

# Solve Climate By 2030: Solar Dominance + Civic Action

Dr. Eban Goodstein, Director, Bard Graduate Programs in Sustainability

Planet has only until 2030 to stem catastrophic climate change, experts warn

By Brandon Miller and Jay Croft, CNN  
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## 1. The Challenge for Educators

The 2018 IPCC report presents an extraordinary challenge: how to communicate to an entire generation the extraordinary moment in which humans are living, and the magnitude of the impact of decisions made, or not made, in the next ten years? The scientific community has spoken clearly, and it is our obligation as educators to engage as many students as possible in a realistic understanding of the risks of inaction, as well as a framework for analyzing policy alternatives. Obstacles include:

1. The difficulty of charting an optimistic path forward.
2. The siloed nature of climate education on campus.
3. The obstacles to campus-wide education.
4. Limited bandwidth for faculty and staff.

## 2. Coordinated Climate Education

Coordinated Climate Education (CCE) means simultaneous educational engagement across the country in a shared format. Goodstein et al (2018) argue that a well designed CCE program can address the obstacles above, and engage students from across institutions in effective climate education. In a world of multiple competing opportunities, CCE should provide an opportunity that is perceived by faculty, staff and students as:

1. *Effective*. To focus the attention of potential organizers across the country, CCE must move beyond information delivery and provide an avenue for meaningful participant engagement in climate solutions.
2. *Exciting*. To motivate attendance, CCE must create an event that is unusual, and attracts the attention of students.
3. *(Relatively) Easy*. To overcome bandwidth limits, CCE must deliver a neatly packaged opportunity that requires low levels of time commitment by campus faculty, staff or student organizers.

## 3. Solve Climate By 2030

Solve Climate By 2030 is a CCE that seeks to engage 100,000 students nationwide with the message of the IPCC 2018 report. The starting point for Solve Climate is a realistic scenario to achieve the 1.5 degree goal combining rapid market driven disruption by distributed solar plus storage, and EV's, all made possible by sustained civic action to smooth the path for this energy revolution and to ensure justice in the transition. [Goodstein and Lovins (2019)]

With this foundational idea that Solving Climate is possible, the project offers several ways to engage in CCE. It culminates on April 7, 2020, in a national Power Dialog: 52 simultaneous, university hosted webinars, one in every state, DC and Puerto Rico. In these webinars, local climate solutions experts will suggest the top three ambitious but feasible state, urban, utility or business initiatives that need to occur in Tennessee and Idaho, Missouri and New Jersey, Florida and Minnesota, if we aim to forestall catastrophic climate change. Following these state webinars, classes and other groups tuning in will have 45 minutes for "solutions sprints" designed to identify civic action opportunities for participants.

State lead institutions to date include AL: Auburn; AZ: ASU; CA: CSU Chico; CO: CU Boulder; CT: U Conn; HI: Kapiolani CC; IN: IU; ME: U of ME; NY: U Albany; NJ: Rutgers; OR: Willamette; PA: PSU; RI: Brown; SC: College of Charleston; TN: U of South; VT: Middlebury; WI: UW Madison.

## 4. Anticipated Outcomes

1000 Lead-up Power Dialog Events; On 4.7.2020, 52 State-level Power Dialogs focused on regional climate solutions; 2000 Sites and 100,000 Power Dialog Attendees; collectively, 1 massively inspiring national event bringing together our creativity and power to Solve Climate by 2030.

## References:

- IPCC, (2018) *Global Warming of 1.5°C* (World Meteorological Association: Geneva)
- Goodstein, Eban and Hunter Lovins (2019) "A Pathway to Rapid Global deployment of Solar Energy? Exploring the Solar Dominance Hypothesis" (2019) *Energy Research and Social Science*, 56: October
- Goodstein, Eban, Peter Buckland, Rob Alexander, Mary Ellen Malia, Neil Leary, Robert Andrejewski, Barry Munchick and Sue Barsom (2018) "The Challenge of Coordinated Civic Climate Change Education", *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*. 82: June.