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System Change for Climate Justice

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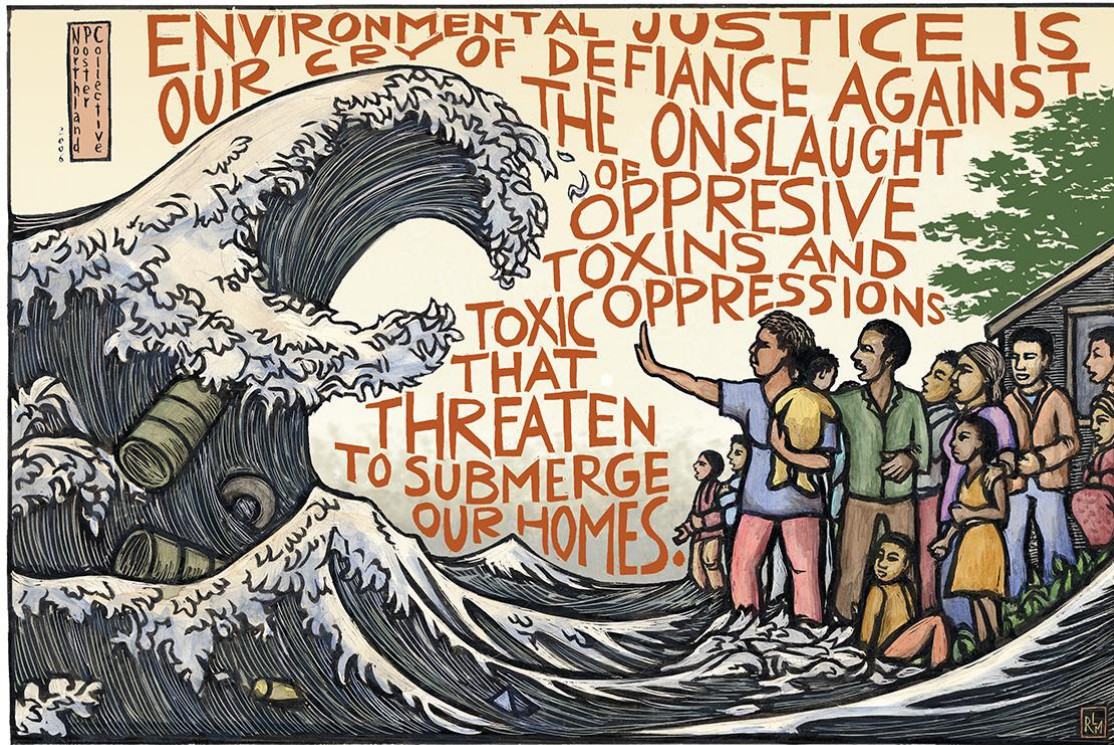
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Environmental Justice

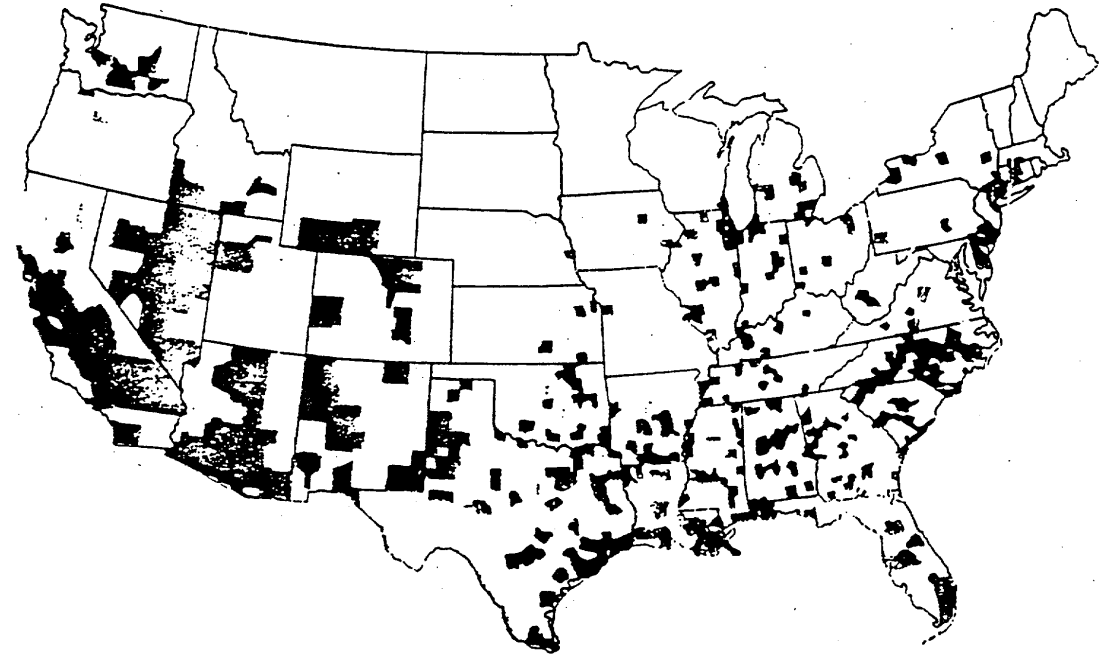
environmental racism



Artist: Ricardo Levins Morales

TOXIC WASTES AND RACE In The United States

A National Report on the Racial and Socio-Economic
Characteristics of Communities
with Hazardous Waste Sites



COMMISSION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE
United Church of Christ
©1987

