



Hours of Reality

— Truth in Action —

Continuing the Conversation: **GOVERNMENT**

Government Makes the Difference

We became public servants to make a difference. To serve our constituents. To make their lives better today than yesterday. To see the threats on the horizon and ensure they never become reality.

Which is why we've got to get serious about the climate crisis. For some of us, it's already here in never-ending wildfire seasons and droughts stretching on forever. Or hurricanes and floods that always hit our poorest neighbors the hardest. For the rest, it's just around the corner.

The good news is that while national leaders get lost in the politics, we can get to work and make a real difference. Starting today.

The first step is talking about the crisis and what

we can do. With our colleagues and constituents and everyone we interact with. So they understand the danger staring us right in the face and how we can move forward to solve it together.

Starting a climate conversation is as easy as telling a simple story. So simple, the basics are just 11 words long:

*We must change. We can change. We will change.
Here's how.*

Of course, most people will want to know more. So below are a series of talking points you can use to help you tell this story and how public servants can lead the fight for solutions. Your voice matters, so use what feels right to you.

WE MUST CHANGE

- **Burning fossil fuels is causing a global climate crisis.** Greenhouse gas emissions from oil, coal, and natural gas are causing temperatures to rise and transforming the Earth — with devastating consequences for the communities we call home.
- **Scientists agree it's us.** Over [97 percent of climate scientists agree](#) that human activities like burning fossil fuels are driving this crisis.
- **We have to act quickly.** We're approaching a catastrophic and irreversible tipping point. Scientists warn that unless we take bold steps by 2030, dangerous impacts like disappearing water supplies, endless wildfire seasons, and lethal heatwaves could become the new normal in towns and cities worldwide.
- **The climate crisis is a moral crisis, hitting the poor and people of color the hardest.** When rising temperatures turn hurricanes into wrecking balls and rising seas swallow homes, those worst hit and first forgotten are inevitably the poor and people of color in our communities. It's injustice pure and simple.

WE CAN CHANGE

- **We don't need to wait for tomorrow — the tools to halt rising temperatures and avert the worst are in our hands today.**
- **With renewables like wind and solar, we can power our towns, cities, and states without destroying our planet.** Clean energy is affordable and abundant. [More energy from the sun's rays strikes the earth every hour than humanity uses in an entire year.](#) [Globally, wind could supply the Earth's electricity needs 40 times over.](#) It's sustainable energy there for the taking.
- **Making a just transition to renewables will create jobs — lots of them.** Experts project that the clean energy transition will [add \\$26 trillion to the world economy and 65 million jobs through 2030.](#) Just imagine what these jobs could do for our community. Imagine the economic boom from Atlanta to Alaska.
- **Making a just transition to renewables will create healthier communities.** By leaving fossil fuels behind, we free poor families and

people of color from breathing toxic chemicals and pollution. By embracing practical solutions like electric vehicles and real sustainability, we create healthier places to live for all.

WE WILL CHANGE

- **The world is with us.** [Seven in 10 Americans support government action on climate.](#) Clear majorities worldwide [see climate as the top threat today.](#)
- **Towns, cities, and states around the world are leading the way on climate solutions and building vibrant communities along the way.** Local governments are leading [an estimated 70 percent](#) of global efforts to slash emissions through steps like expanding clean energy, choosing electric vehicles, increasing energy efficiency, and investing in public transit. In the US, [220 mayors representing 120 million Americans and \\$6.2 trillion of GDP](#) committed to accelerate climate action “no matter what policies Washington may adopt.”
- **Local governments are accelerating the clean energy revolution worldwide.** [Over 100 US cities and towns and seven states are committed to 100 percent clean energy.](#) Beyond the US, [more than 100 cities and towns already get most of their energy from renewables.](#) They're creating a global culture of action, with [companies from Apple to IKEA now going all in on clean energy too.](#)

HERE'S HOW

- **We make 2020 the turning point.** In 2020, world leaders meet to create a global mandate for action with a stronger Paris Agreement. Our elected leaders will determine if and how America will act in time. As local leaders connecting climate to everything we do, we can create a culture of action.
- **We prove climate action works.** The example we set shapes expectations for national leaders. When the public see us taking action on climate and creating better, healthier places to live along the way, they'll demand that national leaders follow our lead.