

POWERFUL DOCUMENTARIES TO LEARN ABOUT THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Gathered by Sanjen Miedzinski

Why not create a “climate circle” that meets once a month? We need support in facing the climate emergency. Gather friends, family, colleagues, show a documentary, discuss the film and allow for feelings to be expressed. Perhaps combine it with a potluck. Here’s a list of compelling and engaging films to explore the key issues related to our climate emergency while having a meaningful evening with friends, family and/or colleagues.

There are many ways to stream these films on your TV, computer, or Ipad. Some libraries and universities have Kanopy.com, a free streaming service. Many documentaries are available on Netflix (NS), Amazon(AM), iTunes (IT) or Youtube (YT). There are several websites where you can watch them for free such as topdocumentaryfilms.com (TDF), documentarylovers.com (DL), freedocumentaries.org (FD) or documentarytube (DT).

I’ve watched and written a review of many of these films where time permitted, I’ve either given you a link directly to the film, or have identified the site (see abbreviations above) where you can get it. Of course, you can easily find the film by searching on Google.

Two red asterisks identify some key films to begin your journey.

Get the Big Picture of Our Environmental Situation

****Before the Flood** Leonard Di Caprio’s 2016 film showing his interviews with scientists, activists and world leaders (from Obama to Musk to the Pope) to discuss the dangers of climate change and possible solutions. Very thorough film—it takes us on a global tour of how climate change and the forces driving it are upending human lives and fraying the biological fabric of the planet. Would be an excellent first film to watch. (NS)

<http://watchdocumentaries.com/before-the-flood>

The 11th Hour Leonardo DiCaprio’s (2007) excellent film interviewing many scientists. We are an “infant species” and yet view nature as property, and other species as having no rights. Presents a very complete overview of all the effects we are having on the environment from burning fossil fuels, overusing natural resources, and polluting. Explains in great detail, the changes we already are seeing, and the catastrophes we can expect if we don’t alter course.

<http://freedocumentaries.org/documentary/the-11th-hour> (NS) (AM)

An Inconvenient Truth Al Gore’s powerful overview of what we are doing to our environment and the consequences we can expect. It presents the issue of greenhouse gas emissions, how it will affect the climate, what we must do to confront the challenges. He sounded the alarm in a very thorough manner in this film which came out in 2005. The film is entirely current for today.

<https://documentarylovers.com/film/al-gore-an-inconvenient-truth/>

Below are two less professional looking films, (a lot of stock footage) that, nonetheless, do a really good job at an overview of our environmental issues and their relationship to corporate behavior and the way our economy functions:

What a Way to Go: The End of the Empire This documentary first builds the case about what we are doing to the environment, but then presents an especially moving discussion of the impact of our culture on our well being. Very powerful sense of how we are trapped in this disconnected consumer culture much like an animal in a zoo. Does move into solutions. (TDF)

Civilization in Crisis This film is very intelligent in pulling together the whole picture of what we are doing including an understanding of how our economic system pushes growth. (DL)

Appreciate the Systems Nature of our Planet

****Earth: The Biography (BBC)** Shows the interaction between the different parts of the Earth System giving a powerful understanding of how we are disrupting that system. A must see in order to understand why small changes in temperature lead to huge changes in climate, water and food availability. This is an exciting film which does a great job showing how different subsystems: atmosphere, oceans, glaciers, volcanoes and life are in dynamic interaction.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlegnUOFuIM

Earth From Space Nova Many satellites now observe different aspects of the Earth as a whole. This is a very unusual and powerful perspective on Earth as a system.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpFryXObVEA>

Planet Ocean This film focuses on the relationship between the earth's oceans and the entire planet's ecosystem—showing how all life is interconnected.
<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/planet-ocean/>

How Earth Made Us (BBC) Five episodes Looks at how natural forces shaped human culture.
<http://www.documentarytube.com/videos/how-earth-made-us> (AM)

Amazing Planet (National Geographic) A TV Series that shows the history of the Earth and gives a sense of how dynamic a system it is. We tend to think that the Earth has always been as it is today but it has been through many enormous changes. (There was once only one continent.) Very interesting, though not so important for focusing on environmental issues, except to engender gratitude for the special conditions that have allowed humanity to thrive and which are now threatened. (NS) (AM)

Planet Earth and Planet Earth II: The Complete Collection (BBC) Nobody has done it better than the BBC. Their huge collection brings us the stunning beauty and diversity of the Earth. Blue Planet II while remaining exquisitely beautiful also shows the effects of global warming. (AM) (NS)

BBC series by David Attenborough If you really want to learn about life on Earth, see the many films: *The Life of Birds*, *the Life of Mammals*, *the Life of Insects*, and so on. They offer a magnificent course in biology revealing the complexity and richness of life on Earth. Also great to discover how similar we are to all our fellow creatures. This particular series is not generally focused on environmental issues.

The Blue Planet: Seas of Life (BBC) Explore the oceans. ****Blue Planet II:** An exquisitely beautiful series exploring all the different environments within our oceans. However, it takes the journey further by including awareness of the changes caused by global warming. (AM)

Microcosmos A beautiful and amazing film bringing us the world of insects. We get down into the grass with them! <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/microcosmos/>

Learn About the Role of Fossil Fuels in Our Modern Lifestyle:

Blind Spot: The End of Nature A penetrating analysis of how much our entire economy and way of life is based on oil, the disastrous consequences for our environment, and how we avoid really looking at the situation. Includes many excellent interviews.
<https://shop.mediaed.org/blind-spot-p70.aspx>

A Crude Awakening: The Oil Crash A great overview of the importance of oil as a concentrated energy source, our huge dependence on oil in many sectors of the economy, and the impending end to cheap oil. Best for understanding the way our modern lifestyle is built on fossil fuels. Not so good at solutions. (AM)
<https://documentarylovers.com/film/crude-awakening-oil-crash/>

