



Climate change: Your views *What are we doing and what should we do next?*

Emma McKinley and Rick Stafford
Coastal Futures 2020
Royal Geographical Society, London
January 15th 2020



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Climate change

One year to save the planet: a simple, surprising guide to fighting the climate crisis in 2020



Sandra Laville

Tue 7 Jan 2020 05:31 GMT



903



▲ Protesters at last September's general strike for climate justice in London, organised by Extinction Rebellion, Greenpeace, Save the Earth and other groups campaigning for the environment. Photograph: Guy Bell/Anadolu Agency

Veganism might help and it's always good to avoid flying. But the answer to Earth's emergency must involve political, collective action - and there are countless ways to get active.

The impact of the climate crisis is all too visible. Bushfires have killed more than 20 people in south-eastern Australia and forced thousands more to flee their homes. Floods and storms have left hundreds dead and many more destitute in Argentina, Uruguay, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi. And in the UK, record temperatures were seen last summer and this winter.

Last year, people across the world took to the streets to demand governments act to slash greenhouse gas emissions. Did you watch and wonder what you could do to help the global climate movement?

If so, this year presents a remarkable opportunity. With the 26th Conference of the Parties UN climate conference taking place in Glasgow this November, there has never been a better time to add your voice to those calling for urgent action to end our reliance on fossil fuels, cut greenhouse gases and protect the planet from global heating.

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Steve Pyne

Tue 7 Jan 2020 09:30 GMT

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The Australian fires are a harbinger of things to come. Don't ignore their warning

Fires are more frequent, more damaging, and more terrifying - a symptom of the new age that I call the Pyrocene



▲ "Yes, Australia and bushfire are old acquaintances. But the past 20 years feel different. The bad fires are more frequent, more eruptive, and more damaging." Photograph: Samir Khan/AFP via Getty Images

Australia is a fire continent. Imagine California on the scale of the 48 contiguous states, but drier, more routinely kindled and with winds that can transform large swathes of land into a veritable fire flume. From time to time, its simmering flames boil over into seeming tsunamis of fire.

And Australia has a culture to match. It has institutions to study, fight and light fire. It has a literature of fire, a folklore of fire and a fire art that is continuous from Indigenous bark paintings to modernist musings. It has special bushfire collections at its museums. It has a fire politics: on three occasions conflagrations have sparked royal commissions, and from 2009 to 2017, 51 official inquiries.

The worst fires have acquired names and become historical milestones, such as Red Tuesday (1898), Ash Wednesday (1983), Black Christmas (2001), Black Saturday (2009).

Now they are joined by the as-yet unnamed megafires of 2019-20. Call them the Forever fires, for they seem inextinguishable, burning with implacable insistence and smoke palls that extend their reach far beyond the flames' grasp.

Yes, Australia and bushfire are old acquaintances. But the past 20 years feel different. The bad fires are more frequent, more eruptive and more damaging. The Black Saturday fires,

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Ocean temperatures hit record high as rate of heating accelerates

Oceans are clearest measure of climate crisis as they absorb 90% of heat trapped by greenhouse gases



▲ The heat in the world's oceans reached a new record level in 2019, showing "irrefutable and accelerating" heating of the planet. Photograph: Media/terraflora

The heat in the world's oceans reached a new record level in 2019, showing "irrefutable and accelerating" heating of the planet.

The world's oceans are the clearest measure of the climate emergency because they absorb more than 90% of the heat trapped by the greenhouse gases emitted by fossil fuel burning, forest destruction and other human activities.

The new analysis shows the past five years are the top five warmest years recorded in the ocean and the past 10 years are also the top 10 years on record. The amount of heat being added to the oceans is equivalent to every person on the planet running 100 microwave ovens all day and all night.

Hotter oceans lead to more severe storms and disrupt the water cycle, meaning more floods, droughts and wildfires, as well as an inexorable rise in sea level. Higher temperatures are also harming life in the seas, with the number of marine heatwaves increasing sharply.

The most common measure of global heating is the average surface air temperature, as this is where people live. But natural climate phenomena such as El Niño events mean this can be quite variable from year to year.

