

Brainstorming Zero Carbon ASAP Project

The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative

_____, 2021

Name _____

Address _____

Greetings _____,

To have a high percentage probability of limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C., we need plans of action which goes *far beyond* the efforts currently in progress. We especially need plans of action which *exponentially accelerate* movement towards positive tipping points on many critical challenges at the same time.

Why?

- 1) Many of the negative feedback loops now being closely monitored (glaciers melting, polar and Greenland ice melting, loss of Albedo Effect, permafrost thawing, extreme fire events, loss of carbon sinks in Amazon Rainforest and Boreal Forest) were projected by earlier models to reach the stage they are at *decades from now*.
- 2) There is an extremely long list of organizations and institutions [news media, governments (international, national, local), banks, think tanks, NGOs, etc.] who have civic responsibility and community service obligations to be responders to this Climate Emergency, *but who are not moving with sufficient urgency*.
- 3) During the three to eight decades of unprecedented cultural transformation needed to achieve Zero Carbon Resilience, Sustainable Biodiversity, social equity (including equitable eco-footprints and water footprints), equal justice, requisite emergency aid, and peace, this writer believes many serious blind spots will be discovered. Such blind spots will be issues which are far from being fully appreciated now, but which are serious enough to cripple our best efforts, if not remedied (Example: most of us do not have a clear idea of what is necessary to achieve Zero Carbon ASAP for a town of 10,000 people).

(Note: this "Why?" list is continued in Appendix 2--Why is this "Brainstorming" Project Needed?).

Stefan Pasti, Founder and Resource Coordinator

The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative (www.cpcs.org)

stefanpasti@gmx.com @StefanPasti on Twitter

The “Brainstorming Zero Carbon ASAP” Project

Fortunately, there are thousands of organizations and institutions around the world which can contribute essential guidance at this critical time. These are entities I refer to as positive tipping point organizations and institutions--as they are making significant contributions in their fields (especially Climate Mitigation and Sustainable Biodiversity, but also many other fields); they are well known in their fields for the integrity and reliability of their work--and *they are critical to gaining positive momentum at this auspicious moment in the history of life on Earth*. [Note: I have listed 616 such organizations and institutions in 30 categories in Appendix 10 of my 157 page paper [“Brainstorming Zero Carbon ASAP Campaign”](#) (June, 2019)... and have also created a [“Sample List of 231 Positive Tipping Point Organizations and Institutions”](#)--both links also on www.cpcsi.org homepage).]

The “Brainstorming Zero Carbon ASAP” Project begins--

by asking such positive tipping point organizations and institutions for 5-10 page overviews on how to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions ASAP in their specific fields--and also--how work in their field can best contribute to managing the unprecedented cultural transformation ahead (to limit Global Warming to 1.5°C, preserve Sustainable Biodiversity, and resolve many other critical challenges at the same time) (see “17 Tweet Series” below).

The “Brainstorming Zero Carbon ASAP” Project advocates for--

building a very user-friendly clearinghouse website for the 5-10 page overviews--on how to achieve Zero Carbon ASAP, and how to achieve positive tipping points on other closely related issues--from these thousands of positive tipping point organizations and institutions (overviews which will be updated as needed, for the *Duration Of The Emergency*).

A well-organized clearinghouse website of such 5-10 page overviews can--

- 1) provide clear visualizations of transformations needed in every aspect of our lives (climate action; food; water; sanitation; housing; land rights; infrastructure; civic engagement; peacebuilding, etc.)
- 2) provide the equivalent of a needs assessment for local communities, of the kind which precedes Community Visioning [for details about Community Visioning, Stakeholder Engagement, etc., see overviews at Planning Next’s Portfolio webpage (at <https://www.planning-next.com/work/>); the 13 minute documentary “Chattanooga: A Community with a Vision” (at <https://vimeo.com/9653090>)--and Appendix 1 to this letter.]
- 3) provide focus and urgency for surveys of key local leaders (prior to Visioning, on challenges perceived and solutions needed)--the responses to which can help residents understand the need for the many meetings which make up a Community Visioning/collaborative problem solving initiative
- 4) be an asset to the over 1,870 local governments which have declared a Climate Emergency (as of January 16, 2021) (at <https://www.theclimatemobilization.org/climate-emergency/>)

and the local Community Visionings can--

- 1) actively engage local residents in identifying challenges and solutions, prioritizing solutions, and creating action plans
- 2) provide a process by which residents can find common ground and work together
- 3) provide local newspapers, and other news sources, with numerous positive ways of reporting on this Accelerating Climate Emergency Action process
- 4) be a sign of hope to many people who are feeling despair, as this “Brainstorming” project highlights how many truly valuable resources we can leverage to resolve the Climate Emergency... and as this project can help accelerate the creation of thousands of examples of people working together to become a greater force than the challenges we are facing.

