



WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE CRISES



FROM THIS MOMENT
DESPAIR ENDS
AND TACTICS BEGIN

**WE NEED TO
OVERCOME
COLLECTIVE DENIAL
OF THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS**



MORAL OBLIGATIONS TO ACT

**“Why didn’t you stop this
when you still could?”**



OUR MORAL OBLIGATIONS:

- **To other living humans (ecological justice)**
- **To future humans (intergenerational fairness)**
- **To ourselves (right to rebel in self-protection)**
- **To the other living things that share this planet**



**LOOKED AT LIKE THIS, THE QUESTION
BECOMES NOT:**



“WHY SHOULD WE FIX THIS?”

BUT



**“HOW CAN WE LIVE WITH
OURSELVES IF WE DON'T?”**

WHAT HAVE WE TRIED TO DO ALREADY?

GLOBALLY:

**Several global climate summits over
several decades**

• Rio • Kyoto • Paris



WHAT HAVE WE TRIED TO DO ALREADY?

LOCALLY:

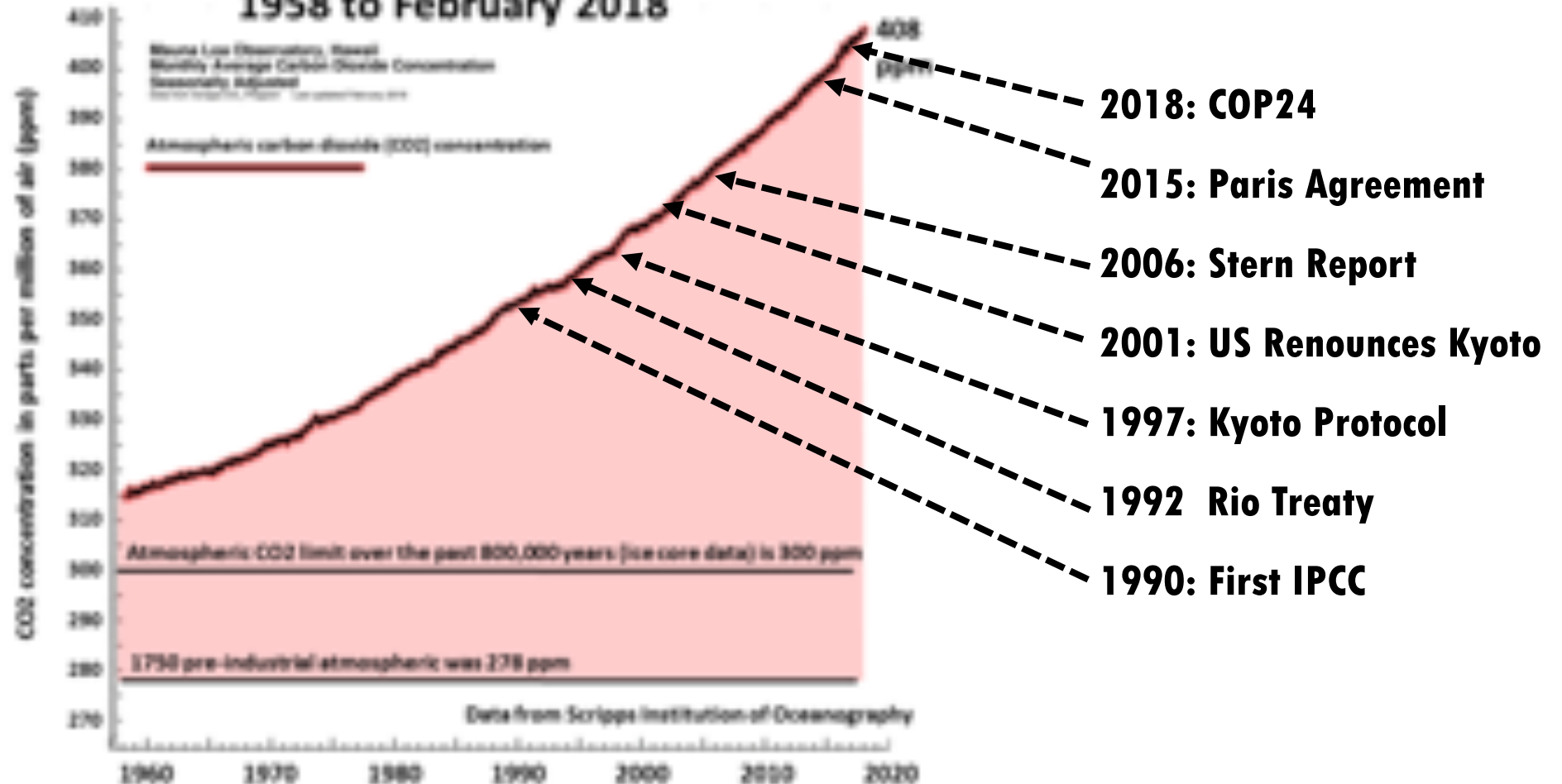
**Numerous approaches to making changes locally
(within each country)**

