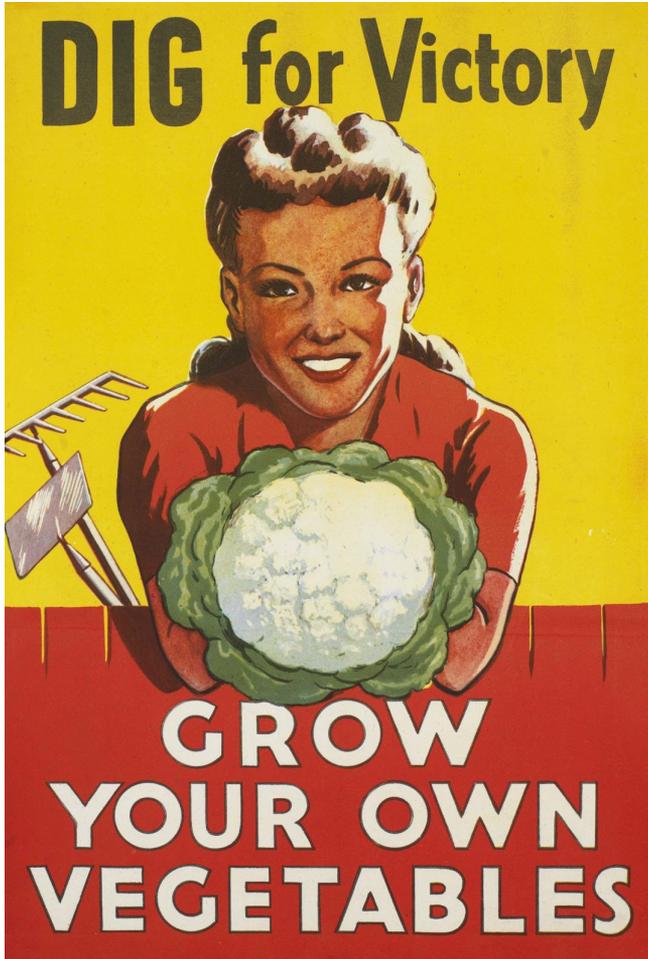


# Emergency Mobilization: Taking Climate Change Seriously

“No challenge - no challenge - poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change.” - Barack Obama



The New Haven Climate Movement

From scientific predictions to environmental disasters to political decisions, climate change has been nothing short of a hot topic. Despite the discussion surrounding the issue, however, we haven't awakened to this serious threat. Some action has been taken, but not nearly enough to escape the dangers of climate change.

### **Things You've Probably Heard About Climate Change:**

- 2014, 2015 and 2016 have been the hottest years on record.
- Ice sheets are melting and have been drastically changed forever.
- Hundreds of thousands of species are threatened with extinction, and entire ecosystems are facing collapse.
- California's recent three year drought killed over 102 million trees, heavily resulting from the climate change driven trend of heat and dryness.

### **Things You Might Not Have Heard About Climate Change:**

- Scientists have been aware of its dangers since 1810
- Global flooding is predicted to triple by 2030, increasing annual economic flooding costs from \$83 billion to \$438 billion
- 250 million people are predicted to be displaced by 2050 due to climate change increased natural disasters and food and water shortages.
- Global conflicts and wars are likely to increase as a result of the declining amount of land, water and food. For example, the drought in Syria is believed to be one of the driving factors of their political instability.

### **Things That Underline the Urgency to Act on Climate Change:**

- There is indication that tipping points, the threshold at which the amount of greenhouse gases emitted triggered a feedback loop that in turn releases even more greenhouse gases, have already been met.
- Tipping points include loss of arctic permafrost, loss of arctic sea ice, and amazon and boreal forest dieback.
- The Earth is currently at 1° C above pre-industrial levels, an already disastrous increase with dangerous repercussions throughout the world.

There is no debate about the science - **climate change is very real, very threatening, and is already having tremendous negative impacts on the lives of people around the globe.** Moreover, scientific predictions have had a tendency to underestimate the effects and the future could actually be even worse off than expected. This should not be viewed as a reason to lose hope, but rather a reason for action. Would you rather get into a car crash going 20 mph or 80 mph? It's the same principle - we should do everything we can to prevent the crisis.

## So, what has the response been?

Nearly every country in the world has recognized that climate change is a problem and signed onto the Paris Accords in order to combat it. Although the goal of this agreement is to keep warming below 1.5° C, the actual emissions reductions commitments made by countries would lead to warming far beyond that.

It's clear that climate change will have detrimental effects on people, other living things, and the environment itself, but actions taken have been insufficient at actually addressing the problem. **This is not a**

**problem that can wait. This an emergency that requires our efforts and attention. We must treat it like one.** We must first recognize the severity of the situation, and then address the problem with emergency level mobilization.



### What is mobilization?

Mobilization is the rapid and intense organization and efforts taken by a nation, government or civilization in order to address or respond to a particular problem or emergency. An example of this is the response of the United States to WWII: the importance of the war effort was taken seriously, much of the economy was centered around the issue, and everyone in the country rose together to assist in anyway they could. While this instance of mobilization took place through federal initiatives, it's important to recognize the **major impacts that action at the local and state level can have.** Mobilization presents the opportunity to revolutionize the way we think about climate change, the way we act on it, and to treat it like the emergency that it is.

If we come together, **we have the ability to effectively reduce the negative effects of the crisis and prevent further damage from occurring** - but this will require increased awareness, action and mobilization.

### It's possible in Connecticut!

In 2012, the state of Connecticut made a proposal for \$90 billion to spend on revamping its transportation system. Imagine if we made a similar proposal for climate mobilization?

## So, what can we do?

In order to prevent a chaotic future and create a safe, healthy climate, we must take the issue seriously and **we must mobilize; both intensely and rapidly.**

**Here's what you can do** to help ensure that climate change is taken seriously as the emergency situation that it is:

- Continue to educate yourself about the issue and share the information you learn with others through discussions, organizing house meetings, and mobilization events.
- Get involved with organizations that are passionate about emergency climate mobilization, such as the New Haven Climate Movement.
- Pressure your elected representatives to take action through phone calls and letters, along with attending meetings and protests.
- Lead by example and take steps to promote and ensure the healthy, climate friendly neighborhoods and lifestyles that our families and communities need.



**Join the Emergency Mobilization Movement!  
Be the change we need!**

For more information & to get involved, visit us at  
[newhavenclimatemovement.org](http://newhavenclimatemovement.org)

\*All of the images used in this pamphlet are pieces of artwork from the mobilization effort during World War II\*