"The oceans are really what tells you how fast the Earth is warming," said Prof John Abraham at the University of St Thomas, in Minnesota, US, and one of the team behind the new analysis. "Using the oceans, we see a continued, rapid rise in ocean temperatures, a sign of a fast-heating Earth. This is the

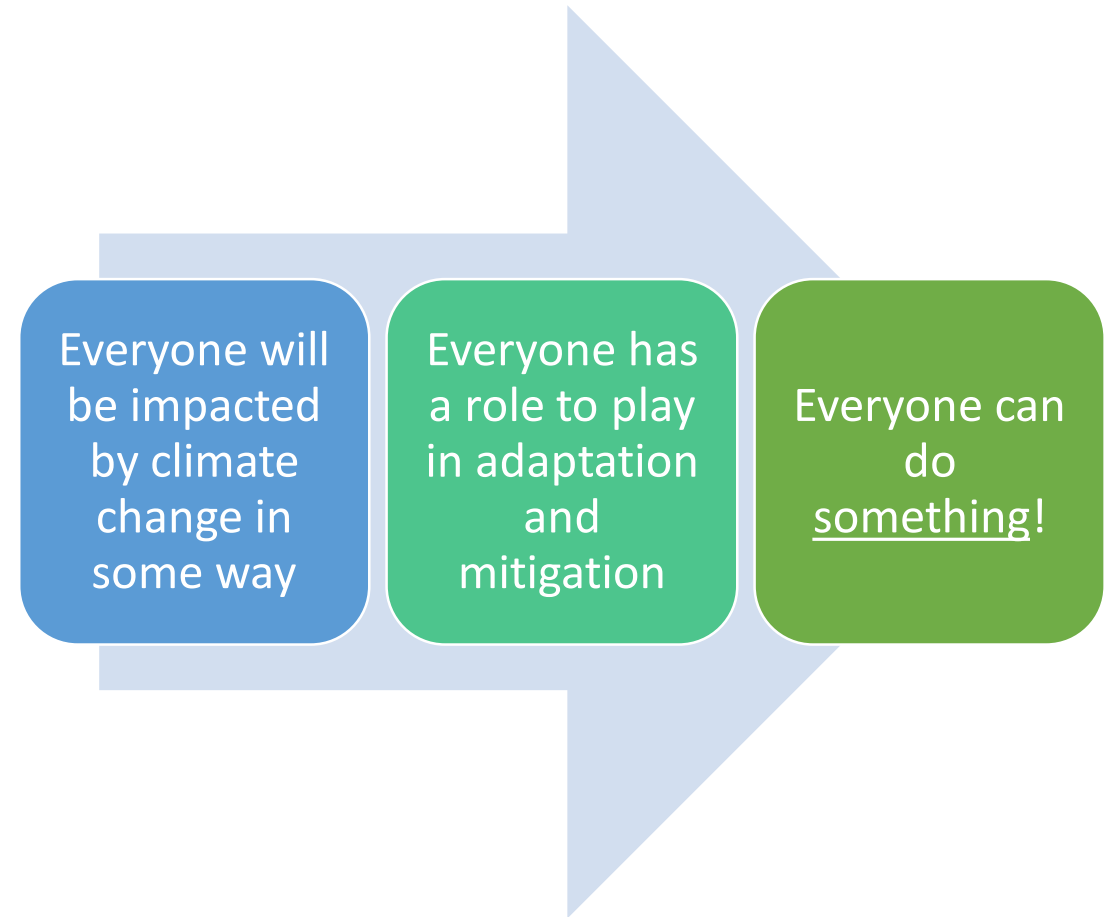


Why do record ocean temperatures matter?

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Understanding the CMS audience views on climate change action

- What actions are people taking?
- What are people doing beyond our work/ research?
- What are the big picture things that we should be doing?
- What are the positive changes we can make and can we influence real change?

