



Greta Thunberg: Our House is On Fire

Talare

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Aktivist

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Plats

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Our house is on fire.

I am here to say, our house is on fire.

According to the IPCC, we are less than twelve years away from not being able to undo our mistakes.

In that time, unprecedented changes in all aspects of society need to have taken place – including a reduction of our CO2 emissions by at least 50 per cent.

And please note that those numbers do not include the aspect of equity, which is absolutely necessary to make the Paris Agreement work on a global scale.

Nor does it include tipping points or feedback loops like the extremely powerful methane gas released from the thawing Arctic permafrost.

At places like Davos, people like to tell success stories. But their financial success has come with an unthinkable price-tag. And on climate change, we have to acknowledge that we have failed.

All political movements in their present form have done so.

And the media has failed to create broad public awareness.

But Homo sapiens have not yet failed. Yes, we are failing, but there is still time to turn everything around. We can still fix this. We still have everything in our own hands.

But unless we recognize the overall failures of our current systems we most probably don't stand a chance.

We are facing a disaster of unspoken sufferings for enormous amounts of people. And now is not the time for speaking politely or focusing on what we can or cannot say. Now is the time to speak clearly.

Solving the climate crisis is the greatest and most complex challenge that Homo sapiens have ever faced. The main solution, however, is so simple that even a small child can understand it.

We have to stop our emissions of greenhouse gases.

And either we do that or we don't.

You say that nothing in life is black or white.

But that is a lie. A very dangerous lie.

Either we prevent a 1.5°C of warming or we don't.

Either we avoid setting off that irreversible chain reaction beyond human control – or we don't.

Either we choose to go on as a civilization or we don't.

That is as black or white as it gets.

There are no grey areas when it comes to survival.

Now we all have a choice.

We can create transformational action that will safeguard the living conditions for future generations.

Or we can continue with our business as usual and fail.

That is up to you and me.

Some say that we should not engage in activism.

Instead we should leave everything to our politicians and just vote for a change instead. But what do we do when there is no political will? What do we do when the politics needed are nowhere in sight?

Here in Davos – just like everywhere else – everyone is talking about money. It seems that money and growth are our only main concerns.

And since the climate crisis is a crisis that never once has been treated as a crisis, people are simply not aware of the full consequences from our everyday life. People are not aware that there is such a thing as a carbon budget and just how incredibly small that remaining carbon budget is. And that needs to change today.

No other current challenge can match the importance of establishing a wide, public awareness and understanding of our rapidly disappearing carbon budget, that should and must become our new global currency and the very heart of our future and present economics.

We are now at a time in history where everyone with any insight of the climate crisis that threatens our civilization and the entire biosphere must speak out.

In clear language.

No matter how uncomfortable and unprofitable that may be.

We must change almost everything in our current societies.

The bigger your carbon footprint – the bigger your moral duty.

The bigger your platform – the bigger your responsibility.

Adults keep saying: ‘We owe it to the young people to give them hope.’

But I don’t want your hope.

I don’t want you to be hopeful.

I want you to panic.

I want you to feel the fear I feel every day.

And then I want you to act.

I want you to act as you would in a crisis.

I want you to act as if our house is on fire.

Because it is.

Taggar

2010-tal, 2019, Fridays for future, Kvinna, Miljö och klimat

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<https://www.svenskatal.se/tale/greta-thunberg-our-house-is-on-fire>