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The Conscious Lifestyle Magazine



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SINGLE MOTHERS:
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DAFT PUNK

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ROBERT PLANT

NO REGRETS

COUNTING CROWS

ANXIETY + ART

THE FUTURE OF ENERGY

Ani DiFranco

FEMINISM = A PATH TO PEACE

WOMEN & CLIMATE

NYC

Paulo Coelho

LIFE LESSONS + NOT MAKING PLANS

A VOICE FOR ANIMALS

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH

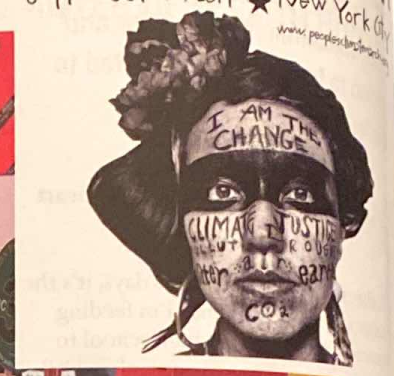
IN NEW YORK CITY: SEPTEMBER 21, 2014

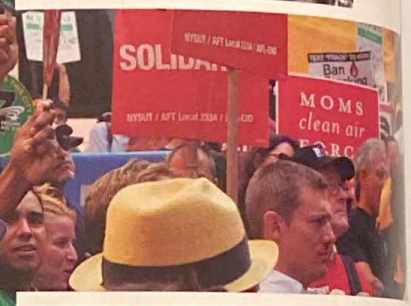
By Clara Vondrich

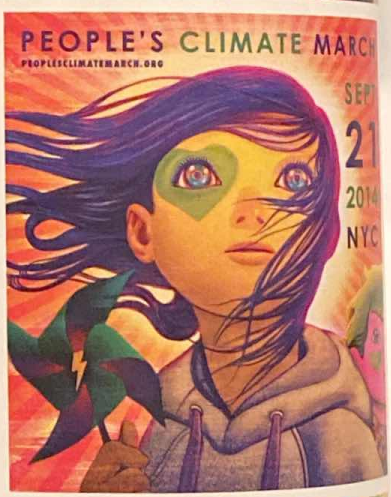
"If you've been standing on the sidelines, waiting for the big moment to take action on climate change, this is it."













ARE YOU READY TO MAKE HISTORY?

This September 21, the largest climate action in the history will sweep the streets of New York City: the People's Climate March. The date is strategic: just two days later, President Barack Obama and other world leaders will gather at the United Nations to debate nothing short of the fate of humanity: how to prevent catastrophic climate change.

The message of the People's Climate March is simple and direct: it's time for action, not words. We're not interested in more empty rhetoric. We want to see clear and bold action to transition us away from the polluting energy of the past—coal, oil, and gas—and towards the clean energy of the future.

The task couldn't be more urgent. Around the world, people are feeling the heat as climate chickens come home to roost—crazy rains, blistering droughts, rising seas and the town-drowning storm surge that comes with it, roaring storms, dripping glaciers, and so much more. The bad news is that it can always get worse. The good news is that we can stabilize our climate and secure a bright future for all, but only if we act now.

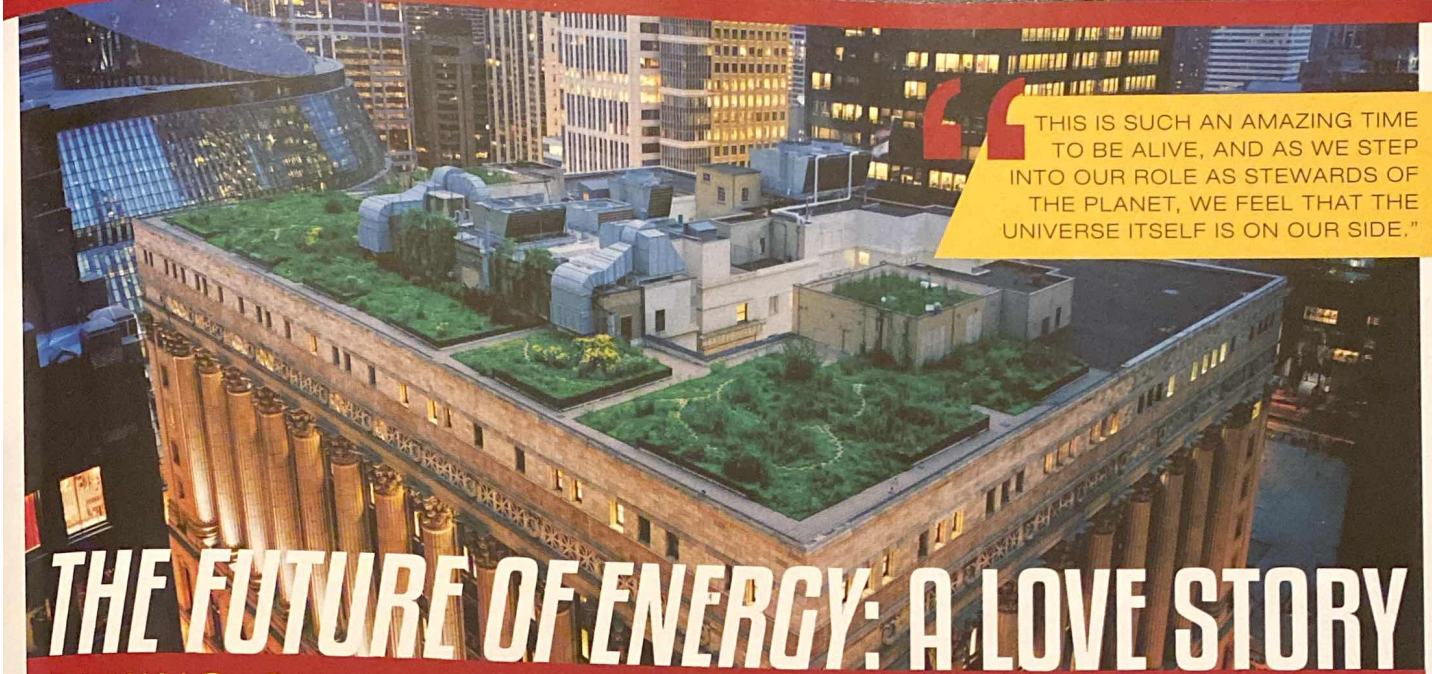
The vision behind the People's Climate March has already galvanized over seven hundred organizations of every stripe. The usual suspects in the environmental movement are activated like never before.

But the real magic is in the rainbow of unusual bedfellows that is also standing up: labor unions (because we demand clean, green jobs with a future), faith groups (because we have a duty to care for creation), social-justice activists (because our scorched-earth economy hurts the poor first and hardest), health workers (because carbon pollution is choking our kids, and extreme weather brings death and injury), students (because our future is on the line), parents (because our babies' choices are being curtailed), and *you*.

If you've been standing on the sidelines, waiting for the big moment to take action on climate change, this is it. This September, come to New York City and help us save the world. To change everything, it takes everyone.

PEOPLESCLIMATEMARCH.ORG

RIGHT PHOTO: MARILYN VASTA / 350NYC



> "THIS IS SUCH AN AMAZING TIME TO BE ALIVE, AND AS WE STEP INTO OUR ROLE AS STEWARDS OF THE PLANET, WE FEEL THAT THE UNIVERSE ITSELF IS ON OUR SIDE."

