

Webinar Chat: Talking Climate with Bill McKibben

February 22nd, 2017

<http://www.localfutures.org/programs/global-to-local/webinars/talking-climate-bill-mckibben/>

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| Christina S. | Hello! We're an Environmental Civics class in Seattle. Excited to join you today! |
| Lynne O. | Jeopardy music keeps playing in my head |
| Andrew W. | I am here with my fellow Pace University Master's of Environmental Policy students. Hello! |
| Jonathan M. | Hello Helena and Bill |
| Jessica B. | I can't see or here anything yet- but I can see/read the Chat here |
| Robert M. | Bill - in a word, how serious is climate change? |
| Leane de L. | we lost you for a moment but you're back |
| Priscilla W. | Hello Helena and Bill |
| Laurel F. | Hear hear |
| Local Futures /ISEC | Hello to all the students here from Seattle and Pace University! :) thanks for coming! |
| Deb F. | hello from Cabanandra Australia where technology a bit patchy |
| Local Futures /ISEC | technology is patchy everywhere, Deb, don't worry :) |
| Local Futures /ISEC | welcome! |
| Anja L. | helena is all dark - we can't see her properly |
| Local Futures /ISEC | Helena, you look a bit scary with the light behind you - we can't see your face! |
| Jonathan M. | Where are Helena and Bill based? |
| Ashwani V. | Such a genuine pleasure. From Northern New Jersey. Ramapo College of New Jersey. |
| Local Futures /ISEC | Welcome Ashwani! |
| Local Futures /ISEC | Helena is in Australia. Bill is...in the US somewhere. I'm not entirely sure to be honest! |
| Jonathan M. | Thank you |
| Local Futures /ISEC | Vermont! |
| Local Futures /ISEC | There you go |

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| Andrew W. | Concentrations of carbon at 450 ppm has widely been considered to be the point of no return for humanity. We are marching toward that number at 2 ppm a year. I am 23 years old. What should young people focus on doing to prevent reaching the "point of no return"? -Pavan |
| Priscilla W. | Hello from Santa Barbara California! |
| Deb F. | Dark MAtters by Jane Mayer describes the way that the Koch bros and other billionaires have hijacked America's democracy. A dark but good read. |
| Jonathan M. | What happens if we are unable to stop the 3-4 degree celsius temperature rise, given the carbon concentrations and trajectories that exist? |
| Robert M. | Bill's answered my question - this is serious, in the extreme! |
| Cheryl L. | In local communities "untouched" by climate change effects, and think little about it, what is the best way to get their attention (and not let a catastrophe "do the work" for us? |
| Deb F. | whoops - that's Dark Money! |
| Julian W. | QUESTION FOR BILL - seems to me that a lot of climate solutions, as well intentioned as they are, seem to address the symptoms of a more fundamental problem - that of an economic system predicated on indefinite and exponential growth. Do you feel we are doing enough to critically examine the "economic growth" question? |
| Christina S. | We second Julian's question! |
| Gabriele K. | we all have more power than we think: we consumers have the power, if we just stop consuming all. the products we don't need |
| Priscilla W. | I'm teaching a workshop to high school students about sustainable lifestyle skills. What is the most important lesson they should learn? |
| Leane de L. | What have you found most successful to reach beyond the green choir, beyond those who consider themselves environmentalists? (ie the majority of the people on this planet!) |
| Robert S. | What do you think of a national mobilization focused on an all-hands-on-deck approach? How would we bring about such a transformation!! |
| Gabriele K. | we have to stop overconsuming and be a role model for others, work only towards this goal |
| Anja L. | Here are some resources that might be useful in getting the message out: Climate Change action paper: Climate Change or System Change? (2015) |
| Anja L. | Localization: Essential Steps to an Economics of Happiness (2016) |
| Anja L. | Sorry, here are the links: http://www.localfutures.org/wp- |

