



## **TOWARD A PLANETARY REVOLUTION**

- 1. An Ideology For Our Times**
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Right now, as a species, humanity faces two immediate intersecting challenges to our survival – the COVID 19 Coronavirus Pandemic and the Climate Crisis that is embedded in a wide variety of ecological disruptions.

As we act to address these two existential threats, I believe that we will benefit by taking a bit of time to step back and explore how to embed our short and middle term actions in a broader and deeper conceptual framework that can help us respond to COVID 19 more effectively and, at the same time, use those responses as forces for the broader transformation we need to overcome the Climate Crisis.

### **1. An Ideology For Our Times**

An ideology is a story that we tell ourselves to help us make sense out of what's happening and to guide us in what actions to take. To recognize fully what we should be doing now, we need to know what story we are in as a species – where we have come from and where we are going.

**Hunter/Gatherers:** Humans lived for hundreds of thousands of years as Hunter/Gatherers. We adapted to the ecologies in which we found ourselves, slowly accumulating our crucial store

of knowledge: what plants were edible; how to make tools; the grazing and migration patterns of herds of animals; and how to hunt.

This knowledge was embedded in the stories we told ourselves: that we lived in a physical world pervaded by a ubiquitous spiritual energy that took the form of the spirits of the places where we lived and roamed and also manifested in the form of the greater Goddesses and Gods – Mother Earth, Father Sun, and the others.

Our lives in our little bands were pretty harsh and we often treated other bands harshly. We depended on a finely tuned adaption to our world. Innovation was dangerous because it could take us out of the harmony with our environment that was necessary for our little bands to survive.

**The Agricultural Revolution:** Eventually, about 10,000 years ago, we undertook the first of four great economic revolutions. We learned how to domesticate plants and animals. The Agricultural Revolution enabled us to free ourselves a little from our total dependence on our environment. We created villages and, ultimately, cities, surrounded by farms. As the Agricultural Revolution proceeded, patriarchal herding tribes came to invade matriarchal farming tribes and men came largely to dominate women in these evolving societies. We built urban civilizations structured as great kingdoms and empires with significant social stratification, often including slavery, and we evolved the great religions to explain to us our place in the universe, usually as some kind of fall from grace followed by some kind of redemption.

**The Industrial Revolution:** Then, about 300 years ago, we accomplished our second great economic revolution. We discovered that we could make machines and harness the power of steam and electricity. The Industrial Revolution allowed us to gain even more separation from our environment.

We created a science that enabled us to learn more objectively how our world worked and we became so enamored with the conception of the machine, that we came to view our world and the larger universe around us as a great machine – though many (most) people retained belief in one or another of the great religions.

And we created nation states and a capitalist economic system that treated people as if they were cogs in a machine and that treated the environment as a source of raw materials and a repository for our wastes.

**The Information Revolution:** Along about 70 years ago, we launched our third great economic revolution. We discovered that we could use electricity to generate, process, and transmit information, and we built computers, information processing technology, and the Internet to do just that.

The Information Revolution has enabled us to connect most of our rapidly expanding population, automating industrial processes, and enabling us to do work and produce products

and services much more efficiently through world-wide linked supply chains. And, now through the next generation of information technology and the Internet of Things, we have arrived at the point of building Smart Neighborhoods, Smart Cities, and Smart Regions in which our information systems help to structure and facilitate most, if not all, of our activities.

**Benefits and Costs:** These three economic revolutions have given us many wonderful benefits. Most of us live longer and often healthier lives than our Hunter/Gatherer ancestors did, protected from the harsher aspects of our natural world. We are able to spend much less time on the activities necessary for our survival and we have more time to explore reality and create works of personal and social art.

Through this process, guided by our scientific endeavors, we have learned a great deal about the nature of our world and our universe. We are able to connect with each other all around the world and respond to opportunities and challenges increasingly as one species, one people.

Unfortunately, these benefits have come with great costs. Our Hunter/Gatherer ancestors' fear of innovation has proved prescient. We have broken our harmonious relationships with the Earth's natural ecology, leading to extreme pollution, habitat destruction, species extinction, the Climate Crisis, and now the COVID 19 Global Pandemic all of which threaten our very existence. It turns out that it is a mistake to view the environment in a mechanistic, linear fashion as natural resources to input into our industrial processes and as repositories for our waste and our pollution. We need a circular economy in which there is no waste and no pollution and everything that is produced is used beneficially.

