



# SAVE OUR FUTURE

*Beloved Earth Community of Riverside Church*

## *In This Issue*

"Delay is Death," said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, summarizing the IPCC Report released February 28. The report represents "an atlas of human suffering and a damning indictment of failed climate leadership" Fossil fuel must stay in the ground.

[IPCC Sixth Assessment Report \(link\)](#)

[Climate change: a threat to human wellbeing and health of the planet. Taking action now can secure our future \(link\)](#)



Image source: www.bloombergquint.com

## How To Use the Power of the Purse to Halt Bank Investments in Fossil Fuel

*What Do Banks Have to Do With Climate Crisis? A Lot!*

- Since the Paris Climate Accords were signed, Chase, Citi, Wells Fargo and Bank of America have loaned the fossil fuel industry a trillion dollars. As Bloomberg News recently reported, if the financial services industry was a nation, it would be the fifth-biggest emitter on earth.
- The banks' public statements on climate change are greenwashing. Chase's managing director said last year, oil and gas lending "is a huge business for us and that's going to be the case for decades to come."
- The International Energy Agency said last year that if we wanted to meet the Paris climate targets "there can be no new investments in oil, gas and coal, from now – from this year."

*cont'd p.2*



## The Month in Crisis

*What did human-created extreme weather cost the world in 2021?*

- Globally: \$342 Billion from four major disasters
- USA: \$30.6 Billion from 18 extreme weather events. (Yale Climate Connect)
- What climate disaster is ongoing in the US?
- The Southwest Drought, the worst in 1200 years, resulting in losses of \$5.5 B - \$1.2 B (NOAA)

## Steps We Can Take at Riverside

### *Decrease the Food you Waste and Save Money*

- Look at the size and contents of your garbage bag. Is most of it food scraps?
- Each Monday this month, check how much of the bag is being filled and what you are throwing out. Use a slightly smaller bag each week. Try to only fill the smaller bag.
- Separate food scraps, store in the freezer and drop them off at collections centers run by GROW NYC  
<https://www.grownyc.org/compost>. Are you buying less?

### **Speaking of costs...**

- In high income countries such as the US, the UK, Australia and across Western Europe, an Oxford University study found that Vegan diets were the most affordable and reduced consumer food costs by up to one third. Vegetarian diets were a close second. Flexitarian diets with low amounts of meat and dairy reduced costs by 14%.
- Animal Agriculture, i.e. factory farming and livestock production by Big Ag/Big Meat and Dairy, is a major driver of global warming and biodiversity loss. Beef production drives 41 percent of global deforestation, more than 2 million hectares annually, and 72 percent of deforestation in Brazil, to make room for cattle ranching and soy crops; 77 percent of the latter goes to feed farm animals.

## Beloved Earth Community

We call Riversiders to protest the climate crisis and care for the Earth through educational programs, greening the church, changing our lifestyles, and courageous political actions.

For more information, or to join, contact Alan Bentz-Letts <[alanbentzletts@gmail.com](mailto:alanbentzletts@gmail.com)>  
Regina Tate <[mariposa21355@yahoo.com](mailto:mariposa21355@yahoo.com)>

Contributors to this issue: Dana Minaya, Frances Connell, Milli Akinsulure, David King  
Logo \*(Geofix) © Jeremiah Drake

## A Helpful Response

- Sign this [Banking on our Future Pledge](#) organized by [Third Act](#).
- The more people sign, the greater our collective impact will be on persuading these banks to stop financing the climate crisis.



Image source: [vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca](http://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca)

### Invitation to Pledge

*"If by year's end, Bank of America, Chase, Citibank, and Wells Fargo are still funding fossil Fuel Projects, I pledge to cut up my credit card and close my account. If I don't bank at these institutions now, I pledge I won't do so in the future."*

**Note:** BEC will feature the pledge again in a future issue to encourage people to follow up on their pledges. Once you TAKE ACTION, email Susan Wersan <[susanwersan@gmail.com](mailto:susanwersan@gmail.com)>.

### A Plant-based Recipe

[Try this delicious and easy to prepare Moroccan Lentil Stew.](#)



### Coming up...

- **Next Beloved Earth Meeting**, Saturday, April 2 at 3 p.m. via Zoom. To join contact Alan or Regina.
- **Facebook group**, "Let's Go Vegan for Lent 2022" <https://fb.me/g/6il> or contact [marypasquini@hotmail.com](mailto:marypasquini@hotmail.com)
- To view this issue online: <https://www.trcny.org/belovedearthnewsletter>.

