



# a BEGINNER's GUIDE to CHANGING the WORLD

February 2024

the CLIMATIQUE manifesto

# Land Acknowledgement

We must repair the wrongs of the past to build a truly just future. The land that this event occurred on in Boulder, Colorado was first occupied and stewarded by Indigenous Nations including the Apache, Hinono'ei-teen, Arapaho, Cheyenne, Comanche, Kiowa, Pawnee, Shoshone, Sioux and Ute, and the violence committed against these nations is a result of the same culture of extraction, racism, and individualism that has led to the crisis we experience now. Indigenous knowledge and leadership has also contributed deeply to the movement for sustainability, community building, and collective action for social change. We would like to thank Siwar and his family of the Quechua nation in Oceangate, Peru for the wisdom and guidance they shared that helped to shape the ideas listed here.

# Join us!

Want to be involved? Join our WhatsApp to get connected to the community, hear about upcoming meetings + internal events, and fill out the intake form if you're interested in leadership or contributing specific skills (anything from leading collective action, to programming, music making, photography, etc!)



Interested, but not ready to be involved?  
Follow our instagram to see what we're up to and hear about our public events and collective actions:

**@CLIMATIQUENOW**

# Why bother?

*“A population that’s trying to save today’s world, ... they are not recognizing that there’s a problem with the world they are trying to save. They are actually trying to save dystopia.”*

—Dr. Kyle Powys Whyte

**WE BELIEVE THAT TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE IS POSSIBLE.** But we also understand that the scale of the many crises we face can make it feel like our individual actions don’t matter. Here’s why it’s worth joining the movement for radical change.

## #1: The Reality

*Things aren’t great right now, and if we continue business as usual, they are going to get a lot worse.*

Our generation faces a **polycrisis**: Rising temperatures, unreasonably high costs of living, exhausting work schedules, increasing natural disasters, air and land pollution, biodiversity loss, wealth inequality, deteriorating mental health and wellbeing, imperialist governments and genocide, water scarcity, and dissolving democracy.

oof.





Many of these crises are gaining momentum, and the actions we take this decade will decide our climate for centuries to come — our planet's climate, but the prevailing political and social climate, too.

## #2: The Possibilities

*A far better future is possible. Don't you want to experience it?*

The changes that we need to make to solve the polycrisis might also result in a much more beautiful life for many more people. That could mean vibrant, walkable, diverse cities, full of creativity and community. It may mean more meaningful and respected work for everyone, with fewer working hours so that we can rest, connect, and do what we love. It might mean cleaner air, better mental health, fewer global conflicts, and thriving ecosystems that support and inspire us.



We can all participate in imagining this future, exploring fighting to make it a reality. To us, this work is beautiful in its own right; a craft that brings meaning and beauty into our lives. So why bother? Because there is a future worth fighting for just around the corner.





# What are we fighting for?

## **SUPPORT THRIVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES.**

Strong local economies, abundant third spaces and fun things to do, walkable cities designed for people not cars, affordable housing, economic support for creatives and service work, diversity.

## **LIBERATE THE WORKING CLASS.**

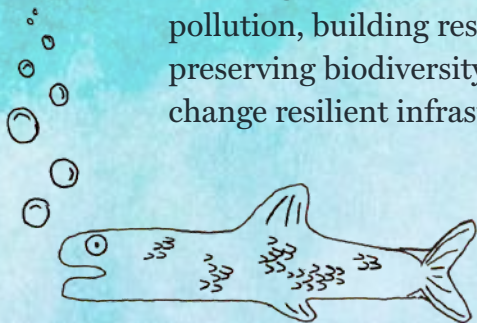
Living wages, a four day work week, free healthcare and other safety nets, more worker-owned businesses, and curtailing corporate power.

## **CREATE REAL DEMOCRACY & COMMUNITY FIRST POLICY.**

Systems of accountability to ensure politicians prioritize the **people**. Strong pathways for community input and collaboration, especially from marginalized groups. Access to ethical living for all.