[The [“17 Tweet Series”](#) (as a document) summarizes the “constellation of initiatives” approach of the “Brainstorming Zero Carbon ASAP” Project--and is accessible on the www.cpcsi.org homepage. The “17 Tweet Series” is important, because it also highlights the magnitude of other “social and environmental externalities” which need to be resolved, alongside of achieving Zero Carbon ASAP.]

Universities and Colleges as Lead Organizations

Universities and colleges can be very appropriate lead organizations for the collaborative problem solving and community education needed at this critical time. Universities and colleges can take the lead by--

- 1) administering the surveys to key local leaders (referencing the clearinghouse website as a resource base)
- 2) hosting the Community Visioning (maybe even on campus when the COVID crisis is over)
- 3) training more and more students in the fields emphasized as essential by themes identified in the 5-10 page overviews on the clearinghouse website.

[Note: “Networks representing more than 7,000 higher and further education institutions from six continents have announced that they are declaring a ‘climate emergency’” (July 10, 2019) (at <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20190710141435609>)]

Next Steps

By this initial communication, I am hoping to begin a collaboration with _____ on this “Brainstorming” project. Through such collaboration, details would be discussed regarding the focus of specific 5-10 page overviews; input will be requested on what other positive tipping point organizations and institutions should be asked for 5-10 page overviews; and details for the clearinghouse website will be worked on.

I am hoping there is someone at _____ who believes we need a “Brainstorming” project like this, and would like to see _____ contribute a 5-10 page overview to the clearinghouse website.

While this project is currently being initiated by myself, as representative of The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative (www.cpcsi.org), my hope is that through these initial letters, people and organizations can be found who understand the potential of the “Brainstorming” and Community Visioning approach being described here, and who will provide this project with strong organizational and/or institutional support.

For a Peaceful and Sustainable World,

Stefan Pasti, Founder and Resource Coordinator

The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative (www.cpcsi.org)

stefanpasti@gmx.com

@StefanPasti on Twitter

Appendix 1--Stakeholder Engagement

While there are advantages to in-person stakeholder engagement (especially in local communities), there are many online stakeholder engagement platforms with very helpful tools and resources.

Below are some of the online engagement features available thru Engagement Hub (at <https://engagementhub.com.au/software-features>).

(Note: the writer of this letter has no affiliation with Engagement Hub--these features are highlighted here to help readers of this letter visualize the potential of online Stakeholder Engagement.)

“Overview--Introduce your stakeholders to your consultation with a summary of your project, including an image or a video. Determine if your project is public, viewable by all, or private, by invitation only.

Timeline--Publicly display your engagement process and other key project dates. This allows your stakeholders to have the complete picture of the process and where they can get involved.

Latest News/Blog--Keep your stakeholders and community informed with project updates, media releases, opportunities and consultation outcomes. Include links and add attachment or images to maximize your impact.

Events--Notify and encourage your community to attend workshops, forums and events. This is a complete event registration system including stakeholder electronic diary integration!

Community Chat--Open up conversations with your stakeholders and community with our online forum.

Surveys--Our flexible survey tool enables unlimited surveys and feedback forms with a range of question types including a WYSIWYG. Stakeholders can save draft surveys prior to submission.

Document Library--Include support information, relevant plans, documents, spreadsheets and presentations in a simple categorised filing system. The Library makes it so easy for your stakeholders to navigate a lot of information.

Project Links--The Project Links enables you to provide a list of relevant external websites.”

Appendix 2--Why is this “Brainstorming” Project Needed?