****Collapse 2009** Also shows our extreme dependence on oil in every aspect of our lifestyle. For example it takes 10 gallons of oil to make a tire. There are 800 million cars and just manufacturing them (not counting driving them) takes a huge amount of fossil fuel. Electricity is mostly generated by fossil fuels and industrial agriculture depends on them. Analyzes the decline of major oil fields, reviews the feasibility of tar sands and biofuels. Shows how our money system, based on debt, requires growth. Calls for waking up to impending societal collapse and taking action to mitigate it. <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/collapse/>

A Dirty Business Coal is responsible for 40% of the world's emissions and our use of it continues to grow. Film presents a difficult look at coal and mountaintop removal, the destruction of the environment, and toxic health effects. It analyzes the claims for "clean coal" and the impracticality of actually achieving it, and examines important energy alternatives including energy efficiency through using the heat generated in manufacturing to generate electricity. (NS)
<https://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/festival/play/6861/Dirty-Business-Clean-Coal-and-the-Battle-for-Our-Energy-Future>
Above address given for your information but Click here: <https://bit.ly/33YWhcd>

****Gasland** The film maker travels around the U.S. and reports on the many families who have homes next to fracking wells, the sickness they and their animals have suffered, the methane loaded groundwater which comes out of their faucets and can be lit by a match, and their water wells that have spontaneously exploded. Reveals the exemption that the oil and gas industry got in 2005 from the Clean Air, Clean Water and the Superfund Acts. Discusses the industry's plans to frack a "virtual ocean of natural gas." Reveals the many toxic chemicals used in fracking which are showing up in groundwater, as well as the 1-7 million gallons of water needed to set up a fracking well, etc. Very thorough. <http://watchdocumentaries.com/gasland/> (NS)

Look at What We are Doing to the Different Sub-Systems of the Planet

Glaciers and Snow packs Melting

****Chasing Ice** This is probably one of the very best to watch. James Balog, a photographer with an environmental mission, has placed cameras in Greenland and various mountain glaciers and documented the melting. It is both disturbing and visually exquisite and an amazing testimony to the passionate human heart. (NS)(AM)
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/movie/chasing-ice/id635631576>

Extreme Ice 2009: Nova Shows the accelerated melting of ice sheets, glaciers, snow-packs, and explains how and why this is happening, reviews the scientific studies documenting these changes, and predicts that by 2100, 100 million people will be threatened by sea level rise.(AM)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3g1iZn95sc>

Secrets Beneath the Ice 2010 : Nova An updated and urgent picture of melting and sea level rise. In August 2010 an iceberg four times the size of Manhattan broke off Greenland. Shows how ice cores taken in the Antarctic reveal the temperature, gases, and life that was living at different time periods back to millions of years ago. (There are indications that Antarctica has gone between frozen and green periods and that only a few degrees of temperature made the difference. The sea was 23 feet higher when the temperature was only 3-5 degrees higher than now.) We face the possibility of a 150 foot sea level rise.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vryepN70Ku4>

Damaging Our Oceans:

****Mission Blue** Follows the life of Dr. Sylvia Earle, oceanographer, from her early days loving the ocean, her deep sea explorations, her period of working for the government, and her sadness as she observes the degradation of our oceans through pollution, overfishing, climate change. Lots of information, given in a very human, personal way. (NS)

Acid Test: The Global Challenge of Ocean Acidification Ocean acidification challenges marine life on a scale that has not been seen for millions of years. It is caused by the increase in carbon dioxide in the air which is then absorbed by the oceans. Leading scientific experts in the film call for immediate action—the entire marine food chain is threatened.
<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/acid-test-global-challenge-ocean-acidification/>

The Synthetic Sea Story 2006 Shows the extended work by the Algalita Marine Research Foundation to quantify the buildup of synthetic debris originating from urban run-off and the impacts of this debris to the food chain. Gender-bending toxins that migrate out of plastic trash is causing inter-sex in aquatic species due to endocrine disruption. Since humans eat fish, that eat plastic laden with toxins, we too may suffer endocrine disruption and difficulties with reproduction. <https://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/festival/play/7318/jsSendInvitation.php> (Included for your information. Access below.)
Click here: <https://bit.ly/2NyrFsn>

(Also see **Addicted to Plastic**, and **Inside the Garbage of the World**, listed under the section on Dumping)

Earth: The Biography: The Oceans (BBC) As mentioned above, this series is especially helpful in showing how climate change affects every system of the Earth.

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xjzs01_earth-the-biography-part-04-oceans_tech

Loss of Fresh Water

Last Call at the Oasis A visually exquisite and extremely thorough presentation of how we use and abuse water. Looks at the competing uses of water—agriculture, cities, industry, developed vs. developing countries. Presents satellite data showing the drying up of groundwater. Shows our unconscious wasting of water. Reveals no controls over what medicines, industrial, agricultural, and cosmetic chemicals are in our water because our wastewater treatment does not remove these contaminants. Interviews people who have developed cancer by living or working near plants dumping chemicals. Points out how both the extreme storms and the drought conditions of climate change exacerbate our water use issues. Analyzes solutions such as recycling sewage and desalination. Looks at collaborative approaches in the Middle East and ends on a positive note. Erin Brockowitz, environmental activist of movie fame, previously played by Julia Roberts, returns to us in this film as herself. (NS)(AM)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch>

https://tubitv.com/movies/312545/last_call_at_the_oasis

****Blue Gold: World Water Wars** An extremely thorough look at all water issues. Shows the many ways we waste water in our industrial and agricultural practices as well as how we use water for cities rather than farms. Covers how we pollute our water through industrial runoff, sewage, etc. Explores the politics of water. Reveals that much of the world's water has been privatized by several large companies. This includes even the water supply of our U.S. cities such as NYC, Pittsburgh, Chicago and many more. Companies take water, bottle it and sell it, leaving communities here and in developing countries desperate for water they can afford. Reveals how transporting water from one location to another destroys ecosystems.

