resulted in myriads of information and technologies that both help and hurt people and the planet. While some people argue that this dissection and inquiry into the building blocks of existence is neutral, a simple methodology, it is an unfortunate reality that there exists many power-hungry, self-centered, and ignorant people in the world who use scientific discoveries in harmful ways. Of course, all discoveries have both good and bad sides; the atomic bomb, oil, cars, medications, and so forth can all be seen as beautiful, useful, terrifying, and unsustainable. Nonetheless, science has created the technologies that are destroying the environment, and at this point, science must discover methods and technologies necessary for restoring ecosystems and natural balances.

This localized sense of perception also helps keep us distracted. It is hard to focus on far-reaching and difficult to see problems such as environmental collapse when you are trying to earn enough money to survive. Many people are also so addicted to earning money or consuming media that caring about the environment simply never seems worthwhile in comparison.

**Corporations:** Corporations are typically disconnected from the needs of a given community and money is driven away from the local economy and concentrated to a select few at the top of the business. Due to their size, advertising power, and financial wealth, corporations also have a lot of sway in law making and national elections, taking power away from lower-income groups

and individuals. By decisions set forth by the *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* in 2010, corporations have many of the same rights that citizens do including freedom of speech. However, most lack morals and ethics, and so aim to increase their profit margins as much as possible at the expense of the environment and the working conditions of employees. Being 'people' allows corporations to sue and be sued, but they are at a vast advantage against real people due to their financial wealth and political connections. Most new and old environmental protection laws are challenged by corporations and other business entities as a means of protecting cheap methods of production. Not all corporations are driven purely by profits such as B Corporations<sup>1</sup> and non-profits, but in general the existence of corporations is devastating to the environment and well-being of workers.

**Religion:** Certain religions and religious segments have told their followers that the Earth was given to humans to do with what they wish. For instance, translations of the Bible's Genesis 1:28 say “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” Although many Christians are now establishing that they should “steward” the land instead of “subdue” it, throughout history these words have resulted in destructive choices which continue to impact us today. For instance, the 19<sup>th</sup> century concept of Manifest Destiny leveraged U.S. settlers to believe that God wanted them to spread capitalism and democracy across the American continent, thereby approving the slaughter of Native American tribes, clear-cutting forests, and generally exploiting the land's resources. A common

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1. Required by law to consider the impact of business decisions on workers and the environment.

religious belief is to have large families and that contraception, or at least abortion, is sinful, thus increasing the population by many fold and further taxing the land's resources. Many religious sects also believe that a hierarchy exists in which only the priests, a select few, can communicate accurately with their higher power. This takes a sense of spiritual connection away from the common people and gives a lot of power to church leaders to do with as they please rather than promoting open mindedness and thoughtful dialogues.

**Community:** People are more connected than ever before but have fewer meaningful social interactions. This is in part because of a natural limit to how large of a group the brain can handle. The Dunbar Number theorizes that human communities max out at about 150 members before people start taking advantage of or ignoring each other. At a cultural level though there are many more reasons for our lack of deep connections: individualism is glorified and being independent and living alone is even a benchmark of success in many circles. Technology allows us to complete amazing feats alone while crumbling into depression and anxiety. The stress of modern society also makes readily available addictions such as computer use, workaholism, and alcoholism more desirable to use for drowning out the nagging sense that something is wrong. Capitalism destroys communities as well – big businesses prevent employees from unionizing, public areas are developed into storefronts and suburbs, housing and land laws prevent groups of people from living together, competition promotes division instead of cooperation and mutual support, people don't have time to gather because they work too many hours, and in the name of saving money, houses are built as if designed by failing and depressed architecture students who want people to hate themselves. As children grow up, they are convinced to move away from their communities to pursue the

promises of college and then needing to find a job in an economically stable location, the cities. But in cities, people are unable to connect with nature and lose their awareness that it is the natural environment which supports all of the things they do. Even with an awareness, without a community to act collectively, doing anything about environmental problems is exceedingly difficult.

**History:** The past 3000 years have seen a number of influences shape the course of history and continue to impact the environment in major ways. These include the development of various economic systems, wars and the acquisition of land, advances in travel and the spread of culture, the founding and spread of religions (especially monotheistic ones), various breakthroughs in technology and science, as well as many philosophical ponderings. As a result of so many different voices vying for power or helping maintain and continue to spread old cultural beliefs, changing existing cultures or creating new ones, such as a sustainable mindset, is difficult.

**Agriculture:** The development of agriculture allowed for the human population to skyrocket and lifespans to greatly lengthen. While being aware of natural cycles was still necessary, settling down and growing food gave humanity good reason to want to control and domesticate the environment so as to improve yields – and there were so many natural resources that it didn't seem to matter what forest you clearcut or lake you funneled sewage into. Some argue that with the advent of agriculture came the concepts of ownership and materialism in the form of land and taxation. Grains in particular store well and are easy to hoard, which may have given rise to taxes from the ruling class and government officials who were too busy running society to farm. Settling in one location meant that the populace would keep extracting

resources from the same region instead of letting the land replenish as people had when they roamed nomadically. A boom in population put more strain on these limited resources, and so people spread out, developed new technologies and advanced medicine, spread some more, and here we are today.

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As you can see, the problems resulting in the environmental crisis are rooted deeply in a cultural, psychological, and historical place. Fortunately, you can't just say that it's too expensive to keep your own species alive, so hopefully before the situation becomes even more dire, governments and citizens around the world will shift to a new paradigm of placing the health of the environment first. Seeing how quickly during World War II the USA converted factories into weapon manufacturers and yards became food producing gardens, it will just take the right incentive to implement fundamental changes and prevent a massive catastrophe.

## The Necessary Changes

Individuals can have an environmental impact, especially by voting, introducing legislation to their local and state governments, buying locally and sustainably made products, talking to neighbors, and petitioning through direct-action activism for reform. However, it is not productive to shame or blame yourself or others for individual actions, because the inherent problem is difficult for any individual to solve. Corporations, the media, and governments currently have the greatest influence in creating a culture of sustainability, so try changing them first before getting angry with your neighbors about the type of soap they buy.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's 2017 *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2017*, total greenhouse gas emissions produced by different economic sectors in the United States include:

- Transportation 29%
- Electricity 28%
- Industry 22%
- Commercial & Residential 12%
- Agriculture 9%

Each of these sectors have vast improvements to make them more efficient. Effectively fighting the most severe forms of climate change will require humans use far fewer resources and energy while simultaneously removing existing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. It is difficult to know what solutions human ingenuity will create in coming years, but below are some solutions to pay attention to.