(continued from p. 1)

- 4) “The climate crisis has arrived and is *accelerating faster than most scientists expected* (figure 2, IPCC 2018). It is *more severe than anticipated*, threatening natural ecosystems and the fate of humanity (IPCC 2019). *Especially worrisome are potential irreversible climate tipping points and nature's reinforcing feedbacks* (atmospheric, marine, and terrestrial) that could lead to a catastrophic “hothouse Earth,” well beyond the control of humans (Steffen et al. 2018). These climate chain reactions could cause significant disruptions to ecosystems, society, and economies, potentially making large areas of Earth uninhabitable.” [From statement [“World Scientists’ Warning of a Climate Emergency”](#), with more than 11,000 scientist signatories from around the world (November 5, 2019; paragraph 7)]
- 5) There has been no well-publicized coalition focusing on decreasing Total World Energy Demand (where applicable) as a legitimate and cost effective pathway for achieving Zero Carbon and maintaining Sustainable Biodiversity [Note: “It would be foolish to underestimate the challenge of checking the consumption juggernaut” (Christopher Flavin, as President of Worldwatch Institute)].
- 6) We need Climate Emergency Media Coverage to be providing much more assistance with the cultural transformation to Zero Carbon. This “Brainstorming” project can help the news media to become the kind of educational resource it needs to be.
- 7) “Billions of people still lack safe water, sanitation, and handwashing facilities: 844 million lack basic water services, 2.1 billion lack safely managed drinking water, 4.5 billion lack access to safely managed sanitation, and 892 million still practice open defecation.” [From [“Highlights – SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation”](#) (UN Water)]
- 8) “The interplay between climate, conflict, hunger, poverty and persecution creates increasingly complex emergencies.” [From [“Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2019”](#) by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)]
- 9) The deep cultural transformation needed to achieve Zero Carbon requires the mobilization of all actors across all segments of society... however, we haven’t even began to realize the potential of carrying out Community Visioning/collaborative problem solving initiatives in local communities--to engage people in communities around the world, and elicit a full range of ideas for how to achieve Zero Carbon. [1000 time-intensive Community Visioning Initiatives, in communities around the world, would create an exponential increase in solution-oriented investment, an exponential increase in solution-oriented employment, and an exponential increase in our collective capacity to overcome the challenges of our times.]
- 10) There is currently a tragic deterioration of trust/confidence in the institutions responsible for guiding public discourse. The clearinghouse website of 5-10 page overviews can provide a foundation for reliable expertise and responsible stewardship, and thus assist with re-establishing local and national institutions as leaders in both guiding public discourse, and accelerating Climate Emergency Action.

Appendix 3

Partial List of other positive tipping point organizations and institutions
which will receive this initial contact letter

Water.org	IPBES
The Hunger Project	Zero Waste Scotland
InterAction	Circular Economy
Ceres	Footprint Network
Green Bank Network	Green America
Carbon Brief	World Health Organization (WHO)
Climate Reality	The Lancet
350.org	Habitat for Humanity
GreenBiz	Human Rights Watch
CleanTechnica	Cultural Survival
C40 Cities	Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN)
International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)	Mother Jones
Union of Concerned Scientists	European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)
Intl Inst for Environment and Development (IIED)	Landesa
Global Call for Climate Action (GCCA)	Schumacher Center for a New Economics
Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)	TimeBanks USA
Global Covenant of Mayors	Global Philanthropy Group
Transition Network	Pew Research Global
Climate Action Network-International (CAN)	Religions for Peace
Project Drawdown	United Religions Initiative
Centre for Alternative Technology	Engagement Hub
REN21	Permaculture Magazine
Climate Mobilization	Clean Cooking Alliance
Divest Invest	Gaia Education
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Global Ecovillage Network
Refugees International	Lowimpact.org (LILI)
Mercy Corps	Solar Cookers International
Doctors Without Borders	Futurepump
Save the Children	Intl Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
World Wildlife Fund	National Education Association (NEA)
The Nature Conservancy	Teachers without Borders
Rainforest Alliance	Second Nature
World Farmers' Organisation	Talloires Network
International Food Security Network (IFSN)	Alliance for Susty Leadership in Education (EAUC)
World Agroforestry (ICRAF)	Global Fund for Women
Fairtrade International	Women's Funding Network
Friends of the Earth	Intl Women's Media Foundation (IWMF)