



# EARTH STRIKE



## MISSION STATEMENT 2019





# EARTH STRIKE

## GENERAL STRIKE TO SAVE THE PLANET

## CONTENTS

<b>WHO WE ARE</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>THE PROBLEM</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>THE FACTS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>THE EFFECTS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>THE CAUSE</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>THE CULPRITS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>OUR PLAN</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>OUR SCHEDULE</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>OUR PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>SOURCES</b>	<b>14</b>



# EARTH STRIKE

## WHO WE ARE

**We're a grassroots movement demanding immediate climate action from governments and corporations worldwide.**

Earth Strike is comprised of thousands of diverse people from around the world who are concerned about the climate and fully dedicated to enacting systemic change. Beginning in November 2018, a single rallying cry on Reddit grew into a substantial international movement within days, united by a common cause, shared principles, and a willingness to fight for the future of our planet.

We now have members in over sixty countries, and national and local chapters organizing autonomously across the globe. We are a horizontal, broad-tent movement, inclusive to anyone and everyone who is on board with our principles and our purpose.

2018 was a big year for climate activism, and 2019 is poised to be even bigger. Many burgeoning environmental movements have sprouted in the past few years, all tackling the same problem from different angles. Our line of attack: a **global general strike!**



**More information can be found at:  
earth-strike.com**

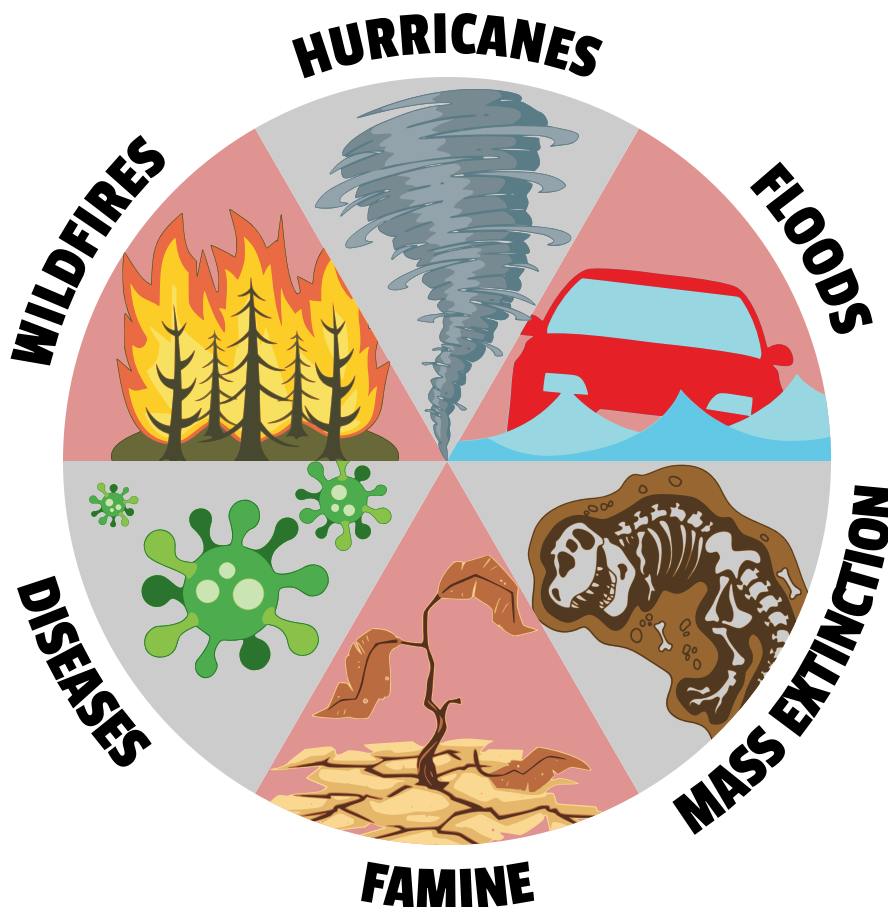


# EARTH STRIKE

## THE PROBLEM

**We are headed for climate catastrophe.**

In October 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a grim report on the devastating impacts of a potential global temperature rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius - which, if we keep pumping out greenhouse gases at our current rate, is slated to happen **as early as 2030**.