<https://topdocumentaryfilms.com/blue-gold-world-water-wars>

Homo Toxicos (2008) Analysis of umbilical cord blood reveals many chemicals in our blood stream from all the products we use and release into the water, earth, and atmosphere. There are approximately 100,000 unregulated chemicals being released into our environment and our bodies. The Environmental Protection Agency does not have sufficient resources or legal backing to protect us. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vg8gSz5_1GQ

Loss of Our Fellow Creatures

Vanishing of the Bees 2009 Explores the problem of bees disappearing from their hives in the United States and across the world. Concludes that while there are many causes, one of the most significant is use of pesticides that are absorbed into plants rather than sprayed on them. Apparently the effect on bees (and possibly on us as well) of this form of pesticide is not evident in the short run so it has not been regulated. However over time bees become disoriented, and their immune systems compromised. These products have been banned in Europe with good results, but not in the U.S. (NS)AM

https://tubitv.com/movies/vanishing_of_the_bees

The End of the Line: A World Without Fish 2009 Scientists predict that if we continue fishing as we are now, we will see the end of most seafood by 2048. The film uses the loss of cod as an example. It sees responsibility spread across different groups: consumers who buy endangered fish, politicians who ignore concerned scientists, fishermen who break quotas, and the global fishing industry as a whole. <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/end-of-line-world-without-fish/>

****Call of Life: Facing the Mass Extinction 2010** If current trends continue, scientists warn that within a few decades at least HALF of all plant and animal species on Earth will disappear forever. The film looks beyond the immediate causes of the crisis to consider how our cultural and economic systems, along with deep-seated psychological and behavioral patterns, have allowed this situation to develop, continue to reinforce it, and even determine our response to it. <https://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/festival/play/7350/call-of-life--facing-the-mass-extinction>

Above included for your information but **Click here:** <https://bit.ly/2ZxVPCg>

Our Overuse/Abuse of the Planet

Taking Over the Planet

First just watch the population clock to get a sense of the issue!

<https://www.census.gov/popclock/>

How Many People Can Live on Planet Earth (BBC) David Attenborough who has brought us so many beautiful nature films poses the key issue of a population that keeps growing on a planet whose resources—land, water—are limited. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dN06tLRE4WE>

Overpopulated: BBC Documentary This film suggests that we don't need to worry about overpopulation in that improved education and health care make women less likely to want many children. It offers some interesting and positive statistics and is good for getting part of the picture, but doesn't address many of the issues in the films below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UbmG8gtBPM>

Footprint: Accounting for a Small Planet Mathis Wackernagel introduces the Ecological Footprint, a tool to evaluate the amount of natural resources used per person, by different countries. He provides a tool to evaluate our current global situation, explores the implications of ecological deficits and provides examples of how governments, communities and businesses are using the Footprint to help improve their ecological performance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9iu8TW05TY>

****Human Footprint: National Geographic Channel Series: 10 Episodes** If everyone on the planet used up resources at the rate we do in the U.S., the world would need 5 planets. This series covers all the resources we use in our everyday American lives from birth to old age. Below is the first episode. All are available after you view this one.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkPnjLG2BcE>

The Ecological Footprint: Accounting for a Small Planet This is a film developed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Global Footprint Network. It is the most technically sophisticated of this list. It is available to download (for pc's) or order at:

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/ecologicalfootprint/about/documentarydvd.asp>

Using Our Planet As A Dump

****The Story of Stuff** An exploration of where all our stuff comes from and where it ends up. This is a 20-minute, fast paced, fact filled animated film, looking at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GorqroigqM

The Story of...Series This is an excellent, brief series on many important topics made by the storyofstuff project. It includes the “The Story of Electronics, The Story of Cosmetics, and The Story of Bottled Water.” These and many more that have to do with solutions are immediately available to watch at: <http://storyofstuff.org/movies/>

Addicted to Plastic A detailed exploration of our omnipresent use of plastic and how it is polluting our planet. Plastic never biodegrades; it merely breaks into smaller and smaller pieces. It becomes a soup in the ocean, and is consumed by seabirds and fish. It enters the air and the soil. It attracts and concentrates toxins on its surface. This is one of the most complete presentations available. (NS) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZnw-d_Axy8

Inside the Garbage of the World Another look at the plastic trash in our oceans showing the remote places covered with plastic. Studies the effect of plastic on mammals, seabirds, and fish, as well as the impact of increased carbon dioxide on the ocean. Goes on to look at the politics and green-washing of these issues. This is an inspiring/motivating film. <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/inside-garbage-world/>

Into Eternity 2010 We keep generating nuclear waste but have no where to put it. www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4sqFyCHcbg

Take a Look at The Behavior of our Corporations

The Big Picture

****The Corporation** Shows the development of the contemporary business corporation from a government-chartered legal entity meant to perform specific public functions, to the modern institution entitled to most of the legal rights of a person. (AM) <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-corporation/>

The Story of Broke and The Story of Citizens United vs. FEC Two short films by the wonderful Story of Stuff project: <http://storyofstuff.org/movies/>

****We're Not Broke!** Cuts to governmental programs and “austerity” measures are justified by saying we don't have the money for these services. This film exposes the enormous profits of our corporations, how tax havens shelter these profits, how we spend enormous amounts of money on wars which benefit these corporations, and the huge cuts already made to U.S. social programs. (DL, NS)