THE FUTURE OF ENERGY: A LOVE STORY

TAKING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

INTERVIEW: MARANDA PLEASANT

Maranda Pleasant: Your film is described as a story about the renewable energy revolution but also as a love story. First of all, is there an energy revolution happening, and what does love have to do with it?

***The Future of Energy*:** We set out to tell a story of how renewable energy could help stop the climate crisis. We immediately uncovered this massive global revolution in which people around the world are taking climate change into their own hands by implementing renewable energy in their homes, businesses, and communities. But we realized it wasn't just about solar panels. Renewable energy is empowering people and helping them to experience deeper love for each other and for the entire Earth community.

As the Buddhist ecologist Joanna Macy points out, this energy revolution is really about a total transformation of consciousness and a reconnection to the ground of being: honoring our human and nonhuman families, bringing indigenous and diverse cultures into the conversation, and reestablishing a deeper relationship with the planet. This is a film about revolution, love, and the importance of our moment in time.

MP: What surprised you most while making the film?

***TFOE*:** First, none of us realized just how fast renewable energy is spreading throughout the world. Did you know that more than two-thirds of all solar energy was installed between 2010 and 2012? Crazy, right? Second, we learned that there are multiple plans to switch our entire infrastructure over to renewables. These plans are not pipe dreams; they've been developed by some of the leading authorities in renewable energy in the U.S., many of whom appear in the film. And third, we learned that there are entire cities across the planet that are getting most or all of their electricity from renewable sources, including Greenburg, Kans., and Lancaster, Calif.

MP: Do you feel an urgency to get this message out?

***TFOE*:** After learning the seriousness of the climate crisis—that it's escalating faster than what most people understand and that we have just a few years to shift our societies to a new energy infrastructure—we felt the need to act immediately and to get a new vision out into the world. Within the short time of just thirteen months, we hatched the idea, crowdfunded the initial resources, traveled around the country, and produced the feature-length film. Transforming the planet before it's too late definitely brings a sense of urgency.

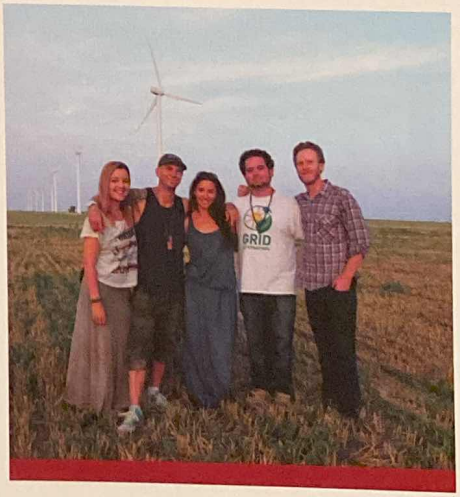
MP: The film features a number of leading voices in the environmental movement, including Joanna Macy, Bill McKibben, and Jeremy Rifkin. What was it like working with them?

***TFOE*:** Meeting Jeremy Rifkin was incredible. We've all been so inspired by his books *The Third Industrial Revolution* and *The Empathic Civilization*. Working with Joanna Macy was probably the most profound experience for all of us. Her life's work is dedicated to bringing about the Great Turning and shifting our species away from the industrial-growth society of consumption and oppression, towards a new planetary culture of interdependence and self-actualization.

MP: Are you more optimistic about the future of humanity now that you've made a film about solutions to climate change?

***TFOE*:** We went from pessimistic to radically optimistic. After every interview, we became more and more convinced that the shift is actually happening and that we can each participate in it. That excitement translates into the film. Now we're excited to share this vision with others, to remind all of us just how beautiful and powerful we really are. This is such an amazing time to be alive, and as we step into our role as stewards of the planet, we feel that the universe itself is on our side. It's definitely something to be excited about.

The Future of Energy is a new documentary about the renewable energy revolution—and a story about communities falling back in love with each other and the planet. Visit TheFutureOfEnergyFilm.org for upcoming screenings.



THEFUTUREOFENERGYFILM.ORG

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INTERVIEWS WITH:

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CLIMATE MARCH, NEW YORK CITY

Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo, Ed Norton, Michael Franti, Maranda Pleasant, Leilani Munter, Sting, Trudie Styler

INTERVIEW WITH

BRETT MAZUREK

THE FUTURE OF ENERGY

Our shift towards renewable energy is not "if" but "when"

The director of the film that outlines the global climate crisis chats with us about determining our future.



REAL Magazine: What inspires you?

Brett Mazurek: I'm inspired by people who follow their dreams, do good in the world and really go for it.

RM: If you could say one thing to everyone on the planet, what would it be?

BM: The climate crisis is real and the time is now to create solutions before it gets out of control. The decisions we make in the next five years will determine the future of our species. It's time to get to work!

RM: Name an obstacle you have faced, and how you overcame it.

BM: Have you ever thought about the global climate crisis? It's a pretty big obstacle! When my team and I started doing the research and speaking with experts, we found that all the solutions are already out there and being implemented in communities around the world. That's why we made the film *The Future of Energy*, to educate the masses and help us get off fossil fuels.

RM: What does love mean to you?

BM: My team and I recently participated in the People's Climate March, where we walked with indigenous leaders, Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo, Sting, Michael Franti, Ed Norton, and 400,000 individuals and organizations to show our world leaders that we care about creating solutions to the climate crisis. At one point all 400,000 people stopped and took a moment of silence in the middle of NYC. It was remarkable. Then there was a wave of sound as the beginning of the line started to cheer and the roar of the crowd through the city exploded with love and determination to be the change! I could literally feel the love.

RM: What does your creative process look like?

BM: I have to be inspired by the project and the person behind the project. In Uganda, I was so inspired by the youth who rhymed hip-hop lyrics in their native tongue about corruption in their streets, like the artists I loved from the early '90s. I couldn't understand what they were saying, but I could feel it and I knew I wanted to help them. So I created the documentary *Diamond in the Rough* and directed the first Luga Flow music video. That style now dominates the music scene in Uganda and has brought money, culture and identity to the youth. That's the kind of social impact I envision when I create.

RM: How would you describe yourself to someone else, in three words or less?

BM: Awake. Passionate. Jedi.

RM: Do you have any words of wisdom to share on being a teenager?

BM: Do what you love. Figure out what you're passionate about and start creating.

RM: What projects do you have coming up, and how can our readers support you?

BM: Look out for new projects coming out of *The Future of Energy*, including the college tour, which you can support by signing up for a free film screening for your school. I'm also working on Michael Franti's Soulshine documentary and you can join us on tour next summer for some music, yoga and sustainability. Check me out on Instagram @mr3rdi and follow me on Facebook at 3rdi Visions, Brett Mazurek or The Future of Energy.

> "FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT AND START CREATING."