While the Capitalist (and Socialist) economic systems that emerged out of the Industrial and Information Revolutions have created great wealth, they have distributed that wealth in a highly inequitable fashion, leading to societies with a relatively few people with great wealth and power, a larger group living comfortably, and a very large majority of people living in poverty and extreme poverty.

And, also, some of the world's nations, which have become the dominant political form for the Industrial and Information Revolutions, have developed extremely frightening weapons of mass destruction and systems of local, regional, national and global warfare, embedded in ethnic, religious, and nationalistic conflicts. To date, our national and global systems of governance have been barely able to modulate the worst of these conflicts.

**The Planetary Revolution:** That brings us to our fourth great revolution, the Planetary Revolution. The time has come for us to create a global political, economic, social, and cultural system that can take advantage of what we have learned in our adventure of ecological semi-independence and complete the spiral we began when we separated from our Hunter/Gatherer starting place.

We can call it a Planetary Revolution because it is time for us to reestablish ecological interdependence and return to living harmoniously within the narrow environmental tolerances required for preserving and enhancing human life and all life on Earth.

And it is time for us to create ways of human life, for all people, that lead to an equitable distribution of health, wealth, and opportunity as well as a respectful valuing of our ethnic and cultural diversities within the context of our bedrock unity as one species inhabiting one small planet in a vast and widely interesting universe (multiverse, omniverse).

To this end, we need a new philosophy. Let's call it a Planetary Philosophy.



## **2. Planetary Philosophy**

It appears that the Earth is in a transition that could lead to a new, higher level of organization and, in Pierre de Chardin's sense, "interiorization", producing a new emergent consciousness. This transition is like what happened when cells evolved to form individual insects and plants and animals and, eventually, humans. And, these individuals came to have a coherent consciousness that could guide the – now unified – collection of cells.

It is clear that humanity is a key vehicle for this new higher level of organization for the Earth. However, the Earth is at a very unstable point in its evolution. In a systems theory context, it will either evolve or devolve now.

So, in order to survive, individual humans have to evolve to the next level of consciousness and connect to form the emergent Earth's next level of organization and coherence. Let's call that "Planetary Consciousness."

To succeed, this Planetary Consciousness needs to be expressed in a straightforward unifying philosophy – a Planetary Philosophy – with a set of simple, self-evident, powerful core principles (assumptions) that are so clear and so self-evident that it is virtually impossible for anyone to deny them. And these principles need to provide clear guidance so that anyone and everyone can immediately understand whether an action contributes to evolution or devolution. What are these principles? I've found three.

**One Planet:** The first principle of this Planetary Philosophy is One Planet. We all need to realize that we are One Planet.

Each human being has a body that is made of the Earth. We are made up of the elements of the Earth. We are not something outside of the Earth. Our bones, our blood, our muscles, all of our cells are composed of portions of the Earth. These elements from the Earth are still part of the Earth even as they are composing our bodies.

Where is the boundary between our little portion of the Earth that is our body and the rest of the Earth? We are continually breathing in air from the Earth and breathing out air into the Earth. We are continually eating and drinking parts of the Earth and then giving back feces and urine to the Earth. We are continually seeing and hearing and smelling and tasting and touching parts of the Earth and we are continually taking actions that affect the Earth, picking something up, opening a door, digging in a garden, or driving a car.

There is no place where it is possible to draw a line and say that is where I begin, and the Earth stops – that is where the Earth begins, and I stop. Intellectually, we know this is true. According to relativity physics, we know that everything is connected and an action any place affects every place, at least a little bit. Also, according to ecology, any action affects the whole ecology, at least a little bit. And, it is certainly clear that the Earth is one ecology.

So, we are a part of the Earth and the Earth is a part of us. What we experience is something that the Earth is experiencing. Our experience is the Earth experiencing other aspects of itself. Each of us lives a life that is one strand woven together to form the fabric made up of all of the strands of all of the lives of everything alive on Earth.

