

# *Specific actions-in our own realms*

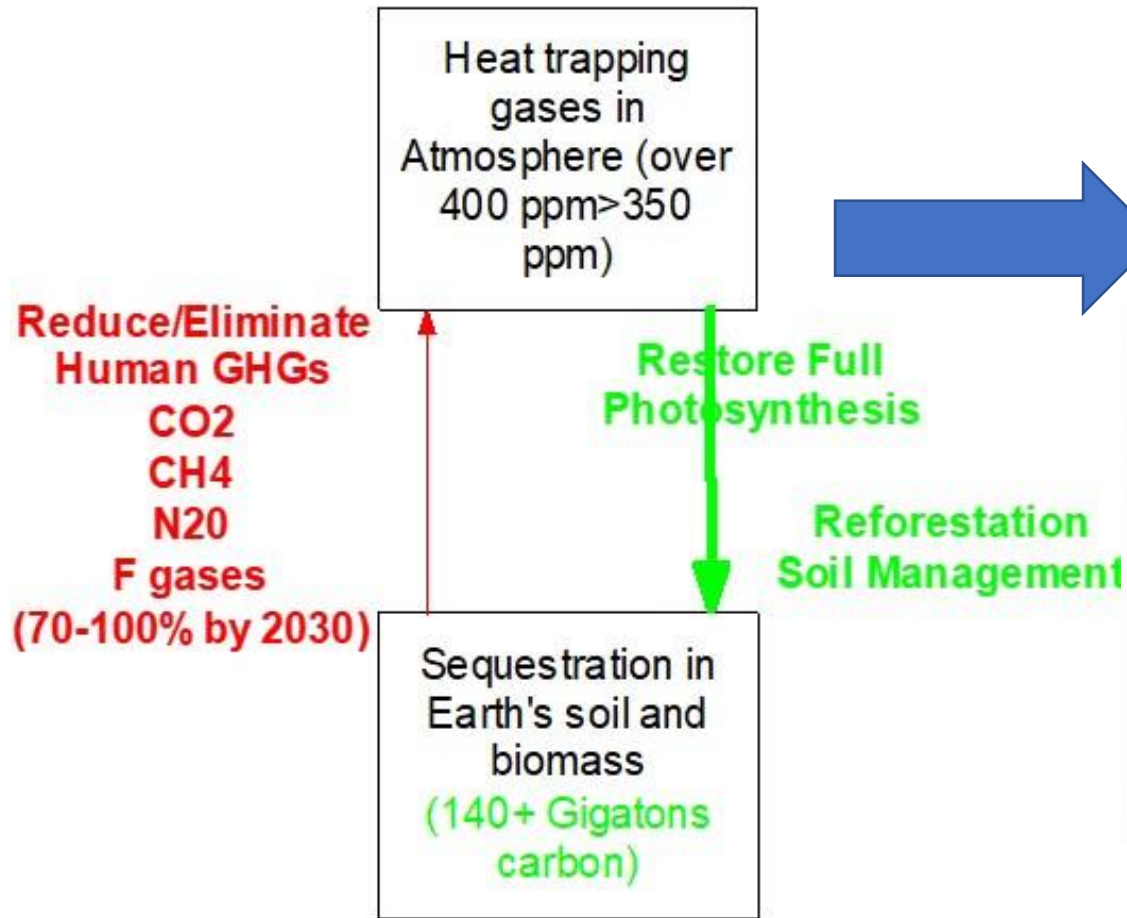
*This Fragile Earth, Our Island Home*

Session 4 of 6

Interfaith Association of Greater Long Beach NY



# Specific solutions/actions in our realms



Households, businesses, religious institutions, non-profits, condo association, HOAs, farms



# Agenda

- Can I (we) make a difference?
- Energy- easier to quantify
- Behavior – harder to measure
- Sequestration
- Offsets
- Divest
- Plan
- Refrigerant management
- Influence
- Q&A
- What's Next