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| | content/uploads/Climate-Change-or-System-Change-1.pdf |
| Anja L. | http://www.localfutures.org/wp-content/uploads/Localization-Booklet-download.pdf |
| Sarah W. | George Marshall has written about communicating climate change - "Don't Even Think About it". |
| Julian W. | Gabriele, I agree that overconsumption is a big culprit, but based on my investigation, there are structural forces (i.e. the system's need for indefinite growth) in the economic system that encourage, and in fact almost require overconsumption. It is not merely a question of individual will. |
| Jonathan M. | What scenarios scare you the most about the climate change trends, and what gives you the most hope in solving them? |
| Paul S. | The problem is capitalism. |
| astrid P. | there is a lot of echo in what helena says |
| Anja L. | Agree Julian. Could you share your investigation with us. |
| Local Futures /ISEC | Yeah, we tried to mitigate the echo, Astrid, but we may just have to deal with it. Sorry about that! :(|
| Luke S. | Some people I campaigned with in 2013 are now too pessimistic to act, burnt out, and overwhelmed. I can't even get them to attend a Kitchen Table Conversation as it would be too confronting for them currently. What do you suggest to renew/heal/re-engage them? Thanks so much! |
| Jessica B. | Audio was ok, but now I don't hear Bill anymore. Just Helena. |
| Cheryl L. | Can we really "balance" Economy & Environment as some national political leaders are saying? Will countries be forced to choose at some point? one over the other |
| Paul S. | Good question Luke, I feel like that. |
| Melanie G. | Green job fairs |
| Leane de L. | good point Bill! |
| Gabriele K. | Julian, the system are we. We drive the economy. We must stand together and be the change we want to see |
| Rob H. | I'm with you, Julian Wong. Great question about facing the limits to perpetual growth. |
| Julian W. | oh shoot, i missed the last 7 minutes due to tech difficultues |
| Julian W. | What did Bill say?! |
| Luke S. | "1st world problem" is fair -- I think givng them time and space, and |

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| | "next person up". So right Helena, too, thank you both. |
| Priscilla W. | We all need to support the businesses that are invested in a healthy and thriving future |
| Melanie G. | What if we started cleaning up after them somehow? A la Occupy Sandy. |
| Jessica B. | I still can't hear Bill, can someone fix the audio? I only hear Helena and the other speaker. I'm accessing the audio via phone. |
| Anja L. | Hi Luke, Local Futures has been running a series of Economics of Happiness workshops. A number of people said that it made them gain overview and hope. We have a DIY version of this. |
| Andrew W. | What policies would you like to see implemented for stationary and mobile sources? |
| Rob H. | @Julian Wong - unfortunately, Bill doesn't agree with addressing the inherent unsustainability of the current economic system directly. I agree with you though, our full-on dependency on perpetual growth is the upstream issue we face. |
| Julian W. | Anja, Christina, Rob, Gabriele this may is a good long read. The structural issues have to do with how money is created, the debt-based nature of our money. http://www.resilience.org/stories/2017-02-22/economic-growth-a-primer/ |
| Robert M. | I appreciate Bill's views about the practical matters, but this is primarily an ideological affair, it's political, and until we address those perverse beliefs, little or nothing will happen. |
| Anja L. | Thanks Julian. i |
| Paul S. | Agreed Robert. |
| Jessica B. | Now I hear Bill! |
| Local Futures /ISEC | Awesome, Jessica. :) |
| Julian W. | @RobH, thanks for that. Did Bill say why not? |
| Melissa P. | What do you see technology's effect on climate change to be? |
| Gabriele K. | thanks Julian - I know this |
| Christina S. | Thanks, Julian! |
| Jesus I. S. | Standing Rock, is that our game-changer? |
| Jennifer S. | Please speak to the significance of the Standing Rock movement for the climate justice movement today. |
| Jesus I. S. | yes, I believe Standing Rock's spirit can be our healer, our way forward |