## **MITIGATE THE CLIMATE, WATER, RESOURCE, AND BIODIVERSITY CRISES.**

Breaking free of fossil fuels, ending plastic pollution, building resilient food systems, preserving biodiversity, and creating climate change resilient infrastructure.



# the CLIMATIQUE principles:



*“There is no way to peace, peace is the way”*

—A. J. Muste

## » **Radical Imperfection:**

Transformative change will take time, patience, and trial and error. You don't have to do everything or feel like you have all the answers. Make small changes, offer the skills you do have, and find what role brings you joy.

## » **Community + Collaboration:**

Community also allows for knowledge sharing, and builds strength in numbers for advocacy on a political and economic level. It lets us step back for a moment to rest and know that the work is still being done. Alone we may feel powerless, but together we are strong.



## » **Social movements are self-fulfilling prophecies:**

Believing in your own powerlessness robs you of your power. But if we believe change is possible, then it is. The best way to encourage people to take action or change their views is to simply demonstrate. Let's be those people — leading by example, and taking agency over our future.

## » **Interdependence:**

The wellbeing of self depends on the wellbeing of our community and our ecosystems. None of our lives would be possible without the systems that support us, both human and nonhuman. In turn, to be able to support our communities, we must care for ourselves and find ways of taking action that we can sustain long term.

## » **Local action, global transformation:**

One community working to change the world has a ripple effect that spreads beyond our own lives, cities, or nations. The changes that communities make can set a powerful example. Start small, dream big, and know that every small action makes a difference.

## » **Culture of Agency:**

Frederick Douglas said, “power concedes nothing without demand.” That leaves us regular folks to build networks, contribute our unique skills, make change in our own lives and communities, and collectively demand change from those in power!

# the CLIMATIQUE actions:

*“A vibrant, fair, and regenerative future is possible not when thousands of people do climate and justice activism perfectly but when millions of people do the best they can”*

—from *All We Can Save*, pg. 46

## » Imagination:

We have discussions, create media and art, and interact with other groups to collectively imagine what the future we want will look like and what actions we can take to make it a reality.

## » Connection:

Climatique is space to find creative partnerships, to get support with a project or idea, build support systems for sustainable and ethical action, and create a bigger circle of people who also care.

## » Action:

Take meaningful action — as consumers, citizens, voters, trend setters, workers, community members, artists — to mitigate the climate crisis and advocate for justice. We advocate politically, but also practice embodying the future we want in our communities and our daily lives.





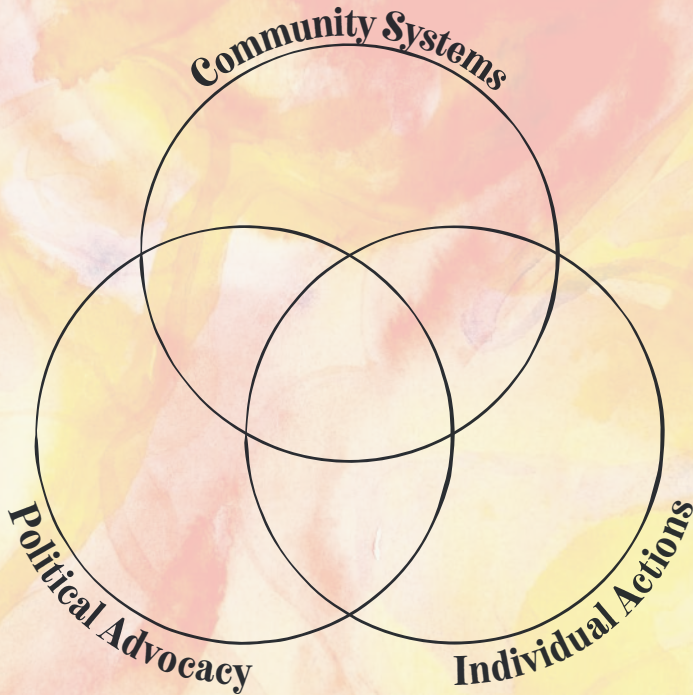






# Our theory of change:

## The Three Spheres of Action



**OUR GOVERNMENTS DON'T CURRENTLY ACT WITH OUR WELLBEING AS THEIR TOP PRIORITY.** Until that changes, political action cannot be our only means to create systematic change. Thankfully, there is a lot more we can do beyond politics.

