

# The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability Initiative

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Maximizing Citizen Participation and Accelerating Solution Activity in a Time of Unprecedented Challenges

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Climate Emergency Alert

and How to Accelerate Climate Emergency Action

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
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From:

Stefan Pasti, Founder and Resource Coordinator

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The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative at [www.cpcsi.org](http://www.cpcsi.org)

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In the 40 years I have been an \*independent\* researcher and educator, I have given special attention to the fields of risk assessment, ecological sustainability, peacebuilding, education, and community organizing. During this time, I have had access to so many exceptional resources (three examples at the end of this alert), that I am convinced we can accelerate Climate Emergency Action enough to limit--in ten years--the number of negative tipping points which are triggered.

I am writing to share with you *why* we--in the United States, and worldwide--need to accelerate Climate Emergency Action. In this alert I also provide recommendations for *how to do* such accelerating. I am making this appeal to University and College Leaders (about 75) who understand the importance of education policies, and curriculum development. Even at this critical time, governments, businesses, news media, and religions in the United States are not moving fast enough to prevent Runaway Global Warming. However, I believe they *will move fast enough* once there are *Community Education Campaigns*\* to create local and regional collaborative problem-solving--which brainstorm challenges and solutions and catalyze action in local communities and regions, and which are endorsed by at least 100 universities.

### 2050<sup>1</sup> is **way too late** for limiting Global Warming, and limiting the 6th Extinction

- 1) "Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history--and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world now likely...." [[UN-IPBES Report](#); May 6, 2019]
- 2) "... the study finds that six tipping elements (which may *cascade* into Runaway Global Warming) could become 'likely'--and a further four 'possible' --if global temperatures rise to 1.5C above pre-industrial temperatures. And 13 tipping elements will be either 'likely' or 'possible' if the planet warms by 2.6C." [from [Carbon Brief](#) (September, 2022), and p. 4 (with graph) in my paper "[Triggering Positive Social, Environmental, Economic, and Cultural Tipping Points](#)" (20 pages; September, 2022)]

1. Net Zero by 2050 is the goal emphasized by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) "Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C" (October 8, 2018) (see [Summary for Policymakers](#))--as necessary to limit Global Warming to 1.5C. The 2050 target has been guiding the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (198 Countries) since 2018. (COP29 will be in Azerbaijan in November, 2024.) The Net Zero by 2050 target is also used by most organizations and institutions which have much influence on Climate Action outcomes [International Energy Agency (IEA), World Bank, C40 Cities, etc]. However, in the last two years, many warning indicators have shown that 2050 is **way too late**.

- 3) “Dr. Euan Nisbet (University of London)--Methane Climate Termination Event--Wetlands are turning on (summary version)” [[Interview on YouTube](#) (key highlights 11:50-16:40); October 17, 2023]]
- 4) “... there is increasing evidence that global warming has accelerated over the past 15 years.”  
“... because the aerosol pollutants have dangerous health effects on people, eventually societies decide to clean them up--causing dramatic warming to reveal itself in the process.” [[Washington Post](#); Dec. 26, 2023]
- 5) “Greenland losing 30 million tonnes of ice an hour, study reveals” [[Guardian](#); January 17, 2024]
- 6) “It’s official: For the past 12 months, the Earth was 1.5 degrees Celsius higher than in preindustrial times...” [[Washington Post](#); February 8, 2024]
- 7) “Fossil CO<sup>2</sup> emissions at record high in 2023.” [[Global Carbon Project](#); December 4, 2023]

#### The November 2024 Elections in the U.S. could be a turning point in the wrong direction

- 1) “Membership of the 118th Congress: A Profile”

“This report presents a profile of the membership of the 118th Congress (2023-2024) as of February 5, 2024, or at the beginning of the 118th Congress (January 3, 2023), where noted.... In the House of Representatives, there are 219 Republicans (plus 2 Delegates and the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico), 212 Democrats (plus 3 Delegates), and 4 vacant seats. The Senate has 49 Republicans, 48 Democrats, and 3 Independents, who all caucus with the Democrats.” [Congressional Research Service at [congress.gov](#)]

- 2) “Opinion: Donald Trump's allies are preparing to overhaul higher education”  
[in [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) (requires free account to read); March 6, 2024]

“On January 20, 2025, a newly elected Trump administration would assume the presidency armed with policies produced by a network of think tanks and research centers, including the Heritage Foundation, the Goldwater Institute, and Chris Rufo’s home base, the Manhattan Institute. Heritage has been instrumental in providing agendas for Republican politicians for more than 40 years. Its ‘Project 2025’ brings together a coalition of over 100 conservative groups, including Turning Point USA, the National Association of Scholars, and Hillsdale College, and it has already released a nearly 900-page document,

‘Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise,’ detailing the operations of federal agencies with the goal of coalescing ‘an army of aligned, vetted, trained, and prepared conservatives to go to work on Day One to deconstruct the Administrative State.’ Project 2025 is described as a ‘plan to unite the conservative movement and the American people against elite rule and woke culture warriors’ and as the ‘last opportunity to save our republic.’

3) **“If no candidate receives a majority of electoral votes--the House of Representatives elects the President from the three (3) Presidential candidates who received the most electoral votes. Each State delegation has one vote and a candidate must receive at least 26 votes (a majority of the States) to be elected.”** [[The Hill](#), March 2, 2024]

#### Limiting--in ten years--the number of negative tipping points which are triggered

The CPCS Initiative is convinced that local communities and regions can include the [recommendations of the CPCS Initiative](#) (same as recommendation #1 below) into their local specific action plans, and for all continents, countries, regions, and local communities to limit--in ten years--the number of negative tipping points which are triggered.

