

THE CLIMATE CRISIS, AND HOW WE CAN SOLVE IT – TOGETHER

Presentation Notes

What is climate change and why is it a crisis?

- Burning oil, coal and gas emits carbon dioxide which acts like a blanket, trapping heat and warming the planet.
- The fossil fuels that we have burned have already warmed the planet by almost a degree Celsius (one and a half degrees Fahrenheit) and will add nearly another degree C of delayed warming – a total of 1.6°C.
- Most of the world's countries, including the United States, have agreed that more than 2°C (3.6°F) warming would result in changes to our climate and planet that would cause unacceptable amounts of human suffering.
- If we continue "business as usual" we'll lock in 2°C of warming **in about 15 years**. To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we need to act now and we need to leave about 80% of known fossil fuel reserves in the ground.

What impacts are anticipated from climate change?

- Climate change is happening now and many of the impacts are visible today. They will continue to worsen unless we act. These include (* indicates specific impacts we're already seeing here in San Diego):
 - Sea level rise *
 - Drinking water shortages *
 - More frequent and intense wildfires *
 - Loss of plant and animal species *
 - Killing much of life in the oceans *
 - More frequent and intense hurricanes
 - Reduced food production
 - Political / military conflicts over scarce resources
 - Threats to our health including increases in harsh heat waves and infectious diseases *

What are the solutions to the crisis?

- There are proven technologies and policy solutions to reduce carbon emissions.
- In San Diego, where vehicular transportation and electricity generation are the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, we must transition away from highways to public transit, walking, and biking, and transition away from fossil fuel power plants to clean, renewable energy sources like solar.
- On a national level, ending subsidies to fossil fuel companies and putting a price on carbon pollution to account for the damage it is causing would create market incentives to address climate change.

Why haven't we acted yet?

Stopping climate change is a direct threat to the fossil fuel industry. Oil, gas and coal companies spend millions of dollars a year to lobby Congress and misinform the public. The result? These companies receive government subsidies and have succeeded in preventing nearly any meaningful actions by the government. Only a powerful grassroots movement will be able to stand up to these interests.

How is each of us part of the solution?

Each of us possesses the *ability* and the *responsibility* to be a part of the solution. We can all *shrink* our own carbon footprint and come together to *grow* our civic footprint. Some examples:

- Walk, bike, use public transit, eat less meat, use less electricity and water, etc.
- Talk to friends, family and coworkers about the urgency of climate change and what we're doing about it.
- Write letters to newspapers and communicate your concerns to your elected representatives.
- Volunteer with a group like **SanDiego350.org** to build the climate movement through public outreach and education, advocating for better policies and laws, and raising visibility about key climate issues.

Your Notes

**Climate Change is real. It's happening now. There are solutions.
We need you to help make them happen.**

Who is SanDiego350.org? (SD350)

SanDiego350.org is an all-volunteer organization of diverse San Diegans concerned about climate change and its very real effects on our lively-hoods, well-being, and the future for our children. We work to increase awareness of climate change and advocate for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We work on:

- Public education and outreach (workshops, festivals, community presentations)
- Advocating for better public policy (stronger climate action & transportation plans and a ban on fracking)
- Raising visibility (letters to the editor and rallies)

Join us for a Monthly Membership Meetings - we meet on the third Tuesday of each month @ 6:45pm.
Locations vary around the county – check www.SanDiego350.org for details on upcoming meetings.