U.S. Premiere!
Friday, June 6th, 2014 • 2:45pm
@ the Dances With Films Festival
Chinese Theatre, 6925 Hollywood Blvd

THE FUTURE OF ENERGY

Lateral Power to the People







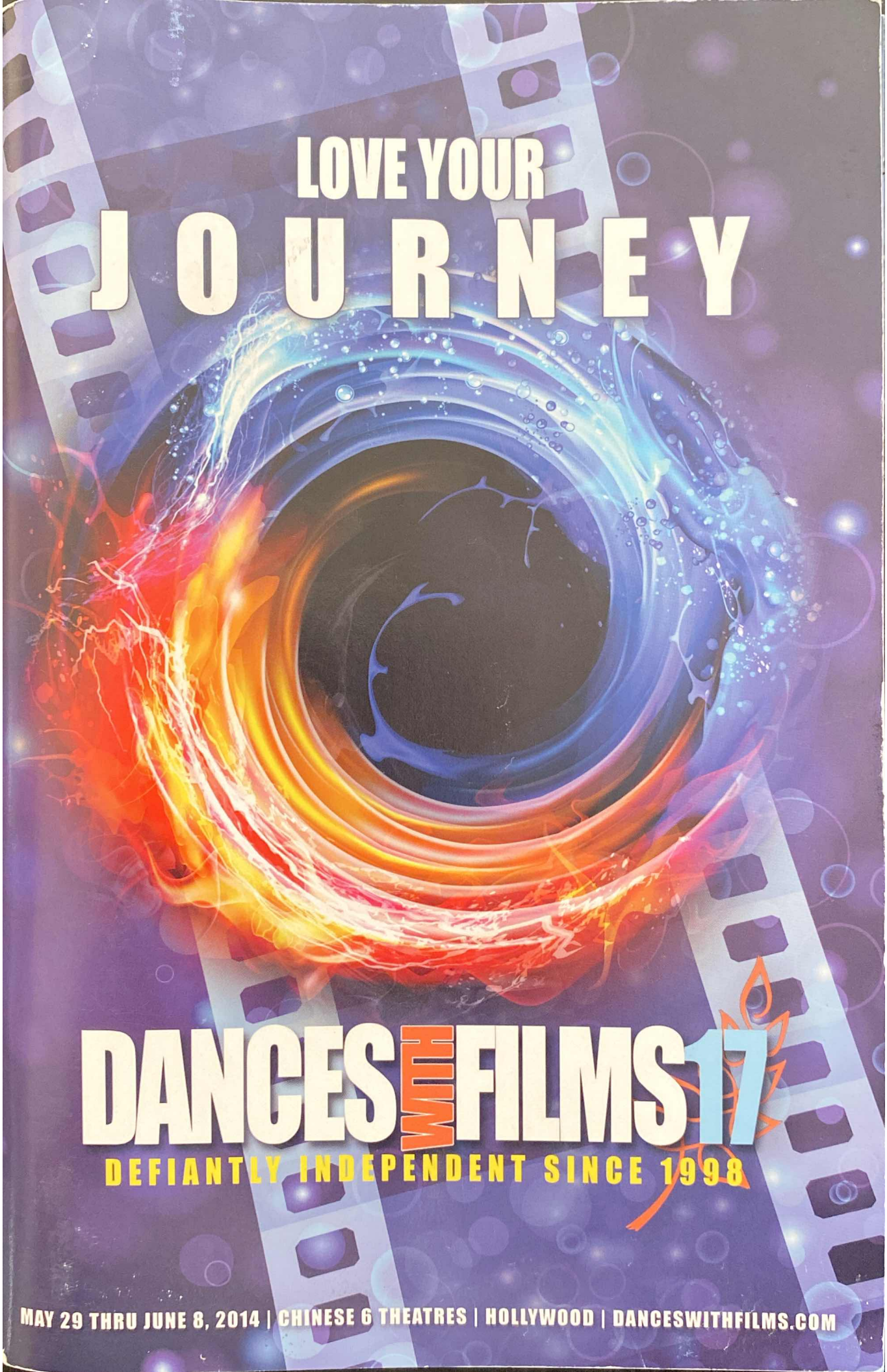




The Future of Energy is a positive film about the renewable energy revolution and a love story about the countless people and communities re-imagining their relationship with the planet and each other.

Film Featuring:

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120 DAYS

WEST COAST Premiere
USA, 2014, HD, 79 min.



WRITER/DIR: Ted Roach
PRODS: Ted Roach, Brad Allgood, Margaret Herman, Sandra Sampayo, Lagan Sebert

Family man Miguel Cortes could be forced to leave the country in four months as a result of his immigration status. In exchange for Miguel agreeing to leave the country voluntarily—and paying a $5,000 bond—the judge offers him 120 days to get his affairs in order before leaving his wife and two daughters in the United States to continue their education. Miguel has 120 Days to work hard, save money and weigh his options about returning to Mexico alone, or risk changing his name and disappearing back into another U.S. city illegally with his family.

print source
Ted Roach
323-788-3307
thirdedted@aol.com
120daysmovie.com

THE FUTURE OF ENERGY
LATERAL POWER TO THE PEOPLE

US Premiere
USA, 2014, HD, 80 min.



DIR: Brett Mazurek
WRITERS: Maximilian DeArmon, Theo Badashi, Missy Lahren
PRODS: Maximilian DeArmon, Missy Lahren
FEATURING: Theo Badashi, Jeremy Rifkin, Bill McKibben, Joanna Macy, Danny Kennedy, Pandora Thomas, Julian Mocine-Mcqueen, Jamie Henn, Diane Moss

All around the world a powerful transition is taking place. Communities are building local movements to address economic instability and the worst effects of climate change. Energy lies at the heart of our global society, and how we consume it impacts everything from the air we breathe and the food we eat, to our jobs and the health of our families.

The Future of Energy: Lateral Power to the People is a positive, fun film that focuses on energy solutions and the people behind the renewable energy revolution. It's a love story about people re-imagining their relationship to the planet, and falling back in love with the Earth and each other.

print source
Maximilian DeArmon
917-502-1332
max@thefutureofenergy.org
thefutureofenergyfilm.org

PLANETARY ADVOCATES, IMPACT HUB OAKLAND & KQED PRESENT:

THE BAY AREA PREMIERE OF

THE FUTURE OF ENERGY FILM



SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY

MICHAEL FRANTI



HOSTED BY
PANDORA THOMAS



PERFORMANCE BY
ZAKIYA HARRIS

FRIDAY SEPT. 5TH
@IMPACT HUB OAKLAND
DOORS:7PM FILM: 7:45PM

IMPACT HUB

PLANETARY ADVOCATES

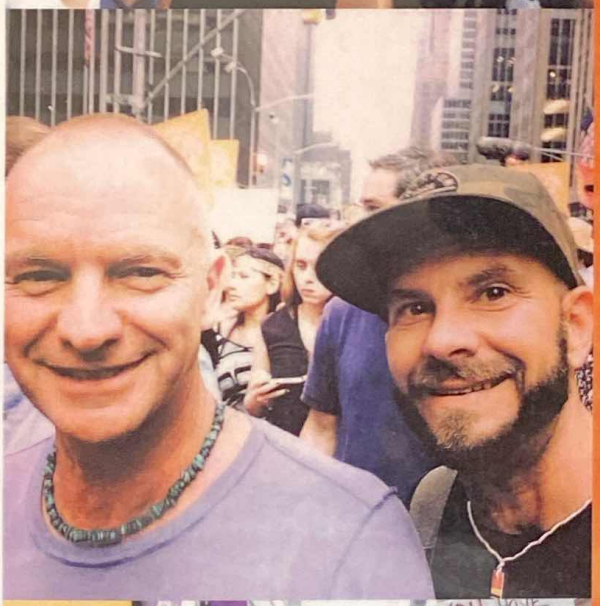
KQED

GO 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Future of Energy NYC Climate Week!