Environmental Justice

“the fair treatment and **meaningful** involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

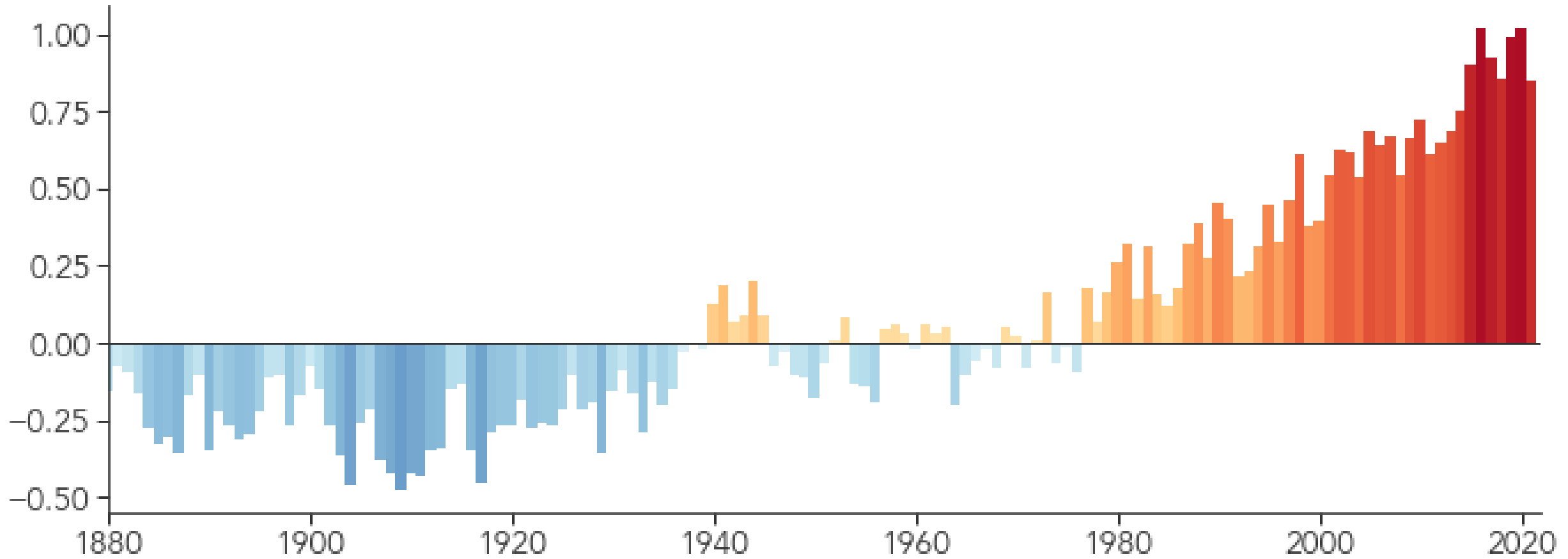
- US EPA



Artist: Ricardo Levins Morales

2021 ties 2018 for Sixth Warmest Year on Record

Global Temperature Anomaly (°C compared to the 1951-1980 average)



