

AMAZON FIRES

Fire is a natural part of the Brazilian forest ecology. But the scale of the current fires leads some investigators to suspect they were caused by the “Batista Boys”, as they are called. They are the biggest cattle barons in the world. They see only profit in gaining more grazing land; totally oblivious to the environmental devastation and suffering the fires are causing. Billionaire Bullies like the Batistas and Trump attempt to hide the fact that **the USA and Brazil are the largest sources of plastic and chemical pollution in the world.**

Before these fires, Climatologists predicted that 90% of the human population would be dead within 30 years due to the effects of climate change: crop failures, starvation, wars over dwindling resources, melting of ice reserves at the poles and the glaciers with the drowning of coastal cities where the majority of the world’s people live. With the fires allowed to blaze unchallenged, this estimate will have to be revised.

A Young Woman Shall Lead Them

16 year old Greta Thunberg took a year sabbatical from school and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in a zero waste solar powered sail boat. She rallied her contemporaries in the US to demonstrate outside of the UN Climate Change Conference, which Environmental Terrorist Trump refused to attend. She told the representatives that the young people of the world were tired of procrastination. The time to act is NOW.

In nature, all plants and animals respond to challenges every second of their lives. At one time in our distant past, humans did as well. But long, long ago civilization changed that.

On Easter Island, for example, the Rapanui turned a tropical paradise into a waste land. Cutting down every tree and killing virtually every sea bird and mammal. They eventually deteriorated into warfare and cannibalism in an attempt to survive. Only their stone monuments, the Moai, remain as testimony to their story. Today, people on Easter Island are working to turn this around. With the right perspective, motivation, and determination, positive change is within our grasp.

Many ancient civilizations failed for the same reason. The famed Cedars of Lebanon were entirely cut down for the comfort of the rich. The Mayan civilization failed due to over-population which dwindled their resources. There are many such examples of the foolishness of putting goods and comfort above survival.

Greta and the young people who rally with her know that they face impending death in the next 2 decades. They are willing to sacrifice their time and resources to save their lives.

When I was about Greta’s age, I, too faced death. Domestic violence nearly took my life and the life of our family. But like Greta, I stood up to my alcoholic step father and stopped him from killing my mother. Fortunately, not only did we survive, but he went on to a sober, happier life.

But most people are too sheltered from life-threatening events and many are also brainwashed by the News Propaganda the Trump Regime encourages. **We are not the cleanest country in the world; we are the source of global environmental devastation.** For decades, we sent our plastic junk to Asia – out of site, out of mind. But when the Chinese government realized that their people were getting seriously ill from the toxins in our trash, they put an end to our bourgeois escapism. **We are truly responsible for the suffering of Asian people and wildlife as well as the devastation and pollution of their land and waterways.**

Plastic Recycling Myth

Plastic is virtually immortal. All plastics break down into micro and nano plastic particles. Every living being, including you and your children and pets, are inhaling, drinking and eating plastic every second. We now know that this leads to a list of illnesses including cancer. **THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO STOP MANUFACTURING PLASTIC.** As the Petro-Chemical Barons become richer and richer, we become sicker and warmer.

Only we can stop this. Even good people fail to see the urgency in this. They make some changes, but procrastinate with others. **How are you going to explain to your dying child or grandchild that “Mommy had to have beautiful hair and nails; Daddy needed his big gas-guzzling truck to be a man?”** Every toxic substance, every plastic container and bag we purchase brings disease and death closer to all of us. If plastic were a fierce bear chasing us, we would run! This insidious chemical threat is far more dangerous than the biggest bear would ever be.

You can help the good people you purchase food and other goods from. Bring your own bag. Ask them to stop using plastic bags in the store. Ask for more items in bulk. I recently did this with the Ashland Coop manager. Although the Coop was hosting a workshop in zero waste/plastic free shopping, the store is 90% pre-packaged food. So how are you going to put this workshop into practice? The manger procrastinated, I insisted. This crisis is about life, not profit margins.

I am currently working with my suppliers of nutritional supplements and Chinese Herbs to find solutions to the plastic containers they come in. Like Greta, I will spend a good chunk of my own money to travel and meet with these companies.

What you can and should do:

- **Stop using plastic bags including those to purchase vegetables and bulk items.**
- **Boycott prepackaged foods and items in plastic containers or with plastic lids, rings or wrappers.**
- **Bring your current plastic bottles to be refilled with dish detergent, shampoo, conditioner, cleaning agents, etc.**
- **Ask if your store can supply cheese and meat without plastic wrapping. (Which you can put into your own container or BEE’S WRAP.)**
- **Make efficient trips with your car; tires are made of synthetic rubber which causes micro-plastic pollution. Gas exhaust fumes increase global warming.**

Resources:

Bea Johnson: Zero Waste Home
Beth Terry: My Plastic Free Life
Anne Marie: The Zero Waste Chef
#BreakFreeFromPlastic