NYC PREMIERE

THE FUTURE OF ENERGY

Lateral Power to the People

This will be a big event leading up to the first ever People's Climate March in NYC.

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH
SEPTEMBER 21, NYC

NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE

ETHICAL

Welcoming remarks by NY State Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal.
Q&A with the filmmakers following the film.

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Tuesday, Sept. 16th 2014
doors: 6:30pm event: 7pm $10 suggested donation
NYSEC 2 West 64th Street, NYC





Forbes http://onforb.es/1plRYuG



Anne Field Contributor

I cover for-profit social enterprises and the people who fund them

Opinions expressed by Forbes Contributors are their own.

ENTREPRENEURS 9/19/2014 @ 3:36PM | 1,147 views

People's Climate March Could Spotlight A New Co-Working Space

Comment Now

The People's Climate March scheduled for Sept. 21 in New York City promises to be a massive event, with some organizers expecting 100,000 participants. (U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has said he will be one of them).

But the timing is also fortuitous for Impact Hub New York City, a newly opened 15,000 square foot, three floor co-working/community space for people involved with social and environmental change.

That is, the site opened for business just in time to offer Climate March participants a place to hang their hat free of charge for a week. Here's a place on the site to sign up.

The offer is for locals, as well as out of towners, who will be able to use the space's desks and wi-fi. Plus, there's a schedule of Impact Hub events related to the Climate March; they started on Sept. 15 and will continue until Sept. 23. (The United Nation's Climate Summit begins on that date). They range from a screening of the documentary *The Future of Energy* to a "fireside chat" with Hunter Lovins on "Entrepreneurial Opportunities & Climate Capitalism" and a happy hour.

EYE-OPENING DOCUMENTARIES ON ENERGY: TOP 5 MOVIES TO WATCH

February 29, 2024

Discover thought-provoking documentaries on energy, shedding light on the past, present, and future of our planet's power sources.



EYE-OPENING DOCUMENTARIES ON ENERGY: TOP 5 MOVIES TO WATCH

Discover thought-provoking documentaries on energy, shedding light on the past, present, and future of our planet's power sources.

Human progress escalates our energy demand: global consumption already surpasses 160,000 TWh and continues to rise. Prioritizing environmentally friendly options becomes not just important but crucial. Natural gas – the cleanest fossil fuel – alongside renewable energy sources emerges as a pivotal force in shaping our current and future landscapes for energy production. Delve into five enlightening documentaries on energy and learn more about the subject!

Top 5 documentaries on energy

If you are looking to delve into the topic in an engaging and easily digestible manner, consider watching the following five documentaries on energy. They offer valuable insights and entertainment while exploring various aspects of energy.

Power Trip: The Story of Energy (2020)

- Director: Mat Hames
- Length: 720 minutes (12 episodes)
- IMDB rating: 7.5/10

Power Trip is an award-winning documentary series focusing on the evolution of energy throughout history. It provides a comprehensive exploration of various facets such as transportation, urbanization, food production, and even warfare. For those seeking a holistic understanding of energy production's role, this series is a must-watch.

You can stream the show on platforms like Amazon Prime, Apple TV, and PBS (Public Broadcasting Service). However, availability may be limited in certain regions due to licensing restrictions.

The Future of Energy: Lateral Power to the People (2015)

- Director: Brett Mazurek
- Length: 65 minutes
- IMDB rating: 6.7/10

"The Future of Energy" is an impactful documentary highlighting the transition to renewable green energy sources. Through personal narratives, it illustrates the ongoing efforts needed for this shift. Notably, it includes insights from Jeremy Rifkin, a renowned author and advocate for renewable energy within the European Union. You can acquire the movie on Amazon.

Catching the Sun (2015)

The future of energy is 100% renewable, say filmmakers

"The question is not if we make the transition to 100% renewable. It's when, and how."

That's how Diane Moss, a Founder of the **Renewables 100 Policy Institute**, describes the choice facing us in a new documentary. As activists prepare for **this Saturday's climate march**, **The Future of Energy**—by film makers Brett Mazurek, Maximilian DeArmon, Theo Badashi and Missy Lahren—is making the rounds. Talking to business leaders, non-profit activists, energy experts and legislators, The Future of Energy makes the case that the transition to 100% renewable energy is not only possible, but in many communities it is actually underway.

When Moss founded her organization in 2007, just talking about 100% renewables seemed fanciful, even naive, to many in the environmental community. But then, a **successful all-electric luxury car company** probably seemed like pie-in-the-sky. **Plummeting solar costs** seemed like wishful thinking. And the perceived wisdom was that Chinese coal consumption would keep on growing, but that **doesn't appear to be the case**.

That was also before massive corporations like **MARS**, **Ikea** and **Verizon started invested in their own renewable energy generation**.

On a recent conference call about the movie, Mayor R. Rex Parris explained how his city of Lancaster, CA is working to achieve net zero energy by 2020. As a Republican, Parris is uniquely placed to make the case for clean energy, not only as a moral imperative, but a fiscal no-brainer. From building models for community-owned power generation to buying back streetlights and converting them to LEDs (with built-in wi-fi), Mayor Parris says the best thing about his city's efforts is that they are actively saving money while cleaning up the environment.

It's pretty exciting stuff. But check out the trailer for yourselves, and you can now **rent the documentary from Vimeo on Demand** (available only through the end of September as a limited release for the People's Climate March and Climate Week).

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

The Parkland Conference delves into equality and the environment



Sat, Nov 22 – Mon, Nov 24
University of Alberta
Full schedule available at parklandinstitute.ca/fallconference2014

We are living in an era of opportunity and yet a vast number of people are struggling just to get by. Wealth is undeniably skewed away from those who work hard to make ends meet and towards a small percentage of the population that just keeps getting richer. It is this perpetual inequality—and what should be done about it—that is the focus of this year's Parkland Conference titled People*Vs Profiteers: Demanding Justice and Equity.

Keynote speaker Guy Standing will be addressing this issue. The best-selling author and University of London economics professor will be delivering his lecture A Precariat Charter: A Progressive Agenda for Today's Dangerous Class. What is the precariat? It is an emerging social class living with unstable labour, unstable housing and often unstable personal relationships.

"The neoliberal economic model wants a large number of people to be living like that, and thus being 'flexible,' easily hired and fired, shifted from one set of tasks to another," Standing explains via email while in Poland launching his new book The Precariat: The new dangerous class. "Worst of all, those in the precariat cannot build a life of an occupational identity, and the norm is that their level of education is above the level of labour or jobs they can expect to obtain. And they have to do a lot of work that simply does not get recognized or measured in our out-of-date labour statistics."

Standing views the precariat as a dangerous class due to the persistent insecurities those within it face. He calls it a "frustrating, alienating existence that offers them no realistic hope of escape," and those among the precariat are losing all five types of rights: civil, cultural, political, social and economic. These people, along with their needs and aspirations, are often ignored by mainstream politicians and parties looking to attract the so-called middle class, while condemning the young and those in or bordering the precariat class in the process.

The precariat can be further broken down into three factions, which Standing delves into throughout his book and will be discussing during his keynote address. The first group includes people who are falling out of working-class communities and families and unable to maintain old-style manual occupations.