# Can I (we) make a difference?

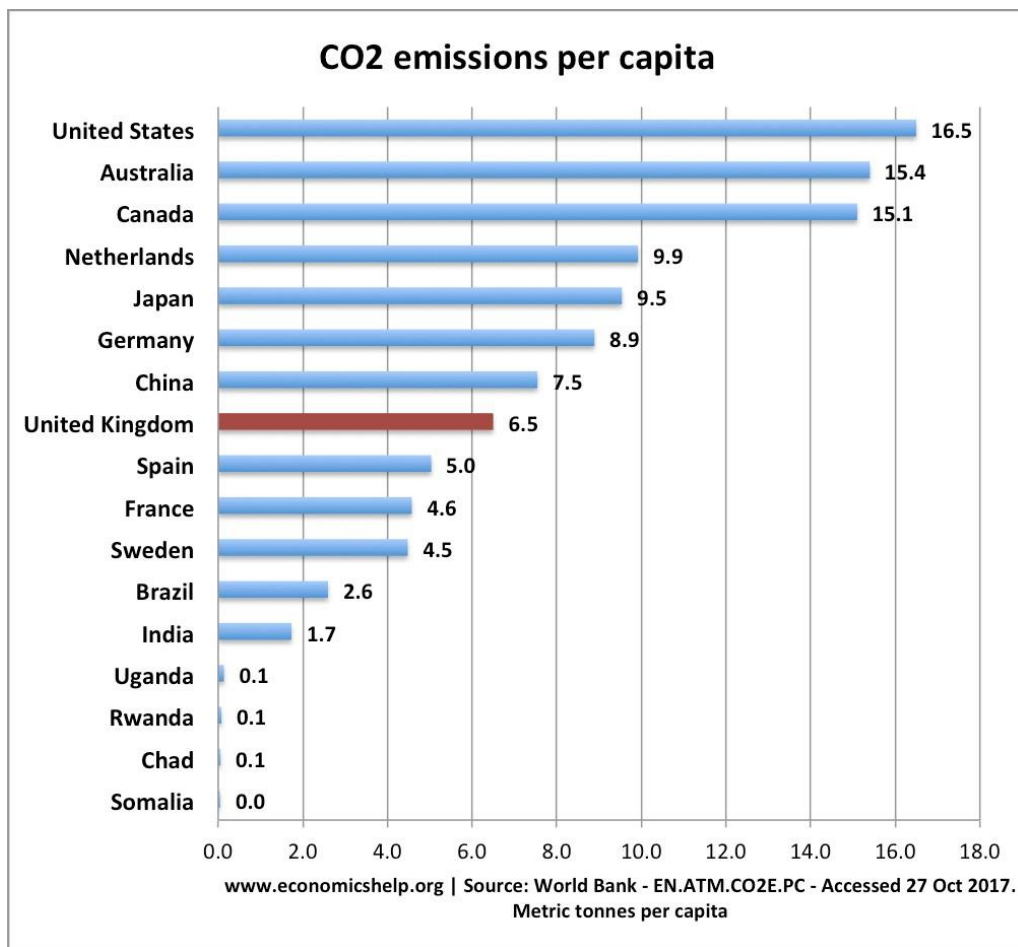
1. Every little bit helps
2. Save money
3. Improve health
4. Set example
5. It's the right thing to do (moral duty to restore creation, prevent injustice)

We are not powerless. Send a signal to the market (Bill Gates)

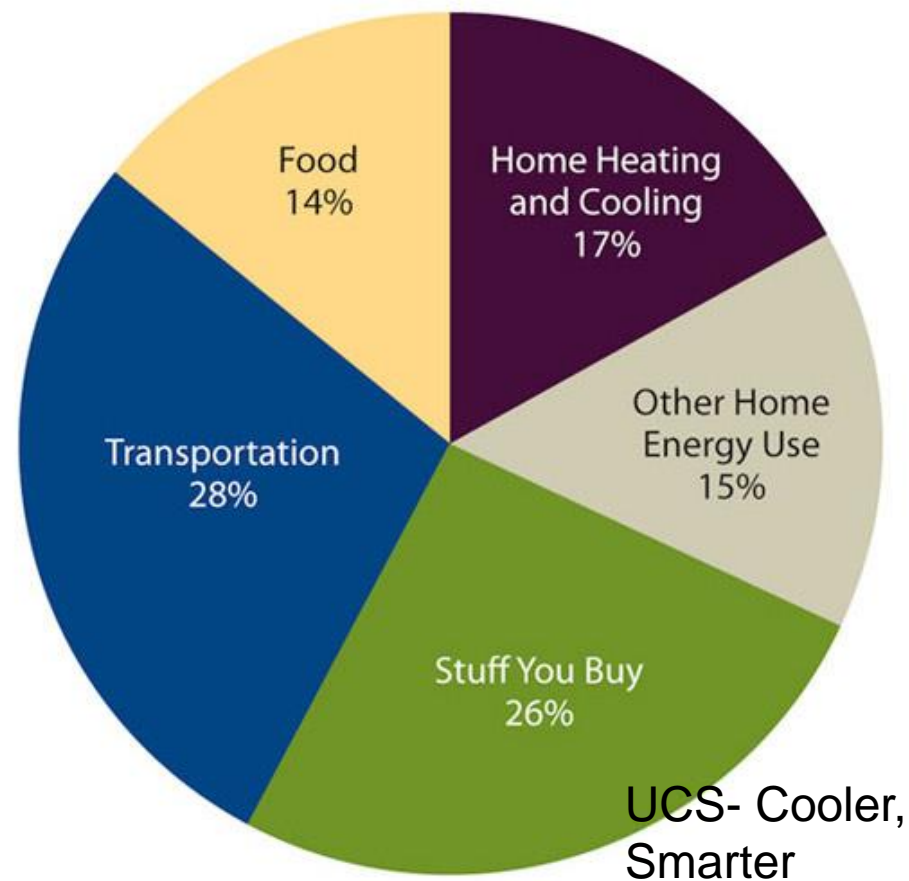
“Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little “

