

CAN Update | 4-02-2020

“There’s a revolution that needs to happen and it starts from inside each one of us. We need to wake up and fall in love with the Earth. Our personal and collective happiness and survival depend on it.”

-- Thich Nhat Hanh

Now that the virus has “gone viral,” many are seeking the “blessing in the wound.” Many are hoping that we will come out of the onslaught better than when we went into it, and will be creating a new normal that is less harmful to the Earth and all of her creatures.

Several such benefits are:

- Fostering collaboration of various community organizations to address social needs
- Reducing toxic and Greenhouse emissions in a time of curtailed manufacturing/travel
- The giant leap in the use of distance or remote communication, e.g., Zoom
- The education of the populous (and President) as to the use of science, statistics and modeling in forming public policy

Can you imagine where our country would be heading if the briefings occurring daily about the coronavirus were soon to address our climate emergency?

For example, a daily Climate Task Force report on what would be necessary to “flatten the curve,” the CO2 curve, that is. Not to minimize in any way how “horrific” (President’s word) the

consequences of the coronavirus are and will be, but it will pass and our nation and species will survive.

As regards the magnitude of the threat that climate disruption poses, the coin is still in the air. We may not survive the consequences of climate chaos unless we begin to respond to the alarming climate evidence and adopt a science-based climate policy which respects the tolerances of Earth's planetary systems.

We at CAN (Climate Action Net) have been very busy since my last note. Time was spent planning a large 'community building' event and a small opening-the-heart gathering, both of which were cancelled (more accurately, deferred).

Additionally, the solarizing Brooksville initiative continues to move in the right direction, however slowly. Revision Energy was chosen as the solar contractor and we are expecting to review their offering (PPA contract) shortly.

But, the major activity during this strange time of disease and social-distancing was the creation of the Climate Empowerment Project, which involves bringing together a cadre of CAN HS Climate Interns and the creation of a website (and other social media accounts) which will function as a clearing house for all-things-climate.

The project will connect the several local high school eco-clubs together, and connect them with statewide youth climate action. More information about this project and possible participation, virtually or otherwise, is available upon request.

Upon leaving Montgomery to pastor in Atlanta, Martin Luther King, Jr. reflected on the beginnings of the civil rights movement and spoke of Kairos as the fullness of time when "history is pregnant, ready to give birth to a great idea and a great movement."

It is this awareness of time, this fierce urgency of now, that we can bring to the greatest crisis of our time, the climate emergency.