



COUNTDOWN TO THE FUTURE

## Countdown to the Future: **JUSTICE**



### IT'S TIME FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Endless droughts [turning Guatemalan farms into dust](#). Hurricanes [flooding Houston's minority neighborhoods](#) while wealthy homes escape the worst. Toxic chemicals from the oil well next door [sickening kids across South Los Angeles](#).

The faces change, but across the globe, the story remains the same.

*The rich keep burning fossil fuels. But poor communities and communities of color suffer the consequences.*

The injustice couldn't be any clearer. Especially in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, where — in the US — fossil fuel pollution and the legacy of structural racism contribute to Black and Latinx Americans becoming infected at [nearly three times the rate of Whites](#) and [Black Americans dying twice as much as Whites](#).

It's not right. It's not fair. It's not the world we want and it's got to stop. Now.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We've got to start talking about climate justice for people of color and poor families around the world. With our friends and family members. With the neighbors next door and the family in the next pew over. Because that's how change begins. That's how we create the truly just and livable future we want.

The good news is that starting a conversation is as simple as sharing a story. Even better, it's a story anyone can tell. In fact, the basics are just nine words long.

*We must change. We can change. We will change.*

Below are some talking points to help you share this story. Don't worry about remembering or repeating them word for word. Your voice matters, so share this story in the way that's right for you.

### WE MUST CHANGE

- **Burning fossil fuels is creating a climate crisis that's hitting us here and now.** Green-

house gas emissions from oil, coal, and natural gas are sending global temperatures skyrocketing and transforming the Earth. The result: stronger hurricanes, longer droughts, lethal heatwaves, and diseases spreading further and faster across the planet.

- **Fossil fuels are poisoning communities of color.** Nearly [eight in 10 African Americans live within 30 miles of a coal power plant](#), exposed to [air pollution linked to asthma, cancer, and heart and lung disease](#). Half of those with [the greatest cancer risk from oil refineries are people of color](#). It's systemic racism at its worst — and it can't go on.
- **The climate crisis is a moral crisis, hitting the poor and people of color the hardest.** When rising temperatures turn hurricanes into wrecking balls and rising seas swallow homes, those worst hit and first forgotten are inevitably the poor and people of color.

## WE CAN CHANGE

- **We don't need to wait for tomorrow — the tools to halt rising temperatures and avert the worst are in our hands today.**
- **With renewables like wind and solar, we can power our lives without destroying our planet.** Clean energy is affordable and abundant. [More energy from the sun's rays strikes the earth every hour than humanity uses in an entire year](#). [Globally, wind could supply the Earth's electricity needs 40 times over](#).
- **With a just transition to clean energy, we can create a fair and livable future.** Experts project that the clean energy and efficiency transition will [add \\$26 trillion to the world economy and create 65 million jobs through 2030](#). These are jobs with a future. Jobs that can re-energize struggling communities from Atlanta to Appalachia to Alaska and all around the world.

## WE WILL CHANGE

- **The world is with us.** [Seven in 10 Americans support government action on climate](#). Clear majorities worldwide [see climate as the top threat today](#).
- **Young people are standing up like never before.** Millions of young people see what's at stake and are demanding climate action now. They're inspiring adults everywhere and changing culture worldwide.
- **The clean energy revolution is accelerating by the day.** [Over 160 US cities and towns and seven states are committed to 100 percent clean energy](#). Globally, [more than 100 cities and towns already get most of their energy from renewables](#). [Companies from Apple to IKEA are going all in on clean energy](#).

## LEARN MORE

Request a digital presentation and discussion on the climate crisis and justice as part of [24 Hours of Reality: Countdown to the Future](#) on October 10–11. Presentations are free and a great place to start the conversation on how we solve the climate crisis and together build the just and sustainable future we want.