Edmund Burke, Irish philosopher

# Frame of Reference



## Where the Average American's Carbon Emissions Come From





# Buildings

Determine how much energy (of what type) is being consumed, and estimate the resulting emissions

Investigate opportunities to

- Reduce energy consumption
- Transition to zero emission energy sources

## 1. Emissions math

- Count it up: kwh, therms, gallons, pounds, cords;
- Calculate footprint (units x energy emission factor of fuel)
- Tools available

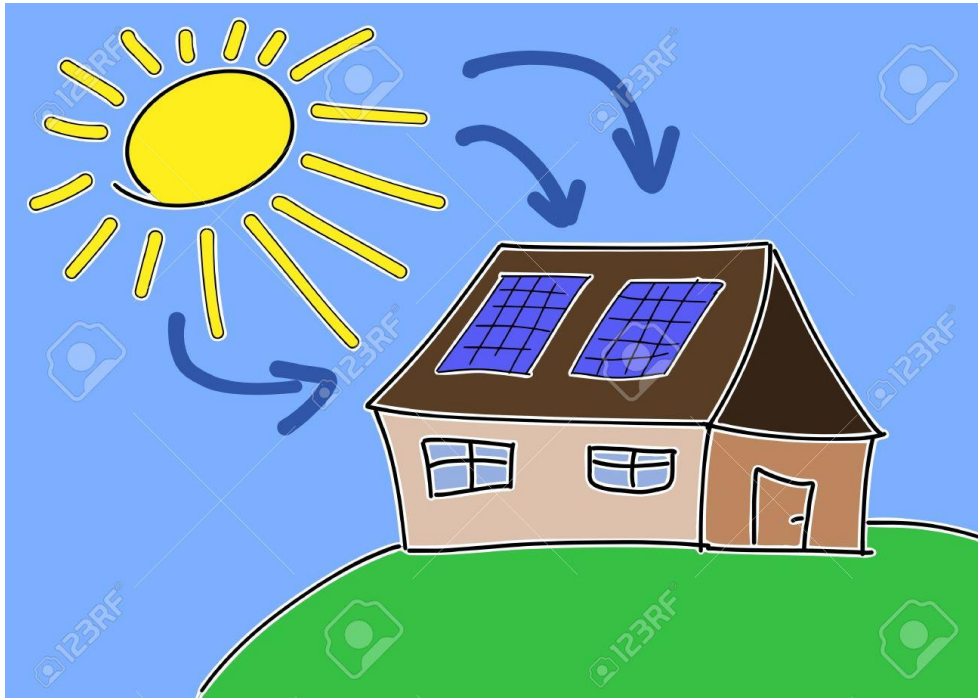
## ■ Professional Audit

## 2. Reduce consumption

3. Electrify (almost) everything and transition to a source of zero emission electricity (such as solar)

- New Building: DOE Zero Energy Ready Homes standard.

# Examples



- New England home - reduced energy use by 2/3, home became affordable
- Furniture Store – Saved \$40,000 annually
- Florida home, EV and electric boat – net zero

Different situations with 1 common factor: ***energy audit***

## Flight shame

Environmentally conscientious consider traveling by car instead of by airplane



### CARBON EMISSIONS



SOURCE: [ecopassenger.hafas.de](http://ecopassenger.hafas.de)

AP

# Transportation

- Vehicle footprint @ 19.6 pound CO<sub>2</sub>/gal for gasoline, 22.4 for diesel.
- Conserve
  - Avoid driving, use public transit
  - Reduce/eliminate long distance travel
  - Take care to choose means of long distance travel (Train best, plane worst)
- Shift to Zero Emissions – Bikes, EVs charged from the sun\*

\*EV's charging from "dirty" grid also reduce emissions, even if the source of electricity is mostly coal. (USC Replacing the tailpipe with a Smokestack)