Capitalism: A Love Story This is a close-up view of the people and lives disrupted as corporations focus on the bottom line, cut jobs and move offshore. (DL, NS) <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/capitalism-love-story/>

WalMart: The High Cost of a Low Price How Walmart treats its employees, at home and abroad, in contrast with their advertising. (NS)

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/wal-mart-the-high-cost-of-low-price/>

The Big One Michael Moore shows us how people are losing their jobs at a time of record profits. (NS) <https://vimeo.com/44272257>

****Inside Job** Shows the revolving door between our banking system, government and corporations. Often government regulators are chosen from industry positions and return to lobbying or other industry positions when they leave the government. Looks at how banks went from only working with loans and deposits to being allowed to invest in the stock market. Discusses the derivatives market (collateralized debt obligations, credit default swaps) and how our government passed a law against regulating. Reveals how Main Street suffered while the bailout assured that banks and Wall Street did fine. (DL)

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/inside-job/>

Bill Moyers: Money and Politics This interview with Senator Dick Durbin is just one of many Bill Moyers interviews and discussions on money in politics, lobbying, campaign reform, the revolving door between government and corporations, etc. Two more: Jan 23, 2012, "The Washington-Wall Street Revolving Door" as well as March 9, 2012 "Gretchen Morgenson on Corporate Clout in Washington." Here is access to the Durkin interview:

<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/lobbying/> or <https://billmoyers.com>.

How Corporations Are Changing Our Relationship to Food

****Food Inc.** A very thorough look at industrial agriculture and factory farming. Today, a single crop is grown over vast amounts of land. Because it is vulnerable to a single pest wiping out a huge acreage, it has been genetically modified to resist disease. Our beef, chicken and hogs are "grown" in huge numbers by just a few corporations. Shows chickens, 250,000-300,000 per "house" that never see sunlight and that have been developed to have such heavy breasts they can't walk. Shows cows feeding on corn that upsets their stomachs, and standing ankle deep in manure. Employees are mistreated as badly as the animals. There is a lack of FDA and USDA supervision. Shows what goes into and passes for "hamburger." Traces the relationship between the fast food industry and big Ag, and provides examples of independent farmers prosecuted on trumped up charges. (NS)(AM) <http://watchdocumentaries.com/food-inc/>

Thirst 2004 Contrasts two visions: water as an economic commodity for the highest bidder and water as a part of the global commons. Shows how a consortium led by US Bechtel Corp with pressure by the World Bank, pressured Bolivia to privatize its water in one of its largest cities. People rioted and in the end Bechtel left. But this issue of corporations taking over water for profit is happening in the US and throughout the world. Nestle is a prime example. Cities or countries in economic trouble elect to sell off their water but then have to buy it back.

<https://tubity.com/movies/435623/thirst>

Blue Gold: World Water Wars As described above this is another powerful film about water and how we are neglecting to preserve this most essential requirement for life. We are rapidly draining our groundwater, pumping 30 billion gallons a day, manufacturing a car takes 350,000 liters, just one microchip requires 32 liters. Farmers in the US are allowed to pump as much

water as they like, but if they don't they can lose their water rights. Suez, Veolia, RWE/Thames, and Vivendi are buying up our water. The film is relentlessly complete.

<https://topdocumentaryfilms.com/blue-gold-world-water-wars>

****Dirt!** An amazing film for any urbanite who thinks dirt is just dirt. Reveals the incredible alive, ecosystem of the soil and how industrial agriculture has turned large swaths of agricultural land into a dead sponge for oil-based synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. **NS**

<https://tubitv.com/movies/312590/dirt-the-movie>

King Corn 2007 Follows the journey of two young East Coast guys whose grandfathers were corn growers as they travel back to the Midwest to learn how to grow an acre of corn. In the process we learn all the products that are made from corn and how these products are in almost everything we eat. Apparently from a hair test you can tell where the carbon in your body came from and for these guys it was corn. Some of the products: corn syrup, corn syrup solids, corn starch, high fructose corn syrup, etc. Check the labels on processed food, you'll find corn everywhere. <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/king-corn-you-are-what-you-eat/>

The Future of Food An extremely thorough examination of the crops Big Ag grows. As they plant mono-crops, we have far fewer varieties of foods. E.g: there used to be 7000 types of apples in the 19th Century, now we have only a few. 97% of the vegetables grown at the beginning of the century are now extinct. Looks at Monsanto's genetically modified corn which forms its own pesticide, and at the use of its pesticide Roundup which kills everything but that corn. Looks at how Monsanto patents seeds, and then sues farmers where Monsanto's seed has spread naturally and contaminates their farms. Raises the question: should life be patented? Looks in great depth at the crops that have been genetically modified and the issues for the environment as well as our health. Includes political and governmental issues.

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/search/?results=The+Future+of+Food>

Fed Up (2014) Provides alarming statistics about the increase in obesity and Type 2 Diabetes in children. Explains clearly how it is related to the amount of sugar in our diets. Gives the history of how the food industry has tried to obscure this relationship, first focusing on fat as the problem and introducing "low-fat" foods which were made palatable with sugar. Now they are blaming us for not exercising and for eating too many calories—ignoring the importance of what kind of calories are consumed. Analyzes the impact of advertising fast foods to children and traces the food industry's huge resistance to any regulation of this advertising. Shows the power of the food lobby over our legislators, and gives the example that fast food restaurants supply the lunches for most of our government funded school programs, bringing cheeseburgers, fries and pizzas to our children at school. <https://vimeo.com/107524227>

GMO OMG 2014 This documentary follows one father's search for answers to the question "What are we feeding our families?" and examines the risks of GMO's. Most processed foods contain genetically engineered ingredients. In contrast with the European Union, U.S. products that are genetically engineered are not labeled. **(NS)**

<https://documentarylovers.com/film/gmo-omg/>

Understanding Why Our Current Money System Requires Infinite Growth on a Finite Planet

Often, people interested in the environment, pay little attention to the economic system which is fueling our crisis. We need to understand the connection.