To create systematic change, we can act simultaneously from 3 different realms: changing our **individual lifestyles** to divest from oppressive systems and build support for alternatives, building **community systems** that extend our ability to change beyond our individual limits, and finally, engaging in **political advocacy** to push for system-level change.



## » Sewing, repair and swap meetups

*Learning to repair what we have, and swap or share when we need something new is fun, and reduces our consumption. Goods take labor and resources, and this lets us give them the value they deserve.*

## » Victory gardens

*Community gardening and urban food production in backyards or public spaces can save us money by providing free fresh food, and create biodiverse, water retaining spaces — check if your neighborhood already has a shared gardening space, or come see the **Climatique garden!***



## » Collective cooking, meal swaps

*Makes it easier to eat with local, plant based, or low plastic food, and saves us time and money.*

## » Unionize

*Look into unions that may already exist for your workplace, or look into starting a new chapter. Find more information at [www.aflcio.org](http://www.aflcio.org).*



## » Switch to community solar

*As renters, we can opt-out of getting fossil fuel energy in our home and instead get it from local solar gardens for the same price. **Sunshare** is a good option in Colorado.*

## » Letter to the editor meetups

*Nearly every newspaper or journal will accept “letters to the editor” (LTE) which are often published, and can promote an idea or a viewpoint to a wide audience. Try writing several on the same topic with a group.*

## » Trash clean ups

*Make a day of it with your friends, or see if your apartment or HOA already organizes one.*

## » Volunteer

*Check out our local resources list for a list of great local organizations.*



# Community Systems



# Individual Action

## » Support local businesses

*And if you see a change a local business could make to be more ethical or sustainable, share that with them!*

## » Eat fewer animal products, especially from cows

*Animal agriculture is the leading cause of biodiversity loss, causes ¼ of all greenhouse gas emissions, and depletes our water. Eating less is one of the single most impactful changes we can make in our own lives.*

## » Practice mindful consumption

*Steer clear of fast fashion by repairing, thrifting and trade instead of buying new, start noticing when you use plastic packaging or buy mass-produced goods, and buy from local and ethical businesses when you can.*

## » Lend your unique talents to the movement

## » Keep learning

*Check out our resources list for instagram accounts, podcasts, and more bite-sized ways to learn. Sign up for an email list like **Inside the Movement** that sends weekly updates of most important petitions and campaigns to support.*

## » Change your travel habits

*Walking, cycling, and public transport can transform our cities into more sustainable and just places by saving space, lowering pollution, and ending fossil fuel dependence.*



## » See if your city composts



**INDIVIDUAL CHANGE ALSO HAS FAR MORE POWER THAN WE GENERALLY THINK.** 71% of greenhouse gas emissions come from 100 corporations — and these are the same corporations that fund genocide, lobby against worker rights and pressure us to consume unethical goods. By building the skills, knowledge, and alternative systems to stop giving them our money, we reduce our dependance on them and take away their power.

# Political Advocacy

## » Focus on local policy

*Many changes, from affordable, to climate reliance, to worker rights and minimum wage, happen at the local level. Build place based power and watch your city transform.*

## » Take away power from corporate influence

*Engage in boycotts, strikes and unionizing, and shift long term consumption to local and ethical goods.*

## » Attend a protest, sit-in, or any nonviolent action.

*Go to [www.mobilize.us](http://www.mobilize.us) to find nearby events, petitions, and volunteer opportunities.*

## » Pressure local politicians

*Write letters to council members or to local newspapers (come to a Climatique meeting to learn how!), attend and speak at town halls, learn about local policy.*