# Decision process

Quantify emissions

- Buildings
- Transportation

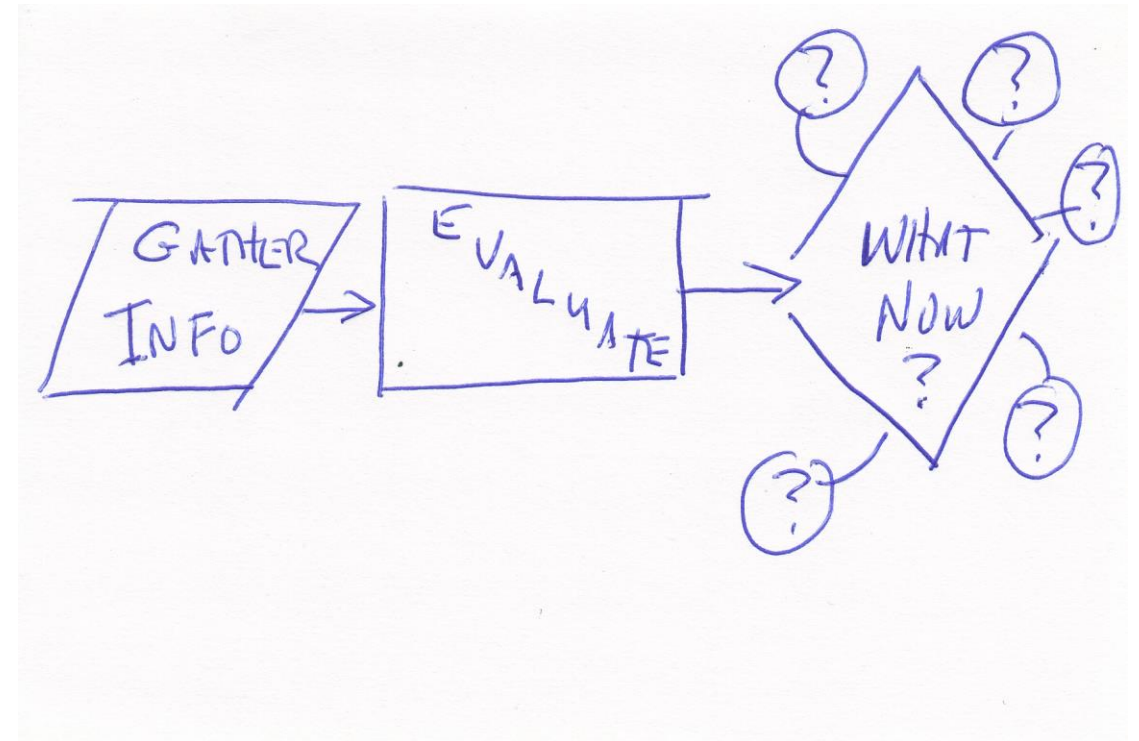
Subjective areas

- What we eat and waste
- Stuff we buy

Sequestration

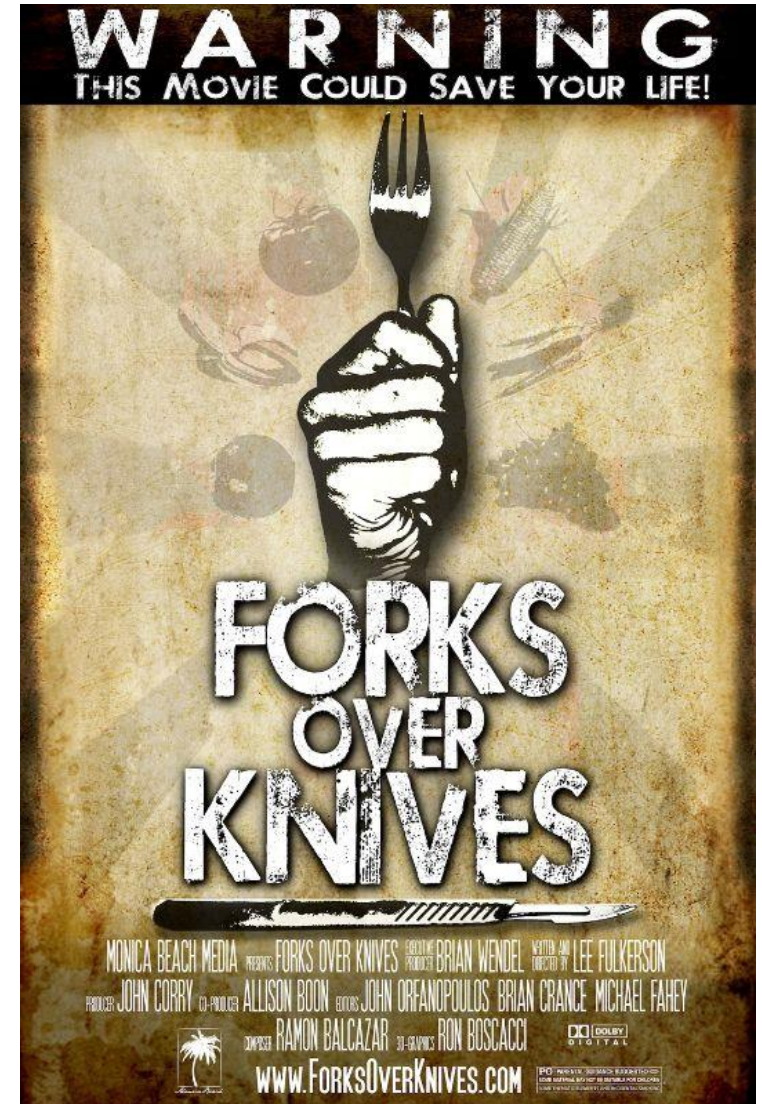
Offsets

Divest



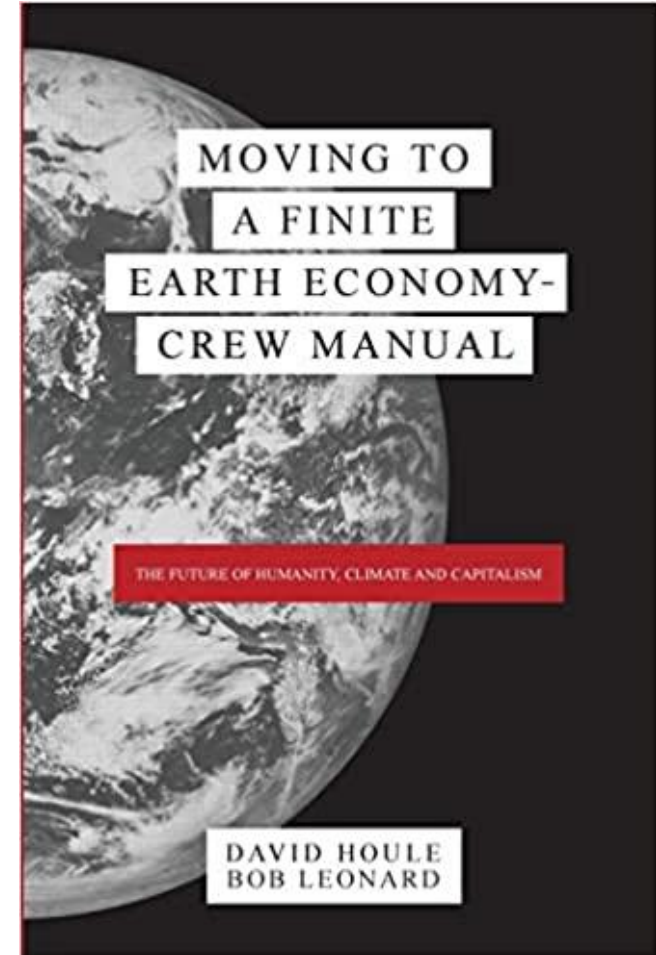
# What we eat and waste

- Red meat and cheese have most impact on emissions
- Plant-Rich Diet
  - Climate benefits - #4 of 100 *Drawdown*
  - Health and financial benefits
- Support Community Sponsored Agriculture (CSA)
- Reduce food waste: buy less, compost, food recovery programs