**Legal Change:** carbon limits for industries and nations, sustainable product creation guidelines, protection of natural areas, rights and protections for animals and nature, free and easily available contraception and abortions , banning the use of certain chemicals

**Technological Innovation and Implementation:** solar energy, wind turbines, nuclear power (current generation reactors are very safe and perhaps the only way to power areas without enough wind or sun), biodegradable products and packaging, products and packaging made with recycled components, highly durable products, public transit to offset driving in cars, carbon capture technologies, localized product manufacturing with 3D printers,



low-energy technologies, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence to make systems more efficient

**Ideological and Cultural Change:** end materialistic lifestyles (equate happiness with things other than material wealth), nature has rights, thinking about how your actions impact all life on the planet, reduce and reuse, have fewer children, reject the need for unnecessary products, use less energy, convince religious groups that God wants them to protect the world rather than use it up, move closer to socialist principles, rebranding sustainability as healthy, cheap, and a basic means of survival, create a DIY (do it yourself) culture in which people make and repurpose objects instead of buying new, adopting solarpunk principles (community driven, green, and decentralized)

**Using Less Energy:** bicycle infrastructure and good public transit, subsidized communal housing, support the purchase of locally made goods by banning corporations, compost the dead, give out free or subsidize energy upgrades like insulation for doors and windows as well as solar and wind power

**Food and Agriculture:** subsidize meat less and vegetables more, grow food with sustainable methodologies (organic practices or preferably better), eat local, don't till the soil, breed or modify crops which can withstand weather extremes, grow food forests in cities, build vertical farms (less energy, transportation, water, and pesticides)

**Large Scale Action:** vote good politicians into office, create a better voting system such as Score Then Automatic Runoff or Ranked Choice Voting, demand legal changes, create a widespread culture of sustainability, release sustainable propaganda into the mass media, talking to neighbors about

positive health benefits and cost savings from adopting sustainable principles or technologies, teach children and teens about careers that will help prevent the climate crisis, create communities to increase sharing of resources, create massive strikes to demand reform, create a people's government that acts as a massive membership cooperative providing food and other resources without the constantly shifting subsidies from the government

**Restoring Nature:** plant a diversity of native trees and other vegetation everywhere possible including cities, plant foreign species of greenery that are more appropriate for newly emerging climates, create bioswales to increase water retention and prevent flooding, regrow desert areas, clean up the ocean and de-acidify it, restore eroded soils to health

**Carbon and Methane Storage:** planting trees, preserving and creating peat bogs, burning wood in low-oxygen environments to create biochar, building healthy soils, protecting the rainforests (get alternative jobs to people in troubled economies and create better recycling programs to prevent the need for more mining and logging operations), capturing methane and carbon emissions from emission sources such as coal plants, pumping carbon dioxide underground, compressing carbon into objects, burning methane to turn into the less potent greenhouse gas carbon dioxide

**Geoengineering** (geoengineering is the act of deliberately changing natural processes on a massive scale to prevent climate change - no geoengineering plans are proven to be safe and may have dire repercussions on the environment and human life): fertilizing the ocean with iron and other nutrients to create algae blooms that absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, using satellites or purposefully erupting

volcanoes to block out sunlight, genetically modifying plants to absorb more carbon dioxide, reflecting heat back into space by using the appropriate paints and materials, dumping ground-up alkaline rocks into the ocean to reverse acidification

## Individualism and Community

Part of cutting down the amount of energy humans use is to reduce our material consumption, and a major way to accomplish this is by building communities and sharing more. Unfortunately, individualism as described previously in *How We Got Here* is more and more a part of industrialized culture.

Individualism makes us lonely and fearful of one another. In an ironic attempt to escape these negative feelings, we fall into hatred, depression, conflict, greed, and addiction. These are all born from natural survival instincts, but rarely serve to benefit our health, happiness, or the well-being of human civilization and Earth. Fortunately there are other natural aspects to human life which cultivate health and nourishment. By adopting community instead of individualism, people foster sharing, compassion, and love. Communal life is also often cheaper, more sustainable, and better for a person's happiness and social life.

What does individualism look like? Living alone, working alone, driving alone, not asking for help, not sharing, thinking you're better than those around you, accumulating wealth and material goods, various forms of media consumption like listening to recorded music, not communicating conflicts, the nuclear family, homeschooling, not knowing your neighbors, cities and nations without public transit, believing humans are superior to other forms of life (by destroying natural areas or

unconsciously killing), destruction of the environment, believing that humans are alone in the universe, money, hierarchy, capitalism, addictions to things like drugs and media, any form of escape from reality, having set beliefs about how reality works, law enforcement, disagreeing with other cultures, cultural appropriation, acting without the consent of your peers and cultures you derive ideas and resources from, a lack of public parks, homeless people, racism, discrimination, and so on. None of these are purely bad things, but when a person's life becomes too full of them, they push us toward an unsustainable way of life.

While fighting individualism is an essential part of making a more sustainable planet, there are many things which prevent people from fostering community. These include being surrounded by a massive population, having the resources and privileges to afford individualism, intolerance of cultural and ideological diversity, avoidance of stress and vulnerability that is required in any relationship, having a culture of individuality, cooperative living situations not being readily available, building codes which prevent certain structures from being built and lived in, noise ordinances, and people never being taught how to healthfully handle conflict.

All you need to foster community is a shared goal, you don't necessarily have to be friends. Individualistic people are often seeking perfection – they are avoiding conflict, stress, looking at their own behaviors, and dealing with the mannerisms of others. However, this avoidance comes at a price. The benefits of community, just like any other relationship, requires vulnerability and some personal sacrifices. It won't necessarily be comfortable at first, but what springs forth from joining together with others is truly amazing.

Some ideas for building community include:

- Host a potluck or make dinner with friends.
- Tear down your fence and share a yard with a neighbor.
- Hold an activity at your house such as playing board games, a movie night, yoga, or meditation.
- Introduce yourself to everyone that lives on your city block.
- Share your tools and books.
- Teach people a skill.
- Host a neighborhood garage sale.
- Have a neighborhood 'house to house' party, or in your own house, a 'room to room' party.
- Let neighbors know the skills and resources you have to share.
- Create a neighborhood tool share.
- Ask the community to pitch in for a collective fund for paying for things in this list or public needs like fixing a road.
- Advertise neighborhood councils to gather and pressure the city to do this or that thing you want to see happen.
- Create a business that people commonly express interest in.
- Put up art around your neighborhood.
- Put a community message board in your front yard so people can advertise their events.

- Volunteer for an organization or at a festival.
- Put up a poetry sharing board.
- Share bills such as internet and garbage collection with your neighbors.
- Colorfully paint fire hydrants, utility boxes, and city blocks.
- Plant fruit trees for the public.
- Ask stores or bars to host your event, or just show up and do it.
- Create and maintain community spaces such as grange halls and park blocks.
- Collectively rent a building.
- Petition for low-cost and cooperative housing.
- Ask your city to fund art projects.
- Start a group that plays kickball or catch at the park.

Read my free booklet *Community How To* online at [www.sageliskey.com](http://www.sageliskey.com) for an in-depth guide to building community.

## Starting Groups and Businesses

Individuals can also help prevent or prepare for collapse scenarios by starting for-profit or non-profit businesses as well as neighborhood groups that create local infrastructure for their community to survive with.

**Recycling Centers:** A centralized location where excess wood, screws, furniture, electronics, and various other materials can be

dropped off and purchased. See BRING Recycling, Next Step Recycling, and Materials Exchange Center for the Community Arts (MECCA).

**Food Distributors:** Purchase food wholesale from farmers and food processors and distribute locally. These can take the form of grocery store cooperatives, food banks, and dinners for those in need. See Food For Lane County, Organically Grown Company, The Grower's Market, Mountain Rose Herbs, and Humming Bird Wholesale.

**Neighborhood Groups:** Neighborhoods can do a lot to prepare for society collapsing. Form disaster response teams to make sure everyone has supplies and is accounted for. Shelters like basements and cellars can be denoted as emergency meeting points and stockpiled with shared resources. Styles of self-governance such as consensus can be explored in which all citizens have an equal say in decision making. These neighborhood groups could educate people about what resources would be needed to survive for a week or a month and establish buddy systems to check on each other in the case of disaster.

**Non-Profit Medical Services:** Takes care of patients regardless of financial resources. Includes a crisis line for mental breakdowns and overdoses as well as affordable dental and medical support. See White Bird and Occupy Medical.

**Cooperatives:** Business models that involve the community and are employee or member operated. These can include things like an equipment and tool rental library, maker spaces, metal and wood working space, and kitchen space. Community developers can also design buildings and spaces that promote interaction and sharing between members.

