

It Takes a Planet

A zine about what you—and everyone—can
actually do to work on climate solutions

Read it online!



Hey, we noticed you care about climate change. We do too—and we want to do more about it with you.

Easier said than done, right? The problem is so massive, it's hard to feel like you fully comprehend it, let alone know where to begin. That's where we come in. We're an online climate school. Since 2020, we've helped thousands of people understand both the problem and how their talents and interests can help tackle it.

More than that, we are a community of people, like you, that are working together to make a real impact through connection, knowledge, and meaningful action.

And that last part—making your strengths part of the solution—is foundational to us. We're not just about the need to scale up and finance shiny techno-fixes. That stuff matters a lot, but it's nothing without justice and heart.

Some facts: The planet is getting hotter, the impacts are getting more severe, and our political leaders and industry titans don't appear poised to do nearly enough about it.

We could go on, but you already know the situation isn't great. Feeling sad, angry, numb—that's all valid. Yet, we're hopeful. We want to show you why because you can be part of turning this situation around. In fact, it can't happen without you.

So let's unpack three things:

1. The problem feels overwhelming.
2. We aren't screwed.
3. What's this got to do with us and you?

Part 1: The problem feels overwhelming.

You can't fix something without first understanding it, so here's how we think about what's going on.

1. Burning fossil fuels has been making the planet hotter for more than a century. To stop the planet from getting even hotter still, we need to stop burning fossil fuels.
2. This means overhauling our electrical grid, our transportation systems, many millions of buildings and appliances, and even how we grow food.
3. Rapidly transforming those systems hinges on seismic political and financial shifts. Everyone's involved; there are no sidelines to stand on.
4. We also have to adapt to handle impacts it's too late to prevent, like how some amount of sea level rise is now guaranteed for many years to come.
5. Oh, P.S.—The modeled scenarios where we avert the worst impacts of climate change do still depend on scaling up some of those shiny techno-fixes we mentioned, like machines that are now being built for what's called “carbon dioxide removal.”

We're keeping it short, but our programs include classes and conversations about each of these things above if you want to dive deeper. Justice is key throughout. Amid so much upheaval, we keep asking: Who should stand to gain, and who faces the most peril?

Sidebar:

We're running a good old-fashioned raffle – enter to win a free session with a climate career coach or a spot in our climate fellowship this May! Use the QR code on the right:



Part 2: We aren't screwed.

If you sometimes look at the day's headlines and feel like things are careening from bad to worse, we get it. It's painful. If you haven't breathed smoke from a wildfire, you're lucky. But the community is fighting harder than ever.

There's a lot left to protect. People whose homes would end up underwater if we did nothing. Whole species that could wink out of existence, but don't have to.

Yes, the ocean is rising—but we can still decide how much. Yes, the planet is hot, but it will stop getting hotter as soon as we can stop emitting more heat-trapping gases. (Really! To date, the international scientific community's best estimate is once we do this, further heating will quickly level off.)

And yeah, we're also going to need a lot more batteries. Mining the raw materials for them in non-exploitive ways is another case where the justice lens matters. (We also have to note the overall need for, say, lithium, is miniscule next to the global appetite for iron.)

This will be the last time we bring up schmancy techno-fixes, but energy storage happens to be another promising playground for innovation. These problems are solvable.

Part 3: What's this got to do with YOU?

You want to stop the planet from getting hotter—us too. We exist to empower you with knowledge and like-minded connections as you explore what part you'll play.