- **Political • Legal • Campaigning • Individual action**



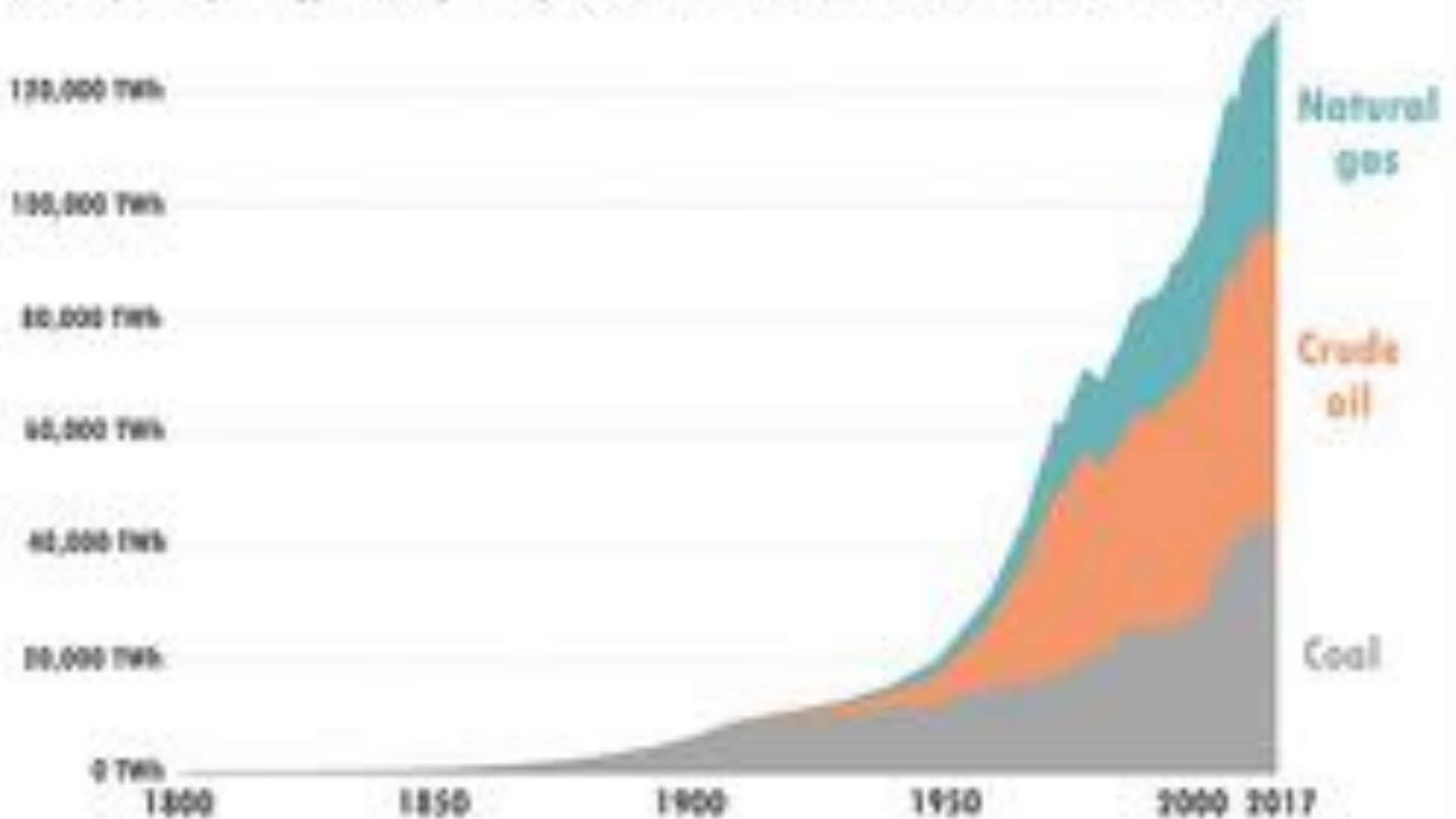
NONE OF THIS HAS WORKED

Accelerating Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide Concentration
1958 to February 2018



FOSSIL FUEL USE CONTINUES TO SKYROCKET

Global primary energy consumption by fossil fuel source, measured in terawatt-hours (TWh)

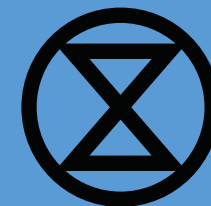


Source: Wicke (2017) Energy Transitions: Global and National Perspectives & BP Statistical review of World Energy

WHY HASN'T IT WORKED?