**Education:** Schools are needed that will teach all ages about creativity, critical thinking, and good communication skills. See Waldorf Schools, Evergreen State College, and CreativeLive. The same schools or separate institutions can teach various homesteading and survival skills such as hunting, ceramics, metalsmithing, wilderness survival, first aid, paper making, lighting a fire, building a biogas generator, construction, etc. See Aprovecho in Oregon. Libraries and an uncensored internet are also important hubs of free resources.

**Creating New Laws and Challenging Old Ones:** Groups can help transform the law system. Many of the ideas from *The Possible World* chapter at the end of this book require structured assistance if they are to reach the masses. Generally laws are needed to:

- legalize sustainable technologies such as gray water systems, composting toilets, and tiny houses
- make it easier to construct and install sustainable technologies by the public instead of private companies
- ban many pesticides and herbicides
- make contraception and abortions available to everyone for free
- subsidize vegetables and small farmers
- overhaul the voting system with a ranked choice or better yet a score voting system such as STAR Voting
- end gerrymandering that specifically benefits or hurts a demographic of people
- take rights away from corporations
- promote communal and cooperative living



# Methods of Being an Activist

Whether you call yourself an advocate, volunteer, or more generally an activist, there are many methods of building a sustainable culture. Each of these techniques are effective or useful in their own way, but may require vastly different skill sets to use.

**Non-Violent Direct Action:** Usually takes the form of disrupting an event, either by causing a ruckus through singing and shouting, or by blockading passageway to an event or something significant. Outright defiance of the dominant culture also works, such as when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in opposition to segregation laws.

**Violent Direct Action:** Using forceful or destructive means to create a statement or attempt to create change. These are primarily used by military forces and include setting property on fire, wars, assassination, riots, torture, and even computer hacking.

**Hacking and Programming:** With many people relying on robots for their survival now, those with knowledge of how to create and manipulate the world of electronic devices and data networks have very great powers to both destroy and create.

**Indirect Action:** Shows how meaningful a cause is to a person, such as with hunger strikes or signing a petition online. Typically these have very little influence on anything other than as a means of drawing attention to an activist cause and potentially gathering new allies.

**Education:** Educates a populace about a topic they were previously unaware of via fliers, presentations, art, conversations, videos, etc.

**Idea Exposure:** Introducing a diversity of beliefs, or secluding people from outside ideas is responsible for changing many minds throughout history. When ideologically different people live in close proximity or have access to each other through things like the internet, many are forced to question their beliefs. On the flip side, if a group of people secludes themselves from outside ideas, their beliefs can exist unchallenged.

**Communication:** Different situations may call for violent or nonviolent communication. Violent communication can work by shaming people into certain behaviors, although it is unlikely that they will like you or actually support what you believe. Nonviolent communication is a method of connecting with a person's basic human needs and is much better at creating mutual understanding than swearing or yelling at a person (read *Nonviolent Communication* by Marshall Rosenberg). You can also just casually talk to people about why a particular thing is problematic and give them alternatives.

**Youth Education:** Since activism can take a considerable amount of time to transform culture, and adults are often set in their ways, focusing on introducing new ideas to youth through entertainment, the internet, and public education can be the quickest way to change cultures at a mass scale.

**Propaganda:** Propaganda uses media to change minds about some subject, generally by appealing to a person's basic needs or emotions. Propaganda may stretch the truth or be completely fabricated from what the creator knows to be true, but the result nonetheless helps change minds. This can be done through fliers, news broadcasts, articles, posters, speeches, etc. The best propaganda speaks to a person's basic emotional and material needs, like happiness or money.

**Laws:** Creating or demolishing laws is a fairly effective way to create change, because following or not following that law is connected to a person's basic need for freedom – breaking the law will potentially end their freedom. It also makes everyone aware of the alternatively desired idea, even if they don't want to believe it. While effective, many laws are not well enforced. Some laws can also have the opposite of the desired effect. For instance, making “drugs” illegal in the USA has actually led to a greater incentive for drug dealers to convince people to take drugs because the monetary value is higher. You need to be careful with the repercussions of making rules.

**Lawyers:** Lawyers can help change laws or challenge the behaviors of people and businesses who are being unlawful. Some lawyers will assist activists for free, but others charge a considerable sum of money.

**Self-Care and Passion:** People who take care of themselves, especially within oppressive institutions, can be amazing beacons of light and sources of inspiration for those who are lost or do not entirely agree with an existing system. Just by setting an example through being fully passionate about a particular subject you help change those around you. You don't have to necessarily tell people that they're wrong, you can show them the amazing world that is possible if things were to change.

**Fun and Entertainment:** Activism doesn't have to be dull and stressful, it can involve making educational games for children, creating art, performing a theatrical act, singing a song, making people laugh, dressing up in costume, and generally uplifting the lives of others. Activists that incorporate these aspects into their causes are much less likely to burnout while drawing a greater number of members to their ranks. In fact, artists are often the

first ones to introduce ideas to the masses and make movements exciting to participate in.

**Creation:** Activism may be accomplished by way of creating things, especially art, new products, and businesses to challenge existing products, service models, aesthetic values, work standards, and so forth. Many activists just focus on destroying existing institutions before ever having an alternative to fill in or replace what they're opposing, but showing people a better world that is possible makes convincing them of your ideals much easier.

**Purchases:** Enough people opting out of or into buying something can crash or bolster industries and services.

**Philosophy:** Many philosophers have thought a lot about the meaning to life (or the lack thereof) and through their written ideas and observations of existence come to conclusions that whole nations may decide to follow. However, there are many competing ideas that make any philosophy difficult to spread into a movement, so don't rely on this too heavily.

**Scientific Research:** People in recent times have some amount of trust in scientists, and so using the scientific method and the observable world to understand a concept, or discovering the benefits or drawbacks to a particular idea or material can have vast repercussions on everyday people. Scientific research becomes especially helpful when paired with lawyers, law, medical fields, and the engineering of new technologies.

**Creating Small-Scale Examples:** Even if your community or city is just a few thousand people, you can exemplify sustainable systems to show the world what is possible. Generally larger communities want data and examples before adopting change, so

your local actions could start a mass movement. Consider this with voting systems, technologies, community gardens, vertical farms, prisons, and other reforms.

**Building Communities:** Ending your role in individualism can be very powerful. Change will not happen unless people unify together to demand it. Unionize, strike, host potlucks, live together with like-minded people. People are hugely divided in the world right now, but climate change is an excellent way to have a common enemy to fight together against.

**Donations:** Social and environmental change groups always need more money, more volunteers, more food, and more supplies.

## Effective Activism

We need as many people fighting climate change as possible to ensure the survival of life on Earth. While there are many ways in which you can help, there are also a number of considerations to make. The following information is applicable to any activist group, but has a larger focus on environmental dynamics than social justice ones.

### Educating Yourself and New Members

When in an environmental action group, educate new members on the subtleties of human psychology, marketing, and how the particular problem you are trying to change has come into being. Some activists are inspired to join movements out of pure anger, and do not understand very much about the cause or how to effectively create change. Also tell new members to:

- Look at examples of effective activists throughout history.
- Know how much time they can devote to being an activist and how much time they are going to reserve for self-care.

- Have a supportive community that does not involve campaign work, or at least does not always talk about it. Life is more than just work and intense conversations!

### **Choosing A Goal That Creates Change**

Many groups choose goals that feel like they create change, but in the long run do very little toward fixing the source of a problem. Understand the systems in place that support the existence of a particular problem. Perhaps it is a law, a philosophical concept, people thinking about something incorrectly, someone being greedy, an inefficient way of working, or even a basic biological function of humanity. Where is the root cause, and how can you address that?