"They may not have any upper education, and they are listening to some ugly populist politicians, neo-facist in many respects," Standing explains. "We are seeing this in terrifying ways in Europe. They are blaming the second faction for their insecurities and worsening wages and benefits. That faction consists of migrants, ethnic minorities, the disabled and whatever group can be depicted as outsiders."

The third faction is made up of educated people with some college or university credentials but no perceived future. Standing says these individuals are dangerous in a more positive sense, though. This faction want to create a future, and they are angry with mainstream politicians who are failing to offer a strategy or vision of good society beyond increased labour and consumption.

"It reflects the painful construction of a global market system and the neoliberal economic model constructed by our governments over the past two decades," Standing says of what has contributed to the rise of the precariat class. "Those governments have just not cared about the minority. And now that minority is growing into what will soon be a majority. Only when the precariat becomes sufficiently united to demand changes will positive changes take place."

The neoliberal economic model wants a large number of people to be living like that, and thus being 'flexible,' easily hired and fired, shifted from one set of tasks to another.

Also among the Parkland Conference program is a screening of *The Future of Energy: Lateral Power to the People*, a crowdfunded documentary about the push in the United States to transition to 100-percent renewable energy sources rather than relying on fossil fuels and the like. The film was featured at the People's Climate March in New York City this September, and co-writer Theo Badashi is optimistic about the state of the current climate-change movement.

"It's really difficult to face the larger problems in the world. We're always saying, 'When are the new solutions going to come?'" says Badashi, who has been an activist for more than a decade. "We are so excited to see that the climate movement in particular is really diversifying. It's a social-justice movement now; it's an ecological movement, a new relationship to the planet that is really, I would almost say, spiritually and personally enriching for people in ways that the normal capitalist economic system is just not satisfying those deeper needs."



While progress is being made in terms of climate change and increasing the use of renewable energy rather than relying on things like fossil fuels, Badashi points out that there is still work to do, and it needs to happen sooner rather than later.

"It's the single largest issue our species is going to face in our lifetime, and for generations to come," he says of climate change. "If we don't rein in, if we don't develop a healthy relationship with our planet and how we act within it and live within it as the larger Earth community, then human presence is essentially going to tip the scale to make the planet unlivable for humans and countless other species. You know, we would essentially be talking about the end of human civilization in the way we know it now, so that's how big the stakes are. It might be a couple decades, it might be a hundred years at the most, but we're seeing these things happen now, so if we don't take action then our grandkids and our children are going to live in a fundamentally different world."

Transitioning to 100-percent renewable energy seems impossible, but it's not. Badashi assures that even small steps have an impact, and there are numerous ways individuals can start making small changes that will benefit themselves and the planet. He's particularly enthusiastic about the focus on the live-local movement in Alberta.

"The embrace of local farming and local foods and kind of living simply and riding your bikes when the weather permits … those things are all very basic things that people can do immediately in their lives," Badashi explains, adding that people switching their utilities over to green energy is another effective alternative. "If people really want to get proactive, if they want to make a huge difference, they can bring more diverse forms of climate education into their schools. They can begin to do much more grassroots kind of culturally oriented campaigns to really raise people's awareness of what's possible. It's important for us to know the problems, but right now is a time for us to switch over into solutions."

MEAGHAN BAXTER
MEAGHAN@VUEWEEKLY.COM

Climate Connections

REVIEW

Climate films to watch in 2017

Watch for these standout flicks in 2017.



by **DAISY SIMMONS**
FEBRUARY 10, 2017

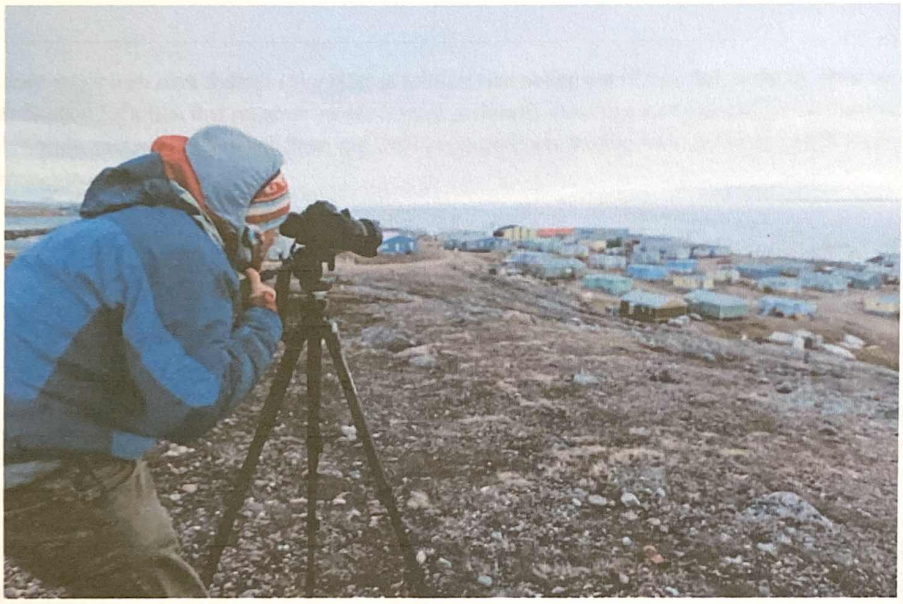


Photo courtesy of "To the Ends of the Earth"

NEVADA CITY, CALIF. – When climate denial and "alternative facts" pervade the body politic, it's time to zoom in on the science. Climate change is real, and its effects are already visible – even more so when you can see them play out on the big screen.

The 15th **Wild and Scenic Film Festival**, in Nevada City in January, was rife with such evidence. Unlike most film festivals put on by big production companies, this one is produced by a nonprofit environmental organization called **South Yuba River Citizens League** – and powered by 700 of its volunteers. The organizers' passion is clear, and so is their intent: to inspire audiences to take action on the challenges facing our planet. With climate change at the top of that particular list, and 120 films running over the course of a weekend, it's safe to say this reviewer faced no shortage of opportunity to sit back, relax, and learn.

From the gravely sobering, to the relentlessly hopeful, to the darkly comedic, this year's standout climate-related films showcased the range of feeling one might have about climate change. A few themes ran through each, however. Several pointed to a need for a complete transformation of the economic system, connecting the dots between energy, economy, and environment. They also highlighted major momentum in the renewable energy sector. But most fundamentally, they went to the experts for the facts, then wove together compelling narratives to bring climate science – and action – to life.

Following are four recommendations for provocative, intelligently made films that can make audiences think, feel, and act.

The Age of Consequences (Jared P. Scott, USA, 2016)

Privacy

The Future of Energy: Lateral Power to the People (Brett Mazurek, Maximilian DeArmon, Missy Lahren, US, 2016)



The filmmakers on scene for the festival described their film as a love letter – an apt description for a film that crosses the country to show people who are enthusiastically pushing away from fossil fuels and toward 100 percent renewable power.

"We were just looking for people that inspired us," says writer-producer Maximilian DeArmon of the journey that took them across the country to meet an array of civic leaders, energy experts, and passionate volunteers who are contributing to the renewable energy revolution.

In some cases, the stories are practical success stories. For example, the Republican mayors of **Greensburg, Kansas**, and Lancaster, California, have shown in their towns that advancing renewable power on a large scale can have major benefits and profitability. This, DeArmon says, indicates that investing in clean energy is doable "even if the federal government doesn't go for it."