If the world does not act quickly on climate change, the above graphic paints a picture of what is in store over the next century. Climbing temperatures and rising sea levels have disastrous effects.



# EARTH STRIKE

## THE FACTS

**The worldwide climatological community has shown beyond a doubt that the planet's climate is changing, and human industry is responsible.**

Below is a series of maps from NASA showing the global temperature deviation by year. From 1900 to 2000, the warming trend was fairly slow. The last map is from 2017 - just 17 years after the second map, yet the difference in temperature is stark. Global temperature is not only rising, its rise is accelerating.

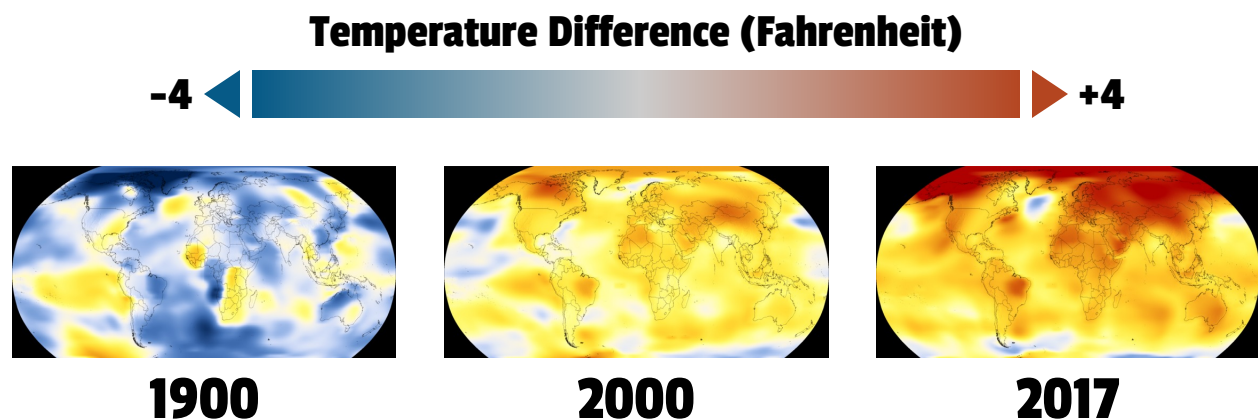


Image source: NASA | <https://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/global-temperature>

A few degrees doesn't sound like a lot, but our planet is delicate. That change causes our polar ice to melt. In 1980, our north pole had about 8 million km<sup>2</sup> of sea ice. In 2018, it was down to only 4.6 million km<sup>2</sup>. Here are satellite pictures of this effect, taken by NASA:

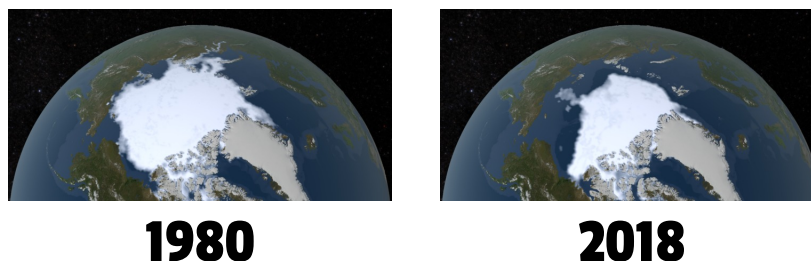


Image source: NASA | <https://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/arctic-sea-ice>



# EARTH STRIKE

## THE EFFECTS

**So, average temperatures are increasing and sea levels are rising. But what does that all mean?**

Like it or not, these changes to our climate will have severe impacts on us and our surrounding environment. Here are just a few of the myriad ways our ecosystem will be affected:

### SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS

Severe weather events such as hurricanes and flooding are amongst the most devastating effects of climate change. Loss of life and property, contaminated water, and the spread of waterborne illnesses are common fallouts of water-related disasters.

