

Climate change. It seems like all the other issues that face us, but this one's different. It will make large portions of the world unlivable. There's a new UN report this week saying that the next 12 years are critical.

The increased wildfires, heat, storms, death of species, problems with agriculture - all of these are, or will be, events that come to pass before significant sea level rise affects Pacifica, although bluff erosion has always been an issue for us.

We are at about 1 degree Celsius of temperature increase currently. That's about 2 degrees F. The new UN report talks about what steps are necessary to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. They are severe - we must cut CO2 emissions by 50% by 2030 - in 12 years - and eliminate them completely by 2050. In addition to changing all of our bad societal habits, we will have to invent carbon capture technology, something we don't have now.

I don't think we're going to make it. Right now, CO2 emissions are still increasing worldwide. But we have to try, because every fraction of a degree counts.

We need political will. Every parent and grandparent should put climate change at the top of their political wishlist. Above even the Supreme Court. We need to get rid of coal, have a realistic carbon tax, increase federal gas taxes to reduce consumption, reduce air travel, have way more renewable energy, shift to electric vehicles and home heating, and a host of other changes. No politician has come forth to lead us because there aren't enough of us yet to make it worthwhile. We have to make it worth their while.

So join me in a grass roots whispering campaign to get their attention. Remember we're doing it for our children and grandchildren, so they don't have to live in an overheated world.

John Keener