****Money and Life** Explains how money is created by the banking system as debt, how the Federal Reserve operates, and how this system requires growth. It further explore the cause of boom and bust cycles, the inadequacy of the GDP as a measure of true growth, and new ideas about money. This film is really essential for understanding how growth is an inherent aspect of the way our money system is constructed. It is unusual in tracing the connection between climate policy and economic policy and provides many speakers from the New Economy Movement describing alternative, and/or complementary money systems. **NS AM**
<https://topdocumentaryfilms.com/money-life/>

Money as Debt This animated film briefly explains how our entire money system is based on loans from banks. <http://freedocumentaries.org/documentary/money-as-debt-international-bankers-own-the-world-and-this-is-how>

Interviews and Presentations by Ellen Brown, who has published the book *Web of Debt* and maintains a blog on the consequences of our money system based in debt.
<http://ellenbrown.com/interviews-presentations/>

****Money For Nothing: Inside the Federal Reserve 2013** Looks at the origins of the Federal Reserve, and how and why it has failed to stop the boom/bust cycle and to minimize unemployment. Many speakers are former Fed reserve bankers and speak about the policies of Greenspan and Bernacke. It's very useful for understanding how fed policy—raising or lowering interest rates, quantitative easing—works and how it has contributed to the instability of our economy. Reveals how banks used low interest money to make further profits rather than to provide loans supporting the real economy of goods and services. Also, important in pointing out how increasingly, the Fed has come under the influence of Wall Street and how their policies have enabled growth in the stock market and in the huge, unregulated derivatives market, rather than in the real economy. (Emphasizes ignorance rather than mal intent for the behavior of the Fed in contrast with other more critical analyses.) **(NS)(AM)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWk6AXQnh4s>

The Flaw An amazingly thorough and easy to understand film which explores all the economic factors that went into the 2008 crash. While the market for real goods and services does tend to reach a fair price, an asset market based on speculation (e.g. buying a house only to sell it and make profit, or investing in derivatives) only drives up prices into a bubble and eventually a collapse. Through interviews with leading economists, the film explains how income inequality and stagnant wages led the middle class to take out mortgage loans to buy houses and then refinance those houses to get more money. It also explains why bankers would be willing to give loans to people who were not creditworthy since they bundled many such mortgages together and sold them to investors. Shows how the process only leads to more income inequality. **(NS)(AM)**
<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/theflaw>

Growth Busters: Hooked on Growth This film first does a wonderful job of showing how our fixation on “growth” is based on the belief that growth equals prosperity, and is highly influenced by the propaganda of the “growth pushers” who alone profit. It examines the cultural

barriers that prevent us from reacting rationally to the evidence that current levels of population and consumption are unsustainable. (AM)

<https://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/12464/GrowthBusters--Hooked-on-Growth> (This is included for your information but see below for easy access.)

Click here: <https://bit.ly/2lpRGZF>

Learn How Unregulated Capitalism Works for Corporations But Against the Welfare of our Planet and its Citizens

Many who write about our environmental issues do not pay attention to economic issues but increasingly we are seeing that the two are completely interrelated. Naomi Klein, in her book: ***This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate***, has finally shone a very bright light on the connection. Watch for her documentary, due to be released in 2015. Meanwhile, catch this interview:

Democracy Now's Interview of Naomi Klein

http://www.democracynow.org/2014/9/18/capitalism_vs_the_climate_naomi_klein

Inequality for All Former U.S. Labor Secretary, Robert Reich, lays out in very clear detail the causes of inequality and the serious crisis we face as a result of it. Reich is perhaps the clearest, most understandable, and knowledgeable speaker on this topic. (NS)(AM)

<http://cosmosdocumentaries5.blogspot.com/2014/07/inequality-for-all-hd-documentary-film.html>

Park Avenue: Money, Power and the American Dream Contrasts the life of the billionaires who live at one end of Park Avenue (including the Kochs) with the poor who live at the other end in the Bronx. (NS)

<https://topdocumentaryfilms.com/park-avenue-money-power-american-dream/>

Citizen Koch Shows the activities of Americans for Prosperity, a Koch-funded enterprise, and the struggle between traditional and Tea Party conservatives, especially around the labor fight in Wisconsin. (NS) (AM) (IT)

A Place at the Table In the U.S. 50 million people, including one in four children, don't know where their next meal is coming from. This documentary examines the issue of hunger through the stories of three people struggling with food insecurity. (DL, NS, AM)

<https://documentarylovers.com/film/place-at-the-table/>

The City Uncovered: Banks and How to Break Them (2009) An interesting exploration of how "animal spirits" and herd mentality take us over and how a bubble such as the dot.com or the housing bubble develops. Actual studies on the saliva of traders shows the more successful ones have higher testosterone and show overconfidence and an increased appetite for risk. The film reveals how everyone plays a part in a bubble, although some benefit when it crashes while others suffer. (FD)

Learn About the Shadow Casino Market That is Replacing Investment in Real Goods and Services

(Increasingly, those who have money--the wealthy, banks, corporations--are investing their money in the derivatives market rather than in the real economy of goods and services. A

derivative is a bet on whether an asset will go up or down in value. The notational value of the derivatives market is estimated to be \$1000 Trillion, which is 20 times the World's total GNP.

While some derivatives enable farmers and other investors to hedge the risk on their own businesses, today many corporations and even our major banks, seek to enhance their profits by purchasing new exotic derivatives simply to speculate (bet) on assets they don't even own. Most of these bets are made privately so we don't even know exactly how much an institution has invested in them. These investments played a major role in the 2008 crash and they are still not effectively regulated. Below are some simple explanations of derivatives and one film about them.)

