

Our „3-Point-Plan to save our future“



We kids have thought a lot about what we would do if we were in charge of the world (i.e. if we were the leaders of the world's governments) and were preparing to meet up at the next decision-making climate summit. What would we do in order to save our collective future In response to this question we have organised our answers into our own **“3-Point Plan to Save Our Future.”**

1) Planting 1,000 billion trees.

We want to protect the existing woods and we want to plant billions of new trees. Altogether 1,000 billion new trees. There is still one billion hectares of free space on our earth where 1,000 billion trees could be planted. These trees would absorb an additional 10 billion tons of CO₂ every year. 1,000 billion trees sounds like a huge amount, but it is possible. The Chinese alone planted 2.7 billion trees in 2009 as a contribution to the UNEP-Billion Tree Campaign. If everybody plants 150 trees in the next ten years we will reach 1,000 billion trees by 2020. By working together we can definitely achieve this. It isn't that hard and it is not impossible anymore.

Of course we know that we can't stop climate change just by planting trees. But by planting 1,000 billion trees in the next 10 years this will help to absorb more CO₂ and give us a kind of 'time-joker' or buffer so that we have a bit more time to get our act together and really start reducing our carbon emissions. Considering that from 2009 to 2010 we actually increased emissions by 5%, instead of decreasing them, it is clear that we still have a lot to do. If we continue to increase our carbon emissions by 5% every year we will have used up our 600 tonne budget, and caused the climate to rise by 2C, by 2024.



Alternatively if we continue with the same rate of emissions as in 2010, we will have hit the 600 billion tonne mark by 2029. These statistics are highly concerning and this is why we also consider each tree that we plant to be a symbolic action sending a on clear message that we need to take action against climate change today.

2) Leave the fossil fuels in the ground

We absolutely need to get our CO₂ emissions levels down to zero by 2050. The technology for such a CO₂-free future already exists. With today's engineering capabilities we can easily make the transition to 100% renewable energy (without the need for nuclear power) by 2050.

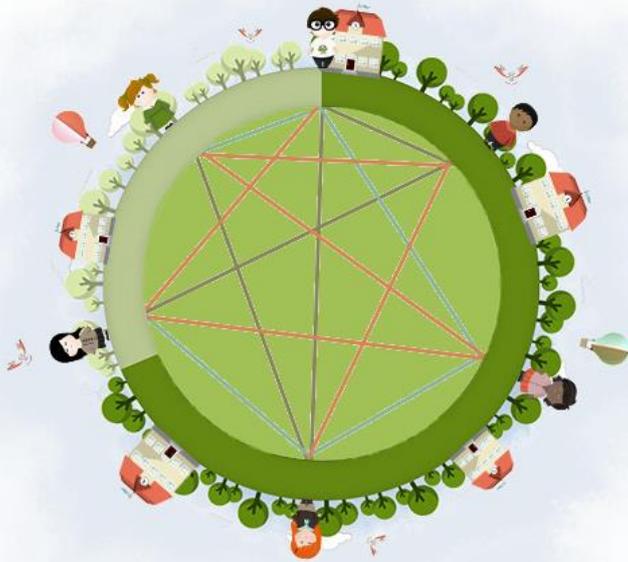


3) Poverty into the museum through climate justice.

To restrict the future warming to just 2°C, which was promised by the heads of the governments in Copenhagen, only 600 billion tons of CO₂ can be released until 2050. If we produce more CO₂ than this the temperature will also increase more than 2°C. If the average temperature increases by more than 2°C there is a chance that the ice in Greenland could melt completely. This would mean that the mean sea level would rise by 7 metres. If we divide 600 billion tons of CO₂ by 40 years this allows 15 billion tons of CO₂ per year. In 2010 31 billion tons of CO₂ was produced. The next question we face is how we can divide these 15 billion tons of CO₂ fairly across the worlds population? Should it continue like it is today with the USA and Europe producing more than 60 percent just by themselves? For us children there is only one solution: everybody gets the same, meaning 1.5 tons of CO₂ per person per year, estimating a population increase to 9 to 10 billion people by 2050.