NASA

*Latest CO₂ reading: **419.20 ppm**

ONE WEEK

ONE MONTH

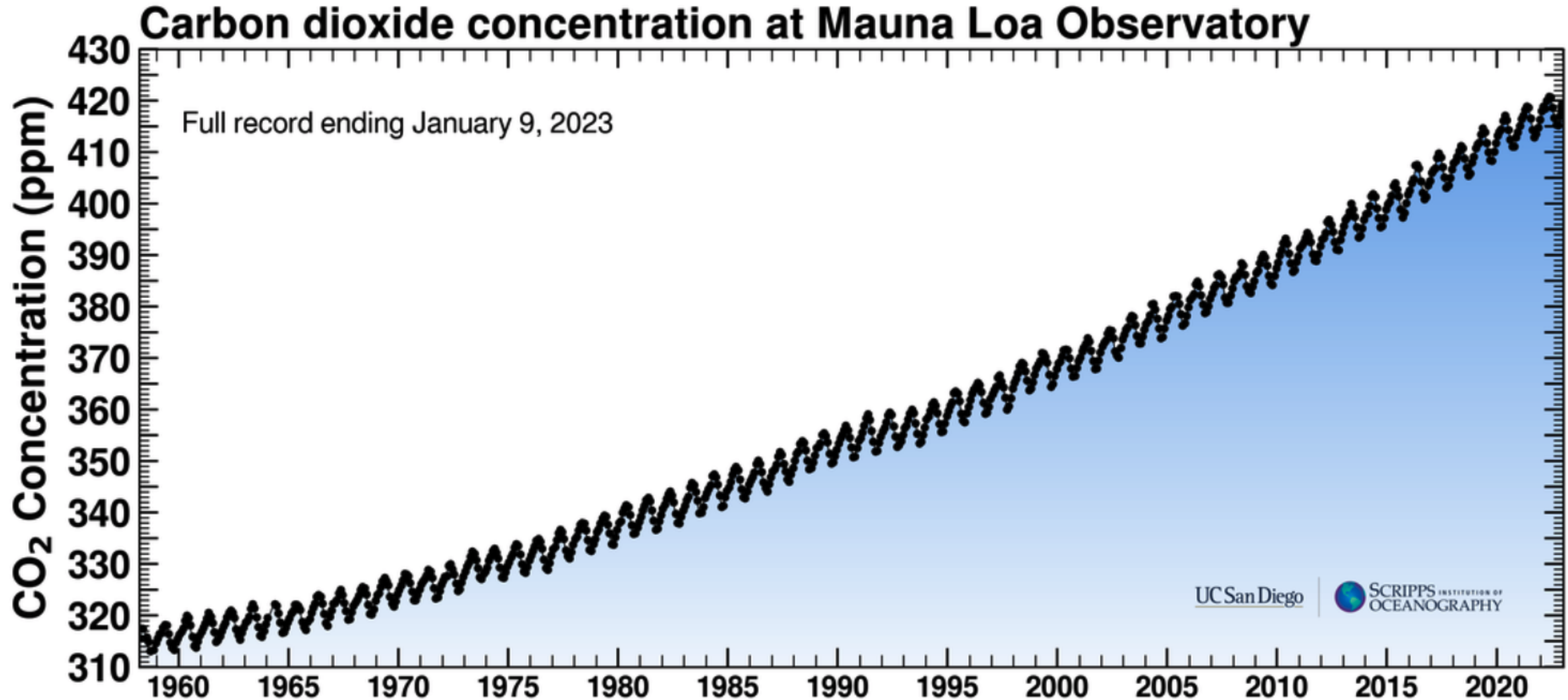
SIX MONTHS

ONE YEAR

TWO YEARS

FULL RECORD

1700-PRESENT



CARBON DIOXIDE CLIMB

Daily Update

PPM

400

350

300

250

200

800,000

600,000

400,000

200,000

NOW

YEARS BEFORE NOW

TODAY:

1910
300 PPM

Source: Luthi et al (2008) (cdiac.ornl.gov) & NOAA ESRL (esrl.noaa.gov)

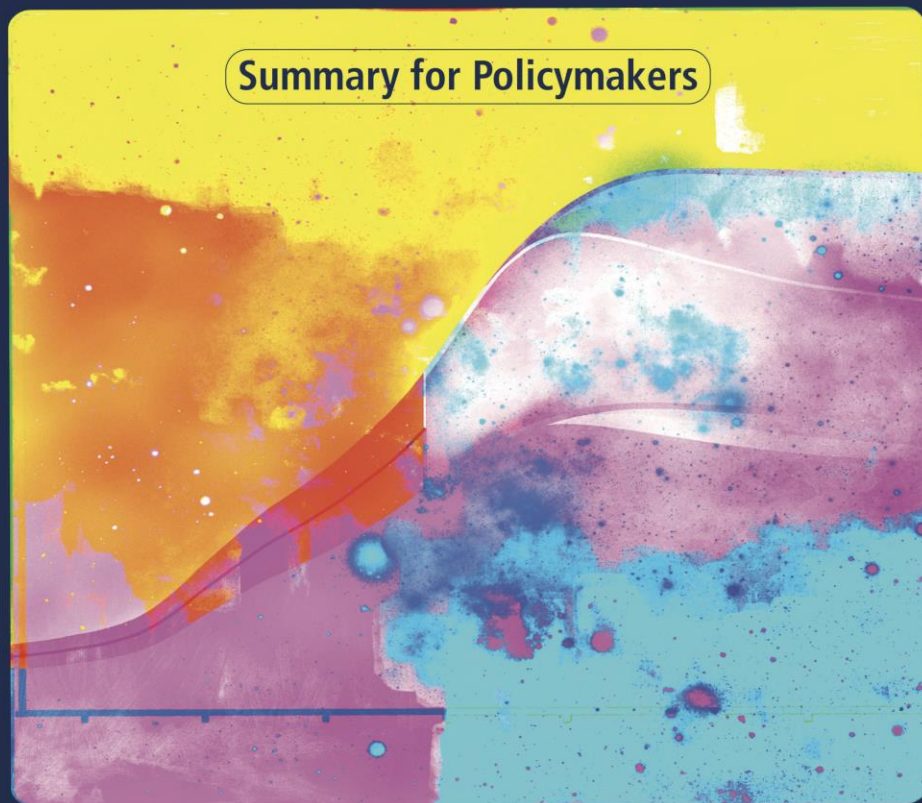
CLIMATE  CENTRAL

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

Global Warming of 1.5°C

An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty



45% reductions in emissions
required by 2030
to stay below 1.5°C

WG I WG II WG III



The Fossil Fuel Industry

Carbon Majors Report

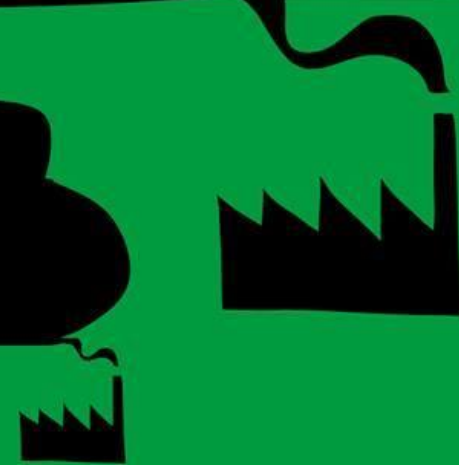
90 corporations are responsible for 2/3 of emissions, 1854-2010



#eyesonParis
#climatechange

**THE RICHEST
10% PRODUCE HALF OF
GLOBAL CO² EMISSIONS**

**THE POOREST 50%
GENERATE ONLY
A TENTH**



WE WON'T LIVE WITH POVERTY



OXFAM

Climate Justice

Climate change is a social justice issue.