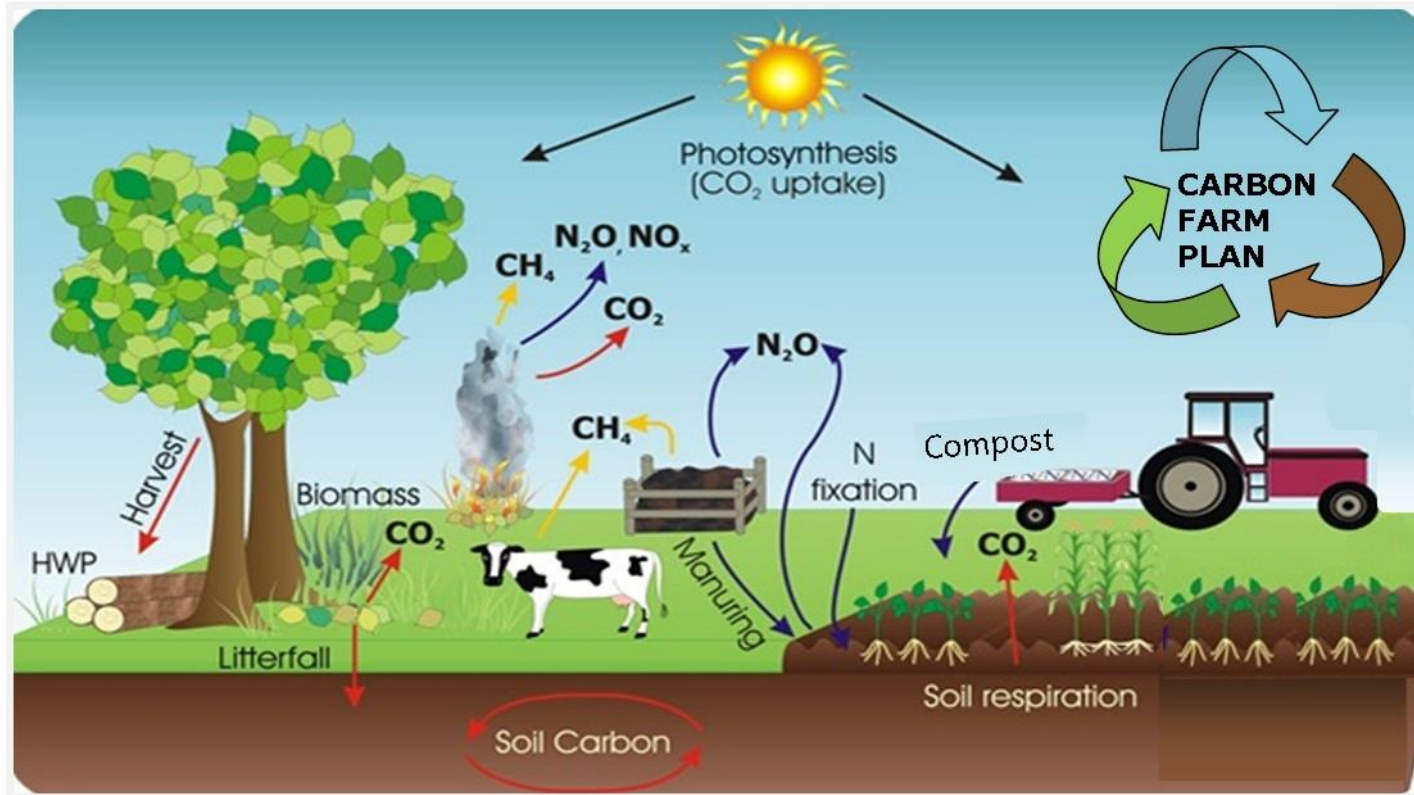


# Stuff we buy – towards a finite earth economy

- Growth economy is not serving us well
- Individual strategies
  - Buy less stuff
  - Purchase recycled or reclaimed (used)
  - Repair/refurbish things instead of discarding and buying new
  - Pay attention to how goods are manufactured
    - Concrete and steel = greater emissions than sustainably grown wood (certified as sustainably grown -FSC -Forest Stewardship Council)



