

# 'OUR HOUSE IS STILL ON FIRE'

Have you heard Swedish activist Greta Thunberg's speech at Davos in which she tells world leaders that their inaction on the climate crisis was spelling doom...

A year ago, I came to Davos and told you that our house is on fire. I said I wanted you to panic. I've been warned that telling people to panic about the climate crisis is a very dangerous thing to do. But don't worry. It's fine. Trust me. I've done this before. And I can assure you: it doesn't lead to anything.

And for the record, when we children tell you to panic, we're not telling you to go on like before. We're not telling you to rely on technologies that don't even exist today at scale and science says perhaps never will.

We are not telling you to keep talking about reaching net

zero emissions or carbon neutrality by cheating and fiddling around with numbers. We're not telling you to offset your emissions by just paying someone else to plant trees in places like Africa, while at the same time forests like the Amazon are being slaughtered at an infinitely higher rate. Planting trees is good, of course, but it's nowhere near enough of what is needed, and it cannot replace real mitigation and rewilding nature.

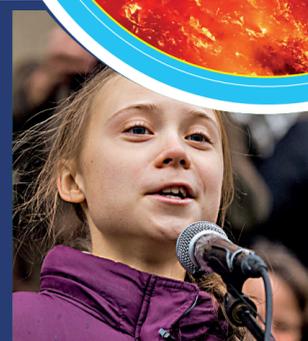
And let's be clear: we don't need a low-carbon economy. We don't need to lower emissions. Our emissions have to stop, if we are to have a chance to stay below the 1.5-degree target. And until we have the technologies that at scale can put our emissions to minus, then we must forget about net zero. We need real zero, because distant net-zero emission targets will mean absolutely nothing if we just continue to ignore the carbon dioxide budget that applies for today, not distant future dates. If high emissions continue like now even for a few years, that remaining budget will soon be completely used up.

The fact that the USA is leaving the Paris accord seemed to outrage and worry everyone. And it should. But the fact that we are all about to fail the commitments you signed up for in the Paris Agreement doesn't seem to bother the people in power even the least. Any plan or policy of yours that doesn't include radical emission cuts at the source starting today is completely insufficient for meeting the 1.5- or well below 2-degree commitments of the Paris Agreement.

And again, this is not about right or left. We couldn't care less about your party politics. From a sustainability perspective, the right, the left, as well as the centre, have all failed. No political ideology or economic structure has been able to tackle the climate and environmental emergency and create a cohesive and sustainable world, be-



"We couldn't care less about your party politics. From a sustainability perspective, the right, the left, as well as the center, have all failed."



## TOI YOUNG CHANGE LEADERS Are you the one?

**HOW TO APPLY**  
Students from Delhi/NCR schools of classes VI to VII (junior category) and classes VIII to IX (senior category) are invited to record a video of up to 2 minutes expressing their views on 'Fighting Climate Change' and upload it on [www.toiyoungchangeladers.com](http://www.toiyoungchangeladers.com). Top 16 entries short-listed will be notified. Finale on February 6, 2020

Entries will be accepted till February 3, 2020



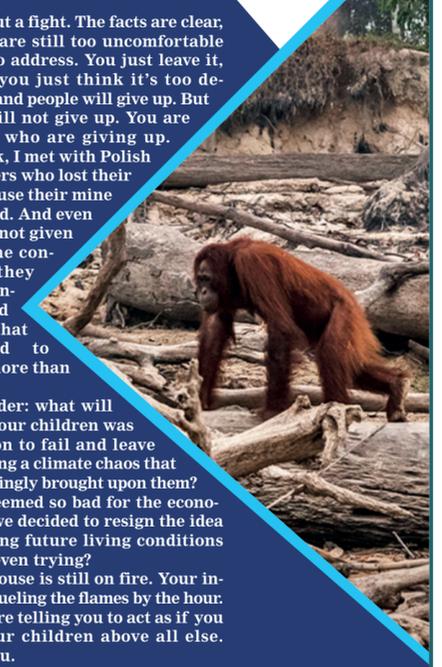
"You say children shouldn't worry. You say, 'Just leave this to us. We will fix this. We promise we won't let you down. Don't be so pessimistic.' And then nothing. Silence. Or something worse than silence: empty words and promises which give the impression that sufficient action is being taken."