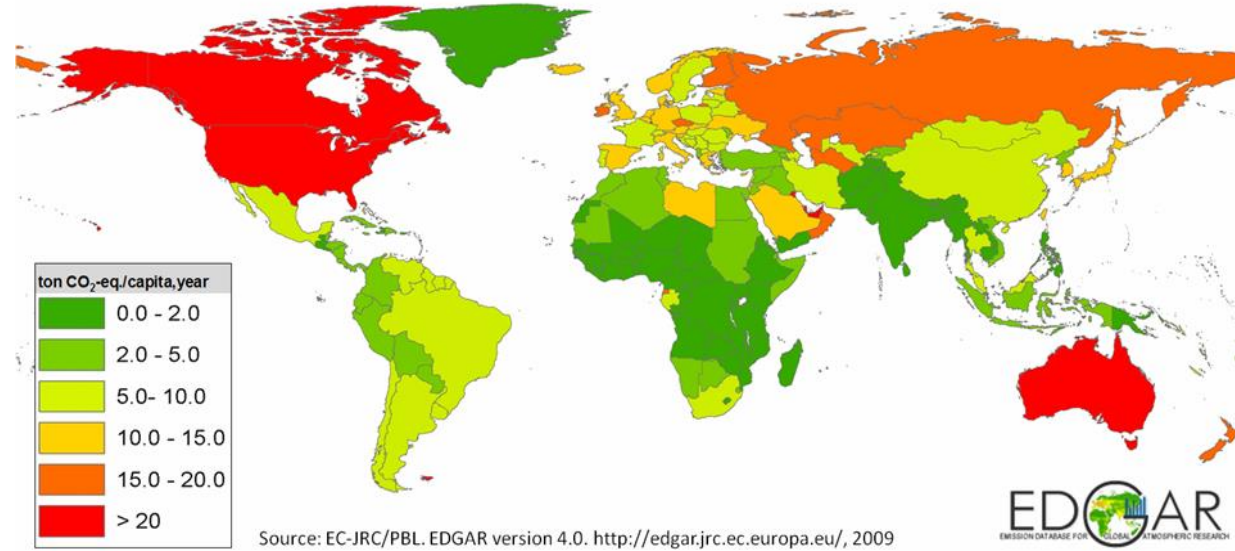
- causes
- consequences
- solutions

Climate change is climate crisis.



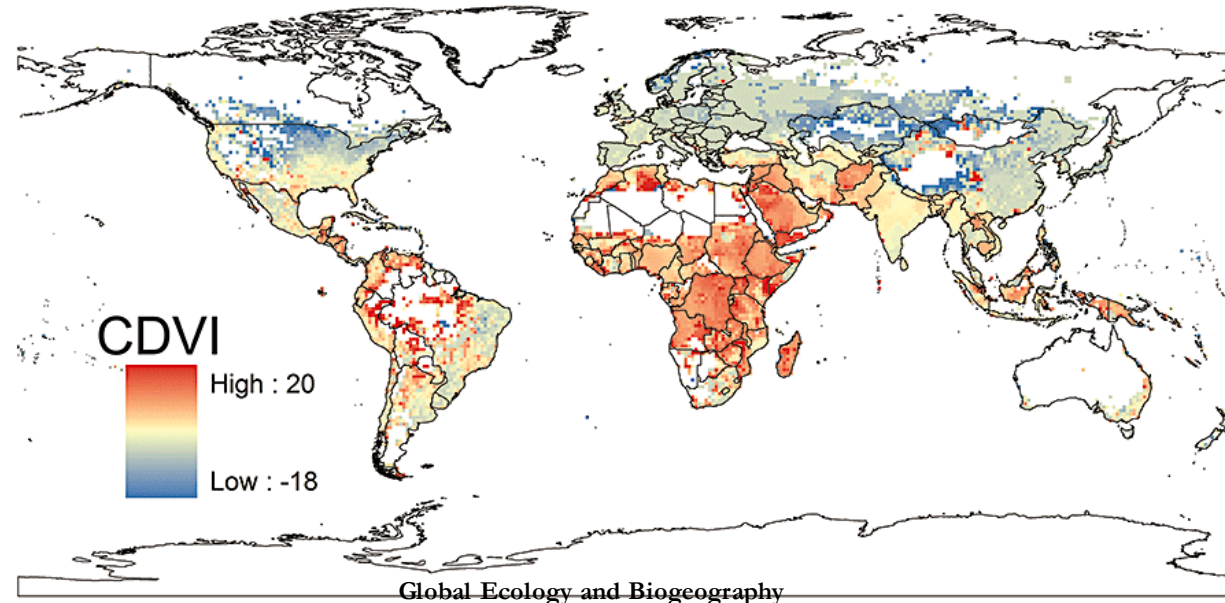
Carbon Dioxide emissions per capita

Causes



Predicted impacts of climate change on human populations

Consequences



[Volume 20, Issue 4](#), pages 532-544, 17 FEB 2011 DOI: 10.1111/j.1466-8238.2010.00632.x

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1466-8238.2010.00632.x/full#f5>

Consequences in MN

- Less ice
- More mega-rains
- Longer allergy season
- More ticks/mosquitos
- Death of aspen & tamarack
- Maples move north