Too often environmentalists blame common people or an individual's purchasing decisions when in fact it is the government, a culture, business practices, or a law. For instance, before you blame someone for the soap they are buying, think about the bigger picture about why that soap exists and what systems are in place which are causing the individual to buy it.

Some forms of activism can also be split into actions that feel good at an ethical or spiritual level, and actions that work to create broader change. Many potential change-makers feel they are being effective by only doing things that personally feel good. You have to understand however that the people in power will do almost anything to secure more power to dictate the lives of you and your loved ones. Can you become inspired by the pure desire to save life on planet Earth? Activists who are only willing to take actions which feel good are limited in their ability to create broad change. Taken to an extreme, you could live separated from civilization on your off-grid farm and argue that you are living in harmony with nature, but your

ability to influence people, politics, and businesses will be extremely limited. In other words, you could be 100% sustainable, or you could help a city full of people each be 1% more sustainable.

You need to be practical with the dollars you are spending and the activities you are bringing into or cutting out of your life. Is not owning a car going to destroy the automotive industry in the United States where there is very bad public transit or is it just going to slow down your ability to take action? Think bigger. Direct your activism at what is effective and allows you to do more. How can you create direct and large-scale change? What do people need? Remember that you are a culture trying to spread your beliefs by transforming or destroying other cultures. Don't try to sugar-coat it, how can you do this effectively?

### **Toxic People**

Mediate with, kick out, or refuse entry to members who exhibit toxic behaviors. Just because a person is passionate about the same things as your group is doesn't actually mean they're going to help you. A group that gets along is much more effective than one in which people constantly feel uncomfortable.

### **Security Culture**

If your cause is at risk of being accused of wrongdoings or attacked for its beliefs, you must be careful about what your opponents hear and see of you. Use aliases, turn off electronic devices or leave them at the door during meetings, apply passwords to sensitive files, use several layers of encryption for digital communication, and be careful about who you share information with.

### **Cost, Care, and Convenience**

Many activist campaigns struggle because the framing of their mission is not in line with what potential supporters want, need,

or believe. People are especially interested in saving money, saving time, and more strongly meeting their basic needs and desires.

- *Money*: Does this product cost less than another? Will this lower taxes?
- *Time*: Is this activity convenient and easy to sign up for? Does the location of this business help people access XYZ thing faster?
- *Care*: Does this line up with a person's basic needs and beliefs about the world? Does it give them better access to food or make them healthier? Does it speak to their religious, spiritual, moral, or ethical views?

If you can center your message around at least two of these, then it makes your campaign relatable to a wider audience - people will have trouble contributing to your cause unless it directly impacts them in some way.

### **It's Okay To Be A Hypocrite**

No one is perfect, and in today's globalized world, almost anything you do will be hurtful to someone or something. Depriving yourself of everything that causes suffering in the world will prevent you from working effectively or having as great of a reach. Just do what you can and know that taking care of your basic needs and striving for happiness is perfectly okay.

### **Do Your Research**

It's important to be aware of your personal biases and ego. Most activists are limited in creating effective change by moral and ethical beliefs, impatience, as well as notions of truth. Things like health food, renewable energies, and green infrastructure are all coated with falsehoods perpetuated through propaganda, mass



marketing, ignorant people, group think, and the unhealthy desire activists can have to help in quick and direct ways. Instead of fighting for broad-scale change, people frequently latch onto the simplest and most easily visible solutions such as getting into arguments about extremely privileged consumer purchases which are too expensive for the majority of people to afford.

### **Changing Ideologies Takes Time**

A common assumption activists make is that their strong emotions toward a cause will be shared by everyone else. They believe this to the extent that they think yelling or aggressively attacking others will win allies. What these activists forget is that it took themselves a very long time to arrive at their current set of beliefs. Perhaps it was growing up in a certain environment such as the forest or city. Perhaps it was being the black sheep within a family. Perhaps it was facing oppression growing up. Whatever it was, realize that convincing people that your movement is worthwhile is an involved task and takes time.

### **Audience**

Keep in mind what attracts people the most. You may host a party or benefit show for a cause, but know that highlighting the music will bring in more people than if you just focus on the cause. Unless your activist group or cause is very popular already, most people won't attend or pay attention. People love fun and play. Draw them in with incentives they care about like social interaction, games, drinking, dancing, laughter, good music, food, education, entertainment, and the like.

### **Balance Your Time**

The most important thing to consider during times of difficulty in an advocacy, volunteer, or activist group is that even the smallest accomplishment is moving towards positive results. Changing

the status quo may take decades, so remind yourself that success is possible by watching or reading about previous campaigns, or by speaking to older peers within your movement. Also consider the amount of work you personally take on to save the human race. Are you doing more than you can handle? It's easy to believe that everything will collapse if you reduce the amount of work you do, but the more long-term you can work, the better. Why not take actions that are more manageable, or recruit new members?

Know your limitations and establish them with your peers. Pass the work on when you reach that limit, because it is better to say "no" to new tasks than it is to become overwhelmed, ignore your personal health, and never return to the group. Working on small goals that show immediate results provides mental rewards that boost personal and group wellness. Ensuring needs are met to create a group of well-rested and positive people may also make it easier to recruit new members.

### **Maintain Your Mental Health**

While joining the fight against climate change brings a great amount of meaning and fulfillment to one's life, it may involve experiencing guilt, anger, verbal abuse, as well as anxiety as you attempt to create change against enormous resistance. Comments and actions from outside forces may be hurtful, but your group's dynamics will especially determine your personal well-being with how much work they put on you, telling you how you can live your life, and generally the mental health of the whole group.

These factors can trigger depression or depressed feelings and lead to burnout and dropping out of your cause. With this knowledge it is up to you to change the culture surrounding your activism, to step back from it, or balance it with other mentally healthy activities. More than anything, just remember that you are important

too and that a content and happy mind is much more effective at creating positive change. Eat well, meditate, spend time in nature, exercise, go to a party, travel, hang out with friends, etc. Do something for yourself!

### **How To Present Yourself**

Activists may carry an identity that is at odds with the mainstream identity. This difference in culture can create a level of disapproval between parties which immediately weakens your argument. Be sure that when making an argument for saving the planet, you are communicating in respect to the other party's cultural identity. As much as many people might not like it, your appearance and choice of words are both part of your argument. Some people simply should not be a spokesperson for a group, and some words and images should simply not be used when spreading information.

Part of a person receiving information you impart to them is that person's ability to listen to and relate to what is being said. If you have a mohawk and are wearing a tutu, you probably won't have good communication with a politician in a business suit. Divisions do exist in this world. People feel more comfortable and trusting of people who they can relate to and feel similar with ideologically, so put on your best act.

### **Media Bias**

Remember that your opposition belongs to a completely separate reality of beliefs. They care a whole lot about themselves, their friends, and their family, and not a whole lot about you and your movement (at least not yet). This is why it is essential that while trying to convince a person to support your movement you connect it to their wants, needs and emotional values in some way. How does your cause impact them, their health, money, land and

loved ones? You may have to temporarily mimic many of your opponents' cultural cues, including in dress, speech, and the aesthetic value of any media that you create. People tend to stick to particular media channels that may not be friendly to your beliefs, so you'll need to figure out ways of spreading information to these people through other channels such as fliers, banners, art, television commercials, one-on-one conversations, and the internet.

### **Creating Media**

The most important factor in making information aesthetically pleasing and effective is time. Take it slow. You can't make a Mona Lisa in five minutes. If possible have someone with a design or art background work on the aesthetic parts, or at least give you pointers. Always have someone else familiar with the group or event double check and critique your work. Don't be offended if they tell you to redo it or to hand the project over to someone else. It is better to have something acceptable a little late than for no one to look at it.

