

# Responding to Climate Change: A Personal Planning Workshop

August 15, 2015

Facilitators: Tom Abood, Rev Gail Collins-Ranadive, Milt Hetrick



GREEN FIRST  
TASK FORCE

# Responding to Climate Change: Personal Plan

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ 8/15/2015

## Preface:

Global Climate Change is real and affects all Life. Humans are causing this detrimental change by altering the amount of greenhouse gases in our common atmosphere. Greenhouse gases trap heat and make the planet warmer affecting our planet's habitability.

Human activities are responsible for almost all of the increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere over the last 150 years.

The largest source of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities in the United States is linked to burning fossil fuels for electricity, heat, and transportation. There are viable alternatives to fossil fuels available to us today. Currently our broken economic system, with its growing number of externalities has distorted the free market so it no longer influences us to make choices that are life serving.

There is ample energy coming to Earth from the Sun daily to meet our needs if we chose to harvest this free source of life sustaining energy. The Earth is also a source of thermal energy (heat) and a place to store excess thermal energy if necessary.

## Introduction

As an individual, as a part of a family, as a member of a larger community, the following "Response to Climate Change" herein called the "Plan" outlines how I propose to change my behavior to stop being a part of this existential problem facing our planet and instead live the remainder of my life in mutual benefit of all Life. The Plan identifies the things I and my family can change to prevent further climate change.

Because each day presents new challenges and opportunities as well as new awareness and consciousness, I expect the Plan to be updated periodically to better accommodate our ever changing world.

The Plan includes activities that can be accomplished as individuals and things that are best accomplished collectively (as an active member of a group).

The Plan focuses specifically on my behavior that introduces greenhouse gases into the atmosphere as well as other activities that directly alter the Earth's heat balance that in turn results in global warming,

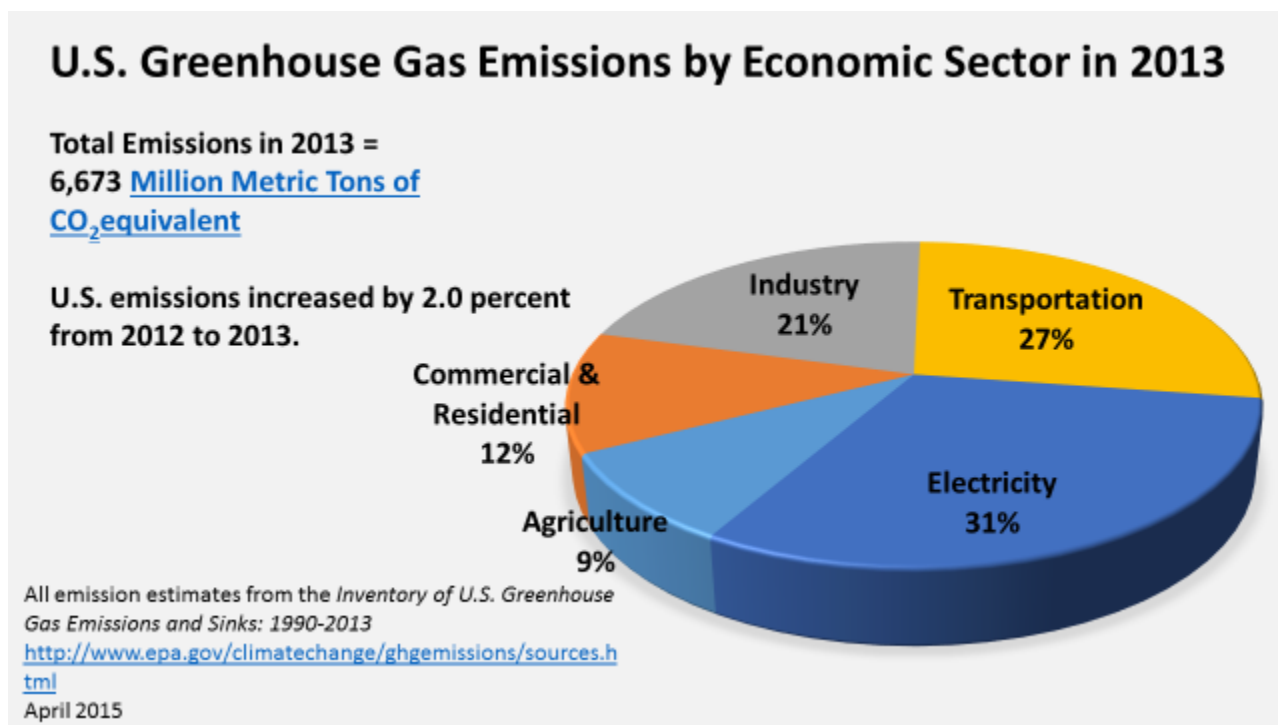
weather extremes, glacial melting, sea level rise, ocean acidification, alteration of atmospheric jet streams and ocean convective currents and other changes that affect the habitability of our planet.