Minnesota's average annual temperature 1895-2014

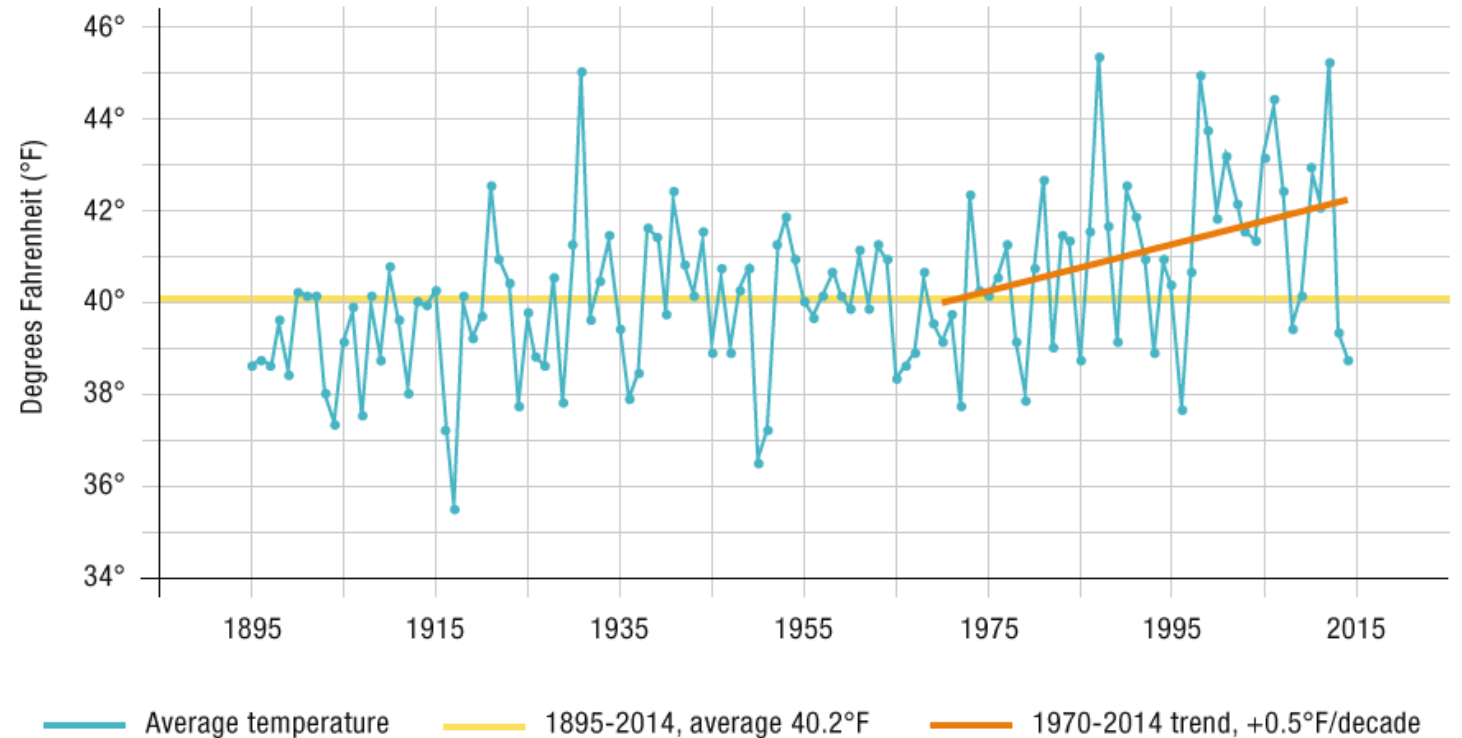


Image: MPR

Source: National Climatic Data Center



Photo: MN 350



Report: Climate change could force 200 million people to move by 2050



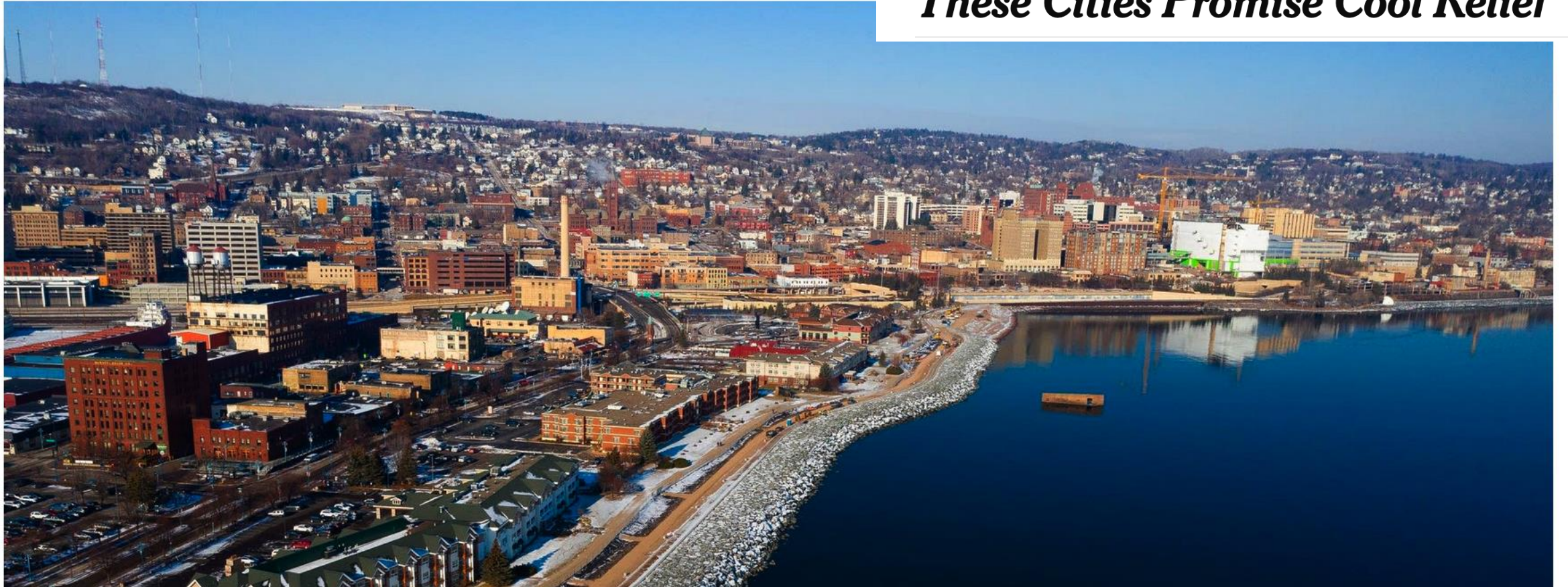
A new report says more than 200 million people across the world could be forced to move within their countries in the next three decades because of climate change.

