

Day 24: Greenest

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I gave a speech to nine of my friends. We were all on a dance team together last year, and it was cool to educate them on something outside of dance!

Video: <https://youtu.be/xIMUxg3Uye8>

Speech Transcript:

I am here to say something that so many have already said, but has gone unheard. I am here today not to ask, but to demand just climate action. The International Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report stating that we have less than a decade to take action. It has been decades since we knew about the issue of the climate crisis, and I have yet to see meaningful action. Instead, what I see are so many cases of climate injustice: a mostly low-income, black community in Chester, Pennsylvania, losing their children to higher cancer rates due to the toxic pollution from the waste incinerator nearby; parents carrying their children and walking through the streets in Beijing wearing masks because the pollution is so dense; entire island nations and communities that will lose their homes to rising sea levels in a matter of decades.

You have the tools to solve one of the greatest challenges of our generation. Instead of meaningless words and meaningless conferences with no results and yet more politicizing, implement a carbon tax that polluters should pay for. Why should the people pay for something when the richest people owning 90 companies have done all the polluting? Then go beyond. Climate injustice is gender injustice. It is racial injustice. It is labor injustice, food injustice, and disregard for indigenous rights. So, invest in renewable sources of energy. Transition workers from high-carbon jobs to low-carbon jobs, and ensure that they are high paying union jobs with healthcare. Make reparations to communities that have suffered the brunt of the climate crisis. Make it so that healthy, organic, local, fresh produce are accessible to kids and families, especially in school. It should not be that a bag of chips is cheaper and easier to find. Recognize climate refugees under law so that we can take action. By the year 2050, there will be 200 million climate migrants. Build proper waste infrastructure. Right now, developed countries like the United States consistently sends their trash to developing countries, polluting their land, air, and perpetuating a cycle of injustice. Transition us to a circular economy. Prepare us. Prepare us for this, and ensure that we have a just transition from an extractive economy built on the backs of laborers to a regenerative economy that leaves no one behind.

It's not just about saving the polar bears or the panda. It's a matter of life as death. It's a matter of justice. Right now, vulnerable, low income communities of color in developing countries are suffering the consequences of our actions. The actions you take today will determine whether we live or die. What you do will determine your children's future, the future of all life over the planet.

So, I ask you: what will you do? Will you doom us, or will you take action?