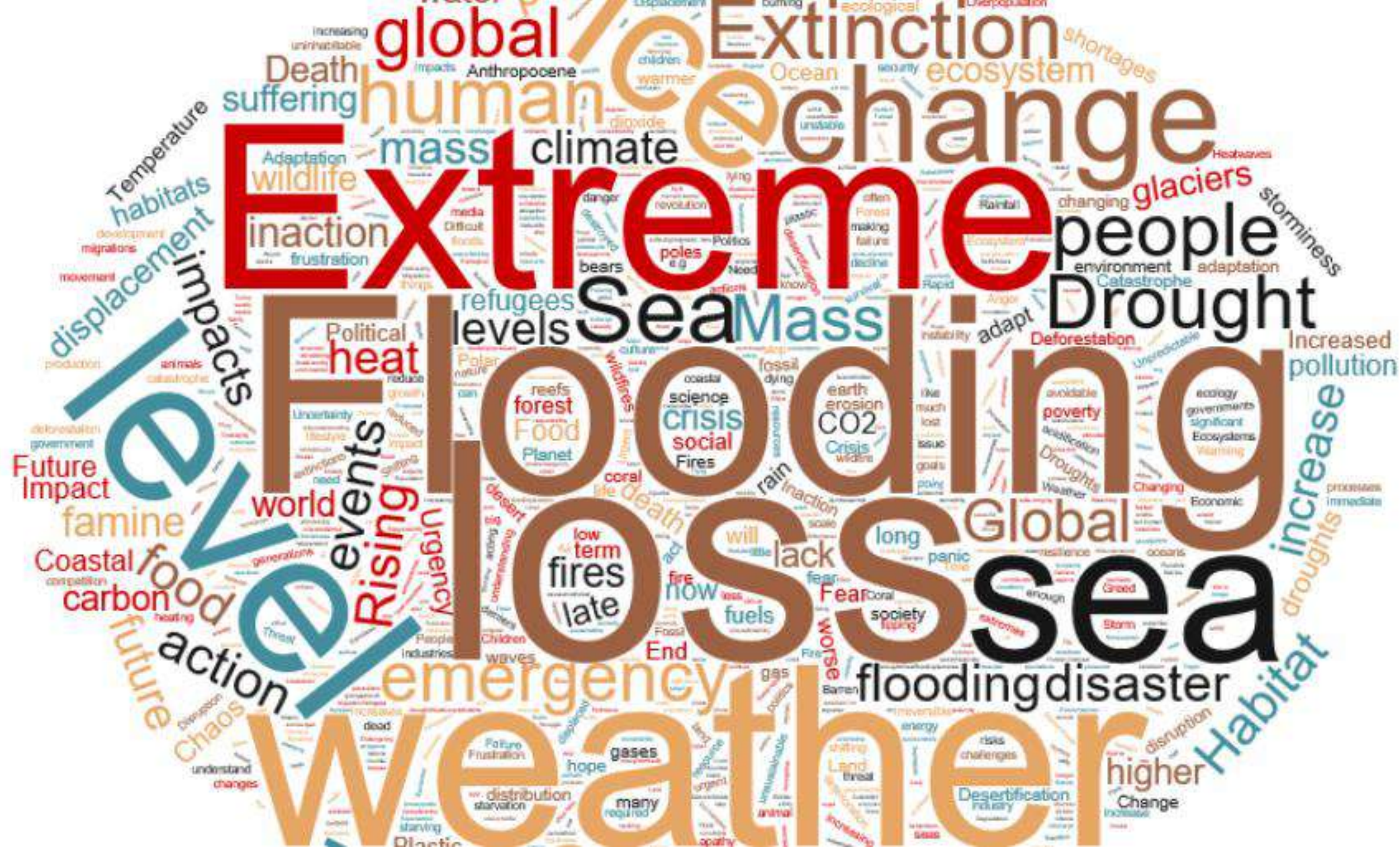


N = 403 respondents

In the last 12 months,
have you become more
or less concerned about
climate change?

