

Conversations With Kate

Lesson Guide Based On Podcast Episode [084] A Conversation With Cara Leopold, Part 2

“Climate Change Solutions We Can Implement Now”



Web link

<https://soundcloud.com/user-404896233/084-climate-change-solutions-we-can-implement-now-my-conversation-with-cara-leopold-part-2>

11:56 minutes

Vocabulary and expressions

- **strike** - a protest; a refusal to go to work or school in an attempt to change a situation
- **the next thing** - the next trend or popular thing
- **obviously** - clearly
- **reaping the consequences** - feeling the results of actions
- **emissions target** - the goal of reducing carbon dioxide gas released into the atmosphere to a certain level
- **local currency** - money produced and usable only in a particular town or city
- **thrown sharply into relief** - made very clear
- **compelling** - capable of convincing someone of something (a compelling argument)
- **carbon sink** - a forest or other natural element able to absorb carbon dioxide
- **to implement** - to put into action
- **urgent** - something requiring immediate action
- **in small pockets** - in small areas
- **to sort of go** - to say something like
- **to deploy** - to implement; to put into action
- **comprised of** - made up of
- **no regrets** - no feelings that you should have done something differently

Conversation questions:

Have a look at the 100 solutions to climate change on www.drawdown.org. Which of these are you already doing? What do you think you could do? How many of these solutions are happening in your country?

Have you heard of or used an alternative currency? Would you be willing to try it?

Does the climate crisis affect your food choices? Why or why not?

Transcript:

This is episode number 84, the second part of my conversation about climate change with Cara Leopold from Leo-Listening.com. We've been talking about the Climate Crisis and the upcoming Climate **Strikes** on September 20th and 27th.

We pick up the conversation where we talking about the local economy.

It's fascinating to me and some of the people where I live are becoming more interested in learning some of the older ways of doing things. I mean that's **the next thing** to them. Let's go back and figure out, how can I actually do this myself? Or how did my grandparents used to do this? You know, instead of how to have somebody else do it for me. I'll just make more money so I can pay them.

And that's really Helena Norberg-Hodge's solution. After she went to Ladakh, after she saw what happened to them, she became part of the localization movement. If you develop a local economy, then you're not needing to ship things, to go far for shopping, you know. . . take some of the need away that goes with some of these problems.

Is it like half of all the coal, oil and gas burned in the atmosphere has been done since 1990? **Obviously**, some decision was taken, you know, when I was very small, that we're going to start making our supply chains global. We're going to ship this bit here, ship this bit there. And that all works very well but, you know, the amount of pollution required to sustain that system. . . well it's obviously not possible! We tried it but now we're sort of **reaping the consequences** of it.

So, yeah, I think a lot of change can happen on the local level. That's what gave me more motivation to feel positive about the climate because a lot can be done on the level of cities and towns. So in the UK, there's the Transition Towns Movement.

Yes. Rob Hopkins. We've had a Transitions Movement here where I live.

Okay. Obviously in California they don't wait for the US Federal Government to sort themselves out. They just say, okay, here's our **emissions target**. Here's what we're going to do. They just sort themselves out, which is good because you need someone to lead on the issue.

We have a **local currency** here now. So the idea is to stop money from flowing out of the local economy so when you buy things in Euros, they eventually leave the local economy. Whereas, if you use a local currency, or alternative currency, I think, is the term they use, it can only be used locally. The currency stays within the system.

Because, by definition, it can't go into the traditional banking system. It can't like flow out of the economy so

it keeps it and helps develop the local economy. So I'm really interested in that idea as well.

And you saw that in Scotland or in France, where you live now?

That's in France. I think there must be some in the UK. I think there are.

Totnes. Where Rob Hopkins lives.

Okay. And yeah, there are a lot of them in France. I didn't realize because the one here where I live is quite new. It's only been going for maybe a year and a half. It's really recent. They're trying to get more businesses to come into it, more places to accept it, and more people to sign up to it. So I'm really interested in trying that. It's another way of approaching these issues.

I think it makes so much sense for food. You know, we can really feed ourselves with food that is grown locally and in season. It's healthier and there's no need to be shipping things all the way around the world.

Yeah, exactly. I think that's been **thrown sharply into relief** with what's happening in the Amazon. . . which is not new. It's always been happening. It's just that it's accelerating. But the idea that you would clear forests to grow beef or to grow soy to feed beef which feeds us. It just doesn't make environmental sense. I think there are really **compelling** arguments for going vegetarian or vegan.

There's a two-pronged thing: basically to raise beef you have to get rid of land (forests), then you have to put the beef on it, and then you need to grow crops to feed the beef. Whereas, if you took the beef off of the land because you're not eating them anymore you could then put trees on that land.

It's like a double **carbon sink**. You don't have the beef farting out methane which is a greenhouse gas and you have trees that absorb the carbon. It doesn't really make sense anymore, this mass production of beef.

