

EcoSignals manifesto

program

- April 2009 Launch of www.ecoSignals.org website
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
ecoSignals car cards inside subways and buses
Co-sponsored by D2E and the Goethe-Institut Boston
- April 3 – 5 Down to Earth/D2E consumer fair
Hynes Convention Center

ecoSignals family program
exhibition of action panels
- April 4, 6pm Manifesto Release in Boston and Berlin/Germany

Down to Earth/D2E at Hynes Convention Center

We gratefully acknowledge filmmaker
Godfrey Reggio granting permission to present
Koyaanisqatsi at this occasion.
- April 5, 3–5pm TransCultural Exchange International Conference
Omni Parker House

Grand opening of Here, There and Everywhere:
Anticipating the Future of Art international competi-
tion exhibition of 60 projects featuring ecoSignals

issued in Boston/USA and Berlin/Germany
April 4, 2009

how do we cope?

Climate change, the widening and accelerating deterioration of the environment and our eco-systems are becoming ever more urgent public questions. ecoSignals was conceived in response as a collaborative action intended to heighten awareness and inform the public on action steps aimed at reducing carbon footprints, beginning with the individual consumer.

where to start?

Understanding that environmental issues are local matters, but of global concern, our international, cross-disciplinary team of environmental and graphic artists/architects intends to facilitate an international dialogue to inspire individual, and ultimately global action.

what to do?

Collaborate and be creative! We made a start: our team developed, created, designed, wrote and produced the ecoSignals project with a contemporary artistic vision that is rooted in digital art and employs the language of advertising. ecoSignals launches this public campaign and manifesto intended to inspire and stimulate positive action.

resolution

We invite YOU and all inhabitants of this Planet Earth, to subscribe to the following resolution:

“In view of the fact that in any future climate change is expected to cause unforeseen global impacts, everyone can and should make a difference by channeling their positive creative energy and put it into practice in the form of personal resolution, grassroots action and the institution of policies. We believe that each individual has an important role to play in shaping the political and economic process by which we will effectively address climate change, including by reducing his or her own carbon footprint, by peaceful protest and by urging regulation and reform. The goal is to achieve collective change in order to secure our future.”

Christina Lanzl
Marcos da Rocha Carvalho
Edward Morris
Andrew Neumann
Sigrun Prah
Douglas Rickert
Gerd Schreiner

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manifesto on the basis for action to address climate change

All that we can think or say about climate change is predicated on the findings and authority of scientists. Any statement about climate change that is not, at its core, predicated on such authority is of little value and most likely false.

Scientists tell us that they have observed distinct warming trends and that these warming trends are in excess of what is to be expected from natural variability.

Furthermore, scientists tell us that if these warming trends continue to accelerate, massive disruptions, including loss of life, will follow. The scientists do not say, but it can be inferred from their authority, that because of this loss of life and concurrent damage to ecosystems on which we depend for sustenance and prosperity, we risk the collapse of civilized society and perhaps even the total devastation of conditions congenial to human life. In other words, we currently risk extinction. That is by no means to say such a future is assured, only possible.

Moreover, scientists say that they are more than 90% certain that they know the cause of this warming. The cause, the scientists tell us, is: the emission of Greenhouse Gasses from human activity. Thus, the probable cause is actionable.

Who are these scientists and do they speak with a unified voice? We are pointing primarily to scientific bodies (collectives) of international and national standing. Principally, we are referring to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC is a scientific intergovernmental body set up by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide the decision-makers and others interested in climate change with an objective source of considered information. To our knowledge no scientific body of national or international standing has rejected the basic findings of human influence on recent climate change as put forth by the IPCC. Institutions that have issued statements amplifying the IPCC findings include the National Science Academies of all G8 nations.

This is not to say that there are not individual voices of skepticism. There are and they should be listened to and respected within the Scientific Collective in a manner according to their standing and expertise. When the voices of skeptics are translated (as all voices are

translated) outside the Scientific Collective, they should be translated accurately, i.e. not as the conjuration of doubt, but as the urging towards more complete information. The truth process is never finished.

What is at stake here is our ability to make informed, calculated decisions about our future. It is possible that this vast majority of scientists will be proven wrong. This would be calamity in our ability to trust the Scientific Collective and in our ability to make informed decisions about our future. Nonetheless, it would, on balance, be the happiest of calamities.

Within these statements there is great hope. Namely, that because we are the cause, we are also the solution. We can stop emitting carbon into the atmosphere at self-destructive rates should we choose to do so. We lack only the humility to accept the authority of the scientists on matters under their purview, the resolve to evaluate the claims of scientists from the perspective of policy and individual action, and the commitment to pursue those actions deemed effective. Other collectives are important in this process, including the political, the economic and the moral.

Climate change has nothing whatsoever to do with "Saving the Earth," a phrase that is essentially meaningless. The Earth preceded us and will continue after us. Human life on the planet is of phenomenally short duration when considered against the age of rocks and the age of oceans. Furthermore, traditional notions of Nature and Nature as opposed to Culture are meaningless and inhibitive of substantive measures to address this crisis. We have an opportunity to prolong, preserve and even improve civilized society and human life. That is what is at stake.

It is possible that the time will come for a manifesto urging revolution, but now is not that time. We urge the wise use of market forces and cooperation that is the highest achievement of democratic societies. We believe that each individual has an important role to play in shaping the political and economic process by which we will effectively address climate change, including by reducing his or her own carbon footprint, by peaceful protest and by urging regulation and reform.

The fight against climate change can be seen as a critical opportunity to foster global cooperation, a global Republic.

Edward Morris
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