It can also be a good idea to look at other pieces of media you find appealing. Get inspired, or even copy the basic design. This is a great way to learn what works and what doesn't, especially when trying to make media accessible to a specific audience (this may be quite different than what you personally think is aesthetically pleasing). There is also a lot of free software available for creating images, fliers, documents, audio, and videos with, so you should be able to make something decent regardless of having financial resources.

Some symbols are extremely confusing and simply should not be used in your media. This is because they don't convey any solid information to the viewer, and therefore become a waste of space

or carry a negative stereotype that opposing groups use to belittle your cause. Think of how else you can convey a symbol in a form that creates information without confusion such as equality, food, community, and so forth. Furthermore, images should resonate with the audience's interests and culture. You are trying to create comfort, trust, and familiarity to win people over to your cause, not antagonize them!

Some questions to ask yourself with your media creations include:

- Is it visibly eye-catching even at a distance?
- Is there a good balance of text to images?
- Do the images used provide information to the viewer?
- Are there any assumptions about the audience made?
- If there is a sound component, can you hear everything being said clearly?
- Does it correspond with your intended audience?
- If you are trying to get people to do something, are there positive incentives for them to do it? Food, coffee, laughter, health benefits, happiness, or whatever else?
- What emotion does the media create and is it the intended one?

### **Effective Public Speaking**

Not all people learn best in the same way. Many prefer an auditory, visual, or kinesthetic approach to receiving information. A truly effective presentation will appease all three learning styles through narrative, visuals, and hands-on activities.

- **Auditory (hear):** A good public speaker uses their voice and memory effectively. They memorize part of, if not all

their speech. Memorizing a speech can be a lot of work, but just go through it, from start to finish, preferably in front of a mirror, a couple of times. Be familiar with the information you are going to present. Alternate the emotions and vocal tones you present to listeners as well. If appropriate, use humor or imagery to give the audience a break in technical or dramatic information. Just be careful with the type of people in your audience and the humor you try to use. A group's age, culture, and sobriety makes a difference in what is and isn't funny to them.

- Visual (see): To appease visual learners create signs, handouts, power point presentations, or even just an outline of your talking points. Use hand and facial gestures, and have paper and pencils available for people to take notes.
- Kinesthetic (touch): Make your speech “hands-on” by asking your audience questions, allowing them to ask you questions throughout the presentation, breaking into groups for discussion, or by playing a game.

### **Making Information Memorable and Stand Out**

- New knowledge sticks best to already existing knowledge. When presenting information, relate it to commonly known concepts, beliefs, pop-culture, or images. This is why metaphors are very powerful!
- The brain remembers sexual, weird, and humorous information better than it does other types. Note that many T.V. commercials and ads are trying to make you associate a positive emotion with a brand or product rather than convince you to buy that thing immediately – once a person is ready to buy a product or see it in person,

they will be more likely to purchase whatever they have the most positive associations with. This is why humor, sexual content, and nature are heavily used in advertising.

- Different people learn better with different senses, so do your best to educate others on a subject using a variety of means (see above, *Effective Public Speaking*).
- Giving people an interactive experience greatly helps with retaining information by engaging multiple sense.
- Mystery can be used to perk interest, such as “click here to find out what happens next!” or cutting off a sentence early that the reader will want to finish and must click through to see the rest.

## Communication

It is essential that all activists learn various communication styles to handle situations appropriately. Many of us were never taught how to communicate, but just pieced together what we could from growing up in our communities and the media we ingested without understanding the nuances of tone, word choice, rhythm, and so forth.

Nonviolent Communication (NVC) was developed specifically for helping people verbally mediate through their problems instead of killing each other in areas with a lot of racial violence. Now it is used in communities, with couples, between different cultures, in wars, and in conflict situations in general. While perhaps not always the right method, it is a very useful tool for activists to become more effective and happier with their work and in their respective communities or groups.

NVC works by using observations, feelings, needs, and direct requests while avoiding judgmental language. For instance, “when

you play loud music late at night it wakes me up, making me feel grumpy when I am needing sleep. Could you please keep it quiet after 10PM?” This form of communication opens a person up to a conversation rather than making them defensive. You can read a more in-depth overview of Marshall B. Rosenberg’s book *Nonviolent Communication: A Language for Compassion* online or by going to your local library.

I emphasize the reading of this book for activists because of the amount of aggressive and judgmental communication that many activist groups use and in turn alienate people from important causes. In fact, one study titled *The ironic impact of activists: Negative stereotypes reduce social change influence* found that people did not support environmentalist and feminist causes due to what they saw as “eccentric and militant” behavior (*Bashir*). A person will generally believe in your cause, it's just that they need your cause presented in a way that respects their culture, beliefs, and character. This has implications in both your verbal communication and your non-verbal communication such as body language and clothing. Naturally, NVC is not always possible, or the right option, but it is a useful method in many situations.

Responding with violent communication may sometimes be beneficial when you are attacked by someone. While violent communication is not ideal, remaining silent to injustices creates no change. Responding violently may be your only option when there is little time between standing up for yourself and never seeing a person again. A violent rebuttal more than anything gives your ego a boost (though can also make you feel worse), and may also make a definitive awareness that an action or phrase was problematic. However this is very dependent upon how the perpetrator communicates and thinks. Violent communication



mostly works by silencing wrongdoers. It does not necessarily alter their perception of groups of people. In fact, violent communication may reinforce negative feelings toward groups of people, so use it sparingly.

That is why I highly suggest learning nonviolent communication, because it tries to create openness and dialogues to reach understanding between people. It also forces you to slow down and think about how you are speaking before possibly making a violent situation even more violent.

Here are some general suggestions for communicating as an activist:

- Try your best to call people in, not out. In other words, have a conversation with them instead of communicating aggressively. Yelling, seeking revenge, or speaking with hatred, rarely, if ever, convinces a person that they are wrong. These forms of violent communication tend to worsen the mood of both parties and breed thoughts of revenge and feelings of anger.
- A person who enters into an argument with you or makes statements with anger or violence often must first be mediated with to listen to your side. Your goal is to calm them down by openly listening to their needs without reacting in argument, criticism, or judgment. Ask questions. You can state your side once they have calmed down and moved from the emotional to the rational side of thought.
- Have empathy, remembering that everyone has basic needs to fulfill, troubles to take care of, and come from a past you know nothing or very little about.

- Use positive reinforcement. Positive reinforcement is more effective than negative reinforcement (such as yelling) because rewarding a person for good behavior gives them a reason to exhibit a new behavior, whereas punishing someone for a bad behavior does nothing toward showing them an alternative.
- Those who ignore or mock your desire for change may not be willing to alter their behaviors. It may be best to not waste your time on these individuals.

### **Privilege and Guilt**

Many activists experience guilt regarding their lifestyle or position of privilege, especially from the blame they receive from other activists.

- Who you are and what you're doing is okay, even if that means indulging in mainstream culture or your personal privileges. Even the smallest contributions to "positive" change are still helping. In fact, no matter how you go about it, partaking in industrialized civilization directly or indirectly oppresses a human being or other living entity. Even so, working within systems of oppression generally allows you to create much more positive change than if you separated yourself from civilization and were "completely" anti-oppressive. No one is perfect, and that is okay. Be grateful for the privileges you were born with and do your best to use them constructively, but also within the limits of your personal wellness. Oppression is fought much better with a positive mindset!
- Watch out for working with people who use toxic language or are always working with a negative mindset.
- Just because someone says something is "bad" does not

necessarily mean it is, so do your own research. Become informed and do not jump onto bandwagons of new ideas. Many activist, volunteer, and advocacy groups practice forms of groupthink and do not consider ideas fully.