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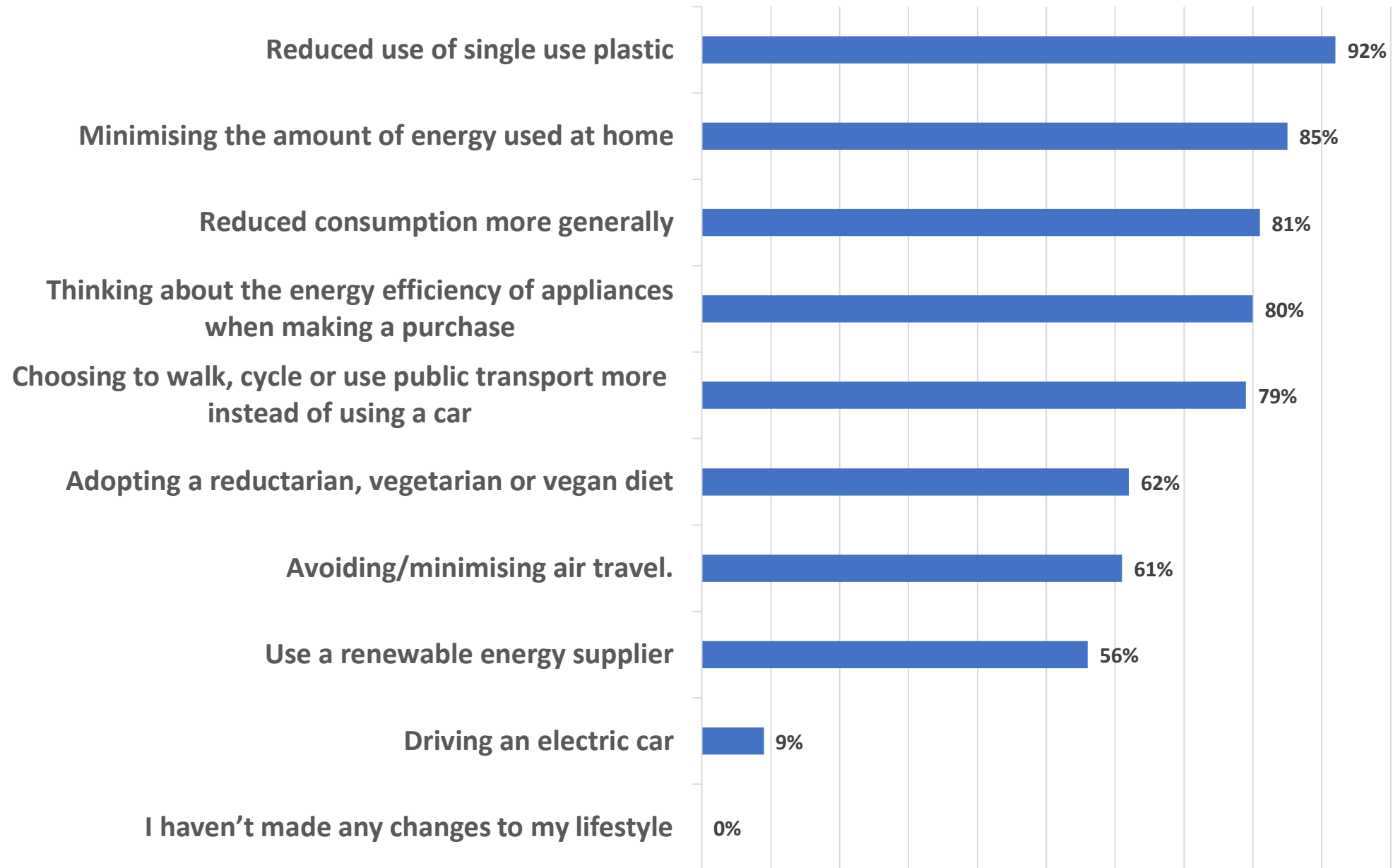


What do you do to address
climate change outside of
your work/ research?

