

## Climate Catastrophe Already Unfolding

# Capitalism vs. Our Future —We Can't Have Both

The logic is simple. Capitalism can't survive without endless growth. Many Earth species—including humans—can't survive the onrushing catastrophe of climate change caused by unchecked growth. Choose.

A rapidly rising international movement against climate change and for climate justice is growing ever more aware of this logic.

Our struggles are multiplying against the dangers of oil and gas pipeline spills, tanker ruptures, exploding trains, fracking, and the mining/transport/export of coal.

In turn, these battles open our eyes to even worse threats and already-happening disasters that result directly from these fossil fuels. In spite of many promises to cut green-house gases, they are growing rapidly, causing thousands of horrible deaths and many more suffering survivors.



Our opened eyes see greater disasters looming.

Climate scientists are nearly unanimous that we need to keep 80% of known fossil fuels in the ground. A 2018 United Nations report gives us 12 years to severely ratchet down carbon emissions or face more super-storms, runaway wild fires, floods, droughts, famines, rising sea levels, species extinctions, and probably the end of human civilization—with all the horrors that implies.

We cannot sentence our children and grandchildren to such a bleak future.

A brighter future means shifting quickly away from fossil fuel energy. We must end the incredible wastefulness of our production, consumption and war-making. We have to create a society and economy that is in harmony with the natural world—the complex and delicate ecology on which we depend for the air, food, water, and temperature range we need to survive.

The root cause of climate change is our current social and economic system—capitalism—because it is based on unending growth. Profits, and thus production, must grow. Or else, there is crisis: investment falls, layoffs rise, spending drops, production dips, more jobs are lost, etc.

Insatiable profit-seeking and “market forces” make capitalism what it is. It is wishful thinking that it can be reformed, can exist in some sort of steady-state, no-growth version.

A no-growth economy would have to be a planned economy aiming for social, economic, ecological goals—goals chosen by someone.

That someone should be us—all of us—democratically deciding on production and consumption priorities, based on principles of social justice and eco-harmony. **In fact, as of right now we need all of us—in communities, trade unions, political parties and at every level of government—to commit to developing a plan to transition ourselves to a post-carbon energy system, to a post-capitalist economic system.**

To make this system work we all must have an equal stake; everyone must be treated justly. So, we also need to eliminate racism, sexism, heterosexism and all forms of inequality and oppression, while enshrining First Nations' rights to sovereignty and self-determination.



*Thousands march against Trans Mountain Expansion Project at Burnaby Mountain on March 10, 2018*

We call such a system socialism. It is not a reform of capitalism. It will be a new system, replacing capitalism. To get there we will have to strive—in huge public rallies, in our workplaces, and at the ballot box—to replace profiteers' power with the power of working people.

Vancouver Ecosocialists are working for democratic, egalitarian, ecologically sane socialism. Check our web page:

[www.ecosocialistsvancouver.org](http://www.ecosocialistsvancouver.org)