

Make an informed choice on the biggest issue of our time.

Most of us lead really busy lives balancing family, career, exercise, hobbies, kids activities, and more. If—or when-- a gradually increasing threat emerges, we have a tendency to hope that it never happens to us, happens far away, or that someone else will take care of it. Climate change is just such a threat.

We have postponed large-scale action for decades. Climate change is real: 99% of the world's climate scientists agree it's real, and it's caused by human-generated Green House Gases (GHG)- also known as carbon pollution. A large majority of Americans believe that it is caused by our use of fossil fuels. Yet a wealth of mis-information stymies action.

We have all seen the stories of extreme weather events growing in severity and frequency. Last week the United Nations' top climate science group (IPCC) issued a sobering report: we are NOT acting quickly enough to prevent very serious effects of climate change. Once we pass that 1.5° C (2.7°F) of temperature increase, our efforts to slow/reduce climate change will be much less effective. Unlike past UN Climate Reports, these projections are made with 'high confidence'. Without making major changes, the scary predictions of the future will come true.

But: there is also good news. First and very importantly, we actually have the technology we need to pull us back from the brink. Soon we expect to have the technology to get us to Net-Zero (no net increase in carbon pollution). Second, fighting climate change even a little-- every tenth of a degree increase we avoid--makes our lives easier.

We are still in charge of our destiny. If we, collectively, decide to take strong action against climate change, we can avert the worst. Many of us don't act because we feel powerless or don't know what to do. We, at the *Climate Alliance for the Common Good* have compiled a list of the most effective practices to fight climate change, and they fall into three broad categories.

- 1) ACT: Living a more sustainable lifestyle, for example by reducing energy and reducing food waste.
- 2) SHARE: Talk about climate change with friends and neighbors, sharing what you are doing to reduce your carbon pollution. Your words and action inspire others.
- 3) SPEAK UP Speak out to elected officials and leaders. Let them know climate change is an important issue to you.



More Action Information on our Website

Website: climatealliancecgc.org

Scan the QR code and click on 'I am an individual'.

Our group, the *Climate Alliance for the Common Good*, a non-profit, has a list of Ten Action Areas of Change.

Scroll down to see the list. Click on the "How" button for a detailed list of potential actions.

Choose the Action Items that you can do now and consider other actions you may want to take, such as adding solar panels.

It will be great if many of us take up this challenge and attack climate change using all three approaches: Act, Share, and Speak Up.

Perhaps you can do more. Many of us have skills in accounting, in marketing, in public speaking, in graphic design, and other areas of expertise. Consider using those skills to fight climate change. Find your volunteer niche. For example, find a climate change group that needs those skill . As a business leader/employee, use your position to advocate for climate-friendly business practices.

My ask of you today is that you make an informed choice about the fight against climate change. Learn the basic facts. What source would we all trust? Not an easy question these days. I myself think most of us trust NASA. Take 15 minute and google search 'NASA and climate change' and click on 'Facts' in the top line center.

Read up on NASA's assessment and then ask yourself what you can do personally to fight climate change. Will you stick with the status quo and go about your normal life? The choice of not taking action, according to the IPCC report, brings with it huge risk.

Importantly, there is still time to act but there is no time for more discussion or complacency. Future generations could well look to us and ask, "what did you do to avert the climate crisis when you had the chance?"

The Climate Alliance for the Common Good is a LaCrosse-based non-profit whose mission is to raise public-awareness about climate change and offer concrete actions for individuals and organizations. We welcome the opportunity to come and speak at your group or place of business.