Explaining Credit Default Swaps by Dan Weintraub and his cartoon bears

The two cartoon bears do a pretty good job.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ui0u_caWAFI

Introduction to Financial Derivatives by Kanjo *A more sophisticated presentation. It points out that while derivatives can be used to hedge risk, they've been used for speculation (gambling). It then defines swaps, forwards, futures, and options. A little too much jargon in the explanation.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTxxSTXg404>

Financial Derivatives Explained in Ten Minutes *The first five minutes are good.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ca-35jo-WL8>

Quadrillion Dollar Derivatives Market 20 Times Global GDP on the Real News *Good for getting a sense of the overall significance of the derivatives market.*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hw9s-Z_8YIU

Quants: The Alchemists of Wall Street 2010 *Interesting film for getting into the mindset of those who have transformed the financial market. Quants are the math wizards and computer programmers in the engine room of our global financial system who designed the financial products (including derivatives) that almost crashed Wall Street. Decisions about what to buy and sell are made using mathematical models where the intention is to make money, irrespective of the true value of the underlying asset. Now, quants are also at the heart of yet another technological revolution: trading at the speed of light by automated programs. (TDF)*

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/quants-alchemists-wall-street/>

Globalization: What Our Corporations Do in the “Developing” Countries

We the Economy Episode 14: The foreign aid paradox *This short episode offers a very clear example of how our food aid can sometimes undermine local farmers in poor countries while subsidizing our own farmers to overproduce. Uses Haiti and rice as an example. (NS)*

<https://vimeo.com/wetheconomy>

We the Economy: Episode 15: Globalization: Who Cares? You Do. *Again, a very brief exploration of the positive and negative aspects of global markets and how we might need to shape them. (NS)* <https://vimeo.com/wetheconomy>

We the Economy: Episode 18 Supply Chain Reaction *Uses the example of smart phones (as well as other tech products) that require tin in their manufacture. Shows the working conditions of tin*

miners to awaken us to the poor ethics of global manufacturing firms and what we are passively supporting when we buy their products. (NS) <https://vimeo.com/wetheeconomy>

****Let's Make Money 2008** An extremely powerful film in which international business people talk about their enterprises without any noticeable concern for the negative impact on the people of the countries they operate in. Looks at enterprises in India and Burkino Faso. Shows how privatization of public resources is playing a major role in these investments not only abroad but also here in this country. Makes its points without much commentary but by bringing us vivid interviews of the business people simply going about their work and of the poor, hungry, desperate and angry local people they are exploiting. Explains how the World Bank and IMF function. (NS) <https://documentarylovers.com/film/lets-make-money/>

Oily Business: Lost in Palm Oil A penetrating and painful look at how our corporations are cutting down (or even worse: burning) Indonesian rainforest to plant palms to harvest "palm oil" which we use in our food, detergents, lubricants and as biofuel. International investors are driving this rainforest destruction with profit as their sole motivation. Shows the plight of the forest people who have been displaced.

Crude The fight of the Equadorian forest people and some dedicated lawyers to get Texaco/now Chevron to clean up the terrible pollution they leave as they drill for oil in the forest. Goes back and forth between the forest people who are sick with cancer, and totally poverty stricken and Chevron's lawyers, chief scientist, and public relations people fighting the lawsuit. (AM) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvrZRvgwBS8>

The Economics of Happiness Shows the impact of capitalism, consumerism and advertising on developing countries, with a special focus on Nepal. Makes a very clear case that globalization driven by our multinational corporations is not at all global collaboration. Local culture, local people are the losers in this process. <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/theeconomicsofhappiness>

Where is the World Going Mr. Stiglitz? Disks 1 and 2 If you really want to understand globalization more thoroughly and you're willing to forgo exquisite filmmaking, sit with Joseph Stiglitz and learn from the professor in his home. Joseph Stiglitz won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2001, was the Chief Economist and Senior Vice President of the World Bank from 1997-2000, and served as Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors under the Clinton Administration. He analyzes in great detail all the ways that multinational corporations have influenced our trade agreements, the World Bank and the IMF to set up enterprises in developing countries which benefit the corporations and their investors while leaving the countries poorer. He concludes with proposals to change globalization so that it can truly benefit all. (NS)(AM) <https://www.kanopy.com/product/where-world-going-mr-stiglitz>

Contemplate Our Culture

Godfrey Reggio produced three feature length films, all purely sound and visual, with no words, that present us with an "outside" perspective on our technological culture. He says we no longer live with nature as our host, and that technology has replaced it. And we are so immersed in the culture of technology we can't see it. He gains some inspiration from the Hopi cultur which apparently thinks of what we consider to be normal to be a sign of sickness. He only uses their words for the name of the films, nothing else in the film is from their culture.

Qatsi Trilogy: (qatsi is Hopi for a "way of life.")

Koyaanisqatsi is a way of life that is out of balance. This film contrasts nature with the Northern industrial, hi-tech world we live in. It was one of the first films to show the flow of cars, lights, people, from a distance contrasting the speed of modern life with natural scenes. Some of this is very beautiful, even including the scenes of our modern culture which Reggio says show “the beauty of the Beast” in which we are immersed. (AM)(NS)

Powaqatsi is a way of life that consumes the life force of other beings. A Powaq is a black sorcerer that consumes by seducing/alluring its victims. This film shows—solely with visuals and sounds-- how our industrial culture is taking over and consuming the people and way of life of traditional cultures of the Southern hemisphere.

