

# What could we do now to start building a sustainable society?

The climate crisis and other ecological problems keep getting worse—in spite of the fact that there are many things society could do now to start reducing society's ecological footprint and building a sustainable society. For example:

- **Take over the energy sector and expand renewable energy.** For-profit companies will burn all the coal and oil they can—socialization is the only way to be sure that the carbon stays in the ground. Immediately end all new fossil fuel development and expand renewable energy development; put utilities under the democratic control of workers and consumers.
- **Expand transit.** Cease all new road construction; convert existing auto factories to produce and expand production of public transit and rail transport. End subsidies to the auto and coal industries; instead subsidize free public transit for all.
- **Sustainable agriculture.** End agricultural subsidies for large-scale monocropping; instead subsidize sustainable agricultural practices.
- **Reduce waste.** Ban excessive product packaging, plastic bags, and other sources of waste. Shut down incinerators and develop recycling and composting.
- **Reduce the workweek with no loss in pay.** Use the technological gains in productivity we've made over the past decades to give workers greater free time, rather than producing more for profit.
- **Defund the US military.** In addition to being an enforcer of unjust and ecologically destructive practices around the globe, the US military is a massive source of carbon emissions and pollution.

In addition to addressing the ecological crisis, such programs would end unemployment and poverty, improving most people's lives. But our government won't pursue such measures, because they run counter to the profit motive. To achieve sustainability, we need to build a movement strong enough to force the state to act—and, ultimately, to overthrow it and replace it with one that answers to working people.



**SYSTEM CHANGE  
NOT CLIMATE CHANGE  
THE ECOSOCIALIST COALITION**

**System Change Not Climate Change: The Ecosocialist Coalition** is a network of individuals and groups dedicated to fighting against ecological destruction and the capitalist system that causes it, and for a new, sustainable world. Find out more and get involved at [www.SystemChangeNotClimateChange.org](http://www.SystemChangeNotClimateChange.org)