Structural problems

- **Short-termism of democracy**
- **Capitalism's failure to cost the future**
- **Need for action to be collective (global)**



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rebellion**



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**WE NEED A
NEW
APPROACH**

INTRODUCING EXTINCTION REBELLION!

- **Formed in 2018**
- **Declaration of Rebellion in October 2018**
- **Bridge blockades propelled it into public awareness**
- **Has grown rapidly since**

EXTINCTION REBELLION HAS NOW ACHIEVED A GLOBAL REACH



WE AIM TO GET 3.5% OF THE POPULATION INVOLVED IN DIRECT ACTION

No government can withstand a challenge of 3.5% of its population without either accommodating the movement or (in extreme cases) disintegrating.

Research by Erica Chenoweth Professor of Public Policy
at Harvard Kennedy School and Professor at the Radcliffe
Institute for Advanced Study

She has a TED Talk if you'd rather not read the academi
papers.



XR's APPROACH IS MODELLED ON CIVIL RESISTANCE

Non-violent direct action (NVDA)



Mahatma Gandhi



Rosa Parks



Martin Luther King

"Any man who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust and willingly accepts the penalty by staying in jail to arouse the conscience of the community on the injustice of the law is at that moment expressing the very highest respect for law."

Martin Luther King

XR's MODEL OF CIVIL RESISTANCE

Needs to be:

- **NON-VIOLENT**
- **Involving a lot of people to create a “tipping point” for change**
- **Focused on cities where the power is**
- **Disruptive, so as to get attention**
- **Respectful...**

**... but should also be creative
and engaging, and fun**



OUR THREE DEMANDS

1. **Tell the truth about the ecological crisis and declare a climate emergency**
2. **Greenhouse gas net-zero & halting of biodiversity loss by 2025**
3. **Citizens' assembly on climate and ecological justice**





WHY 2025?

2025 IS PROXY FOR “ACT IMMEDIATELY”

- **Government target of 2050 is based on the assumption of non-existent “negative emissions technologies”**
- **2050 is too far away (30 years) to motivate politicians to take the strong action needed NOW**
- **People are dying now and so we need full-scale action now. We cannot delay.**

WHY IS XR's 3rd DEMAND FOR A CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY?

“A citizens’ assembly is a group of people who are brought together to discuss an issue or issues, and reach a conclusion about what they think should happen. The people who take part are chosen so they reflect the wider population – in terms of demographics (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity, social class) and sometimes relevant attitudes (e.g. preferences for a small or large state).”



WHY DO WE WANT A CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY?

- **Can take the long view**
- **Free from corporate influences**
- **Truly representative of the population**
- **Trusted by the public**
- **Has been effective before (Ireland, Poland)**



EXTINCTION REBELLION PRACTICALITIES— HOW WE WORK



10 PRINCIPLES

1. We have a shared vision of change

Creating a world that is fit for generations to come.

2. We set our mission on what is necessary

Mobilising 3.5% of the population to achieve system change

3. We need a regenerative culture

Creating a culture which is healthy, resilient and adaptable.

4. We openly challenge ourselves and our toxic system

Leaving our comfort zones to take action for change.

5. We value reflecting and learning

Following a cycle of action, reflection, learning, and planning for more action.

10 PRINCIPLES

6. We welcome everyone and every part of everyone

Working actively to create safer and more accessible spaces.

7. We actively mitigate for power

Breaking down hierarchies of power for more equitable participation.

8. We avoid blaming and shaming

We live in a toxic system, but no one individual is to blame.

9. We are a non-violent network

Using non-violent strategy and tactics as the most effective way to bring about change.

10. We are based on autonomy and decentralisation

We collectively create the structures we need to challenge power.

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**We are
NON-VIOLENT**



“When it gets down to having to use violence, then you are playing the system’s game... Because once they’ve got you violent, then they know how to handle you. The only thing they don’t know how to handle is non-violence and humour.”

