

Now It's Time To Take Our Medicine

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If you or anyone you know has had a cancer diagnosis, you know that to restore health often requires undergoing painful treatment. The treatment itself is challenging but necessary to help your body get healthy again. A large part of me feels that way towards our climate crisis and sea level rise.

25 years ago my mother had Hodgkins lymphoma cancer. Today she is alive and well because she was willing to give up a year of her life to undergo the chemotherapy that allows her to be alive today. When I see things like my very own storefront on Bearskin Neck flooded 5 times this winter after only 2 times in the last ten years, there's no denying that something is out of balance that needs treatment. Our sea is rising fast, and our climate is changing equally fast. We are losing species around the world at lightning speed.

Climate change is destroying our way of living, changing our economy and our society. Reducing our carbon output in every way possible while taking care of our vulnerable populations is like getting chemotherapy to stop the cancer. You know it's going to be the most painful thing you've ever experienced, you know you are going to lose your hair, not be able to eat and are injecting life altering medicine/poison into your body. You also know that, if you don't do it, there is no chance of survival. But if you do follow through with the treatments, your chances of survival improve. Some

might disagree with why climate change is happening but it's happening nonetheless, and the science has been crystal clear for years.

People that live and work closely with the natural world like myself and John Porter, owner and manager of Roy Moore Lobster of Rockport see the changes first hand. We have to live with the ocean chemistry changing, the ocean getting higher, and impacting every species out there. This affects our buildings (flooding), and our businesses (weather and species population). John thinks we need to stop kicking the can down the road, stop doing study, after study which yields minimal changes. We know what needs to be done, and it won't be easy but we need action now. We need to change our petroleum based agriculture and petroleum based economic systems.

Exxon Mobil scientists and other private researchers have accurately predicted the impacts of carbon emissions for more than 50 years, but because it would negatively impact their bottom line, they kept it under wraps. Our own government has known about these issues for the same time scale and not much has gotten done besides some solar panels on the White House roof in 1977 which were nonetheless taken off in 1986. Making the massive changes that we need to make can either happen defensively after it's too late, or offensively and proactively. We need to come together as a country to face this threat just like we faced World Wars, just like we faced the Great Depression. We need to come together as a human race to understand that we are all in this together.

No one has all the answers to what the medicine is to slow climate change. But there are plenty of actions out there that can make large impacts.

Some of the “low hanging fruit” to help reduce climate change emissions:

1. Find and fix large methane leaks from landfills
2. Require all food waste to be composted
3. Reduce your meat intake
4. Begin investing in upgrading our electrical grid, electrical storage systems, and electrifying everything possible
5. Start building micro-nuclear plants

Things we need to do to prepare our water fronts are:

1. Stop insuring, and having taxpayers funded replacement of destroyed flood prone properties (including mine)
2. Build infrastructure to protect our communities with 100+ year timeframe in mind
3. Design new codes/standard requirements for building in flood zones

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