# Sequester

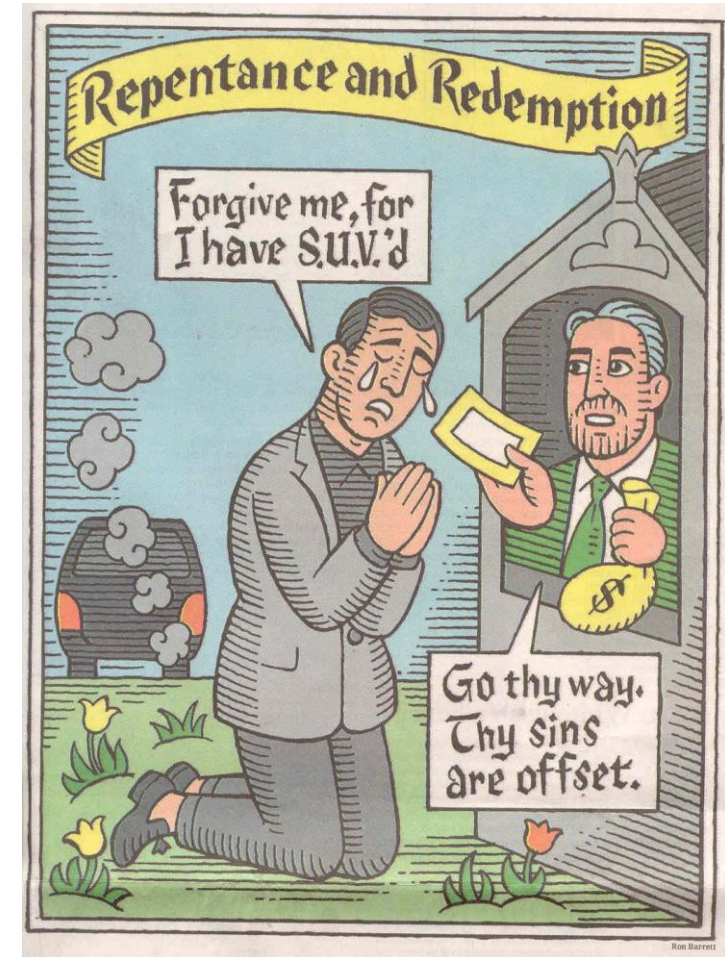


Credit: Marin Carbon Project

- Hero Farmers: Silvopasture, Regenerative Agriculture, Composting and Fertilizers-nutrient management
- Natural landscapes (residence, business, condo associations, HOAs)
- Reduction/elimination of fertilizers and herbicides
- Reforestation projects

# Buy offsets?

- Pay someone to reduce atmospheric carbon
- Offsets cannot replace the good we do by reducing emissions or sequestering carbon in our realm
- Optimum strategy: act boldly in our own realm and buy offsets



Andrew Revkin, *New York Times*

# Divest from fossil fuels

- Movement started in colleges and universities
- Growing momentum - institutions and individuals
- Consider your own banking and investment holdings, including retirement accounts
- Your influence in the workplace, non-profits



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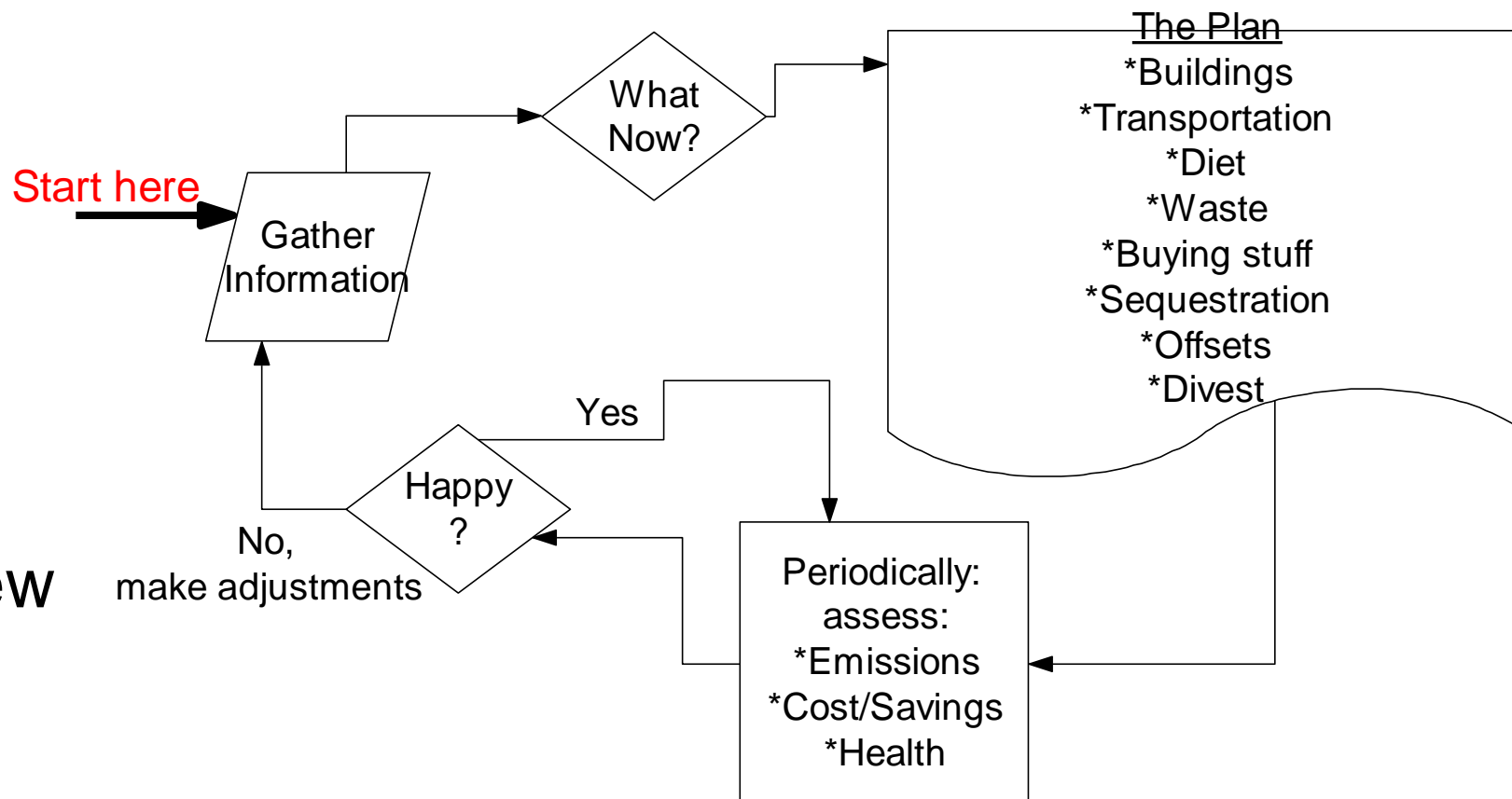
# Tools