Climate-proof Duluth? Why the city is attracting 'climate migrants'

The New York Times

Dan Kraker Duluth, Minn. October 4, 2021 6:18 AM

*Want to Escape Global Warming?
These Cities Promise Cool Relief*



Solutions: The Climate Justice Movement



2009 – COP 15. Photo: [kris krüg](#)/flickr/cc



2013 – COP 19 Walk Out

Solutions: The Climate Justice Movement



CSB/SJU Climate Strike, Sept 2019
(part of 7.6 million person global strike!)



Gitchi Gami Gathering to Resist Line 3
Duluth, Sept 2019



Poster for the People's Climate March (2014) - Graphic by Lmnopi

Climate Justice Requires System Change

Climate justice includes a focus on the **root causes** of climate change and making the **systemic changes** that are therefore required, a commitment to **address the disproportionate burden** of the climate crisis on the poor and marginalized, a demand for **participatory democracy** in changing these systems which require **dismantling the fossil fuel corporate power structure**, and a commitment to **reparations** and thus a **fair distribution** of the world's wealth.

– Rebecca Hall



System Change: Capitalism

“an economic and social system in which the owners of capital (or capitalists) appropriate the surplus product generated by the direct producers (or workers), leading to the **accumulation of capital**—investment and amassing of wealth—by the owners”

- Magdoff and Foster 2011: 38



Naomi Klein Argues:

We Can't Address Climate Change within Capitalism

- Capitalism's goal: profits and no government interference.
- Addressing the root causes of climate change requires government policies and limit to growth.
- Capitalists have no incentive to sign on to these solutions, solutions mean an end to capitalism.