We cannot, we must not deny that everything that we do to the Earth we do to ourselves. Everything that everyone does to the Earth they do to us. If we humans disrupt the very narrow and very fragile tolerances that permit human life on Earth, then the result will be that the part of the Earth that is humanity will cease to exist. If we disrupt the narrow and fragile tolerances that permit organic life on Earth, then the result will be that the part of the Earth that is organic life will cease to exist.

And humans now certainly are forces for disruption. The Climate Crisis, massive pollution, forest destruction, and species extinction are all symptoms of this disruption. It is almost as if we are at war with the Earth, which means we are at war with ourselves.

What we do to the Earth, we do to ourselves. There is no separation. We need to make peace with the planet. Let's call this aspect of Planetary Philosophy "One Planet."

**One People:** The second principle of Planetary Philosophy is One People. In addition to understanding that we are One Planet, we also need to realize that we are One People.

Sadly, the COVID 19 Pandemic is the clearest example yet of the fact that we are one species, One People. The virus can attack every one of us regardless of any ethnic or religious or

economic or political or cultural differences that exist within the human family. We are all in this together.

Why is that? To understand, we have only to look at the fact that, as humans, we come from common ancestors and, as such, we share 99.9% of our DNA – 99.9% of our genetic make-up unites us and only 00.1% divides us.

And it's not just COVID 19. At any moment any cell or any virus in the body of any human being could mutate to become a virulent disease, or another virus could jump from the animal world to humanity. These events could release another pandemic that could be even more virulent than COVID 19, potentially killing every member of the human species. In this sense, we live or die as One People.

Inventions, like the telephone, the light bulb, and the internet have rapidly diffused throughout the human species and now each of us is pretty much connected with all the rest of us everywhere. One terrorist with nuclear weapons could destroy an awful lot of us. A few of us in political leadership can make peace or start a war that impacts all of us. A few of us in economic leadership can create prosperity or poverty for the rest of us.

The health and wellbeing of each individual in the human species profoundly affects the health and wellbeing of the whole species. The human species is going to survive as a whole – not just some dominant part of the species.

What we do to each other we do to us all, to the whole species. Let's call this aspect of Planetary Philosophy "One People."

**One Purpose:** The third principle of Planetary Philosophy is One Purpose. It is the responsibility of each individual human alive right now to be part of the solution or else he or she is part of the problem.

According to Systems Theory, when a system in a steady state of equilibrium takes in too much new content – new forces, new elements, new relationships – it goes into a state of disequilibrium, which is unstable. At that point, the system has to evolve and transform to a new, higher form of organization or else devolve into a new, lower form of organization.

The Earth is a system. The human species is a sub-system of the Earth. The system of the Earth and the sub-system of the human species have entered a state of profound disequilibrium. Humanity and the Earth must now either evolve to a higher level of organization or devolve to a lower level of organization.

We see the instability caused by and causing this disequilibrium wherever we look – in the COVID 19 Pandemic; the Climate Crisis; ecological devastation; the failing and failed states unable to effectively govern their populace; poverty, hunger, and disease; economic recession; wars and the threat of larger wars. Half of us, over 3 billion of us, live each day on less than it costs for a cup of coffee and 24,000 children die each day because they are so poor.

We need a new and better system for the human species and the Earth, a system that yields:

- Peace among people and peace with the Earth.
- Health and wellbeing for all people on a healthy planet.
- An opportunity for each person to live a satisfying and creative life and make a contribution to the whole.

We need to evolve to a higher level of organization, or the Earth is going to devolve to a lower level of organization as a planet, which may take it outside of the narrow tolerances required for human life, if it comes to that.

The time is painfully short. We all have to act right now. Let's call this aspect of Planetary Philosophy "One Purpose."

In One Planet, One People, One Purpose, there is a philosophy that I find I can believe in and that is guiding my thinking and my actions. I offer it as a resource to you for your thinking and your actions. And, perhaps, the three principles of Planetary Philosophy can help provide the foundation for a Planetary Movement that everyone alive can join. Every religion, every nation, every ethnic group can find its place on our One Planet as an aspect of our One People embracing our One Purpose.

So, given that these facts are so clearly true, how do we make the transformation? How do we realize our One Purpose as One People sharing our One Planet?