The film is aesthetically uplifting, too, teeming with evocative portraits of people and places across our vibrant planet and punctuated by original music from Michael Franti. There's also the amusing "ZNE Cribs edition" segment, an MTV-style tour of an enviable green home that produces all its own energy and can even charge a car.

But despite its focus on the positive, the film is by no means Pollyannaish. Weaving in psychological and philosophical themes, the narrator poses questions such as, Does relying on dead energy (from fossil fuels) affect our psychology? If so, why continue to use it when we could be tapping into the living energy of the sun?

And then there's the real mind-bender: How can people handle the uphill battle it will take to achieve a clean-energy society, particularly at a time when so much doubt exists that one is possible? Eco-philosopher Joanna Masey advises our narrator, "Get used to it." There is so much happening on the grassroots level, she says: Just keep going.

Closing on a rousing **Goonies**-esque sentiment that now is "our time," the film says we each have a chance to make a difference. "The future is in our hands. The question is what do we do with it?"

Now what? Watch the **trailer**, read up on experts featured in the film like 350.org founder **Bill McKibben** and the author of the Third Industrial Revolution, **Jeremy Rifkin**, and check out the filmmakers' suggested **action plan**.

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The Future of Energy with 3rdi

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We talk about Indigo Children existing to save the world but it can be complicated to explain how that might happen. Renewable energy is one big piece of that answer. Fossil fuels are destroying our environment and are at the root of our social conflicts. If you pay attention to the news, you'll hear all kinds of stories about fossil fuels. It frustrates me to listen to my beloved NPR go on and on about the pros and cons of fracking. Unless we are talking about ways to switch over to wind, solar and water power, I feel like the conversation is outdated and, frankly, ridiculous.

I met director Brett '3rdi' Mazurek working on Mermaid Miracles and got an early peak at his latest documentary project The Future of Energy. The film is making its US debut in Hollywood this week at the Dances with Films Festival. My favorite thing about this film is that it gives us as individuals all the power. It explains that switching to renewables is affordable and realistic and features whole communities that have made the switch. The film was even funded by small individual contributions through a crowd sourcing platform further demonstrating that we do have the power to save the world.

IC: Break it down for us... What is the future of energy?

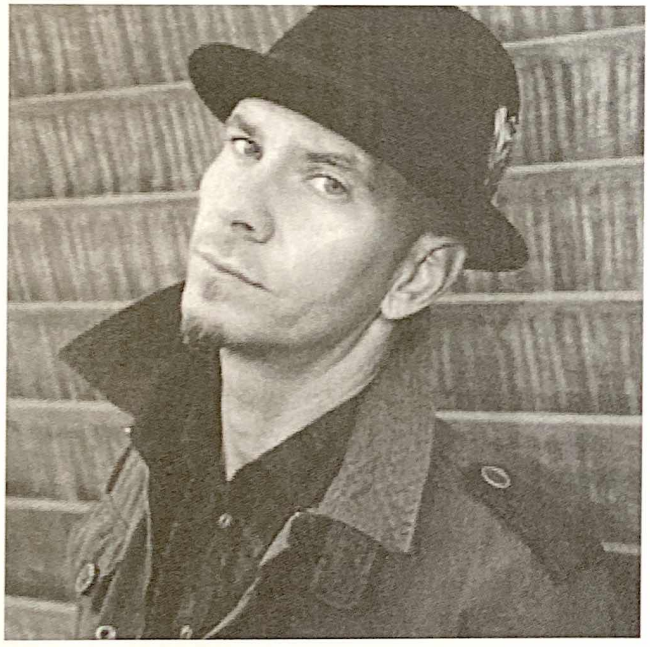
3rdi: The Future of Energy is You. It is Us. It is We. It is the collective community coming together and living more harmonious with our planet and each other. The technology and the knowledge is all here, and we are now using it to break away from the old paradigm and power structures to rebuild our society in a sustainable way.

IC: What are the benefits of everyone switching to renewable energy sources?

3rdi: The use of fossil fuels pollutes the air we breathe and destroys natural environ-

ments like the Alberta Tar Sands. Burning fossil fuels is also known to be the main contributor to climate change, which is becoming the largest problem humanity has ever faced. Renewable energy allows us to move beyond these old, dirty and dangerous technologies and lets us get closer to a harmonious relationship with the entire Earth Community. Imagine beautiful green neighborhoods and cities that have wild organic foods growing everywhere because the soil is fertile, the air is filled with oxygen, the water is crystal clear, and the people have smiles on their faces because they feel connected again with their environment.

Renewable energy also creates the potential for power dynamics to change. Fossil fuels are owned by a small group of corporations and they control the wealth of these resources. Because renewable energy allows people to localize their energy supply, whether individually owned, community owned, or city owned, a new distribution of energy is emerging. Renewable energy is power to the people, literally and figuratively.



IC: What does our future look like if we continue to use coal, oil and gas?

3rdi: What Future? Polluted air, polluted water, shortage of food, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, government shut downs, collapse of societies… Oh wait that's already happening. It's only going to get worse. As leading expert on climate change, Bill McKibben from 350.org, says in our film, "It's our job to make sure it doesn't get completely out of control". I don't want the future generations to look back and say, "They saw the problems. Why didn't they do something about this?" I want them to say "oh yeah that generation was bad ass! They stood up to those who were destroying everything and created a new beautiful sustainable world for me to live in. Thank you elders! We will continue living in truth, justice and love for our Mother Earth."

IC: What is divestment?

3rdi: Divestment is the opposite of investment. It's the reducing of some kind of asset for ethical, financial, or political objectives. 350.org is leading the fossil fuel divestment movement to educate people and institutions on why and how to divest their money/assets from the top 200 companies that own the vast amounts of "fossil fuels" and reinvest those funds into sustainable green companies. So if you, your parents, your schools, or cities are invested in fossil fuel companies you are profiting from the destruction of our planet.

IC: Are solar panels expensive?

3rdi: Solar is cheaper than ever before and is only going down in price. You can literally call up solar companies like Solar City, and Sungevity to get a quote within 24 hours. No money down, free installation, a fixed rate every month that's less than what you're paying now on your energy bill and you'll have clean positive energy from the sun running through your house. Another option is to purchase your own panels. There's an example in our film where one home owner paid back the cost of his panels in 4 years through savings on his electric bill and charging his electric vehicle at his house. After that, he's driving for free, no gas, and no electric bill. He's saving thousands per year.

IC: I heard it can be difficult to get a bank to finance solar panels. Is there another way to finance the start-up cost?

3rdi: There are companies like Grid Alternatives that put solar on low income housing. There is Mosaic that is a crowd funding platform that connects investors to high quality solar projects like your school, church or community center. There are creative options popping up every day. There is no excuse to not be getting panels and hooking up your home, school or tree house!



IC: What is a B-Corp?

3rdi: B-corps are Social Benefit Corporations focused on the triple bottom line of people, planet and profits. The old corporate model of profit first is destroying the planet and creates economic inequalities amongst society. B-corps are corporations like Mosaic and Sungevity that are making profits and doing something beneficial to the planet and society.

IC: How is energy related to food?

3rdi: A lot of conventional food is shipped and transported long distances from different continents. It takes lots of energy to get food to your table. By buying local, organic food, you're not only eating better food for your body and health, but also using less energy which lowers your carbon footprint.