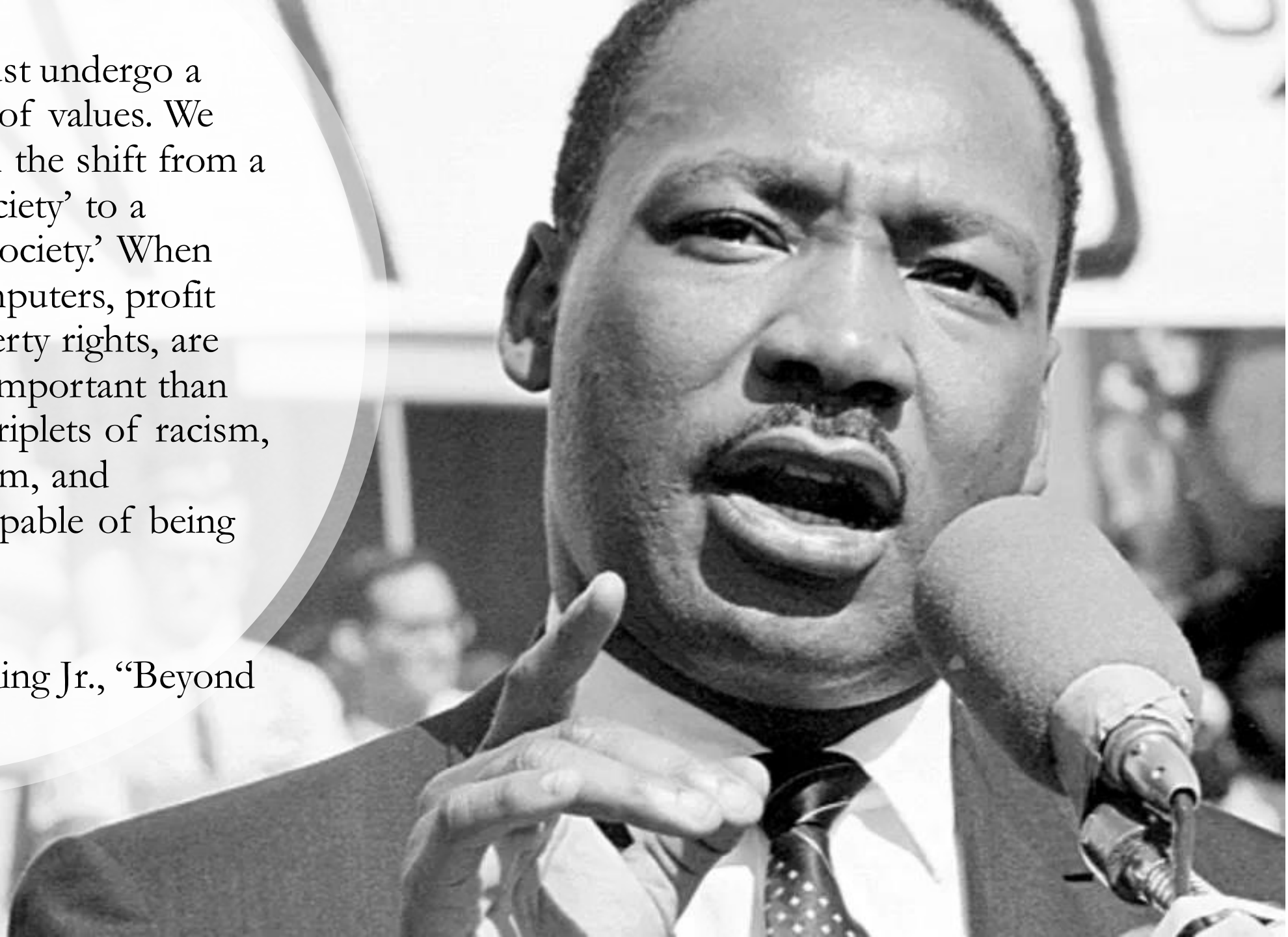
Klein's Thesis

“What the climate needs to avoid collapse is a contraction in humanity’s use of resources; what our economic model demands to avoid collapse is **unfettered expansion**. Only one of these sets of rules can be changed, and it’s not the laws of nature.”

- Klein 2014: 21

We as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a 'thing-oriented society' to a 'person-oriented society.' When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered."

- Martin Luther King Jr., "Beyond Vietnam," 1967



System Change: Get Fossil Fuel Money Out of Politics

BIG OIL GETS AN 11,900% RETURN ON EVERY DOLLAR IT SPENDS ON CONGRESS



HOW IS YOUR 401K DOING?

Subsidies to fossil fuels

- Globally: \$5.3 trillion annually in 2017 (10 million a minute)
- USA: \$649 billion in 2015

Source: IMF, including externalities

What to do?

- Personal actions are good, but not enough
 - Inspire others
 - Make us feel good
 - Help a little
- Need political action
 - Organize
 - Vote
 - Protest
- Need economic action
 - Divest
 - Support small business and people who are advancing social welfare, not profits
 - Buy less

Local and Global Actions for System Change



CSB and SJU at COP



Photo: Tom Hobday





Divest from Fossil Fuels

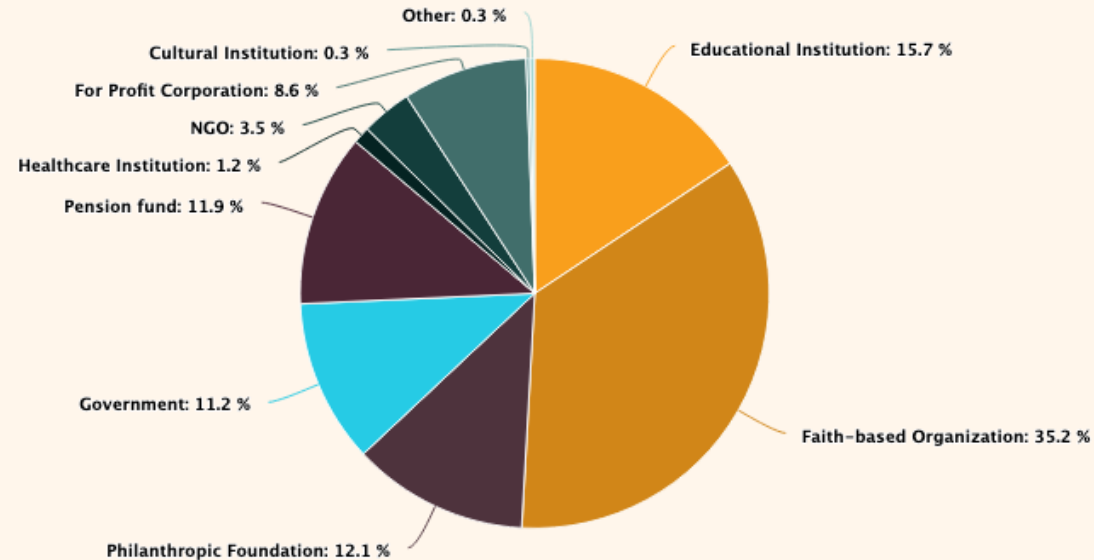
\$40.51 TRILLION

Approximate value of institutions divesting.

1557

Institutions Divesting

What kinds of institutions are divesting?



Support Native-led Renewables in MN





The Take Away

Learn

have conversations and listen

Build Community

find others who care and work with them
work is the best way to ward off despair!

Act!

at all levels

use your energy strategically

Thank you!

“Hope locates itself in the premises that we don’t know what will happen and that in the spaciousness of uncertainty is room to act.”