## Policies

Certain policies greatly minimize negative feelings in activist groups. Consider having these easily accessible or posted in your meeting place. For instance:

- Have a membership termination policy that is fair, easily enacted, and that people feel comfortable using. At some point someone who brings down the mood of everyone will come on board and impede your purpose.
- Create a new member orientation that hypes up and educates the new members. Support new members speaking up about problems in a constructive manner.
- Look at different meeting and voting models and choose one that best suits your purpose. People often get bogged down with meetings, so find ways to make them fun and streamlined. Having a check-in question, games, and a trained facilitator are very helpful. Also decide on methods of calming an emotional meeting or knowing when to table an agenda item.

## Arguing and Logical Fallacies

When arguing with a person you want a solid case that your opponent's demographic can understand and connect with on some level. Many statements, known as *logical fallacies*, can weaken an argument or diminish its agreeability. You can avoid these phrases in your own argument while pointing out when your opponent uses them to help bolster the validity of your perspective. Here are some of the most common fallacies:

- Hasty generalization: Using a stereotype to unfairly characterize a group of people. Example: People with glasses are smart.
- Missing the point: Using evidence to support a conclusion, but that conclusion makes no sense in context with the evidence. Example: The rate of car accidents have increased this month, so that must mean that people are drinking and driving more.
- Post hoc or false cause: Making the assumption that just because one event preceded another, the two events are somehow correlated. Example: Daniel sneezed so now Lucy is sick.
- Appeal to authority: Using a famous name without context or attempting to make someone into an expert who isn't. Example: "Of course unicorns exist because my 3 year old nephew says so!"
- Appeal to pity: The arguer tries reaching a conclusion by making the audience feel sorry for someone. Example: "Teacher, I think I deserve an A because I had to go to the hospital to visit my sick grandmother a lot instead of working on the assignment."
- Tu quoque: Making the argument that your opponent is a hypocrite instead of focusing on their argument. Example: "How can we trust Daniel about gun safety when a decade ago he voted for the war?"
- Ad hominem: Attacking your opponent instead of your opponent's argument. Example: "Adrian is obviously too young and stupid to understand, why would we trust her?"

- **Weak analogy:** A weak analogy attempts to compare two different things but does so in a way that uses information irrelevant to the argument. Example: “Not believing in unicorns is like not believing that gravity exists, you can't see either!”
- **Ad populum:** Trying to convince people that a thing is right based on how many people supposedly already use or believe in that thing. Example: “With 3 millions users, why wait? Order now!”
- **Slippery slope:** An argument founded on little evidence and based on the idea that once something is started, it cannot be stopped, thus building a chain of events eventually leading to a catastrophe. Example: “If we let the students wear tank tops, then they would want to wear short shorts, and then they would be too distracted to get good grades!”
- **Appeal to ignorance:** Arguing that something is true because there is not enough evidence to prove it false. Example: “No one can prove that unicorns don't exist somewhere in the universe, so they must be real.”
- **Straw man:** Making an argument about something that isn't actually related to what your opponent is arguing. Example: After Bern decided to study art, her mother accused her of ignoring people in need of medical assistance around the world.
- **Red herring:** Arguing about one thing and then midway through skipping to another related issue without ever finishing the original argument. Example: “Cats should be the national animal. Every nation needs a national

animal because it enhances goodwill to the nation. This will in turn make our military more effective in battle.”

- False dichotomy: Making it seem as though there are only two options (when in fact there are usually many other possibilities), and then making a strong case for one of those options. Example: “You are either with us or against us.”

Trying to convince someone to change with different viewpoints than your own is a great challenge, but possible. If you can, focus on what you do agree on before contradicting what they believe to be true. You want to avoid raising a person's defenses, and a basic way to do this is by being friendly and making a person like you or associating you with positive emotions first. Do not use any logical fallacies mentioned above, especially name calling or other forms of violent communication. Speak using observable facts, basic human needs, and your own personal experiences and emotions. Ask questions and show interest in their perspectives. Once you have some basic connection, you can kindly put in your own perspectives, “Oh that's interesting, I've heard a different take on things” or “In my personal experience I've seen that...”

Even better is to use directed questions to help a person come to their own conclusion. People often learn best when their personal intelligence is empowered, so try not to treat them like an idiot or lecture at them. Another way to do this is by giving a person an experience. Just like habits, beliefs are deeply rooted in the psyche. One of the best ways to loosen belief structures is when a person experiences new things or goes traveling.

Change takes time. Remember that you personally came across your beliefs under very specific circumstances over the course of

years. Even if a person does not immediately alter their ideas, your actions may have at least begun the process.

It's important to note that many people view reality fundamentally different than you do, and that perspective is usually reinforced by a community such as a church, political group, news outlet, or social media. It's almost impossible to change these people unless they are approached by someone else belonging to that community, they can see that their basic needs aren't being met, a law forces them to change, or they lose access to their community. For instance, many Christians are beginning to preach the importance of caring for the environment as a holy act. This works because it does not contradict the core beliefs belonging to Christian culture, and can even be argued as a means of being a better Christian.

### **Substance Abuse**

The stresses that activists experience lead some to use substances as coping mechanisms to fight depression or stop thoughts and feelings. However, substances such as alcohol and tobacco often make depression worse. This substance abuse can be difficult to avoid in alternative or activist social circles when other people have normalized it already. It may be worthwhile to have a discussion regarding it among your peers—why do you use substances? What role does it play? Is it a coping mechanism? What does it say regarding the time you are giving for your personal health and your activist pursuits? Consider creating alternative social venues and positive coping mechanisms, such as a running club, collaborative art group, or meditation circle.

### **Breaking Away From “Us” Versus “Them”**

Most everyone is just trying to get by and actually has the same basic needs, no matter what their upbringing is. Relating your

vision of the world to those basic needs is one of the most powerful ways of speaking to any culture or personality type. Instead of generalizing a group of people (women, men, trans people, whites, blacks, Native Americans, Hispanics, people from the United States of America, socialists, communists, capitalists, hipsters, bros, etc), speak one-on-one with individuals who do not meet your personal needs. Challenge yourself to have empathy before you express anger, and think about what unmet needs you and the person you are communicating with have before speaking. Most of all, avoid creating stereotypes for groups. It only alienates people from one another and reinforces those behaviors!

### **Creating A Mass Movement**

Mass movements are essential to changing deeply rooted systems destroying life on Earth. Individuals can make great leaders, but it is only with their followers that they have power – and you need a lot of power to take on the ideas and people in control.

Most mass movements have appealed to a large population, have scientific or moral backing, find support from rich and powerful people, can secure a large amount of funding, effectively use news and social media outlets to spread information, improves a group's access to their basic needs, and generally make the world a better place. Successful movements will employ effective propaganda and make their followers excited to participate. In nations with powerful law enforcement bodies, non-violent movements tend to be more effective.

Often artists will be the first to introduce a movement to a mainstream population such as through books, fictional stories, songs, poems, paintings, workshops, and theater. Mass movements can gain great sway if depicted in mainstream television productions or spoken about by famous musicians. This is often more effective



by showing instead of telling an audience about a cause, for instance, running a sitcom with homosexual characters or including a diversity of races in a commercial. The goal is to normalize an idea to the extent that people start asking “why isn't it like this everywhere?” Using subtlety and slowly introducing a concept helps prevent an audience from outright blocking an idea from becoming part of their reality. That said, shock value and fear can also work if an audience already cares about a cause but is simply unaware of it – this is typically the case when it relates broadly to the viewers' basic needs, for instance in the case of environmental concerns.