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| Luke S. | Thanks Anja I will click through the website for that workshop, or feel free to email me about it. Cheers. |
| Anja L. | Will do Luke. But here is the link: http://www.localfutures.org/programs/the-economics-of-happiness/diy-workshop/ |
| Rob H. | @JulianW - Bill said that because he views addressing downstream symptoms as "practical matters" whereas he views addressing the overarching economic system as an "ideological matter". This is really too bad, in my opinion, since I think addressing the ec |
| Luke S. | Hear hear -- joining with Indigenous communities in environmental action has been powerful and humbling. Some great leaders in Canberra @ Tent Embassy |
| Anja L. | big echo |
| Luke S. | Standing Rock too in the US... |
| Kelly W-F. | didn't really hear Helena's question |
| Julian W. | @RobH - I am with you 100%. |
| Robert M. | Agreed, Rob Harding! |
| Local Futures /ISEC | She was asking to what extent we need to address global trade issues and the hegemony of growth as a part of the climate fight - echoing what a lot of folks here have said |
| Jennifer S. | Any chance 350.org could get on board with urging local and global move away from meat production and consumption? |
| Deb F. | Rob, Julian, those wishing to focus on economy - that will always be important, we need activists in all these crucial areas. Those taking 'practical' action (eg support for renewables) do need to understand the political/economic context that made cc happen. |
| Rob H. | @JulianW and Robert McLean - in case you guys haven't checked out the following organizations, I recommend them. 1. GrowthBusters, 2. the Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy, and 3. the Post Growth Institute. I'm trying to join the staf |
| Sarah W. | Thank you both very much it's been a great session. |
| Deb F. | Thanks for making us feel connected to a worldwide movement. |
| Julian W. | Deb, Rob, I am working on these issues! feel free to contact me at ecopreneur@gmail.com to keep talking about these issues! |
| Jesus I. S. | thanks so much! Both a source of great inspiration :) |

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| Local Futures /ISEC | helena will stay on for a few minutes after bill leaves to take a few more questions! stick around if you can! |
| josefina b. | Thank you both! |
| Jesus I. S. | up to us now, climate fellows! Global Climate March must break all records :) |
| Rob H. | will do, Julian! |
| isabel r. | thank you!!! |
| Gabriele K. | thank you Bill! |
| Luke S. | When I closed my bank account saying "I love your service etc but I'm divesting b/c you invest in fossil fuels, the customer service person said, "Oh yeah, cool, we have a code for that." So sending that message via the banks and your super fund is an incredibly powerful and practical thing to do. Tell your friends on social media when you've done so -- shoot a video and ask your people to join you. Someone tell me what to do next?? |
| Deb F. | Julian where are you? |
| astrid P. | thanks bill. again a lot of echo at helena. technical issues? |
| Rob H. | You're right, Deb. Agreed that we need activists in many areas. Thanks. |
| Luke S. | Give us an action! |
| Deb F. | The networking via chat also a great aspect of this webinar. |
| Local Futures /ISEC | indeed! we'll send the chat transcript around with the recording |
| Julian W. | @Deb - SF bay area |
| Julian W. | @Deb yourself? |
| Laurel F. | Thanks to Bill and Helena from Daylesford Australia |
| isabel r. | I agree- the chat multiplies our learning and connection |
| Leo J. | Sorry the audio reception for Helena was so poor - perhaps will be clarified in transcript. |
| Melissa P. | Thank you. |
| Luke S. | Thanks Helena, Bill and organisers. Be well. |
| Priscilla W. | Thank you Helena in Oz! |
| isabel r. | Thanks to all! |
| Teryl C. | Thank you |
| Gabriele K. | we are offering workshops on sustainable lifestyles in Zurich - much love from Switzerland |

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| Julian W. | Thank you Local Futures team! |
| isabel r. | Love from Fort Lauderdale Florida |
| Local Futures /ISEC | outreach@localfutures.org |
| cathy m. | Thank you :) |
| Priscilla W. | Love to all from southern California! |
| Priscilla W. | So happy to see so many people who care |
| Local Futures /ISEC | our email update sign-up page (we promise we won't spam you, these only go out once or twice a month): http://www.localfutures.org/get-involved/join-email-update-list/ |
| Luke S. | Thanks for the word-of-mouth connection to this webinar Michele S :] |
| astrid P. | love from ecuador that just had flood issues |
| Local Futures /ISEC | http://www.localfutures.org/programs/global-to-local/planet-local/ |
| Local Futures /ISEC | Planet Local ^ |
| Local Futures /ISEC | http://therules.org/ |
| Paul S. | I like /therules! Will look forward to that conversation. |
| Local Futures /ISEC | ^these folks will be joining us for the next webinar in April! |
| Paul S. | Thanks, bye from Wales. |
| jennifer k. | This was really great - but I had much trouble trying to understand what Helena was saying - so a little disappointed. Sounded like she was underwater. I am in Canada on the west coast. Would love to share with people in my community. Maybe next time. |
| Local Futures /ISEC | Sorry Jennifer! Keep an eye out for the recording - usually the audio there is intelligible even if there were technical issues during the stream :) |
| Local Futures /ISEC | I'll close the chat up now - thanks again to all! |