### **3. The Sustainable Development Goals**

To take action to realize our One Purpose, we need to understand what we need to accomplish, and we need know how to go about accomplishing that. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals provide a pretty strong and clear formulation of what we need to accomplish.

**The Goals:** In September 2015, the UN adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, a set of 17 goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all as part of a new global sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

Embracing the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals provides a clear framework to guide collective action to accomplish our One Purpose. Isn't it remarkably impressive that essentially all of the nations in the world – 186 countries – have come together to agree on this set of values for guiding the equitable and just transformation of our global economic, social, political, and cultural systems?

The Sustainable Development Goals are:

1. **No Poverty:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2. **Zero Hunger:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. **Good Health and Well-Being:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
4. **Quality Education:** Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.
5. **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6. **Clean Water and Sanitation:** Ensure access to water and sanitation for all.
7. **Affordable and Clean Energy:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
8. **Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.
9. **Industrial Innovation and Infrastructure:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
10. **Reduced Inequality:** Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. **Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
12. **Responsible Consumption and Production:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13. **Climate Action:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14. **Life Below Water:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.
15. **Life on Land:** Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.
16. **Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions:** Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.
17. **Partnerships For The Goals:** Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

**A Planetary Vision:** In its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN has articulated a planetary vision, which reads in part:

We envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive.

We envisage a world free of fear and violence. A world with universal literacy. A world with equitable and universal access to quality education at all levels, to health care and social protection, where physical, mental and social well-being are assured. A world where we reaffirm our commitments to the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and where there is improved hygiene; and where food is sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious. A world where human habitats are safe, resilient and sustainable and where there is universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

We envisage a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination; of respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity; and of equal opportunity permitting the full realization of human potential and contributing to shared prosperity. A world which invests in its children and in which every child grows up free from violence and exploitation. A world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed. A just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met.

We envisage a world in which every country enjoys sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all. A world in which consumption and production patterns and use of all natural resources – from air to land, from rivers, lakes and aquifers to oceans and seas - are sustainable. One in which democracy, good governance and the rule of law as well as an enabling environment at national and international levels, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger. One in which development and the application of technology are climate-sensitive, respect biodiversity and are resilient. One in which humanity lives in harmony with nature and in which wildlife and other living species are protected.

The UN's website provides extensive information about the Sustainable Development Goals and programs for implementation.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

In addition to the UN itself, many non-governmental organizations are taking leadership in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainable Brands has a good guide to such NGOs:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/SustainableBrands/files/content/sb-report-ngos-leading-the-way-on-sdgs.pdf>

And, The Global Impact Investment Network (GIIN) has developed a platform for mapping the portfolio impact of investments to the Sustainable Development Goals:

<https://medium.com/mercy-corps-social-venture-fund/mapping-portfolio-impact-to-the-sdgs-a-practical-guide-for-impact-investors-7cb375538063>



#### **4. A Planetary Movement**

So how should we understand the relationship between Planetary Philosophy, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the COVID 19 Coronavirus Pandemic?

In a column in the New York Times March 18th, Thomas Friedman asserted, “There is the world B.C. – Before Corona – and the world A.C. – After Corona. We have not even begun to grasp fully what the A.C. world will look like.”

However, it’s probably safe to suggest that there are four possible scenarios for what will emerge from our encounter with COVID 19:

- Scenario One – A reversion to the worst of the carbon intensive profoundly inequitable old order with an additional layer of authoritarianism.
- Scenario Two – A return to business as usual.
- Scenario Three – A few steps forward in incremental progress on the environment and equity.
- Scenario Four – A transformation to a new system of economic prosperity, environmental quality, and social equity guided by the Sustainable Development Goals.

Let’s explore what we can do to increase the likelihood of Scenario Four.

**Building the Movement:** As a first take away from the international response to the Pandemic, it has become clear that the human species can mobilize on a global scale to respond to a species wide threat. It is certainly true that the response has been painfully slow in many parts of the world and very imperfectly coordinated, with the leaders of some countries behaving very counterproductively. Yet, despite the degree to which the human species may not have fully attained to the stature of truly functioning as One People, we nonetheless have moved a long way toward proving that coming together as a whole species may be possible.

However, to reach Scenario Four, we need a Planetary Movement with enough people so that the direction shifts all around the world and we start building momentum for the new way of life that we need.