But how does this help to solve the problem of global poverty? On average an American citizen





emits around 20 tons of CO₂ per year and a European citizen emits around 9 tons. In comparison, people in Africa emit on average only 0.25 tonnes per year. Our proposal: The people in the rich countries, who want to emit more CO₂, must buy the rights from those who emit less. This is our principle for climate justice. With the money that the people in the poorer countries earn they can then invest in agriculture, education, health and more. They will also have an incentive to invest in renewable energy technologies so

that they can maintain the right to sell their CO₂ emission allowance. This will also stop them from making the same senseless mistakes that we in the west have.

Perhaps 2°C doesn't sound like much, but this would mean significant changes for us children. Exactly what would change is for now unsure. One thing we do know however is that years ago when the temperature was 5°C lower than today, there was a layer of ice, two kilometres thick across most of Europe. Even if we remain below 600 billion tons of CO₂ output until 2050 it is only 75% certain that the average temperature rise will remain below 2°C. No one knows exactly what is going to happen.

Carbon Capture Storage

Why do adults want to push the CO₂ into the earth and call the whole thing CCS then? CCS means Carbon Capture and Storage. With CCS no one knows if it will ever work out and no one can be sure if it will not be dangerous to press the CO₂ into the earth. Will it remain there forever? What happens if not? Who wants to live next to the CO₂ disposal zone? Many open questions... Sometimes adults are really difficult to understand! Why do they not use the approved CCS via the trees which has already worked since millions of years?



To plant trees is a child's play and we can save the „C“ in trees, but also in wooden furnitures, wooden houses, etc. for many years. The adults want to invest a vast amount of money into the research of CCS. Why do we not invest the same amount of money as used for the CCS-research into the forestation; a working CCS since millions of years? When 1,000 billion trees were to be planted, this would operate as an additional carbon storage and would absorb and store an additional 10 billion tons of CO₂. Such a significant reduction in the atmospheres CO₂ is urgently needed. These 10 billion tons of CO₂ could act as something like a time-joker, then giving us a greater time buffer to effectively reduce our emission levels. With this buffer instead of 15 billion tons of CO₂ being allowed (as previously calculated) we would be allowed to exhaust per year, we even exhaust 31 billion tons CO₂ in the year 2010. From 2009 to 2010 emission were actually increased by 5%, rather than being decreased.



If the trend of a 5% increase in CO₂ emissions each year continues we would have used up our CO₂ budget of 600 bn t (billion tons) by 2024. If on the other hand we remain at the same level of emissions each year, so at 31 bn t of CO₂, we still would have used up our budget of 600 bn t CO₂ by 2029 and would have subsequently created the 2°C increase in temperature. Both of these outcomes must be prevented – and of course planting trees is going to be an important factor in helping to prevent this!

1,000 billion trees worldwide - the millionth tree in Germany

Unfortunately we children aren't going to be able to plant 1,000 billion trees alone. We will need some help from adults too. Although, we have already achieved a lot by ourselves. We children have been busy for years already working to plant one million trees in every country on earth



In Germany it took just 3 years until we had planted the millionth tree! On May 4th 2010 the millionth tree was planted in Petersberg near Bonn together with the Environment Ministers from Denmark, Germany, Canada, Mexico and Turkey. The Environment Ministers were meeting in Bonn for the „Petersberg Climate Dialogue“ COP 16 to prepare for the Climate Summit in Cancun in December 2010. Of course we were there too and made sure to speak with the Ministers to let them know about our work as Climate Justice Ambassadors and to show them how important it is for us children that they always campaign for a world contract based on Climate Justice, not only in Cancun but also at the COP 17 in Durban, South Africa and all events in the future.



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