# Skills and Careers

So what if we are unable to prevent collapse? What will be necessary to know during these times? The vast majority of jobs that people currently perform in their day to day lives are disconnected from anything essential to human survival. In other words, the jobs do not directly meet basic human needs (sustenance, safety, love, empathy, rest, community, creativity, freedom, and purpose). Instead, money is provided for the services of working a job, which may then be spent on meeting basic needs. Most of these jobs are at least one step removed from the basics – A grocery store worker instead of a farmer, an insurance agent instead of a doctor, a consultant instead of a construction worker, and so on.

Of course, these jobs have become essential within the framework of our society for several reasons – many skills require specialized training and certifications due to laws and liabilities, capitalism exists to make a profit and exploit cheap labor as much as possible, specific knowledge is needed to sort out all the technical jargon and paperwork, hierarchies can exist in which people can be paid less for doing undesirable tasks, and most of all, it's more efficient. On one hand, people are less broadly knowledgeable and generally unprepared for performing jobs outside of their selected field, on the other, specialization improves productivity, thus earning business owners greater profits. The cost is that workers feel unfulfilled in their mundane and repetitive tasks, and in the case of job industries collapsing, cannot easily apply themselves to new jobs. Well, if society collapses many forms of specialization won't matter, and everyone will need a few basic skills to survive with. You don't need to know everything listed in this book, but

be sure to have a community that fills out a good portion of these basics.

Some of the skills and careers mentioned are useful now in preparation for collapse scenarios, while others would be difficult to make a career out of until after disasters and general societal breakdown. In certain hypothetical situations we still have good power sources and access to many materials, but in others we are rather limited and must make do with local resources. You are best off knowing skills at both ends of the spectrum. Even if making something yourself is inefficient compared to purchasing it cheaply, the act can still be fun and feel good. Being a little more friendly to nature and creating an understanding of how our ancestors and many people around the world still to this day go about living can also fulfill you at a basic level.

Many books could be written on each of the skills and careers presented, and so this chapter will merely act as a brief introduction. If you would like to actually learn these skills and careers, see the resources chapter at the end of this book, go to your local library, find a class, or peruse the myriad of online resources including videos, forums, and search engines.



# Animal Breeders and Trainers

Animals have assisted humans throughout history by providing food, work, transportation, and companionship. Large livestock may not survive into the far future, or at least not in the millions we currently see in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but regardless, the practice of animal husbandry (using animals to assist in human labor) is nearly essential if automobiles cannot be powered to plow the fields and transport goods and people. Horses, camels, and other large animals that can carry humans will become especially important if roads are too damaged to drive or bicycle on. Animals may need to be bred to strengthen their resilience to extreme heat and cold as well as diseases.

**Horses, Oxen, and Camels:** transportation, plowing

**Goats, Sheep, Pigs, and Cows:** mowing and weed control, milk, meat, wool

**Pigeons and Falcons:** messengers, mice and rat control

**Cats:** mice and rat control to protect food stores

**Dogs:** security, companionship

**Bees, Crickets, and Other Insects:** pollination, honey, silk, food (sustainable protein)





## Bioremediation and Habitat Restoration

Heavy metals, nuclear fallout, pesticides, and oil spills will continue to contaminate our natural resources and means of survival. Bioremediation is the act of removing pollutants and restoring or strengthening natural habitats by using biological processes. In this way, infertile, polluted, or desert lands can be made to produce healthy food and clean drinking water. These processes also help create habitat for wildlife to thrive in.

**Fungi and Bacteria:** can break down harmful pollutants

**Chemicals:** can break down harmful pollutants, though often with negative effects

**Plants:** can break down harmful pollutants, sequester carbon from the atmosphere, store water, outcompete invasive plants, and protect streams and groundwater

**Animals and Insects:** the (re)introduction of certain animals and insects can help eliminate invasive plant, animal, and insect species





## Candle and Lantern Makers

Light keeps us safe from the darkness and has allowed humanity to work, party, and make bad decisions late into the night. Unless localized power supplies are established in communities, it is unlikely that the electric grid that powers most modern lights continues. Instead, candles and lanterns will become necessary to light your way to the outhouse after the sun goes down. You could also consider just sleeping when it gets dark.

**Candles:** instead of paraffin, the primary ingredient used for candle making may become bees wax and tallow from beef or sheep fat

**Fireflies in a Jar:** not much light, but it is pretty

**Lanterns:** many types of fat such as olive oil can be burned in lanterns instead of kerosene, though the lanterns must be modified to work properly



# Ceramics

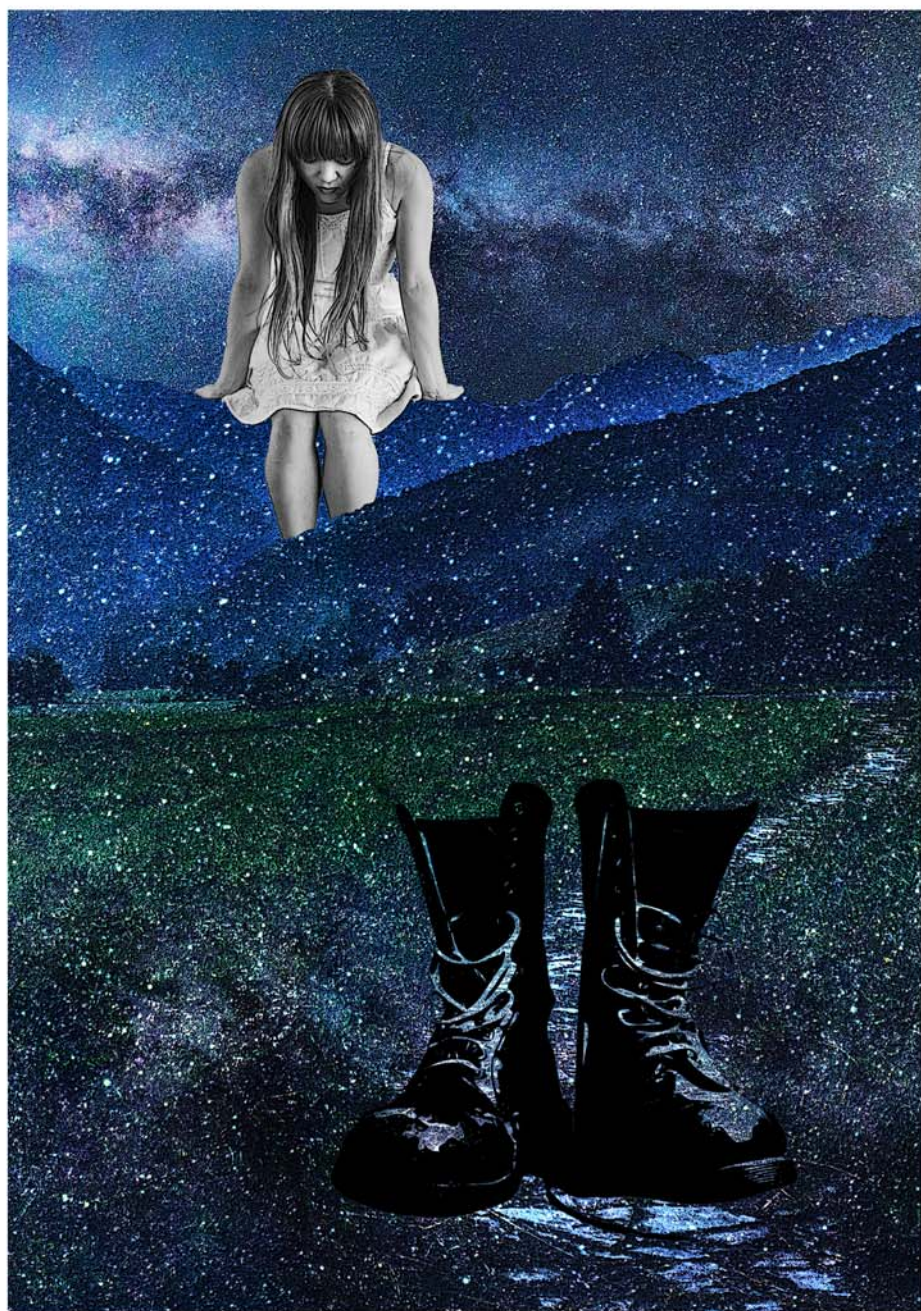
Humans have been making pottery and other ceramic items for tens of thousands of years. If stable power sources collapse, pit firing ceramics by burning wood or charcoal will return as the predominant method of hardening clay into semi-permanent forms of kitchenware, art, and construction materials. While clay that requires higher temperatures to harden may become obsolete, earthenware clay with its low firing point will remain a good option for ceramicists to work with.