John Lennon

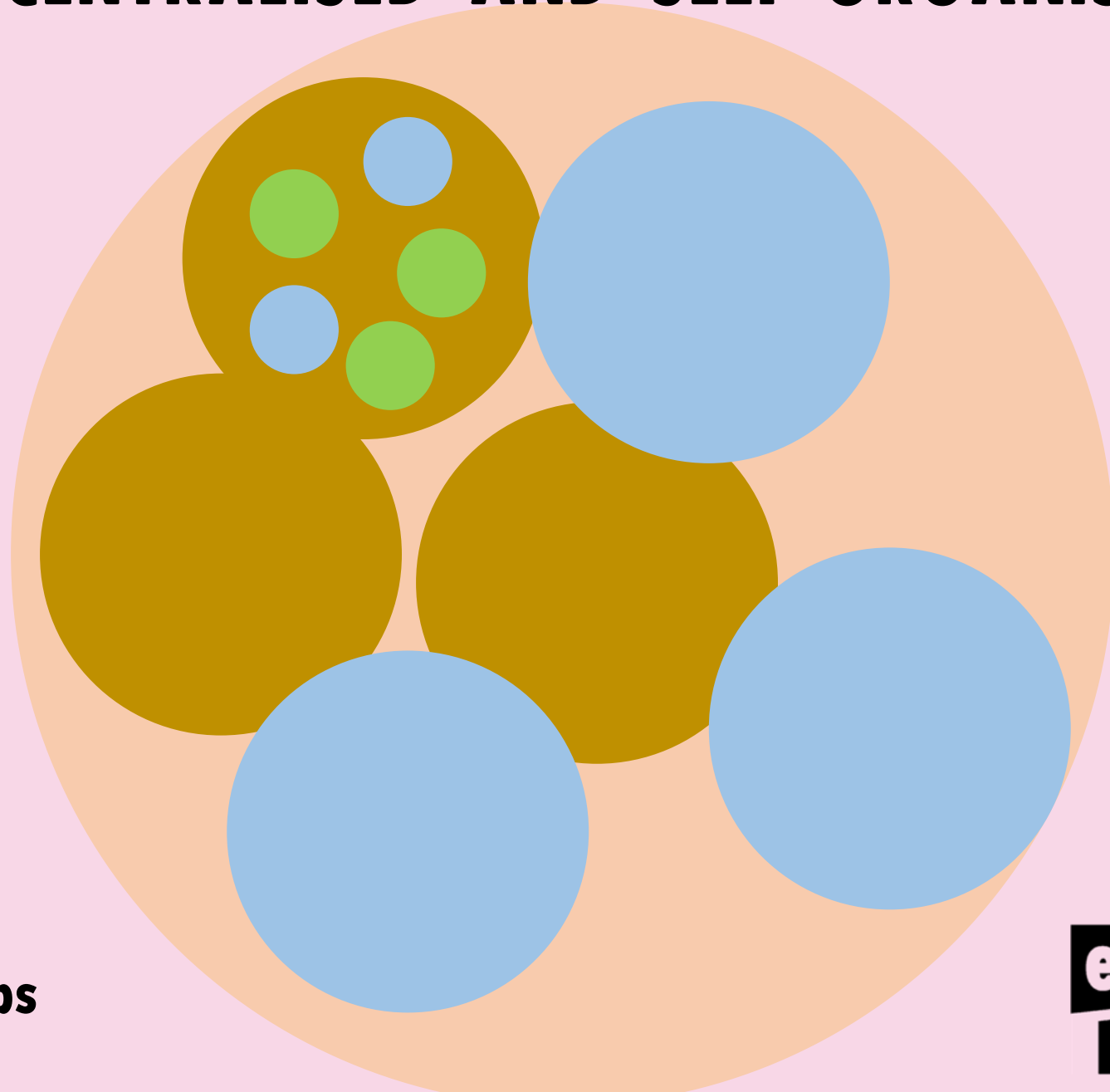


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**We are
DE-CENTRALISED**

WE ARE DE-CENTRALISED AND SELF-ORGANISING



-  **Local groups**
-  **Affinity groups**
-  **Working groups**
-  **Coordinating groups**

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**We have a
REGENERATIVE CULTURE**



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**Our core activities are
ACTIONS**

SOME ACTIONS ARE CONCEIVED AND PLANNED LOCALLY



“Die-in”



Banner-hanging

SOME ARE CONCEIVED AND PLANNED NATIONALLY



“ARRESTABLES” SUPPORT OUR DISRUPTIVE ACTIONS



HOWEVER, for every person who is willing to be arrested there are 20+ others working on other projects



HOW YOU COULD CONTRIBUTE TIME, SKILLS & TALENT

For example you could:

- **Moderate a Facebook page**
- **Produce art**
- **Attend actions**
- **Join/coordinate a working group**
- **Organise/present a talk**
- **Start a local group**





WHY GET INVOLVED?



SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- **How will you explain inaction to future generations?**
- **Positive action is therapeutic (also fun!)**
- **It's a chance to meet amazing people and do something worthwhile**
- **It means being on the right side of history**

**NOW: JOIN THE Q&A GROUP OR
LOOK AT THE UNOFFICIAL GUIDE TO XR**