



Question: Is it really true that frogs won't jump out of slowly boiling pot of water?

Question: Is it really true that human beings won't act to stop the climate threat?

## **CLIMATE CHANGE IN AN AGING SOCIETY**

Jan. 6, 2022

Editor: H.R. Moody

### -----QUOTE OF THE DAY-----

“It is a magnificent thing to be alive in a moment that matters so much. Let's proceed with broken-open hearts, seeking truth, summoning courage, and focused on solutions.”

-Ayana Elizabeth Johnson

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### **LOVE LETTERS TO THE EARTH**

“Sometimes I forget. Lost in the confusions and worries of daily life, I forget that my body is your body, and sometimes even forget that I have a body at all. Unaware of the presence of my body and the beautiful planet around me and within me, I’m unable to cherish and celebrate the precious gift of life you have given me. Dear Mother, my deep wish is to wake up to the miracle of life. I promise to train myself to be present for myself, my life, and for you in every moment. I know that my true presence is the best gift I can offer to you, the one I love.”

From Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh, *Love Letters to the Earth*, at:  
<https://emergencemagazine.org/essay/ten-love-letters-to-the-earth/>

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## AARP & CLIMATE ACTION

Are you a member of AARP? Are you **not** a member of AARP?

Either way, it doesn't matter. You can still sign the petition urging AARP to be more active on climate change. For details and to sign the petition, visit:

<https://supportAARPClimateAction.org>

See also "What You Need to Know About Climate Change" for AARP's approach at:

<https://www.aarp.org/politics-society/history/info-2021/climate-change.html>

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## BECOMING A CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS CONSUMER

Becoming a climate-conscious consumer will be at the heart of climate advocacy in coming years. The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act has opened up new possibilities for struggle. But the battle will take place not in central places but in a very dispersed way, in homes all around the United States. Bill McKibben puts the challenge well:

“There are about a hundred and forty million homes in the United States. Two-thirds, or about eighty-five million, of them are detached single-family houses; the rest are apartment units or trailer homes.”

McKibben points to one area in particular: home energy use, which means replacing furnaces and gas burners with heat pumps and induction cooktops. He also points to those cars in the driveway, the primary form of local transportation. What will it take to move to more electric vehicles (EV)? We can add to this list the fact that eating is also a big part of consumer behavior contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. What will it take to change our diet in the struggle around climate?

Government policy and the private marketplace alone will not guarantee a change for decarbonization, not unless consumer behavior responds to what is needed for a sustainable climate. For older people, this change may entail changing a lifetime of habits. As gerontologist Robert Kastenbaum wisely said, a good definition of aging is habituation. But for people of all ages habits can be changed and they must be if we hope to become climate-conscious consumers in an aging society.

From Bill McKibben, “From Climate Exhortation to Climate Execution” (*The New Yorker*, Dec. 27, 2022) at: <https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/from-climate-exhortation-to-climate-execution>

See also R. Kastenbaum, “Habituation as a Model of Human Aging” at: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.2190/BR5F-H8B7-2B9X-53U8>

See also “10 Steps to Lower Your Carbon Footprint,” (*Washington Post*), article attached.

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**GOOD NEWS DEPARTMENT**

Before you skip over to another story, note this comment by E.J. Dionne (*Washington Post*, Jan. 2, 2023): “Accepting that things have improved is almost never fashionable. It’s bad for page views and it carries the whiff of complacency. It’s safer to say that things are a mess because there are always so many injustices to be confronted and so much human suffering to be relieved.”

Now ponder some reasons for hope:

“ ‘I am an optimistic person’: The scientist who studies climate catastrophes” at:  
[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/dec/29/i-am-an-optimistic-person-the-scientist-who-studies-climate-catastrophes?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/dec/29/i-am-an-optimistic-person-the-scientist-who-studies-climate-catastrophes?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)

“Here Are All the Positive Climate Stories From 2022” at:  
<https://www.vice.com/en/article/88qj5p/positive-climate-change-news-2022>

“The Best Climate News You May Not Have Heard About” at:  
[https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2022/11/the-best-climate-news-you-may-not-have-heard-about/?utm\\_source=Weekly+News+from+Yale+Climate+Connections&utm\\_campaign=d7f48e8b6d-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2022\\_11\\_03\\_07\\_33&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_e007cd04ee-d7f48e8b6d-59379135](https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2022/11/the-best-climate-news-you-may-not-have-heard-about/?utm_source=Weekly+News+from+Yale+Climate+Connections&utm_campaign=d7f48e8b6d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_11_03_07_33&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e007cd04ee-d7f48e8b6d-59379135)

“Cheer Up! The World Is Better Off Than You Think.” at:  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/31/opinion/2022-good-news.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

Begin the New Year with positive thoughts for 2023!