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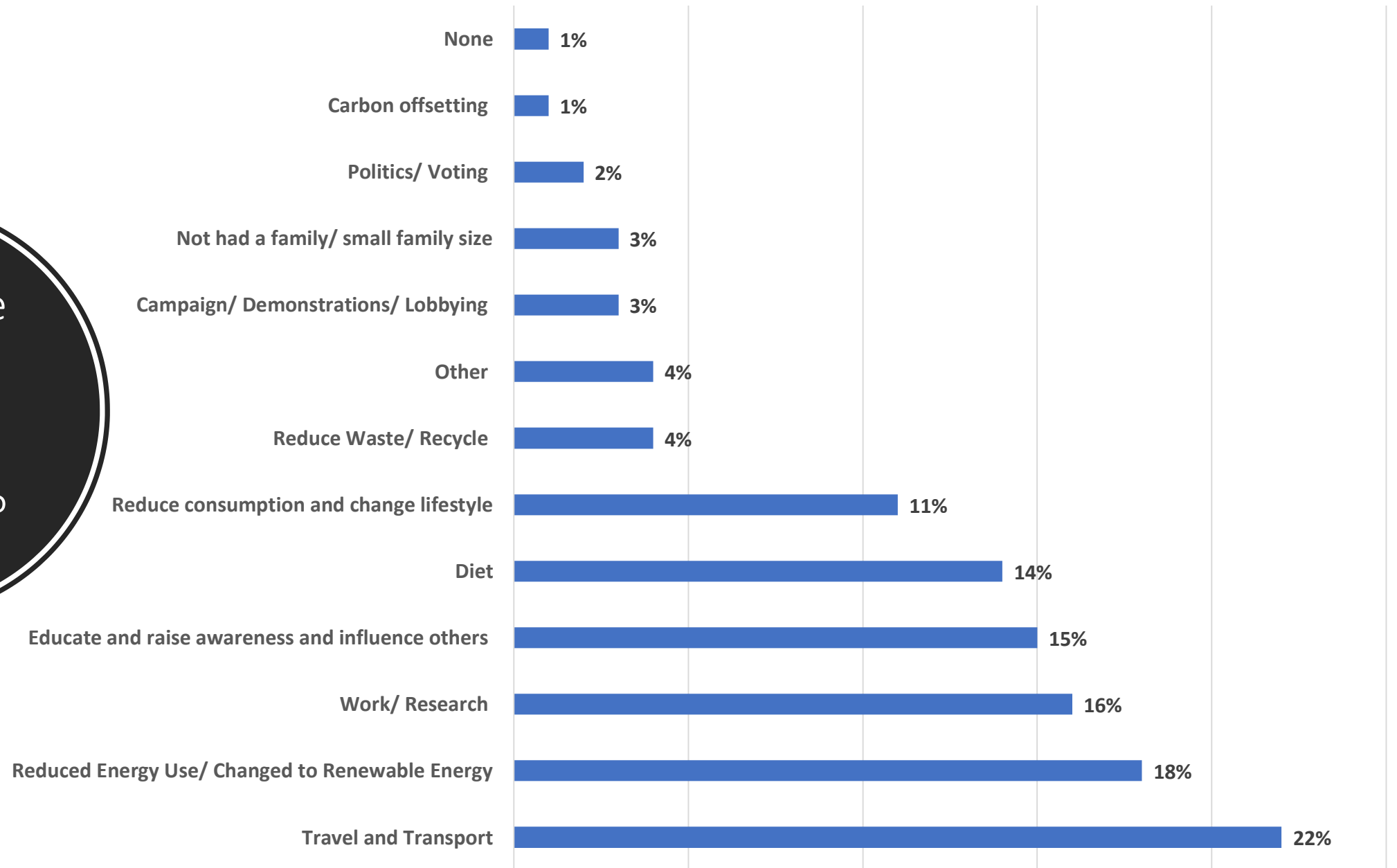
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Actions Taken



N=402

What is the
most
impactful
think *you*
have done?



"Tried to reduce my own footprint. It's the only thing that's in my control"

"Stopped flying in 2005 and made that clear to others."

"Attempted to kick start a Transition Towns initiative in my local community"

"Encouraged uni to declare an emergency and guiding actions...that saved 20x what I could have done in my own life."