How to do it recommendations--Strategies, Positive Tipping Point Organizations and Institutions

1) <https://www.cpcsi.org/constellations-of-initiatives-approach> , [which is also p. 16-20 in [“Triggering Positive Social, Environmental, Economic, and Cultural Tipping Points”](#) (20 pages; September, 2022)]

2) [Table of Contents](#) (13 pages) = Executive Summary for [“Do We Have Moral Compasses We Can Rely On?”](#) (147 pages; April, 2021) Overviews of many recommended initiatives in [Section C: “The smaller the circumference, the more accurately can we gauge the results of our actions”](#) (also--Section B: Concerns about the Leanings of Human Aspirations)

3) List of [231 Positive Tipping Point Organizations and Institutions](#) ([www.cpcsi.org](http://www.cpcsi.org) webpage)

#### Numbers of Universities with Climate Solutions Leadership, and Total Number of Universities

1) “(In the United States) The number of postsecondary Title IV institutions in 2020–21 was 5,916.” [[National Center for Educational Statistics](#)]

- a) “The Climate Leadership Network is a signature program of [Second Nature](#) that provides resources, networking, and national engagement opportunities for signatory institutions. Signatories are colleges and universities in nearly all fifty states who are taking action on climate change and preparing students through research and education.”
- b) “The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. There are currently 351 institutions with a valid STARS rating.” [Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education ([AASHE](#))]
- c) “The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges: 2024 Edition ranks the [Top 50 Green Colleges](#), plus reported sustainability information from a total of [522 schools](#).”
- 2) “Currently, there are more than 25,000 universities around the world.” [[research.com](#); June 28, 2023]

Opportunities for Universities, Colleges, and Community Colleges  
re Exponentially Accelerating Solutions Action in the Climate Emergency Era

Can universities, colleges, and community colleges (universities+) do more than they are doing now?

**1) Somehow, in this year 2024, at least 500 universities+ in the United States, and 2,500 universities+ around the world need to **\*\*\*Declare a Climate Emergency\*\*\*** [“2,355 jurisdictions in 40 countries have declared a Climate Emergency” ([link](#))] **--and remove from American culture any legitimacy to the claims made by Climate Deniers that Climate Change is a hoax.****

In addition, universities, colleges, and community colleges can--

- 2) assist in facilitating and providing clear guidance on key fields of activity (food systems, water scarcity, migration, housing; land rights, biodiversity; civic engagement; peacebuilding; emergency assistance, etc.)
- 3) accelerate **\*\*Civilian Climate Corps\*\*** into key fields of activity
- 4) create curriculum resources, classes, workshops, and teacher training to maximize the identification of challenges and solutions during **\*\*LOCAL\*\*** Community Visioning Processes [Ex. 13 minute documentary [“Chattanooga: Community with a Vision”](#) (and other **\*\*local\*\*** collaborative problem-solving approaches)]
- 5) accelerate the training of organizers and facilitators for **\*\*local\*\*** collaborative problem-solving
- 6) demonstrate how all the investments of time, energy, and money (the “votes”) each of us make in our everyday circumstances become the larger economy. People from every variety of circumstances can learn how to wisely cast such “votes”

- 7) make better use of teachings which inspire and encourage people (especially in overdeveloped regions)
- a) to sacrifice personal desires for the greater good of the whole
  - b) to find contentment and quality of life while using less material goods and ecological services
  - c) to support community life and cultural traditions which “bring to the fore how many good people there are, how many ways there are to do good, and how much happiness comes to those who extend help, as well as to those who receive it”

#### Curated Compilations of Excerpts Resources, and Quotations from a Profound Spiritual Teacher

- 1) [“Global Warming Awareness, Climate Change Awareness, and Climate Emergency Action A Survey: 1961-2020”](#) (240 highlights from reports, websites, articles, books, etc.) (316 pages; Nov., 2020) [[“Quick Reference to 10 Key Graphs and Charts”](#) (6 pages) (last six pages in “Survey”) = Executive Summary]
- 2) [“Do We Have Moral Compasses We Can Rely On?”](#) (147 pages; April, 2021) Summary of challenges and solutions [Supplementary [Table of Contents](#) (13 pages) = Executive Summary]
- 3) ["An Arrangement of Quotations from 'Sathya Sai Speaks' \(Vol. 1-15\)"](#) (301 pages; 1997, 2006)  
Vol. 1-15 are collections of discourses made by Sri Sathya Sai Baba (1926-2011) during the years 1953-1982. [Supplementary [Table of Contents](#) (5 pages) = Executive Summary]

For a Peaceful and Sustainable World,

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One of the most persistent ironies in life is that with so many opportunities to provide real assistance to fellow human beings, there are still many, many people in this world who cannot find a way to earn a living providing such assistance.

Human morality is not a constant--it is not something which is the same throughout the centuries of human existence; and thus it is something which can be degraded or raised up, depending on the leanings of human aspirations.

[Note: I will also be sending an email copy of this letter to you (with the subject heading “Letter Appeal: Accelerate Climate Emergency Action from cpcsi.org”) which will make all of the above links accessible; and post a template copy of this letter (pdf file) at [www.cpcsi.org](http://www.cpcsi.org) (in the “Featured Resources and Commentary” section, on the homepage)]