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**ELDERS FOR THE CHILDREN**



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### ARTICLES OF INTEREST

**Thinking Big.** “2023 Can Be the Year We Save the Planet”

There is no longer time for thinking small.

The only option is thinking big. *Common Dreams* (Jan. 3, 2023) at:

[https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/save-the-planet?share\\_id=7392902](https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/save-the-planet?share_id=7392902)

**Environment and Aging.** “Climate Change and Environmental Crisis: Twin Challenges in an Ageing World” at:

<https://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/blog/Climate-change-and-environmental-crisis>

**Why Recycling Can Be an Illusion.** “Amazon Packages Burn in India, Final Stop in Broken Recycling System” at:

[https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2022-india-plastic-recycling-pollution/?campaign\\_id=54&emc=edit\\_clim\\_20221230&instance\\_id=81439&nl=climate-forward&regi\\_id=20387967&segment\\_id=121182&sref=UBrhZ1ro&te=1&user\\_id=19f5d92b505a29f7757bf318ae75163e](https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2022-india-plastic-recycling-pollution/?campaign_id=54&emc=edit_clim_20221230&instance_id=81439&nl=climate-forward&regi_id=20387967&segment_id=121182&sref=UBrhZ1ro&te=1&user_id=19f5d92b505a29f7757bf318ae75163e)

**Age and Wellness.** “For The Elderly, Climate Change Poses More Risks To Wellness” at:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/melinawalling/2021/04/12/for-the-elderly-climate-change-poses-more-risks-to-wellness/?sh=264553a3c7fc>

**Extinction Rebellion.** “Extinction Rebellion UK to Halt Disruptive Protests” at:

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2023-01-01/extinction-rebellion-uk-to-halt-disruptive-protests>

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## **CLIMATE CONSORTIUM**

“Think globally, act locally” is how the slogan goes. Where does the elder in you continue to flow?

E. M. Forster put it best: “Only connect.” To see more on how to connect and do more on climate, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5BD9HgCnsg>

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## **I FOUND IT AT THE MOVIES**

“10 Climate Change Movies To Watch” at:  
<https://earth.org/climate-change-movies/>

“Best Movies About Climate Change, Ranked” at:  
<https://movieweb.com/best-movies-about-climate-change-ranked/>

See “8 Billion Angels.” For the trailer of this film about the limits of growth, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLtWXVRAabc>

The “Legacy Film Festival on Aging” (Jan. 6-15, 2023) offers films virtually. It provides a curated selection of 40 long and short films, almost entirely documentaries, covering themes of Vitality, Later Life Love, Creativity, and Caregiving. This year’s Festival includes two films about environment: “Voices Above Water” and “Plastic Man,” as well as “Being 97,” a profile of a 97-year-old philosopher in the year before he died.

For details and registration visit:

info@legacyfilmfestivalonaging.org or  
legacyfilmfestivalonaging.org

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## **STORIES ABOUT ADLAI STEVENSON**

Memories from my childhood (1950s): Adlai Stevenson was Democratic candidate for U.S. President (1952 and 1956). For those who never heard of him, consult Dr. Google.

On the campaign trail, Stevenson was asked by a member of the audience, “When will you publish your speech?” Stevenson answered: “I’m thinking of publishing it posthumously”

From the audience: “Oh, it couldn’t happen a moment too soon.”

When a member of the audience exclaimed, “Oh, you’re the candidate of every thinking person!”

Stevenson replied, “Yes, but we need a majority to win.”

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Climate Action Now

<https://climateactionnow.com/>

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Third Act Educators

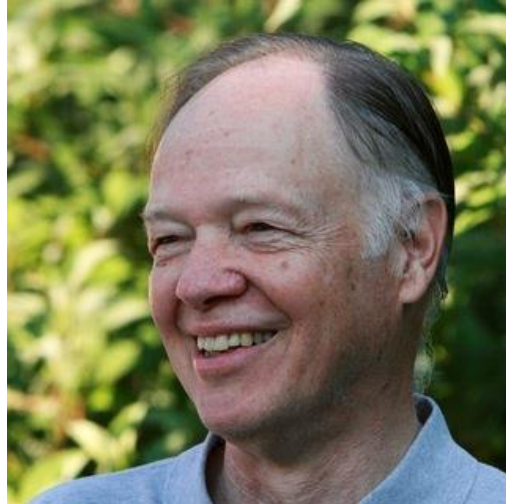
<https://thirdact.org/educators>

Gray Is Green, the National Senior Conservation Corp

<http://grayisgreen.org/>



From Harry (Rick) Moody



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