In the coming decades, rising sea levels are expected to put 10 million more people at risk of flooding, forcing millions to leave their homes and become climate refugees.

### DROUGHTS & FAMINES

Increased temperatures lead to longer and more severe droughts.

Researchers found that without efforts to reduce emissions, yields of vegetables would be cut by about 35 percent in the second half of this century.

Crops lost to insects will also increase. When temperatures are higher, the body temperature of insects is also higher, leading to increased energy demands. The result is more insects consuming more food. Two degrees of global warming could double the volume of wheat that is currently lost to pests.

What all of this results in is higher food prices, less stable food supply, and general food insecurity.



# EARTH STRIKE

## THE EFFECTS



### DANGEROUS HEATWAVES

The world's increasing temperatures will lead to longer and hotter heatwaves.

Heatwaves are deadly. Dehydration and heat stroke are common heat-related fatalities, and heat can exacerbate many underlying conditions. The 2003 European heatwave was estimated to have led to the death of 70 000 people – and that was less than 1°C of warming.



### DEVASTATING WILDFIRES

Increased temperatures cause drier conditions, which lead to an increase in wildfires.

Wildfires are extremely destructive of land, human life, and wildlife. Increased fire risk is especially true in the western and northern parts of North America. The USDA Forest Service says just one degree of annual temperature anomaly, which we're already approaching today, has led to a 600% increase in median annual burned area in some forest types, and is a significant cause of the annual wildfire season having extended over two months in duration longer than average.



### SPREAD OF ILLNESS VECTORS

As temperatures and waters rise, disease-carrying ticks and mosquitos will thrive in the hot and humid climates.

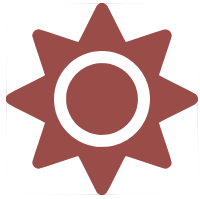
Vector borne illnesses, such as malaria, Zika virus, Lyme, and West Nile Virus are already increasing. In the past 13 years, mosquito and tick borne diseases have increased threefold in the US. By 2050, it's estimated that 68% of California's populations will be at an increased risk for West Nile Virus with current climate change patterns.



# EARTH STRIKE

## THE CAUSE

The global average temperature is influenced by three main factors:



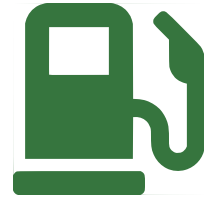
### **INSOLATION**

the amount of solar radiation that reaches our atmosphere



### **PARTICULATES**

e.g. from volcanoes, blocking solar radiation from entering our atmosphere



### **GREENHOUSE GASES**

e.g. CO<sub>2</sub> and methane, trapping solar radiation within our atmosphere

As one might expect, the more solar radiation that reaches our atmosphere, enters it, and gets trapped within it, the hotter our average temperature becomes. All three of these factors work together to maintain the delicately balanced climate necessary to sustain much of Earth's life.

## **So what's to blame for our current warming?**

Over time, insolation is pretty predictable. The sun's output follows an 11-year solar cycle, and the amount that reaches our surface depends only on our orbit and axial tilt – also very predictable things by now, if clothing store prices are anything to go by. The effects of increased insolation are obviously quite hard for us to prevent, but thankfully they are short-lived and not responsible for our current warming trend.

The amount of particulates in the Earth's atmosphere, from things like volcanic eruptions, is much less predictable, and can have more noticeable consequences. At an extreme level, the volcanic eruption of Huaynaputina in 1600 caused the coldest year in six centuries, leading to the Russian famine of 1601-03 which killed two million people. Lucky for us again, beyond these short timescales, eruptions don't factor into our calculations.