In addition to implementing individual changes in my personal life, the Plan also identifies how I will work collectively with others to bring about changes in our human-created social systems so that others will be influenced to make choices that also contribute to stopping further climate change and to living more sustainably.

I understand time is of the essence and the sooner I am able to change my behavior the better. So the Plan includes a timeline that I believe is challenging but nevertheless realistic considering my current circumstances.

The following Plan (with an appropriate Schedule) is intended to be my roadmap that proposes a life style and behavior that results in minimal emissions and zero waste.

The Plan is comprehensive because it addresses all “sectors” with significant GHG emissions as shown in the pie chart from EPA.



## INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

**Electricity. Knowing what I know now about how Solar PV can be used to reduce emissions and climate change:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ I have already responded to climate change and invested in solar panels. ***Congratulations! Take credit for eating a big piece (31%) of the emissions pie.***
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am seriously considering Solar PV ***Great! Since you are serious about reducing emissions from the electrical sector, you just ate ½ of this piece of the emission pie (16%).***
- \_\_\_\_\_ I need more information about Solar PV. ***Remember you can get free consultation from your Go 2 Green Guides.***
- \_\_\_\_\_ This is not an option for me at this time.

**Transportation. Knowing what I know now about today's electric vehicle reduce emissions in the transportation sector:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ I have already responded to climate change and drive an electric vehicle. ***Congratulations! Take credit for eating a big piece (27%) of the emissions pie.***
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am seriously considering an electric vehicle. ***Great! Being serious about reducing emissions from the transportation sector, you ate ½ of this piece of the emission pie (14%).***
- \_\_\_\_\_ I need more information about an electric vehicle. ***Remember you can get free consultation from your Go 2 Green Guides.***
- \_\_\_\_\_ This is not an option for me at this time

**Residential & Commercial Heating & Cooling Knowing what I know now about geothermal / geoexchange heat pumps in reducing emissions related to heating and cooling:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ I have already responded to climate change and use a geoexchange heat pump. ***Congratulations! Take credit for eating a piece (12%) of the emissions pie.***
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am seriously considering replacing my gas furnace with a geoexchange heat pump. ***Great! Since you are serious about reducing emissions from the Residential sector, you ate ½ of this piece of the emission pie (6%).***
- \_\_\_\_\_ I need more information about an geoexchange heat pump. ***Remember you can get free consultation from your Go 2 Green Guides.***
- \_\_\_\_\_ This is not an option for me at this time

**Industry. Knowing what I know now about how my Life Style (and the things I buy) affects GHG emission/ climate change:**

I'm already mindful of what I buy, as well as the emissions associated with producing it and where it comes from. I also reuse, reduce, refuse, recycle using the Zero Waste (Total Recycling) approach.

*Congratulations! Take credit for eating a piece of the Industry's piece of the emissions pie. (21%)*

I (nearly) always remember my reusable bags when I do shop. I use refillable water bottles. I buy locally produced items wherever possible. *Great! You are trying to reduce emissions from the Industry sector. Take credit for 1/2 of this piece of the emission pie (10%)*

I need more information. *Talk with your Go 2 Green Guides.*

This is not an option at this time

**Agriculture. Knowing what I know now about food production, processing and distribution**

I already grow and preserve most of my food without consuming fossil fuel. *Congratulations! Take credit for eating a piece (9%) of the emissions pie.*

I support CSA and buy a share each season. I support local growers / farmers . I patronize local restaurants that source local foods. *Great! You are trying to reduce emissions from the Agriculture sector. Take credit for 1/2 of this piece of the emission pie (5%)*

I need more information. *Talk with your Go 2 Green Guides.*

This is not an option at this time

**Other/All. Knowing what I know now about Divesting / Investing and how it can support endeavors that contribute emissions affecting climate change:**

I have already moved my money out of Wall Street and divested from fossil fuel companies. I reinvested locally including my own home to assure I can live sustainably. *Congratulations! You are not contributing to GHG emissions indirectly through your investments. You receive "extra credit."*

I need to rethink the purpose of my investments. I can't wait to explore environmental and social responsible options. I am rethinking about how I invest in my home. *Great! You are trying to reduce GHG emissions that may be linked to your investments.*

I need more information. *Talk with your Go 2 Green Guides.*

This is not an option at this time

**COLLECTIVE ACTIONS**

I am involved in several organizations focused on much needed changes in our U.S. social system so that our political, economic, legal, information, and educational systems influence us to make choices that sustainable.

I plan to contact a group and get involved in their efforts to change our social system so that it does not influence us to live unsustainably as it currently does.

This is not an option at this time.

**"SUMMARY CARD"**

Enter how your plan will reduce GHG emissions and stop further climate change.

Electric	Transportation	Residential Commercial	Industry	Agriculture	Investments	TOTAL %