Naqoyqatsi A way of life that is killing, a way of life of war. This film explores civilized violence, not just on the battlefield but as sanctioned aggression against life itself. In contrast with the preceding films which were shot in nature and in cities, this one distorts stock images to create a feeling tone. (NS)

*****Baraka** Following in the footsteps of the Qatsi trilogy, this film has a more spiritual and quiet tone, contrasting the many spiritual sites, rituals, dance and music, with our modern industrial society. It is a particularly beautiful film with exquisite scenes of different sites and people which evokes a feeling of the sacred and then shows our culture in contrast. Definitely the most accomplished visual film. <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/baraka/>

Samsara A sequel to Baraka, still some of the beauty of the spiritual rites, temples and dances, but with more darkness in the portrayal of the culture that is overriding it. <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/samsara/>

Sacred Planet This is a lovely gentle film. It visits indigenous peoples all around the globe, showing the beautiful part of the natural world in which they live. The only talking is sparse and by the elders in each location, speaking of their values and way of life. While they represent far-flung indigenous cultures –e.g. from the U.S. Northwest, Borneo, Africa, etc.-- their message is completely consistent—we are part of the Earth and must honor and take care of it. It is a quiet film. (AM)(NS)

Where We’re Headed if We Don’t Change Course

Paul Raskin Ph.D. (Global Scenarios Project) says a likely future if we don’t act to stop emissions is “barbarization” for the majority of the world’s population and/or “fortress” where the rich escape. Our movie and TV industries seem to have already bought into this future. If you want a vivid look into it see:

Elysium, a feature film showing a ravaged Earth and a luxurious space habitat for the wealthy called Elysium. Shows both the barbarization and the fortress of Raskin’s possible future.

The Road A feature film showing the pure dystopian vision, or the TV series **Revolution**.

Earth 2100: Civilization at a Crossroads An unusually candid (for broadcast TV) ABC two-hour special aired June 2009, available at:

<http://www.veoh.com/watch/v194003614abxFqkC?h1=Earth+2100+the+Final+Century+of+Civilization+ABC+Special>

Obey This is a very dark film that starts with the present state of our corporate world and our government in its tow, and shows a quite possible future of increasing inequality, loss of any true democracy, militarization, continued exploitation, economic and environmental collapse and the ultimate destruction of our world. The filmmaker hopes to wake us up to the trajectory we are following. It is uncompromising, presents a relentless view and could be motivating as long as you don't become overwhelmed. (DL)

Collapse 2009 Shows our extreme dependence on fossil fuels: 800 million cars which not only burn gasoline but take enormous amounts of fossil fuels to produce them, all manufacturing using heat, all transportation, all electricity, industrial agriculture's dependence on farm machinery, fertilizers, pesticides, refrigeration, transportation, etc. Shows evidence that we have "peaked" and are going to run out of cheap oil, and the economic and social collapse that will happen if we don't plan for it.

The Age of Stupid A rather disturbing exploration of all the signs of climate change and social disruption that we are ignoring and a prediction of future events if all these trends continue.

New Visions and Solutions

We need a courageous filmmaker to step forward and make a Hollywood blockbuster that shows us the way out of our current dilemma. I haven't found one yet, but here are some aspects of a more positive future.

Big Picture

Paul Raskin of the Global Scenarios Project and Tellus Institute speaks about a positive future at Yale University's Visions of a Sustainable World Conference. Also search this website for other visions for the future.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FS7o4g5kzMM

Plan B 4.0 Mobilizing to Save Civilization, a talk by Lester R Brown of the Earth Policy Institute. Lester Brown who previously published the World Watch Series, is now one of the leading figures to look at the big picture and present an overall plan. While it doesn't address all our issues, it certainly provides a broad roadmap for what we need to do.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=huTOnx8-IUc

The Earth is Full: a talk by Paul Guilding, author of *The Great Disruption*. Guilding also presents a broad picture of what we need to do to move through our current crisis.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZT6YpCsapg

The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community: A talk by David Korten who is a leading figure in the New Economy Movement and who envisions a human society modeled after the way natural ecosystems function.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=33JC0I2xgA

Thrive (I only support part of the vision of this film, not the "free energy" or the extreme conspiracy viewpoint. However it does give a good explanation of our economic system and how

it is implicated in climate change and does present a positive vision for the future, as well as issues we can work on to bring that about.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EV5AFFcZ-s>

Pathways to 100% Renewable Energy Conference: Mark Jacobsen This Stanford professor has plans for each state and for the country as a whole to switch entirely to renewable energy. He clearly shows how we could do it both financially and in terms of resources by 2050. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XCYICF3OuQ>

Climate Change Beyond Dangerous: Brutal numbers and tenuous hope
A report of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, U.K. Kevin Anderson, climate scientist reports that if each of us who are using fossil fuels freely in airplane and cars we could back by 5% on our usage, we could buy time for the renewable energy industry to be ready in time to save us from disaster.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5cmAVxnQ3E>

Addressing the Economic Issues

Naomi Klein, the author who has clearly shown the conflict between our current version capitalism and the well-being of our environment has a lot to say:

<http://grist.org/climate-energy/naomi-klein-on-why-low-oil-prices-could-be-a-great-thing/>

<http://grist.org/climate-energy/naomi-klein-on-how-to-build-a-more-kick-ass-climate-movement/?energy>

<http://grist.org/climate-energy/naomi-klein-on-the-power-of-fossil-fuel-divestment/>

Inequality For All This film by Robert Reich lays out the factors that have brought us to inequality but also addresses the solutions.