3rdi and his crew put together an action plan for those of you ready to take the power for yourselves. You can learn more about The Future of Energy, check out the action plan and sign up to host a screening of the film all on their website.

Wide awake…

The Future of Energy – Trailer 1 from Future of Energy on Vimeo.

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OCTOBER 30, 2014

Interview: Theo Badashi | The Future of Energy



The Transitions Film Festival kicked off in Adelaide last Friday and one of the films on the program is *The Future of Energy*, an inspiring film about energy solutions and the people behind the renewable energy revolution. Th[redacted]e of the co-writers of the film and an inspiring climate activist with a positive outlook on life that is utterly infectious. At a time when many of us are feeling uneasy about the immensity of the journey

ahead of us, Theo offers hope and solutions.

I was lucky enough to catch up with Theo to find out more about the film and how we can all become climate activists. On the day of the interview, it hit 36 degrees C here in Adelaide (about 97 Fahrenheit) which is an unseasonably warm day for this time of year. We have ahead of us a long hot summer of bushfires and drought and this weighed heavily on my mind as I asked these questions.

To begin, tell me how you first became involved in climate activism. Further, what do people generally mean when they talk about climate activism?

Theo: Climate activism is usually defined as people taking action to stop climate change. I define climate activism as living in alignment with the natural balance of the planet. Climate activism can take a lot of different forms, from growing our own food and supporting local farmers, to installing renewable energy on our homes and businesses, to stopping big corporations from polluting rivers and aquifers through things like fracking.

I've been involved in local food movements, seed rights, and healthy living for more than a decade, but even as a kid I loved and protected nature, so you could say I've been a climate activist my whole life.

You are co-writer and host of *The Future of Energy*, which has been called 'a documentary love story about the renewable energy revolution'. It was a joy to watch and I can see that being a part of this movement for change is something that brings a great deal of joy. I'd love to hear about what inspired the creation of this film, what was the process and what did you set out to achieve by creating it?

Theo: When we learned that the climate crisis is worse than what most people understand — and that climate change is directly linked to the burning of fossil fuels — we set out to find positive solutions to this massive problem. We

quickly discovered a global movement in which average people are taking on climate change by switching over to renewable energy, like solar and wind. But we discovered so much more! Renewable energy is clearly a major solution to the climate crisis, but it's also helping to empower people by giving them control of their lives, and by getting us more connected to each other and the planet. Our film is a story about revolution but it's also about falling back in love with life. It's a fun story to tell.



Were people generally supportive of the film's creation?

Theo: We received an amazing amount of positive support when we launched the project. People are ready for solutions, and they're ready to take action. Our film shows viewers some of the ways we can all get involved, and that really excites people.

You've said in the past that 'fossil fuels are financially insecure investments in the future'. Can you tell me a bit more about what you mean by this, and perhaps talk a little about what some of the alternatives

are.

Theo: Fossil fuels are dirty and finite: they pollute and they're gonna run out eventually. Many investors now realize that we cannot afford to burn all the fossil fuel that big companies want to – because it will put too much carbon into the atmosphere – so they're moving their investments away from fossil fuel companies and putting them into more ecologically positive companies. Investment alternatives include companies that are part of the B Corporation movement which is dedicated to helping people, protecting the planet, and making good profits. It's a whole new way of doing business, and a lot of companies and investors are getting on board.

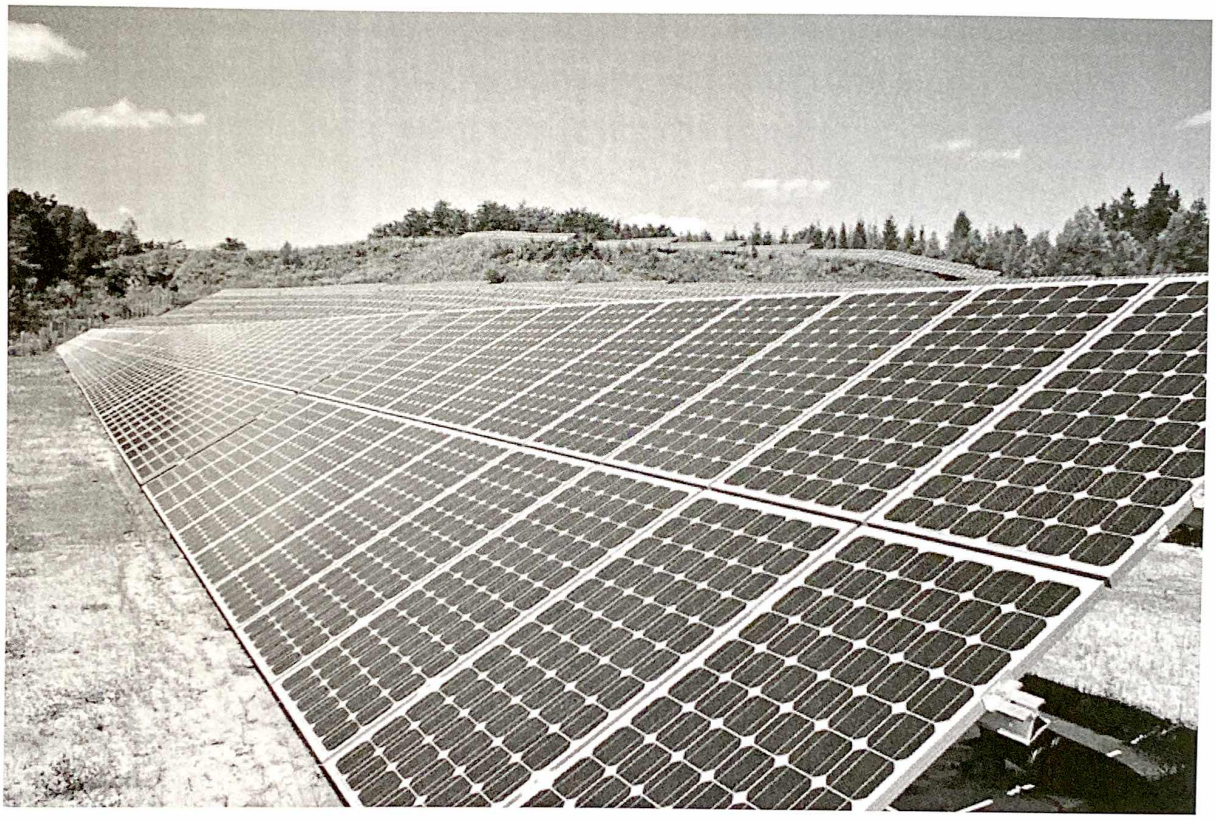
You are also co-founder of Planetary Advocates, a non-profit organisation that uses art, media, and education to inspire young people to tackle the climate crisis. Tell me a little bit about the organisation, what you do and why you have taken this approach?

Theo: Planetary Advocates was launched by our film producers Max DeArmon, Missy Lahren, and myself. Its primary role is to use creative methods to address some of the biggest issues we face as a species and provide positive, life changing solutions. The Future of Energy is our first major project, with more in the works. Our aim is to inspire people to live full, exciting, and positive lives, in which we all get to participate in creating a beautiful future.

You are currently working on some really interesting research that argues that there is a global shift taking place - one that moves away from environmental destruction and continual growth, to a model that is sustainable and works in harmony with nature. Can you tell me more about this? What are the benefits of investing in renewable energy, for example?