The truth is that a powerful Planetary Movement already exists, alive and growing almost everywhere, taking many forms. Just look to the tribal groups fighting for their land and way of life; the rapidly expanding solar and wind industry producing energy more cheaply than fossil fuel; the progressives advocating for a Green New Deal; the business groups promoting a new kind of Capitalism that benefits all its stakeholders; the organic farmers and farmers markets providing healthier safer food; the student organizations working for fossil fuel divestment and pesticide-free campuses; the environmental organizations struggling to save the rainforest and other natural habitats; and the impact investors investing in businesses that are solving environmental, social, and economic problems.

There must be some magic number of people that are needed to join this Movement in order to reach the tipping point when the new consciousness takes off and starts building massive positive momentum. Each of us has a role to play in this emerging Planetary Movement. Each of us needs to identify what our contributions are to Planetary Evolution and make those contributions or else we are contributing to Planetary Devolution.

We don't have much time, so it's important to get to the tipping point soon as possible. However, it's got to be the right tipping point. A significant error right now could lead to extremely unfortunate consequences so it's important for the Movement to embrace its own explicit guiding principles and function in a way that is self-correcting. So, the real question for us is, how do we strengthen this Movement?

**Five Keys:** Guided by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, let's postulate that there are five keys for each of us to use in determining how to contribute to reaching the tipping point when the Planetary Revolution takes off and begins to generate massive, explicit, coherent positive momentum. The five keys can be formulated as Recognition, Engagement, Exemplification, Connection, and Celebration.

1. **Recognize:** The first key is recognition. If we embrace Planetary Consciousness and recognize that we are individual manifestations of One Planet and One People and if

we recognize that the current system cannot hold, must evolve or devolve, then we have a great responsibility and a great opportunity to make our own unique contributions to the accomplishment of our One Purpose – opposing what has gone wrong and building what we need now to make the Great Transformation.

Each of us has a unique experience of Planetary Consciousness, a unique perspective on how to understand it, what it means, and what its implications are. And each of us has special talents and gifts and skills to contribute to the growing Planetary Movement.

2. **Engage:** The second key is engagement. Based on our recognition of our situation right now, some of us have already found the best way for us to engage with the Planetary Movement.

Maybe it's transforming the way we live in our homes and the types of products we buy and the way we reduce our impact on the planet. Maybe it's working in or helping to start up a local environmentally and socially responsible business. Maybe it's joining a social or environmental action organization. Maybe it's creating art that tells a piece of the story of our times.

While some of us are fully committed, some of us may need to find the best way for us to engage in one or another of the many aspects of the growing Planetary Movement or to start a new aspect. If that's true for us, then we just need to look within and ask ourselves, what is the contribution that is right for us to make right now?

It doesn't have to be the perfect first engagement. Starting is what's important, engaging with some aspect of the Movement. If it isn't the best choice, make a change when the opportunity presents itself.

3. **Exemplify:** As the Mahatma, Mohandas Gandhi, said, 'The means are the ends in process.' He meant that bad means create bad ends, period. For the good to triumph in the end, it has to triumph each step of the way in each example that we build.

One of the best ways to contribute to building the Planetary Movement is to create examples of the Planetary Revolution, of the Planetary Society, the Planetary Economy, the Planetary Civilization we aspire to. In our homes, with our families, we can create a safe, energy/resource efficient, waste-free life that contributes to the health and well-being of us all and our common home.

We can work to transform our workplaces to save energy, water, and resources, eliminate waste, and reduce greenhouse gas production in ways that also save money. We can also work to make our workplaces more equitable in the distribution of compensation.

Politically, we can advocate against or demonstrate against the policies and practices

that support and subsidize a carbon-intensive inequitable economy and we can work for the policies, practices, and investments that truly benefit people and the planet.

While any particular example that we build may seem insignificant when we measure it against the dimensions of the challenge, we can aggressively link our examples together to help us move toward a tipping point where momentum for the Planetary Revolution takes off.

We are touching deep energies, real powers, so it is essential to make sure to use them wisely and the only way to do that is to make sure that each action we take, each organization we build, each initiative we undertake truly manifests the peace with ourselves, peace among all peoples, and peace with the Earth to which we aspire.