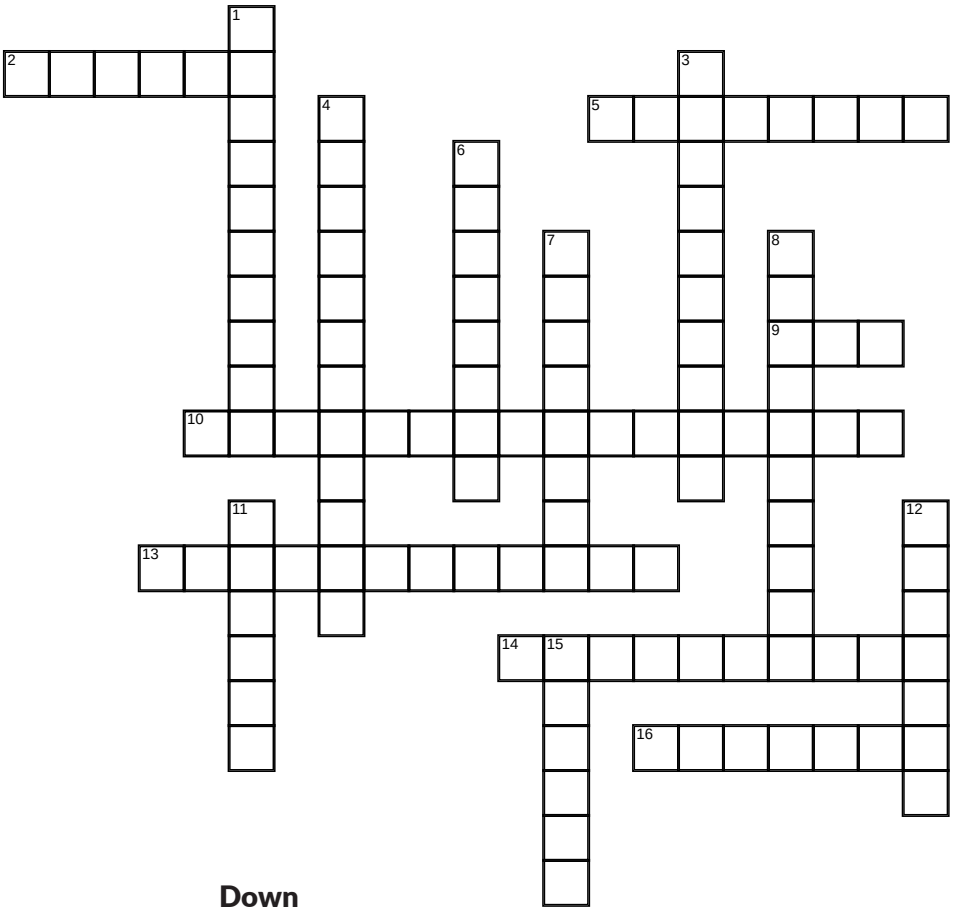
Here, we like to quote writer and self-described “climate person” Mary Annaïse Heglar, who gave one of our keynote addresses. People often ask her what the one thing folks can do is, and she wrote, “There’s no one thing. I wish there were.”

*But the question remains. “What can I do?”
Well, now that you understand that the question is complicated, the answer actually emerges as quite simple: Do what you’re good at. And do your best.*

Journalist David Roberts hit on a similar theme in his keynote:

There are a billion ways for you to enter this fight beyond your friggin’ lightbulbs. We need innovators and engineers developing technologies. If you work in a bank, you can get involved in trying to channel financing away from fossil fuels to clean energy. We need architects and designers. We need community activists... We need international aid and development... We need artists and storytellers to tell the story of this new world that’s being built—to tell the story of this grand, global, generational fight.

We want you and your unique skills on our side in that fight. Taking it on might feel scary at times, but it doesn’t have to be lonely. Come be with your people.



Down

1. Cold current off the west coast of the US
3. Submergence of land by water
4. Practice of forcing rain
6. Exploratory hole drilled into ice to gather geophysical data
7. Cores of this material from lakes are used to measure past climates
8. Instrument used to measure humidity
11. Amount of solar radiation reflected from an object or surface
12. Short-term conditions of the atmosphere
15. A climate pattern that describes the warming of ocean surface waters

Across

2. Which country has the most climate zones?
5. A volcano in the Philippine Islands that erupted in 1991
9. Gas that absorbs infrared radiation in the atmosphere
10. Study of climate records
13. Cycles describing changes in Earth's orbit
14. Perennially frozen ground
16. Represents one third of the emissions from the agriculture sector

How to find your path in climate fast

Discover what's worth doing and brings you joy, make a plan, and refine and apply your personal skillset to take it on.

Terra.do's Climate Change: Learning for Action is a twelve-week online course, six to ten hours weekly. Live weekly meetings with your instructor, experts, and other fellows over Zoom. Alongside asynchronous learning to give you a deep understanding of the climate crisis and what action is worth taking.

You'll cover both the problem and key solution areas. Fundamental changes to how all industries operate will need to be made that need your skills as we speak. With this in mind, we invite you to consider:

- What work must be done?
- What steps need to be taken?
- What skills will be needed?
- What role can I play?

Lastly, we're not Pollyannas. We don't put a lot of stock in planting an impossible number of trees, and we're highly skeptical of most offsets. If we think something is greenwashing, we'll explain why and back up our claims.

Let's learn, grow, and act together. When we do, we can make a meaningful difference for the climate. Learn more at Terra.do.

**Use the QR code below to claim
a 20% discount on Terra.do's course:**

Valid through May 17, 2024
(apply by then!)



Daily Sea Surface Temperature, World (60°S-60°N, 0-360°E)

Dataset: NOAA OISST V2.1 | Image Credit: ClimateReanalyser.org, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine

21.5

21

20.5

20

19.5

Temperature (°C)

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

- 1981
- 1988
- 1995
- 2002
- 2009
- 2016
- 2023
- 1982
- 1989
- 1996
- 2003
- 2010
- 2017
- 2024
- 1983
- 1990
- 1997
- 2004
- 2011
- 2018
- - - 1982-2011 mean
- . . plus 2 σ
- . . minus 2 σ
- 1984
- 1991
- 1998
- 2005
- 2012
- 2019
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- 2022

