



# Hours of Reality™

— Truth in Action —

## Continuing the Conversation: YOUNG PEOPLE

### We Were Promised a Future

We will be the generation that solves the climate crisis. After all, we don't have a choice.

We've seen what fossil fuels and business as usual mean. Our precious Earth devastated by heatwaves and hurricanes. Inequity and injustice growing across the planet. The bright future we were promised disappearing right before our eyes.

We won't be silent. Not with our future on the line. And with millions and millions of young people all around the world standing up and calling for real action, we have the numbers to create a truly just and livable tomorrow.

The first step is to keep the conversation going, to ensure all our friends and classmates and even

older generations know what's happening and what's at stake. It's a simple message to spread and an easy story to tell. In fact, the basics are just 11 words long.

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

If you're ready to start a climate conversation, below are some basic talking points to help you tell this story. Your voice matters so use the points and language that feels right to you.

### WE MUST CHANGE

- **Burning fossil fuels is causing a global climate crisis.** Greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels are causing global temperatures to rise — fast. The result: hurricanes getting stronger, droughts lasting

longer, heatwaves turning lethal, and rising seas displacing homes and communities.

- **Fossil fuels and climate change are driving injustice and inequity across the planet.** Poor families and people of color contribute the least to the fossil fuel economy and climate change but suffer the most. [Seventy-eight percent of African Americans live within 30 miles of a coal plant](#) driving climate change and filling the air with toxic chemicals. Many people in [Latinx, indigenous, and low-income communities](#) live close to polluting facilities too. And when climate impacts from hurricanes to floods hit, poor families and people of color are inevitably the worst hit and first forgotten.
- **Our future is on the line.** We've studied too long and worked too hard to let the climate crisis steal our future from us. If older generations won't act in time, we will.

### 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 lives 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.](#)
- **With a just transition to clean energy, we can create a fair and livable future.** Experts project that the clean energy and efficiency transition will [add \\$26 trillion to the world economy and create 65 million jobs through 2030.](#) These are jobs with a future. Jobs we can take. Jobs that can re-energize struggling communities around the world.

### WE WILL CHANGE

- **Young people are inspiring the world to act.** The youth-led Global Climate Strike in September brought millions worldwide into the street to demand climate action now.

- **The world is with us.** [Seven in 10 registered voters in the US support government action on climate.](#) Clear majorities worldwide [see climate as the top threat today.](#)
- **The clean energy revolution is accelerating by the day.** [Over 100 US cities and towns and seven states are committed to 100 percent clean energy.](#) [Globally, more than 100 cities and towns already get most of their energy from renewables.](#) [Companies from Apple to IKEA are going all in on clean energy.](#)

### HERE'S HOW

- **In the US, we can make 2020 a national conversation on climate.** Millions of young Americans will speak up about climate for the first time in 2020. We have the power to put climate at the top of the national agenda and get leaders at every level talking about solutions.
- **One question for every elected official: "What will you do about the climate crisis?"** National leaders and elected officials need to have a plan for solving the crisis threatening our future. We can make sure they do.
- **Globally, we give our leaders a mandate for a stronger Paris Agreement.** We've seen what young voices can do. So in 2020, we pressure our leaders to strengthen their commitments to climate action with a strong Paris Agreement that will slash emissions and accelerate energy transition in time to avoid the worst.