All the solutions are obviously not available within today's societies, nor do we have the time to wait for new technological solutions to become available to start drastically reducing our emissions. So, of course, the transition isn't going to be easy. It will be hard. And unless we start facing this now, together, with all cards on the table, we won't be able to solve this in time.

In the days running up to the 50th anniversary of the World Economic Forum, I joined a group of climate activists demanding that you, the world's most powerful and influential business and political leaders, begin to take the action needed. We demand, at this year's World Economic Forum, participants from all companies, banks, institutions and governments immediately halt all investments in fossil fuel exploration and extraction, immediately end all fossil fuel subsidies and completely divest from fossil fuels. We don't want these things done by 2050 or 2030 or even 2021; we want this done now.

It may seem like we are asking for a lot, and you will of course say that we are naive. But this is just the very minimum amount of effort that is needed to start the rapid sustainable transition. So, either you do this, or you're going to have to explain to your children why you are giving up on the 1.5-degree target - giving up without even trying.

Well, I'm here to tell you that, unlike you, my generation will not give



## Pop Quiz

IDENTIFY THESE FLOWER SPECIES



ANSWERS

- Snake gourd
- Dill
- Chrysanthemum
- Tulip
- Allium giganteum
- Begonia

# GETTING A NEW LEASE OF LIFE



A doctor examines a newly acquired miniature horse at Nexus Equine in Edmond, Oklahoma. A re-homing partner with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Nexus provides veterinary care, farrier care and training for the horses it takes in and seeks to re-home.



Goody, an endangered Olive ridley sea turtle had lost her left flipper in a fishing net years ago. Now she can swim again, having been fitted with the first prosthetic flipper, in Thailand.



Ducks rescued by an animal activist await treatment before being placed under observation at BSPCA animal hospital in Parel, Mumbai.

HI, I'M GREENBOT! JOIN ME IN MY QUEST TO REDUCE WASTE IN DAILY LIFE



### Ever wondered about the public sewage system?

The drains in our houses, colonies and cities are connected, via sewer lines, to our rivers and the ocean. So if you drop a plastic bottle top on the street, chances are it may get washed down a drain and eventually find its way into a river, then the sea, where a sea creature may think of it as food.

### HOW TO AVOID THIS?

Re-use, reduce, recycle waste products as much as possible. To ensure sewer lines are clean, don't flush anything that isn't natural waste, or toilet paper. Cat litter is flushable but cat and dog waste can contain roundworm so it shouldn't go into the public sewage system. TNN

# Malaysia sends back trash

Country will no longer be a garbage dump for rich nations

Malaysia has sent back 150 containers of plastic waste to 13, mostly rich, countries since the third quarter of last year, with the environment minister warning that those who want to make the country a rubbish bin of the world can 'dream on'.

Shipments of unwanted rubbish have been rerouted to Southeast Asia since China banned the import of plastic waste in 2018, but Malaysia and other developing countries are fighting back. Environment Minister Yeo Bee



Yin said another 110 containers are expected to be sent back by the middle of this year.

Yeo said the successful repatriation of a total 3,737 metric tons of waste followed strict enforcement at

key Malaysian ports to block smuggling of waste and shuttering more than 200 illegal plastic recycling factories.

She said the Malaysian government didn't pay a single cent, with the

costs of sending back the waste fully borne by the shipping liners and importers. Of the 150 containers, 43 were returned to France, 42 to the United Kingdom, 17 to the United States, 11 to Canada, 10 to Spain and the rest to Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Portugal, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Lithuania, the ministry said.

Yeo said talks were ongoing with US authorities to take back another 60 containers this year. Canada also has 15 more containers, Japan 14, the UK 9 and Belgium 8 from 110 more containers that are still being held at Malaysian ports, she said.

"If people want to see us as the rubbish dump of the world, you dream on," Yeo told reporters during inspection at a Penang port. TNN