

previously considered too pricey.

The California Solar Initiative is overseen by the California Utilities Public

energy by 2016, which is called for in the Million Solar Roofs Program issued in 2004 by Governor Schwarzenegger.

aims to provide low-income homeowners in California with access to Solar Photovoltaic systems by offering fully

thus working toward the goal of reducing greenhouse emissions and creating a greener, healthier planet.

Environmental Activism Brought to a Whole New Level

If considered the bearer of the apocalypse, Global Warming would motivate people to make extreme lifestyle changes

By **Kasimir Brotz**
staff writer

While Berkeley and its inhabitants frequently pride themselves on the enormity of their environmental awareness and the efforts they make to halt global warming, the fact remains that only a few of the city's inhabitants can honestly claim to live the reduced or totally carbon free lifestyles they advocate.

What makes this hypocrisy especially serious, and even ominous in terms of our long term environmental health and well-being, is the recognition on the part of international science groups, that there is going to have to be a massive shift to a "Plan B," which will involve a far

more radical change in government policy, corporate stance, and consumer attitudes than we are currently engaged in.

These models of change involve

a plurality of wedges, each of which constitutes an enormously arduous task such as "Stop all deforestation." Catastrophic events are approaching at catastrophic speed, scientific estimates of glacial melting timetables are changing from decades to years, and convincing people that a global victory in the fight to prevent disastrous climate change is not going to happen easily.

Environmental expert Paul Hawken argues that, "If you look at the science about what is happening on earth and aren't pessimistic, you don't understand data." On the whole, the state of affairs seems undeniably bleak.

Additionally, most popular routes of information do little to ameliorate the fatalistic feelings evoked by the statistics they present.

Documentaries on environmental issues typically devote eighty percent of their running time to hope-crushing statistics and twenty percent to heroic images set to cheesy music that come close to parody. Alternately, articles written on this topic present insignificant, but manageable, baby-steps that seem objectively meaningless—or they

urge immediate and life-altering actions that transcend the average person's willpower. It comes as no surprise, then, that the environmental movement has

become somewhat ineffective and perhaps, as Michael Shellenberger suggested in 'The Death of Environmentalism,' effectively extinct.

Fortunately, there are attempts being made to re-brand the fight against Global Warming and steer mindsets away from denial and fatalistic habit. One movement, centered in southern England, focuses on the word "resilient." It seeks to reintroduce the farming and artisan skills essential to the post-apocalyptic word they see as inevitably approaching. Paul Hawken, a leader in this movement casts the earth as a company that graduates should join, even though it "couldn't afford to send any recruiters or limos to your school."

Mary Wood, an Environmental Law professor at the University of Oregon, suggests that students should think of the fight against global warming as an "environmental draft," calling to mind the omnipresence and severity of the issue and committing to participating in what is, for all intents and purposes, a war.

Regardless of the name, what students and inhabitants of the earth everywhere need to keep in mind is that global warming always needs to be kept on one's mind. Wood notes that a huge part of her personal success in eliminating her family's carbon pollution springs from the ubiquity

of the issue in her life.

"I wake up in the middle of the night—on most nights—haunted by the knowledge that people across this country will do tomorrow exactly what they did yesterday [using high carbon products and otherwise polluting the atmosphere]," explained Woods in a speech she recently gave to a local church.

However, she also emphasized the hope she experiences in seeing youths, as well as adults, take up the cause. Woods still holds hope that the exponential growth of true environmental action and re-localization will outpace the exponentially

fueled dangers of overpopulation and climatic feedback.

After all, nothing rules out the possibility of this hope being realized. The environmental movement has moved to the forefront of many (of the best) minds around the world. The U.S. has mobilized unbelievably fast before, especially during past crises, most notably in WWII. And, appropriately enough, victory in the war against climate change requires similar efforts to those made when America was "fighting the good fight," right down to the victory gardens that we can all start at home.

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