



Climate Action and Education Forum
May 9, 2014
1:00 – 3:00 PM
Lane Community College Longhouse

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTION 1: What are your questions for a climate scientist?

EDITORS NOTE: THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS CAN BE FOUND IN THE

Q & A DOCUMENT

- Will global society and industry find equilibrium with the environment? How?
- What can one personally do that is ensured to have the positive impact that was intended?
- How can we (frame) make the data received by people, profound enough for real personal change?
- What new methods of childhood (young adult) education are necessary to enable a paradigm shift in the newly globalized culture?
- What is the most efficient alternative fuel source? What about ethanol? Thorium?
- Sea level rise: Is there an estimate of how long until all Pacific Islands are submerged? When is it too late?
- What is the worst case scenario? Is it too late to go back?
- What part does air travel play in CO2 emissions?
- What is the impact of electronic devices?
 - Resources
 - Waste
 - CO2 emissions from data centers
- Is it possible to get carbon levels down to 350 ppm?
- What is the environmental cost of electric and hybrid cars?
- Is it too late to reverse climate change – have we reached the tipping point?
- How do we start a negative feedback system?
- How can we learn about fracking and other environmental concerns?
- Why are we (and scientist) losing this argument?
- What needs to be in our toolkit to discuss climate change?
- In a worse case scenario, how long can humans survive?
- What controls are being used to study climate change?

- What is the best way to reduce the toxicity of polluted waterways, i.e.:
 - Tacoma;
 - Africa?
- How do we spread this ecologically sensitive way of thinking globally?
- How do you separate climate change from government?
- Why are the climate models underestimating the amount of change?

DISCUSSION QUESTION 2: What are environmental justice issues in our area/community?

- Water contamination
- Hwy 99 area – 4 corners
- Public transportation
 - Convenience/equality
- Public discourse about areas that are environmentally damaged
- Landfills and littering
- Any corporate needs or wants over env. Importance
- GMO – Monsanto
- Fluoride in water in other parts of Oregon
- Lack of Env. Coverage on TV.
- Factories and health issues in neighborhood (West Eugene)
- Chemicals in soil – can't grow food
 - Plus chemicals from air (Springfield)
- Burning tires in rural areas (Elmira)
- Target shooting at TVs → chemical waste
- No compost in housing complex (other neighborhoods can get containers) and furniture thrown in trash, not reused.
- Organic = expensive; chemical foods = cheap
- Electric cars and hybrids = expensive.
- So no incentives to go green.
- Impact of neighbors on our health and life
 - Corporations
 - Homeless population
- Lack of enforcement on env. codes in rural areas.
- In homeless population, Whiteacker is one
 - Example → food insecurity (Kahoots, FFLC, Occupy Eugene)
- Entitlement to RVs, boats related to retirement; just because you can afford it, doesn't mean you should (AARP, Green and socially responsible investing).
- Rural communities and their rights
- Roundup & chemicals for lawns?
- Parvin Butte
- Water rights – private ownership
- Air quality is questionable
- Plastic bags
- Homeless
- Local farmers are struggling.

RESPONSE FROM DON: I'd like to see the data here. I'm not sure what perspective this conclusion is drawn from. There are an increasing number of small farms thriving, in my observation. I recommend visiting the Saturday Market growers area to witness the abundance that our area has to offer.

I'm also encouraged that some of the formerly "grass seed" farmers (for suburban lawn development) have successfully converted to growing local grains and beans.

- Someone should address pesticides/fertilizers in local farms.
- How can we prevent deforestation in Oregon?
- How can we disconnect logging from school/county incomes (especially in rural areas)?
- Are we replanting trees in Oregon fast enough (can we make it so logging/replanting is truly equal, unless it already is ☺)?

DISCUSSION QUESTION 3: Have you had experiences talking to a loved one who just doesn't "get it"? How did that make you feel?

- Frustrating. Makes me feel informed
- Re-approach
- Lead by example – provide resources
- Don't want to hear it. No interest in talking about the "other side." So don't even bring up an honest convers. topic.
- Avoid people who don't get it. Don't encourage conversations with people who don't get it – engage in other topics/activities that have in common.

RESPONSE FROM DON: Yes, sometimes NOT engaging is the best strategy, as at least we're unlikely to make things worse. And yes, focus on those things that you have in common.

- Applaud small steps, model impulse control, and affirm common ground.
- Applaud small steps, bring issue to a personal level.
- Use new approach
- Use tips from today.
- How to change the fundamental foundation of their thinking?
- How do you talk about climate change to someone who is older and a part of a logging family?
 - Frustration.
- If people are willing to admit chemicals harm human lives, why are they not willing to admit that those same chemicals could be harming the planet or altering the planet?
- Avoiding conversation with father about climate change because of negative attitude.

RESPONSE FROM DON: Love him as a father. Individuate your own life (path) from his. And demonstrate how your navigation (in life) is informed by the best thinking of the majority of scientists. It's rational. No need to argue about it. Does he not go to the doctor when he's sick? Isn't medicine based on the best thinking of the majority of scientists in a particular area? "That's all I'm saying."