

What I Can Do NOW!

{Version: October 6, 2022}

The primary purpose of this document is to present a wide range of actions to consider, all of which are really needed to help achieve the global climate targets. It is in the form of a 2X2 matrix (the green rows are your current status; the yellow columns are your focus):

Your Status & Focus	Personal	Systemic
Starting	List for starting personal	List for starting systemic
Continuing	List for continuing personal	List for continuing systemic

The wide variety is by no means an exhaustive list but does reinforce our Enduring Principle of the value of Diversity. The matrix below reflects the wide range, containing separate items for people who are just starting as well as those well-immersed in actions; and also distinguishing between personal actions and those at a broader, systemic level.

The following list is best read after watching our June 5, 2022 session (“Super Heroes Can’t Save Us! What I Can Do NOW!”), found in our archives: <https://cofchristclimatejustice.org/archive-videos>. As well, a good complement is the material from the Earth Stewardship Committee.

We start with two overall actions that apply regardless of where you are in the matrix.

1. Foundational Layer: Being / Spirituality {which flows into Actions, below}; Finding one’s spiritual well-spring / support / vision enabler:

- Learning / Sensing our place within the interconnected web of life;
- Spending time in Nature, watching it, being curious about it;
- Read about it, e.g. Robin Wall Kimmerer: *Braiding Sweetgrass*
- Read / watch solid factual information;

2. “Reduce”: We needn’t go back to cave-dwellers, but a consumerist society has left us lots of room to reduce and feel fine about it.

- Consider one less flight; one less cruise; one less animal-protein meal per week; adjust your thermostat one degree; combine car trips or use transit or bike;
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Matrix	Individual	Systemic
Starting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Switch all lights to LED. Every 100-watt incandescent light bulb you change to LED, or simply turn off: for every 10 hours, you are reducing a pound of carbon being emitted (a pound of carbon has the same heft as a pound of butter, but more like a pound of crushed cinder powder that you throw in the air – it does make a difference); Save up to 10% electricity; b. Eat one less meal containing meat per week – lots of great pasta and other (vegetarian) dishes; c. Combine your car trips so you take (fewer) individual ones (go to the grocery store, pharmacy & pick up your child all in one trip); Walk; Try transit; d. Check air conditioner for leaks (their refrigerants are 1000 times more potent a greenhouse gas than CO₂); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Vote for those supporting strong climate action; b. Support efforts to reduce methane leaks;
Continuing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Donate {money or time} to existing solid Environmental Organizations; & global poverty alleviation focused on empowerment of women; b. Check investments & divest petroleum if you have any, or have a say in pension funding; c. Learn to talk about the climate crisis in a non-threatening way (there will be a session on this); d. Upgrade your home / church for energy-efficiency – insulating, windows, plugging, etc.; e. Buy (renewable) energy for home; Install solar panels, (shut off the propane); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tell your Representatives how important the Climate Crisis is (at federal, state, regional, city levels); See Sample Policies List, below; b. Push divestment at your city, state, federal levels; ditto institutions; c. Tell any business that you buy from, to reduce their carbon footprint, using examples where possible; d. Sample policies in rough priority (see

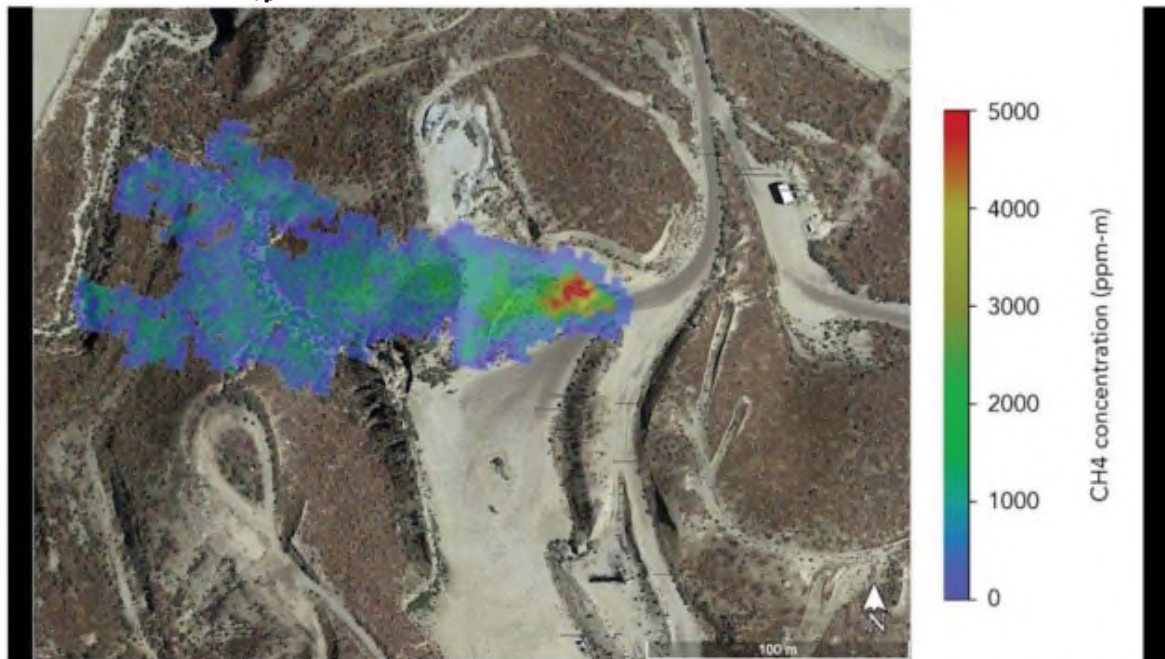
	<p>f. If heat home via fossil fuels, buy heat pump (if electricity is clean; if not, then still a placeholder for when it is);</p> <p>g. Consider buying an electric car;</p> <p>h. Consider having one less child;</p> <p>i. Calculate your carbon footprint (even though the idea was first pushed by “Big Oil”, to deflect their responsibility (bad), it nonetheless is a good step;</p> <p>j. Plant pollinator or butterfly gardens at home or at church;</p> <p>k. Plant climate-appropriate bushes / Trees at home or at church; (switch to electric yard tools, take out your yard grass, plant/extend your vegetable garden);</p>	<p>below list);</p> <p>e. Some entrenched areas may require protests to build the political constituency, so one might consider joining a non-violent one from a solid organization;</p>
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Systemic – Sample Policies:

1. Stop all HCFC (refrigerant, air conditioner) leaks (& longer term: transition completely off HCFCs – there are viable alternatives); HCFCs are 1000X more potent than CO₂;
2. **Stop all Methane leaks** (& longer term, reduce its non/intentional production); feed your cows a mix that includes seaweed {reduces cow methane 85% }; Methane is 80X more potent than CO₂ in its first few years; See short TED talk [https://www.ted.com/talks/ilissa_ocko_the_fastest_way_to_slow_climate_change_now?language=en];
3. Protect old growth trees / ecosystems; Plant new trees, but saving old growth is a much higher priority – they store much more CO₂;
4. Protect mangroves, kelp, seaweed “forests”, etc. They absorb enormous amounts of CO₂ and help protect coastlines;
5. Stop coal use, then reduce oil, natural gas use until no longer needed;
6. Put a price on carbon;
7. Ramp up renewable capacity, including funding R&D;

8. Cities: All new houses and buildings cannot use carbon-based fuel for heating, etc.;
9. Cities: All houses and buildings increase efficiency via retrofitting, etc.;
10. Cities: Increase tree canopy and green space;
11. Cities: Shift toward enticing public transit, support electric buses, bike & walk paths;
12. Move toward affordable, easily repairable, modular items;
13. Federally, for some of above, invoke An Emergency Measures Act, similar to war, whereby government can tell industry to switch (we saw a little of this during the COVID pandemic; this highlights the need for “political constituency”, which is so fragmented and vitriolic; thus the need for talking about Climate Crisis – listening, finding shared values around topic, telling people, showing people, changing hearts);
14. Encourage countries to fully fund and exceed the Green Climate Fund. This fund is to be financed by richer countries (who became rich partly by emitting most of the CO₂) to help poorer countries (who emit very little CO₂). As well, a focus should be on poverty alleviation, especially women’s empowerment, which is one of the most effective ways to reduce poverty, and at the same time, naturally reduces birth rates. That said, poverty alleviation is done best through solid NGOs, that is, an “NGO to recipient” relationship that is actually an “equal partner-with-partner-in-dialogue” relationship.

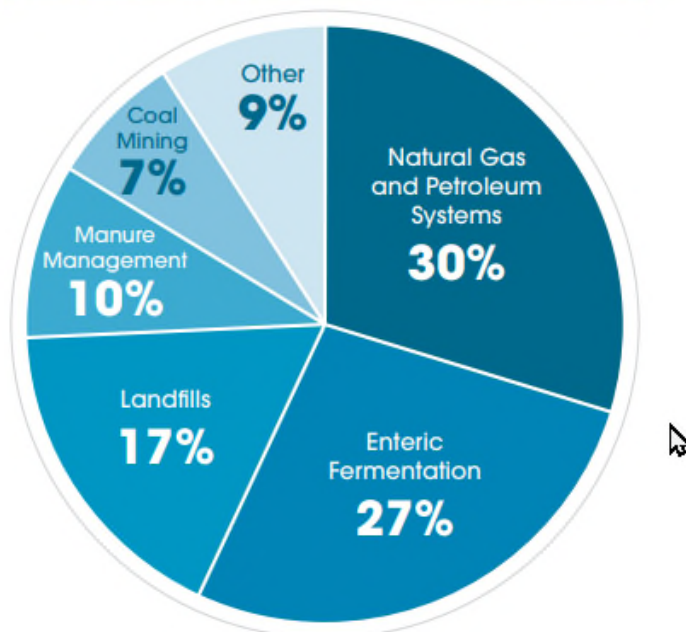
METHANE DETECTION



A methane plume detected by NASA's AVIRIS-NG in summer 2020 indicates a leaking gas line in oil field in California. The operator subsequently confirmed and repaired the leak.

Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

2019 U.S. Methane Emissions, By Source



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2021). *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2019*