The Story of Solutions and The Story of Cap and Trade Two more short films by the Story of Stuff project <http://storyofstuff.org/movies/>

Not Your Business as Usual (2014) Explores the usual idea that the purpose of a business is to make money for its shareholders, versus making a product or service that leaves the world better off. Gives examples of businesses built with awareness of social responsibility and sustainability. **(TDF)**

Charles Eisenstein speaking on sacred economics In his book by the same name, Eisenstein presents an entirely different view of money and economics that could transform the way we think about these matters. <http://sacred-economics.com/film/>

Charles Eisenstein: a collection of videos on his work: <http://charleseisenstein.net/video/> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/CharlesEisenstein/videos>

David Korten Speaking on an Agenda for a New Economy Korten is the author of many books on the current economy and the economic solutions for a more ecologically minded one. He is a leader in the "New Economy Movement."
www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdsZ_1Lz07Q

Money Diversity: This is a talk by Bernard Lietaer who is an expert on the many forms of alternative money. He emphasizes that alternative currencies can complement our national money by adding resilience to the economic ecosystem, and also how alternative monies can emphasize particular values and build community. www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9EI2PrDpmw

Addressing Ecological and Design Issues:

Bioneers is a wonderful organization which puts on visionary conferences where some of the most courageous, brilliant and joyful people present their environmental and social work. They have a media center on their website where you can watch inspiring speakers. Visit [Http://media.bioneers.org/](http://media.bioneers.org/) An example is given below but there are many more:

The Biomimicry Network Effect: What will we solve together? Janine Benyus has been a leader in showing what we can learn from nature about building structures and creating processes that are highly energy efficient and do not damage the environment. <http://media.bioneers.org/listing/the-biomimicry-network-effect-what-will-we-solve-together-janine-benyus/>

***Green Gold** An inspiring documentary showing how deserts can be transformed into green and fertile land. John D. Liu, an ecologist, shows how desert has been radically transformed in only a few years in China, in Jordan, in Rwanda, and other locations. He explains that our own ignorant practices have created deserts and that environments can heal themselves given ecologically sound practices. We learn about ecosystems through his casestudies. He also shows how re-greening deserts can both employ many people and greatly absorb the carbon dioxide in the air. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBLZmwlPa8A>

Hope in a Changing Climate Another fine presentation by John Liu, reporting on his ecological restoration studies in 90 countries around the world. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEmHDFxKqaw>

The Nature of Cities (2010) A look into what our cities can become by visiting some cities that have been designed or re-designed to save energy, integrate nature into the city, and create gathering and play spaces where cars are excluded but transportation is nearby. Presents a vision of the beautiful places we really would want to live in. **(TDF)**

Films for Inspiration and Empowerment

Pope Francis speaking about Protecting Our Environment: A Democracy Now Interview This episode focuses on the Pope's new actions regarding climate change. We learn that the Pope will soon issue a rare papal letter, an encyclical, which offers a comprehensive teaching on climate change. It will be sent to the world's 5000 Catholic Bishops and 400,000 priests who will distribute it to their parishioners. Globally, there are 1.2 Billion Catholics so this has potentially enormous effect. He also plans to address the U.N. General Assembly and to convene a summit of the World's Religions. This segment begins after 13:47 minutes of news headlines. http://www.democracynow.org/2014/12/31/pope_francis_calls_for_action_on

Journey of the Universe Brian Swimme, former Jesuit priest, cosmologist and physicist traces the evolution of the universe from the Big Bang, to galaxies and stars and planets, to life and finally to us. Viewing it, we see and feel that we are very much an arising of the Universe and an intelligence that must now act to protect this precious world from which we spring. "What if we came to experience the Universe so deeply that we realized that we are the mind and the heart of the Universe and that "We belong here, we've always belonged here." (NS)

Thich Nat Hanh speaking on how we must awaken to the non-dualistic reality that we are the Earth <http://www.commondreams.org/news/2012/02/20/thich-nhat-hanh-connect-and-love-mother-earth-heal-planet>

Earth Talk: the More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible. Charles Eisenstein Presents A Free Webinar Eisenstein has built on his book *Sacred Economics* with yet another important contribution with this exploration on Youtube but also in a new book by this title. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BryHnxVLXos>

A Fierce Green Fire An extremely important and inspiring history of the environmental movement following it from a focus on conservation, to fighting pollution, to fighting whaling and defending animal life, to forest people fighting for the Amazon, to understanding and confronting the threat of climate change. Shows how there was a great burst of activity with the first Earth Day in the 70's, then the reaction against it with the Reagan policies, and now a return. (NS)

Disruption A film released by the 350.org movement in preparation for the People's Climate March, September 21, 2014. Reviews the key issues and summons us to participate. <https://vimeo.com/105412070>

I Am After a severe accident, a highly successful comedy film maker goes on a quest to understand what is wrong with the world and what he could do about it. A beautiful journey of exploration that comments on many aspects of our modern culture and ends up with scientific research showing the significance of the heart and of the connected, cooperative side of human nature. A very sweet light-hearted film. (NS)

Happy Another sweet film that explores happiness around the world and reminds us that what matters is play, new experiences, friends and family, and meaningful pursuits. (What could be more meaningful than protecting the environment?) (NS)

Oxfam America Addresses Issues of Poverty and Economic Injustice Globally: Visit their website and view many inspiring videos of work they have done worldwide. <https://www.youtube.com/user/oxfamamerica/videos>

TV/e (Television for the Environment) works worldwide to make and distribute films which inspire change. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMB0_MMZapY and <http://tve.org>

This Changes Everything: Beautiful Solutions Naomi Klein's website that reports on many innovative ideas and projects. (No documentary available yet.) <https://solutions.thischangeseverything.org/#>

**Idle No More (Indians leading the People's Climate March September 21, 2014 in New York City) Very powerful and inspiring. Maybe we will finally listen to our Native Americans.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qs585zaaMbM>

**Into the Streets: People's Climate March Over 400,000 people demonstrated peacefully in NYC. (We took over Manhattan! It stretched 80 blocks through the center of the city).*

<http://vimeo.com/107789364>