"Demonstrating by action that we can completely address it, and thrive at the same time"



System change, not climate change! What 'The Good Place' can teach us about climate action

It's pointless to blame Extinction Rebellion activists for eating McDonalds. Like in the TV show The Good Place, it's the system that's broken.

Simon Malt

16 October 2019



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Climate strikes: Greta Thunberg calls for 'system change not climate change' – here's what that could look like

Week 16, 2019/10, 2019/10/16

Photo: The Guardian/Getty Images via the New York Times, Getty Images, 2019/10/16

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Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish climate activist, is calling for system change. At a press conference in Brussels, she told the European Commission that in order to fight climate change we need to change our political and economic systems – a message that has been repeated on signs and in chants in the student climate strikes around the world.

The school climate strikes, which she started alone in August 2018, have become a social movement with 1,659 strikes planned for March 15 in 165 countries.

But what is system change? How do entire systems change? When we see "save the planet" initiatives, they often look like individual decisions that don't cost much, like switching to a bamboo toothbrush or washing containers before you recycle them. By all means, do these things, but don't confuse them with system change.

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System change not climate change



If we're to have any chance of keeping global temperature rises to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels we need a very rapid shift to net zero carbon economy. Despite some investment in renewables, climate change has not been treated like the emergency it is. But the change we need also has to get to the root cause of the problem.

Energy democracy is about creating an energy system which is democratic, shifts quickly to renewables and keeps electricity affordable for all. A combination of public ownership and co-operatives can change the priorities of our energy system for good.

We also need a free public transport system, paid for through taxation, support for ecological agriculture and a **just transition** to green production, ensuring that workers in polluting industries are not left behind. That includes shifting towards a caring economy which produces prosperity without depending on material wealth.

The other side of reducing demand is the urgent need to rapidly phase out oil, coal and gas extraction. Only by **keeping fossil fu**

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Greta Is Right: Study Shows Individual Lifestyle Change Boosts Systemic Climate Action



Jeff McMahon Contributor

Green Tech

From Chicago, I write about climate change, green technology, energy.



What else should we be
thinking about or doing to
respond to climate
change?

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22 SEP 2019 | STORY | ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

From “lost decade” of climate action, hope emerges

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) today released a look back at ten years of its Emissions Gap Report—a hugely influential publication that compares where greenhouse gas emissions levels are headed to where they should be to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

At first glance, the news seems bleak. The world would seem to have spent the last decade doing the exact opposite of what it should. Despite the warnings in each year’s gap report, greenhouse gas emissions grew at an average of 1.6 per cent per year from 2008 to 2017. In fact, these emissions are now almost exactly what early gap reports projected they would be in 2020 if the world did nothing to change its brown, polluting growth models.

With the policies currently in place, the world is heading for a 3.5°C temperature increase this century, compared to pre-industrial levels. This is far beyond the goals of the Paris Agreement, which seeks to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5°C, or at least well below 2°C. If this hotter

Weekend magazine climate special

When Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez met Greta Thunberg: 'Hope is contagious'

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The case for “conditional optimism” on climate change

Limiting the damage requires rapid, radical change — but such changes have happened before.

By David Roberts | @dvrox | david@vox.com | Updated Jan 26, 2019, 10:08am EST

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Optimism! Kinda. | Shutterstock

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Have hope, humanity is finding ways to defeat climate change

Published on 18/04/2019, 12:07pm

Comment: In a new book, Ed Davey finds examples the world can follow to respond to the moral calls from activists Extinction Rebellion and Greta Thunberg

Tigray province in Ethiopia was once the site of desperate famine, but careful land restoration has brought it back to life (Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Yogesh Mhetre)

By Ed Davey

State of the Planet

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Six Reasons to Be Hopeful About Fighting Climate Change

BY RENEE CHO | FEBRUARY 13, 2019

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Opinion

How to Stop Freaking Out and Tackle Climate Change

Here's a five-step plan to deal with the stress and become part of the solution.