- Carbon counters
- My solutions portfolio
- 40,000 lb. carbon diet
- Energy factors
- i-Tree
- *Eat to Live*
- *Forks Over Knives*

# Make a plan

- Outcome and Investment significant enough to document
- Periodic review
- Adjust as needed





# No Brainer - Refrigerant management

- Drawdown #1 solution of 100
- 90 percent of refrigerant emissions happen at end of life
- Effective disposal of those currently in circulation is essential.
- A/C, Fridge



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# Influence

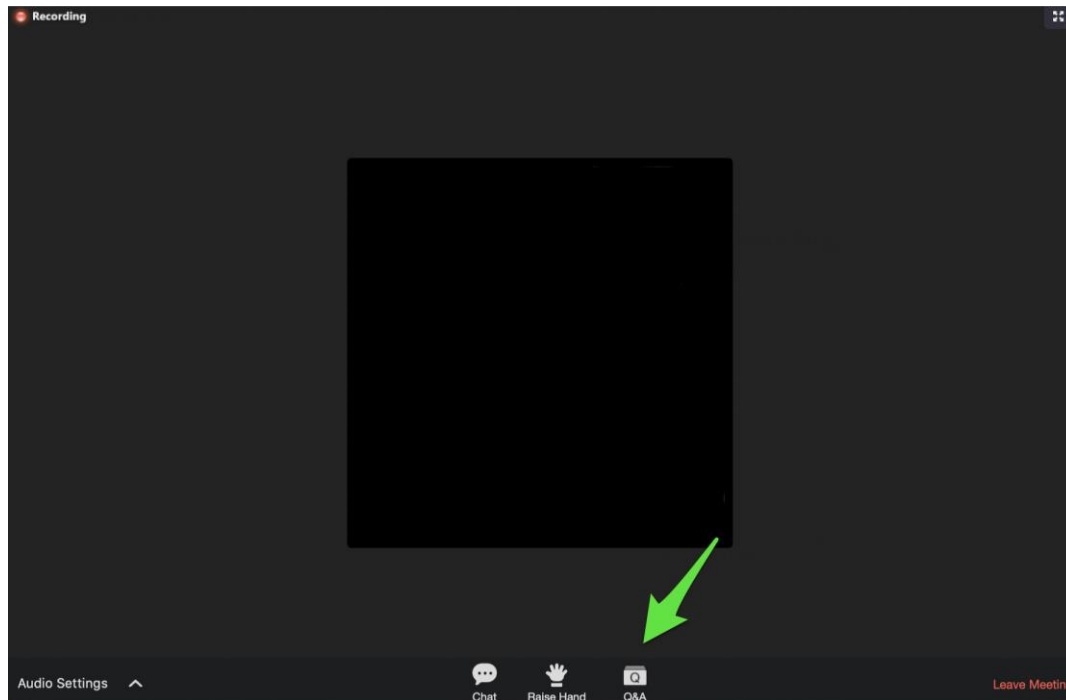
## Awareness and education

- K to Gray
- Bully pulpit
- Energy coach
  
- Change management
- A force against special interests and misinformation



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# Q&A



- Buildings
- Transportation
- What we eat
- What we waste
- Stuff we buy
- Sequestration
- Offsets
- Divest
- Plan
- Refrigerant Mgmt.
- Influence



# What's next?

Session 5 – specific action Government

Follow up email tomorrow

- Home work (Quiz)
- Reminder to register for session #5
- references ***with tools***
- Slide show
- Recording of tonight's webinar

Can't wait? Go to  
<https://tinyurl.com/withGreta>