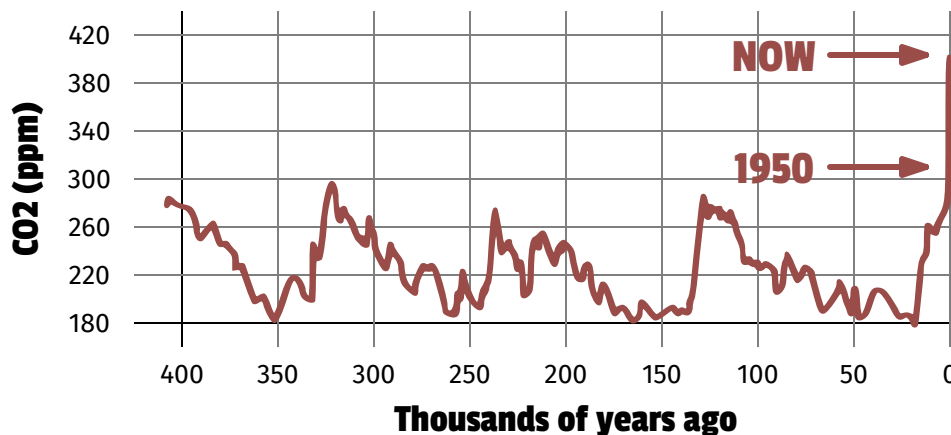


# EARTH STRIKE

## THE CAUSE

This leaves us with greenhouse gas levels, which have also risen and fallen historically in less predictable ways. Carbon dioxide, being the product of animal respiration, is the most common of these, and a graph of its prevalence in the atmosphere over time is shown below. Despite the graph's erratic, spiky nature, one big spike in particular might stand out to you.

### Prevalence of Carbon Dioxide in the Atmosphere



Data source: Nature.com | <https://www.nature.com/articles/nature06949>

In short, while all three of these factors – insolation, particulates, and greenhouse gases – can contribute to changes in Earth's temperature over time, the most significant and pressing factor in our current period of warming is the accumulation of man-made carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere. We must change our habits dramatically if we are to reverse this warming trend.

# THE CULPRITS

## Who's to blame?

While there is no one person, country, or company responsible for climate change, the latest research and data can give us a pretty good idea of who and what contributes the most.

For starters, according to data put forth by scientists from Cambridge University, in 2010, a whopping 67.3% of emissions put forth were from the burning of fossil fuels.

# 2/3

**of global greenhouse gas emissions come from the burning of fossil fuels.**

According to the CDP's  
2017 Carbon Majors Report,

## 100 polluters

**are responsible for 71%  
of global industrial  
greenhouse gas emissions**

These polluters, and the power and transportation companies in general, must be held accountable. Their regulators have failed to do their jobs, and must face consequences.

## Who are the Carbon Majors?

### THE TOP TEN



أرامكو السعودية  
Saudi Aramco





# EARTH STRIKE

## OUR PLAN

**Our protests and rallies, scheduled throughout 2019, are raising awareness for a **GLOBAL GENERAL STRIKE** beginning **September 27**.**



**The companies and politicians are destroying our planet. But they are few in number, and it is our compliance in the system that keeps them afloat.**

**To prepare for our strike, we will educate, engage, and assist our local communities through:**



### **Educating and Engaging**

citizens by reaching out to local communities, distributing educational materials, and helping others get involved through direct action.



### **Demonstrating**

at public events worldwide, to spread our message and train our communities in boots-on-the-ground activism.



### **Naming and Shaming**

corporate executives who contribute to environmental destruction, and politicians who fail to regulate them effectively.



### **Connecting**

with other environmental activist groups to form a worldwide network and unify the global environmental cause.



### **Providing a Platform**

for leading environmental activists to share their visions for the future of climate activism.



### **Providing Mutual Aid**

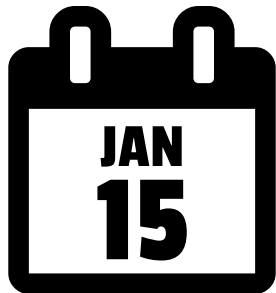
for those who are already victims of climate change, and will continue to be victimized in the future by its wide-ranging effects.



# EARTH STRIKE

## INTERNATIONAL SCHEDULE

**We have scheduled three international events for 2019, to raise awareness for our strike beginning September 27.**



### Earth Strike Kickoff Protest

Our first worldwide event will help local organizers engage their communities and kickstart our ground support.