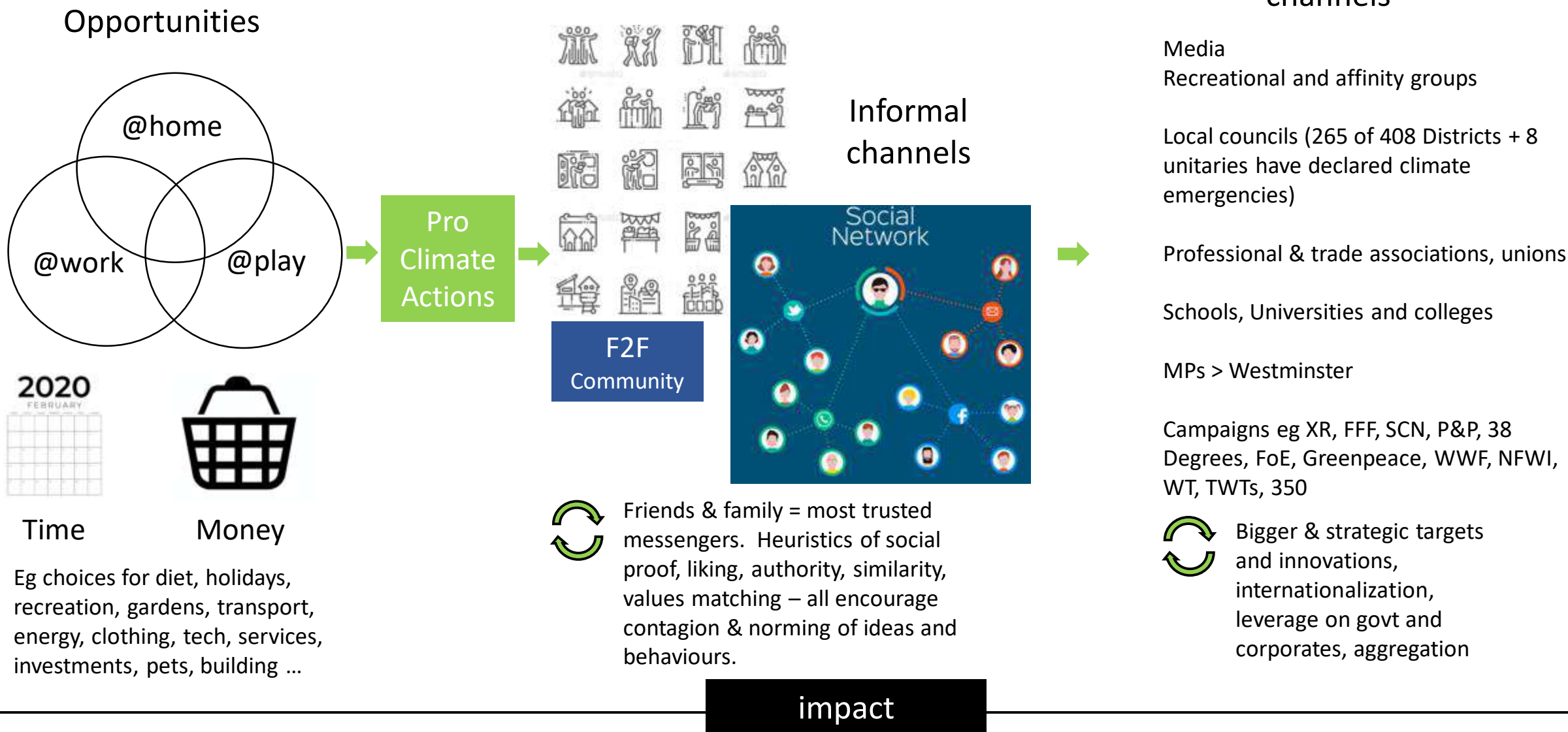
By Emma Hartley
 (Ms. Hartley is the author of "Wormholes and Gardens: Saving Nature in a World Gone Wild.")

Jan. 10, 2019



Thanks to Chris Rose for this slide!

Use opportunities and communication multipliers to magnify the impact of your pro-climate behaviours.





**How can we
continue to bring
about change?**

**What more can we
be doing?**



Thank you!