There are so many solutions and I think that was Greta's point when she gave the TED talk which was shortly after she started striking, I think. I think she started striking in August and then in November gave her TED talk. And she basically said, "Look, we have all of the solutions. We just have **to implement** them and we have to do it now."

Some people criticize her saying, "What solutions has she got?" You know, "She should stay in school and become a climate scientist." And every single climate scientist is saying that we need **urgent** action. And scientists are typically quite conservative. But here they're saying, "These results that we're getting are really worrying. We need to do something."

And yeah, you're right. We do have solutions. Like Scotland had a day this year where it ran 100% on renewable energy. Because in Scotland there's a lot of off-shore wind farms and they are providing a lot of the energy. So like that infrastructure is already in place and, you know, it's proving. . . . Scotland is a small country yet still, the idea that it can be energetically independent with it's own wind farms. . .

Yeah, and it's happened around the world **in small pockets**.

Exactly. So it's not like solutions are not there. So I find that very unfair **to sort of go**, "Well, she doesn't have any solutions." She's asking for our governments to, you know, start implementing the solutions that are there.

There have been so many organizations working on this for decades and now, ideally they're all coming together and getting behind the youth. I just opened that webpage (www.globalclimatestrike.net). It says, "This September, millions of us will walk out of our workplaces and homes to join young climate strikers on the streets and demand an end to the age of fossil fuels. Our house is on fire — let's act like it. We demand climate justice for everyone."

I also wanted to ask you if you knew about drawdown.org. (I do.) I just refer to the 100 solutions and say, "Okay. How many of these can I do? How many of these have I been doing?"

Yeah. The checklist. Yeah, yeah. I think their idea is **to deploy** those ideas on a really big scale.

And what I like about the list. . . and they say this on their website, is that it's comprised. . . , and I'm quoting now, ". . . **comprised** primarily of “**no regrets**” solutions—actions that make sense to take regardless of their climate impact since they have **intrinsic** benefits to communities and economies."

Ah, this is true. I think trees are a really good one because trees are like natural air conditioning. So on a hot day, if you're on the side of the street with the trees on it, it's a lot cooler because you have that shade. And that also provides habitat for plants and animals. It's just better for our well-being.

Exactly, so it's directed toward the well-being of people and communities. So they say that all of these **initiatives**, ". . . aim to improve lives, create jobs, restore the environment, enhance security, generate **resilience**, and advance human health." How can you disagree with that?

Well, yeah. That all sounds pretty good to me. But you have to make sure that you're doing all that and not burning fossil fuels. That's why I like Bill McKibben's idea of the whole **Divestment** Movement. So basically, we stop financing these guys. We cut off as a way to persuade them to stop digging this stuff up.

And they're not going to do it until a **mass of people** demand it. And I think that's what the climate strike is about, I think.

Yeah, it's all about massive action. So it's quite exciting.

It is. It is. I'm actually quite hopeful. And I'd like to kind of **wrap things up** because we could talk for hours about this. (Indeed.) Let's start with some ways that people could learn more. So I mentioned the film, the 2012 film, [The Economics of Happiness](#). You can see an abridged version. I will put the link in the notes. And then it's \$5.00, I think to rent the whole thing. (Okay)

Of course, [Greta Thunberg's TED talk](#). I created a lesson guide for that (Oh, awesome!) and also a news article that came out about her. I looked today on TED.com and as of today, there are 1,169 TED talks on the topic of climate.

Okay, so that'll keep you going for a lifetime. Yeah, I'm really glad that you were receptive to this and I hope

that everyone is going to enjoy listening to our chat.

It was a really good conversation and I think it's positive, upbeat and we have lots of solutions and ways to educate yourself so listeners, no matter where you are on this issue right now, I think it is important to try to learn something about it.

Exactly. Exactly. Yes.

So, Cara, thanks so much! (You're welcome) And I'm looking forward to having you on the podcast again sometime. There are so many things to talk about.

Alright, thanks, Kate.

Until next time! Alright. Bye.

You've been listening to the second half of my conversation with Cara Leopold about the Global Climate Strike and positive solutions to the crisis. We've put together some free resources on my blog at www.conversationswithkate.net/blog. Feel free to share them with your friends, families, and anyone else who would like to learn more and perhaps participate in the Global Climate Strike on September 20th and 27th.

I'd like to say a big thank you to all of my guests and listeners. I'll be taking a short break from the podcast while I do some traveling in the next few weeks. In the future, I've decided to post no more than two episodes each month. This will free up some time to work on my writing and my own language studies. Listeners have also told me that it takes more than a week to work through the transcript and lesson guides so this will give you all a chance to do a bit of catching up.

Remember that all of the podcast lesson guides and transcripts that I've created are available to my Patrons at www.patreon.com/conversationswithkate.

You can also sign up for my monthly updates to receive 2-3 new learning resources each month at www.conversationswithkate.net.

Thanks to Aaron Burdett for our music.

This is Kate. Remember that every day is a gift. I'm honored that you spent some of your precious time with me. Thank you for listening. Until next time.