**4. Connect:** Let's recognize that one of our deepest strengths is in making connections.

My organization advocating for environmental justice or social justice or native justice can form a coalition with your organization. I can support your organization. You can support mine. Together we can win the victories we need to win.

My socially and environmentally responsible business can do business with your business. I can patronize your business. You can patronize mine. Together we can build powerful examples of a new Planetary Economy that manifests the Sustainable Development Goals.

My stream online can link with your stream. Yours can connect with mine. We can learn from each other and connect our learning. My art can join in a Planetary Festival with your art. I can appreciate your art. You can appreciate mine.

As we connect, we can strategize ways to make more powerful connections. We can weave each of our powerful examples together to create the tapestry of our future world right now.

**5. Celebrate:** The Planetary Movement is not just about struggling to survive, though our survival is at stake. The Planetary Movement is about creating examples of the world we want, connecting them to build larger examples, and celebrating what we do as we do it.

Ultimately, the Planetary Economy will win, because it will be more successful economically for all people, not merely for the one per cent. It will be possible to make a better living within it. It will be more fun.

Planetary Politics will create more effective governments. Planetary Art will be better art. Winning is not winning at the end of the process. Winning is winning right now and celebrating our victories along the way, as we make the Great Transformation.

**Next Steps:** It's important to recognize that our Planetary Movement now is a transitional movement. We are trying to get to the next higher level of planetary organization and intelligence. We don't know what that will be like and we don't know what that will be called. But we can be sure that, once we have taken the next steps and made the transition to the next higher level of organization, we will have created a platform from which to begin another cycle of creativity and evolution.

As with other forms of evolution, the successful initial examples of a Planetary Revolution ought to manifest the next higher level of order and be much more efficient, rewarding, accessible, enjoyable, and powerful than current organizational manifestations of the Earth in crisis. So, the challenge is to build powerful examples that have within themselves the ability to inspire and to replicate themselves and then to connect all of these examples into a much larger integrated example and then to begin the process again.

We need to realize that the Planetary Movement transcends any one name, any one organization or set of organizations. We need to move too fast, grow too large, and expand too rapidly for the Movement to be encompassed by just one organization or even one set of organizations. The Planetary Movement needs to be a true Movement of many organizational forms and many names.

Each and every one of us can be a Planetary Revolutionary and find the way that best suits us in making our contribution to the Great Transformation. Whoever we are, we can transform how we live in our homes and in our communities, by the way we eat, by the water and energy we save, by the waste we eliminate, and by the socially and environmentally responsible businesses that we patronize.

Each of us can support political parties and candidates and elected officials that recognize that the time for business as usual is over, the time for massive investment in positive economic, social, and environmental transformation has arrived.

Many of us are joining in the fight to protect the climate and replace carbon-intensive fossil fuels with safe renewable energy.

Many of us are creating businesses that are working to solve our economic, social, and environmental problems, and that are beginning to build examples of the way things will be once we have made this revolution, and that are holding themselves to that standard and evaluating their actions accordingly. And, those businesses are beginning to do business with each other in what can become a Planetary Marketplace.

Many of us are assessing these businesses and investing in the ones that are beginning to live up to the vision of contributing to a just, equitable, ecologically responsible, prosperous society – seeking to have impacts with our investments that go beyond purely acquiring financial return and that actually contribute to the realization of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals.

Many of us are discovering or rediscovering spiritual participation through the renewal of traditional religions and through the discovery of new forms of meditation and new rituals – recognizing that there is a divine indwelling in the Earth and Her people; manifesting the Great Transformation as a spiritual calling.

Altogether we are each called to be part of this Movement, to build this Revolution, as we live our lives expressing our shared responsibility to each other and to the Earth by the care we take with each other in our families, in our communities, in our workplaces, and in our educational, cultural, and political institutions.

Each of us can take on this challenge in our own lives by treating ourselves as specific examples of the Planetary Revolution and then by practicing a Planetary Philosophy however it manifests for each of us, through our family lives, our social lives, our work lives, our political lives, and our cultural lives. We are One Planet. We are One People. We have One Purpose. Our time has come.

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Note: I would love to hear what you think about this essay. And, if you like (or partially like) the perspective that it offers, please send me your thoughts on where we can take this thinking next. Let's have a conversation about it.