Theo: The biggest shift that is happening in human culture right now, in my opinion, is the shift away from looking at nature as a "thing" that is there for us to use, to looking at nature as something we participate in. This earth can

be better understood as a living organism, and all living creatures can now be considered as part of our extended family. With this new realisation, that all life is interconnected and that humans are part of a massive process that extends back billions of years, we can now create societies that are in harmony with this living system as a whole. We can create economies that actually heal the earth, businesses that create more justice and opportunity, and political systems that are truly democratic and that honor the rights of humans and non-humans, like animals and even eco-systems. Renewable energy is in line with this new perspective, and is a big step in the right direction.



One thing that troubles me a lot when I think about the issue of climate change is the impending sense of doom. Do you think it is too late for us? Is there still hope? If so, what does hope look like?

Theo: There's always hope. Humans didn't survive this long by accident. We are social beings and our strength lies in our power of cooperation. Yes the future might be difficult, but if we are dedicated to becoming who we are really meant to be - powerful, creative expressions of the universe - then I

believe we will get through this. What does hope look like? It looks like you and I waking up each day and asking ourselves "What gifts am I here to give?" and finding the courage to cultivate those gifts to help people. The more we give the bigger our hearts become, and the more hope we feel in our lives.

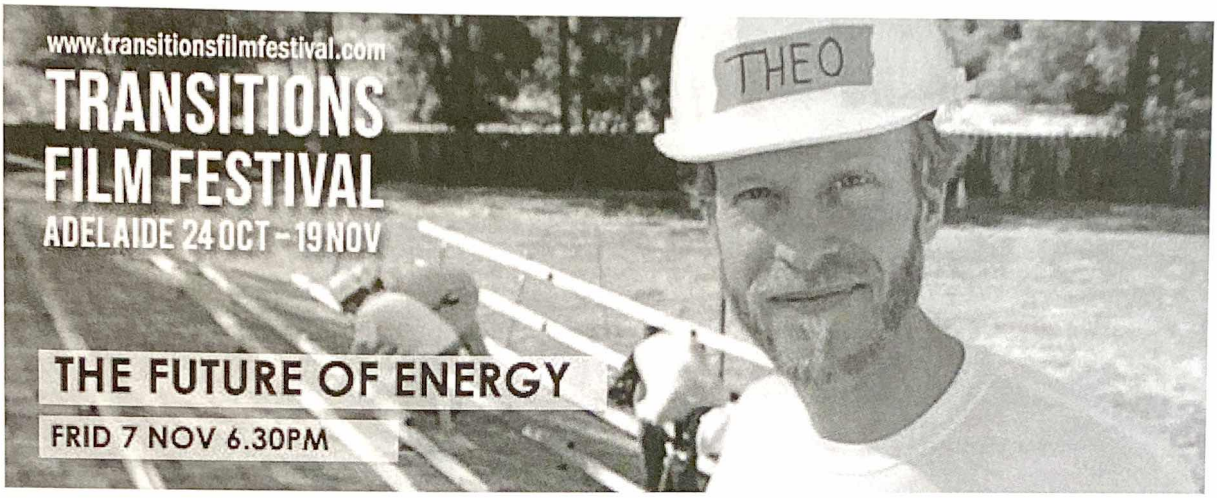
Our prime minister, Tony Abbott, is on record as saying that climate change is 'crap', our carbon pollution reduction scheme has been abolished and in the last twenty-four hours the Global Green Economy Index has listed Australia as second last among 58 countries for leadership on global warming. It's a pretty depressing state of affairs for many of us who are passionate about this issue. As someone watching from afar, I'd love to know what you think of all of this. What can concerned citizens do to turn this around?

Theo: Know that you're not alone, we're all in this together. Australians are some of the toughest, kindest, most bold people I've ever met, and I know you have the strength to change this. Change does not come from governments, it comes from people like you and I, organising ourselves, developing strategies, and presenting better visions of the future. Our responsibility is to empower ourselves with the best solutions, and to keep putting those solutions out into the world: into our schools, into our businesses, into our communities. Australia's government might have one of the worst ratings on climate leadership, but that shouldn't stop Australia's citizens from stepping forward as climate leaders around the world.

Let's finish on a positive note, what advice do you have for people who want to 'do something' but might not be sure where to start?

Theo: Above all find what makes you passionate about life and do that, no matter how big or small. To get directly involved in solving the climate crisis start by going to www.TheFutureofEnergy.org(http://www.thefutureofenergy.org/) and watching our film, and checking out our action plan. If you like the film pass it on to friends or sign up to host your own free screening. There are a

ton of examples of people creating positive changes, from building community gardens to installing solar panels, to getting climate education in schools. What ever you do, make it something you love, something you wake up excited about, something so cool you just have to share it with others.



(http://www.transitionsfilmfestival.com/screenings/future-of-energy-adelaide/)

Presented with Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE) '*The Future of Energy* is about the clean energy revolution happening right now...By the final credits, you'll know both how and why renewable energy is the cleanest, quickest, cheapest and safest way to supply all of our energy needs.'

***The Future of Energy* is showing as part of the Adelaide Transitions Film Festival on Friday 7th November @ 6.30pm at the Mercury Cinema.**

Following the film there will be a Q&A panel session featuring Stephen Bygrave (CEO of Beyond Zero Emissions); Robin Parkin (SA Director of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition), David Bruce (UniSA), MC Felescia Schemmer (350.org)

To book tickets online head to the website.(http://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/transitions-film-festival-adelaide-4120818211)

+ Related Links

Disclaimer: I have not received payment for this post, however I have offered to help promote the event as I feel the subject matter is important.

I viewed *The Future of Energy* prior to my association with the Transitions Film Festival and received access to advanced screenings of *Growing Cities* and *Project Wild Thing* for reviewing purposes.

The Future of Energy Film

2014 Screenings Across North America and Australia!

People vs Profiteers 18th Annual Parkland Institute Conference – Alberta, Canada // November 22, 2014

Transitions Film Festival – Adelaide, Australia // November 7, 2014

Torquay, Victoria, Australia // October 3, 2014

Impact HUB NYC // September 21, 2014

Geelong, Australia // September 19, 2014

Sebastopol, California // September 18, 2014

Swinburne University of Technology, Australia // September 17, 2014

NYC Premiere! // September 16, 2014

Des Moines, Iowa – First Unitarian Church // September 14, 2014

Des Moines, Iowa -Drake University // September 13, 2014

Bay Area Premiere with Michael Franti! // September 5, 2014

Petaluma, California // August 29, 2014

San Luis Obispo, CA // June 25, 2014

Bright, Victoria – Australia // June 24, 2014

Special Chico Screening // June 15, 2014

Swanpool Victoria, Australia // June 14, 2014

Five Dock, Australia // June 12, 2014

Venice, California // June 11, 2014

US Premiere in Hollywood, California // June 6, 2014

Joanna Macy Hosts Berkeley, California // June 5, 2014

Darwin, Australia // June 4, 2014

Omaha, Nebraska // May 29, 2014

Buffalo, New York // May 1, 2014

Ojai Earth Day // April 19, 2014

Screening in Sedona, Arizona // March 1, 2014

World Premiere at the Transitions Film Festival! Melbourne, AU // February 21, 2014