### Halfway Earth Day Protest

On the weekend after Earth Day, organizers and protests will use the build-up to May Day to form closer ties with local unions, who will be integral in building widespread support for the strike.



### Final Pre-Strike Protest

On the Earth Overshoot Day of 2019, we will hold one final protest before our strike, as a final wake-up call for those that have not yet joined in.

Additional country-wide and city-wide events are scheduled by local organizers.

**To find the dates and locations for your local events, go to:**

**[earth-strike.com/map](http://earth-strike.com/map)**



# EARTH STRIKE

## OUR PRINCIPLES

**Our shared values that define Earth Strike as a movement.**



### SOLIDARITY

Our first and foremost principle is unification around our common goal, cause, and motive. We fight for climate action because we have compassion and concern for every human being on planet Earth. Only by acting together, in solidarity, do we have a chance.



### HORIZONTALISM

Earth Strike is a people's movement. We are loyal not to our leaders, but to our purpose and our principles, which are universal and adoptable by anyone. As long as these principles are followed, anyone is free to organize a local Earth Strike chapter and run it autonomously how they see fit.



### CLARITY OF PURPOSE

Our general strike is the focal point of our movement – what sets us apart from other burgeoning environmentalist groups working alongside us. The people must tackle climate change from every angle, and our line of attack is through withholding our labour.

To this end, our worldwide protests are important for us to spread our message, but they are merely instrumental to our mission. We are not pleading for sympathy, we are displaying our power.



### CLARITY OF MESSAGE

Climate activism has a reputation for being moralizing, and embarking on frivolous campaigns against tiny issues of consumption. Earth Strike recognizes that the time for this is long past, and our real target is not the consumers, but the institutions of production.

As individuals, our contribution to climate change is negligible, but our contribution to the economy is indispensable.



### CONSISTENCY

Earth Strike is open to only those whose views and actions are compatible with our mission. In particular, we do not allow the support of worker exploitation or landlordism, and we do not permit the presence of, or support for, police or current state armed forces.



### INCLUSIVITY

Earth Strike does not permit alignment with, or sympathy for, hateful, bigoted, or reactionary ideology, politics, or actions. This includes: homophobia, transphobia, white supremacy, ethnonationalism, imperialism, and apologia, denial, support, or sympathy for genocide and genocidal politics.



# EARTH STRIKE

## OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

**We are supported by many other climate activists and organizations, all tackling the same problem from different angles.**

Among the international groups that have voiced their support are:



### Extinction Rebellion UK

Extinction Rebellion is fighting climate-induced mass extinction through civil disobedience. First established in the UK, their massive protests and sit-ins in London in November 2018 took the media by storm.



### Fridays For Future

Fridays for Future is an environmental activist movement started by 16-year-old activist Greta Thunberg, whose scathing December 2018 speech to world leaders at a UN climate summit catapulted her to international prominence.



### IWW Environmental Unionism Caucus

The IWW Environmental Unionism Caucus seeks to unite the labour movement and the environmental movement, to transition unsafe and unsustainable industry to one that meets the best labour and environmental standards.

**For a full list of endorsements from international and local organizations, visit**  
**[earth-strike.com/supporters](https://earth-strike.com/supporters)**



# EARTH STRIKE



## SOURCES

**The scientific data used in this document is derived from research in reputable publications. Our sources are listed here for reference.**

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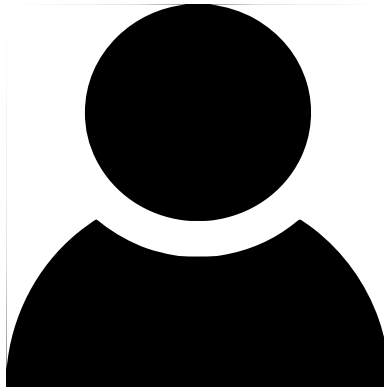
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# EARTH STRIKE

## CONTACT US

**Any more questions? Get in touch with our  
spokespeople!**



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**International Spokesperson**

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Head to [earth-strike.com/map](https://earth-strike.com/map) to find and contact local chapters.