



**“Protecting God’s creation is not optional... It is necessary for all of us to act decisively.”**  
Pope Francis

Welcome to the fifth edition of our Laudato Si’ newsletter. This issue highlights people and movements around the world that are making a difference protecting our common home. Individual and collective action can make a difference! Greta Thunberg states, “I’m telling you there is hope. I have seen it, but it does not come from the governments or corporations. It comes from the people.”

## HEAD

In his [message for the World Day of Prayer for Creation](#), Pope Francis emphasized the need for action as “we are reaching a breaking point.”

Nineteen year-old activist **Greta Thunberg** [speaks about why she feels hopeful](#) about the fight against climate change even as the world approaches a “precipice”. Remember [her speech at the UN](#) – “**How dare you!**” And consider her latest book, [The Climate Book: The Facts and Solutions](#).

**Feel the passion** of Nobel laureate **Al Gore**, founder of [Climate Reality Project](#), as [he speaks](#) about how far we’ve come and how far we have to go. As Gore states: “Remember always that political will is itself a renewable resource.” Take action now!

**Robin Wall Kimmerer**, author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, [encourages us](#) to understand that Earth and all that Earth encompasses is gift and asks us to consider the question, “**What does Earth ask of us?**”

**Hilda Heine**, former President of the Marshall Islands, [highlights the efforts](#) of Indigenous Pacific Islanders to respond to the climate crisis of their sinking homeland islands, a crisis not of their making.

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## HANDS

Our own, **Sr. Pat Daly**, fought for environmental, economic, and social issues in the **corporate boardroom**. [Read the article](#) but don’t forget to scroll down for the video.

Starting with civil disobedience by throwing **seed bombs** into vacant lots and planting flowers in street meridians, [guerrilla gardeners](#) in NYC helped develop community gardens and became a force for environmental justice in their communities. They are a model for possibilities in other urban areas.

Have you heard of **Pocket Forests**? This innovative approach to restore biodiversity is the brainchild of **Dr. Akira Miyawaki**. It has been brought to life by volunteers in **Cambridge, MA**, and is a project that can be replicated. [Check out the Miyawaki Forest](#).

**Jane Fonda** became a climate activist in her 80s. In this [brief interview](#) she explains what motivated her and urges everyone to get active. Her book, [What Can I Do? The Path from Climate Despair to Action](#), suggests ways anyone can become active on climate issues.

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## HEART & HOPE

[Martin Luther King, Jr.’s words](#) inspire the experts. The fight for climate justice anywhere is a fight for climate justice everywhere.

**Dr. Sylvia Earle**, legendary oceanographer, inspires global awareness, access and support for a worldwide network of marine protected areas, Hope Spots, via Mission Blue, an organization that encourages action to explore and protect the oceans (“**the blue heart of the planet**”). Don’t miss [this video!](#)

[Hear a podcast](#) with Christian climate activist **Bill McKibben** discussing his work and belief that we are **violating the Bible’s precepts of stewardship and love**.

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Photo courtesy of Waterspirit.org

## HEAD

**Mary Robinson**, first woman president of Ireland, was inspired to become a climate justice activist after people in Africa told her that things “**are so much worse**” due to climate change. [Hear her discuss climate justice](#) in this Ted Talk.

Dynamic **Mia Mottley**, Prime Minister of Barbados, [pleads for a just use of economic resources](#) so that the countries of the South can survive the effects of climate change. For a much longer presentation of Prime Minister Mottley’s thoughts, see this [lecture and Q&A](#) given at the World Trade Organization.

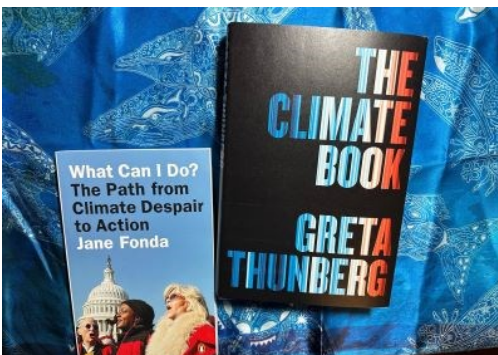
See who are the [Top 10 Environmental Celebrity Activists](#) who inspire the world to volunteer to stop climate change.

[Drawing lessons](#) from society’s response to the **Covid-19** pandemic to arrive at successful climate action.

[BBC](#): Climate **activism is failing** to represent **black, Asian and minority** ethnic groups.

The [carbon footprint myth](#)? Why Big Oil loves to talk about your carbon footprint.

What is the state of climate change [activism in Connecticut](#)? What’s [going on in NYC](#)?



## HANDS

Things you can do about climate change. [Achievable ways you personally can make a difference.](#)

[Young climate activists](#) demand action and inspire hope.

Find out how [Gen Z climate activist Zahra Biabani](#) uses **social media to fight “climate doom-ism.”** Younger generations are committing to make real change in their lives to tackle climate change.

The **Disruptive Nonviolent Climate Movement** is a new form of civil disobedience by our world’s youth. Europe calls them the “**Climate Gluers**”. They have been *gluing themselves to priceless art* to bring attention to their cause. [The Climate Emergency Fund](#) financially funds many of these acts. [Aileen Getty of the Getty Oil family writes](#) of her financial support of activism, like the Van Gogh protest.

[Trees4goals](#): **Lesein Mutunkei**, a 16-year-old soccer player from Kenya, began planting a **tree for every soccer goal** he scored. His goal is to bring the idea for action all the way to FIFA.

How can **education create a more sustainable world**? Hear Eugene Cordero, Ph.D. (Dr. Burrito) [present innovative solutions](#) to help solve the problem of climate change.

## HEART & HOPE

Is there a **connection** between the power of **your plate and the food grown around the world**? In [this TED Talk](#), Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli teaches us about building a more equitable and sustainable food system.

What do saving storks in India, making bricks out of plastic waste in Kenya, and talking about climate change in the US have in common? **Women scientists** who are using their talents to **care for the earth and their communities**. Watch [five, brief inspiring videos](#) on their work.

Do you know someone who is suffering from **feelings of hopelessness** about the future of the planet? The [Good Grief Network](#) has resources to help them face their concerns in ways that empower them to action rather than paralysis.

**The one thing we need more than hope is action. Once we start to act, hope is everywhere. So instead of looking for hope, look for action. Then, and only then, hope will come.**  
Greta Thunberg

The [case for stubborn optimism](#) on climate. “This decade is a moment of choice unlike any we have ever lived,” says Puerto Rican **Christiana Figueres** in a motivational presentation meant for everyone. Take action on climate change is her message.

[Elizabeth Wathuti](#) is a youth climate activist from Kenya. A **change of heart is needed** to respond to a changing climate. She places the responsibility squarely on the shoulders and in the heart of each person.

Please provide feedback or suggestions for future topics to  
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