– writer and activist Rebecca Solnit

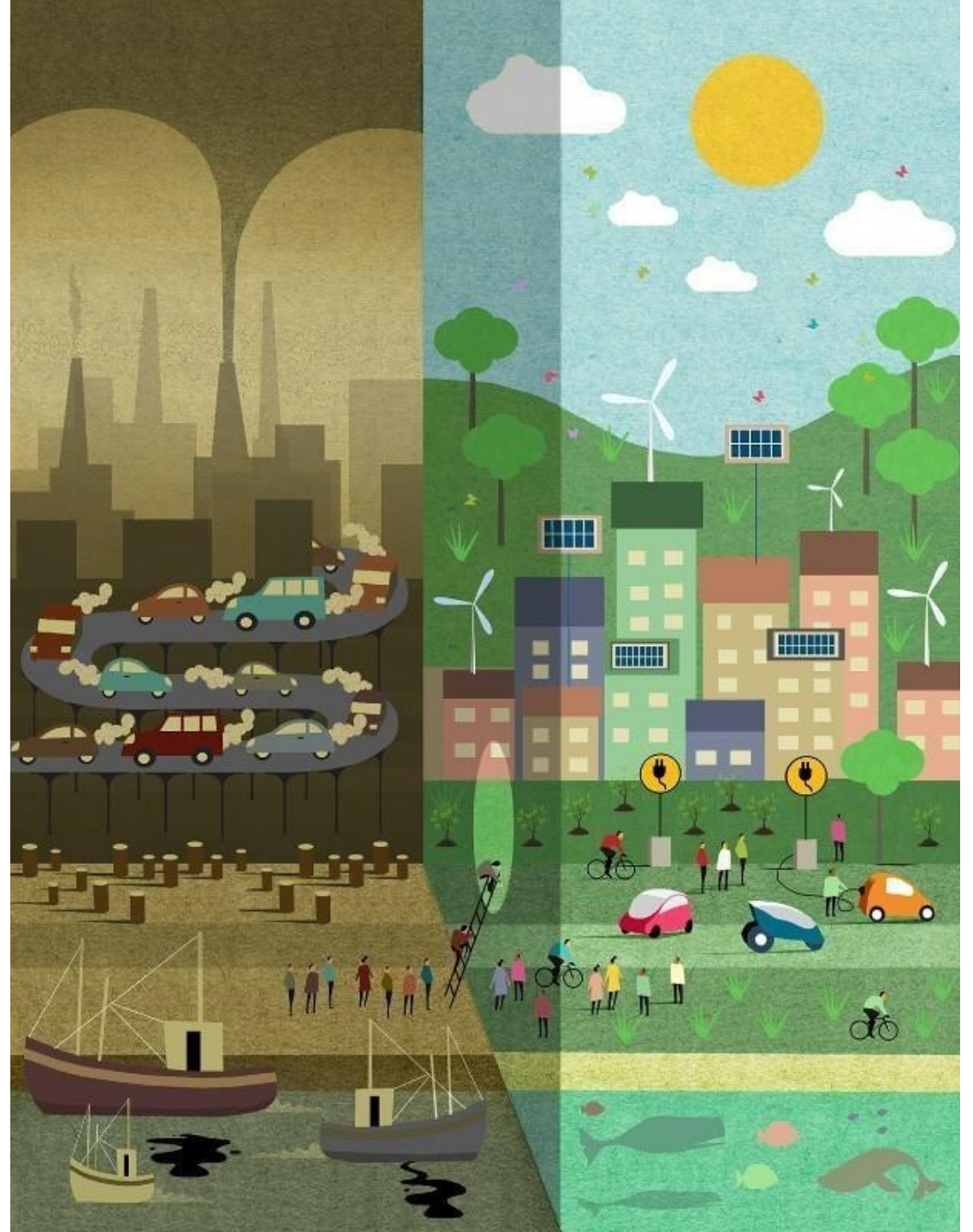
“Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something is worth doing no matter how it turns out”

- Czech dissident, writer, and statesman Václav Havel

Hope

- Healthier environment
- More time for what matters
- Less inequality

Adam Simpson



Greta Thunberg, 16

A young girl with braids, wearing a grey knit hat and a bright yellow raincoat, stands in a city square. She is holding a large white sign with black text. The sign reads "SKOLSTREJK FÖR KLIMATET". The background shows a cloudy sky, a street lamp, and a building with arches.

SKOLSTREJK
FÖR
KLIMATET



From the United Nations Climate Negotiations,
Poland, Dec 2018 to CSB/SJU, Sept 2019

Sept 20-27, 2019: 7.6 million people



Juliana vs United States



1000+ DIVESTMENT COMMITMENTS

#DIVEST LONDON
INVEST IN OUR FUTURE. DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS

OVERVIEW

Totals

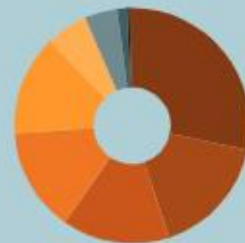
\$11.48 TRILLION
APPROX. VALUE OF
INSTITUTIONS DIVESTING

[How is this number calculated?](#)

1136
INSTITUTIONS DIVESTING

58,000+
INDIVIDUALS DIVESTING ABOUT
\$5.2 BILLION

What kinds of institutions are divesting?



- Faith-based Organization — 28%
- Philanthropic Foundation — 17%
- Educational Institution — 15%
- Government — 14%
- Pension fund — 14%
- For Profit Corporation — 6%
- NGO — 4%
- Healthcare Institution — 1%
- Cultural Institution — 0%
- Other — 0%

Keep it in the Ground: McKibben 2012: “Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math”

3 numbers:

- 350 ppm
- 2 degrees C
- 565 gigatons
(billion tons)
- 2795 gigatons

≡ *RollingStone*

Global Warming's Terrifying New Math



Illustration by Edel Rodriguez

By Bill McKibben

July 19, 2012



If the pictures of those towering wildfires in Colorado haven't convinced you, or the size of your AC bill this summer, here are some hard numbers about climate change: June broke or tied 3,215 high-temperature records across the United States. That followed the warmest May on record for the Northern Hemisphere – the 327th consecutive month in which the temperature of the entire globe