## » Create and sign petitions

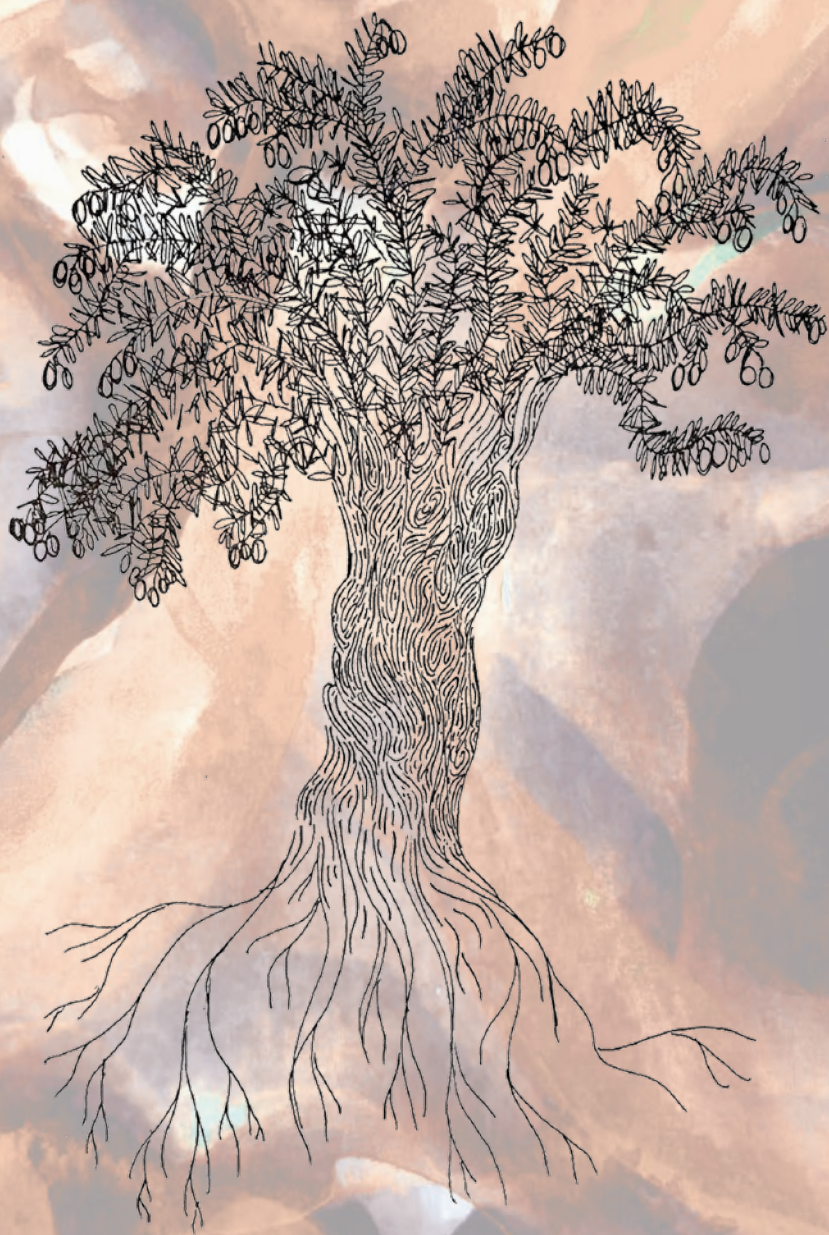
*A petition with enough signatures shows politicians that there is a guaranteed network of people ready to vote for them if they endorse policies aligned with the petition demands — something more powerful than any amount of crooked campaign funding.*



## WHAT ARE OUR KEY POLICY DEMANDS?

- » End financial insecurity in an age of abundance.
- » Sustainable food systems + ending food insecurity.
- » Policy for low-energy transport and housing.
- » Circular economies.
- » Climate resilient and livable infrastructure.







# Credits

*Concepts + text:* Serafina Scalo

*Graphic design:* Maya Bliss,  
Sophie Kvaratskhelia, Taj DeHart

*Editors:* Caleb Batts, Sophie Kvaratskhelia,  
Taj DeHart, Briana Cohen, Molly Weber



**THIS IS AN INCOMPLETE,  
EVER-CHANGING THEORY.**

Have feedback or ideas on what we can do to create transformative change? Reach out and help us create a better version.



**CLIMATIQUE**