**Clay Mining and Processing:** there are many types of clay that can be used right out of the ground, but may first require processing to remove impurities like stones and organic matter

**Kitchenware:** plates, bowls, cooking dishes, evaporative refrigeration with wet sand in clay pots, and water catchment

**Construction:** tiles for flooring and roofing





# Cobblers

Even though wearing modern shoes (and primarily walking on flat surfaces) has made our feet weaker and more prone to internal injury, the protection from pointy objects and warmth offered by shoes would be hard to give up. Shoes may be as simple as wrapping cloth around your feet to as complicated as building retractable roller skates and rocket boosters inside of the soles.

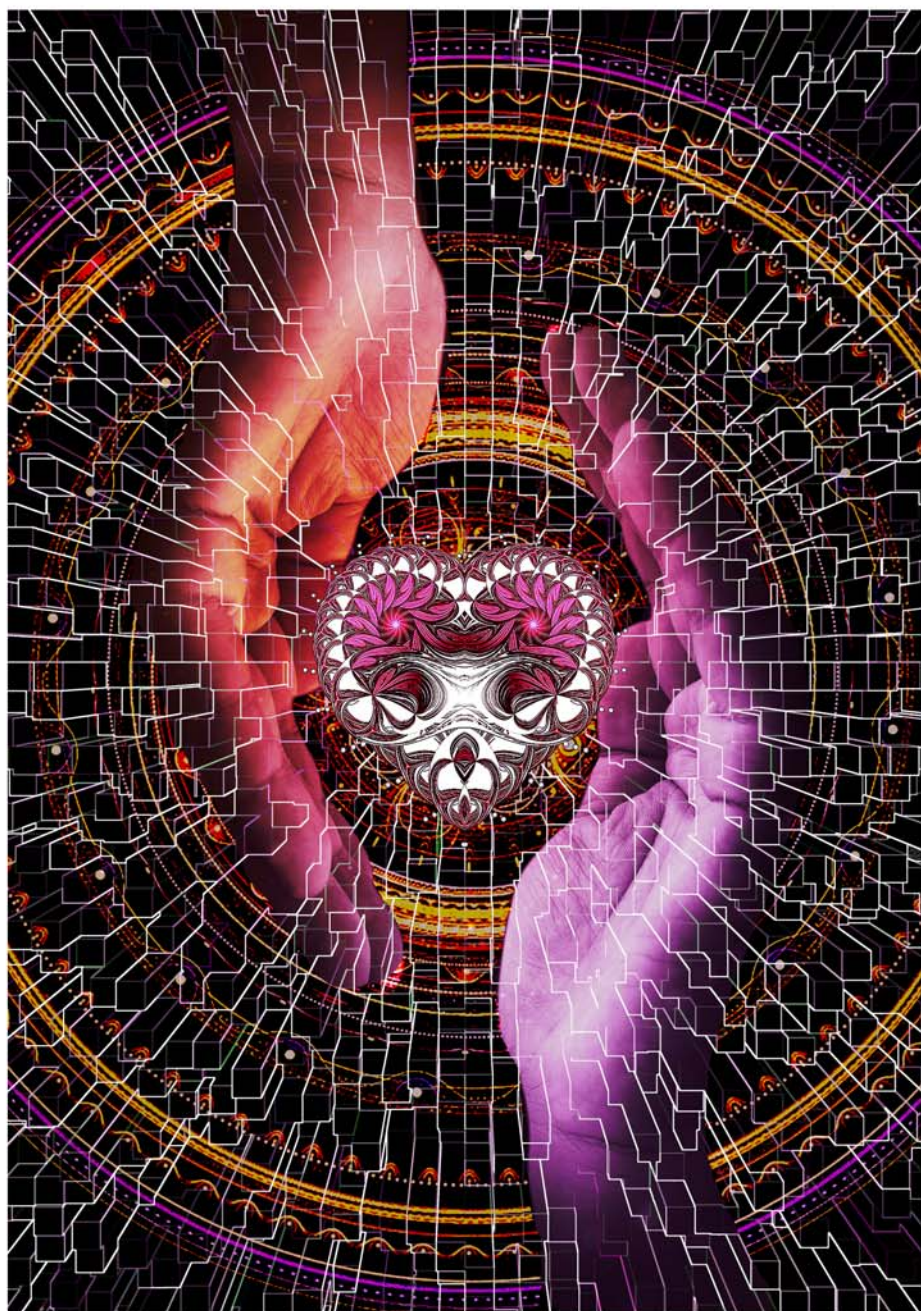
**Footwear:** made from leather, cotton, rubber from tires, plastic, and other materials

**Insoles:** anything that will soften the inside of a shoe or forms well to the arch of a foot is a big hit among shoe-wearing folk

**Laces:** velcro may not be readily available if society collapses, so laces are your next best bet for preventing shoes from flopping off your foot

**Soles:** the underside of the shoe is typically useful with some tread to grip the ground with but smooth bottoms can make fine dancing shoes





# Community

A community is a group working toward a common goal. Individuality is spreading in industrialized nations as the human population continues to increase, technology replaces human interaction, and cultures continue to have difficulty getting along sharing the same spaces. When people realize how terribly lonely and inefficient their lives are, or when resources beyond a localized area become difficult to access, communities will be forced to form again out of a joyful realization or necessity. Some economies will cease the usage of monetary exchange and go to bartering or communal sharing. Learn more by reading my booklet, *Community How To*, available for free at <[www.sageliskey.com](http://www.sageliskey.com)> or pick up a copy on my Etsy shop at <[www.etsy.com/shop/radcatpres](http://www.etsy.com/shop/radcatpres)>.

**Governance:** meeting facilitators, mediators, project managers – people to help organize the growing of crops, community events, planning how many residents can be supported in an area including with newborns and trade, creating agreements among residents

**Rules, Laws, and Security:** law enforcement for mediation of disputes, helping transform people who cause trouble in the community, protecting resources from thieves

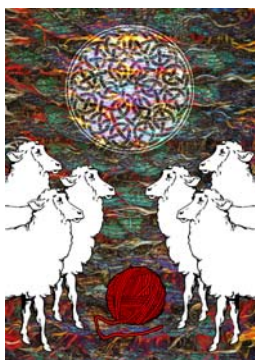
**Resource Sharing:** trading, water access, skill sharing, exchanging crops, tool sharing, helping out one another with what you have

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# About The Author

Sage Liskey is an Oregon-born writer, artist, designer, and activist. He is the founder of the Rad Cat Press and author of numerous zines and books covering topics such as mental health, personal empowerment, activism, community, sustainability, and poetry. Much of his work can be read for free at <[www.sageliskey.com](http://www.sageliskey.com)> or purchased on <[www.esty.com/shop/radcatpress](http://www.esty.com/shop/radcatpress)>.



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