

What Can Be Done?

Project SnowFall's "Letter to Our Congregation" #6
October 25, 2018

"The September temperature across global land and ocean surfaces was 1.40°F above the 20th century average of 59.0°F and tied with 2017 as the fourth highest for September in the 1880-2018 record." (1)

Our previous letters discussed the urgent need for action to fight climate change. The natural question is just what can be done?

The Project Drawdown answers exactly this question. For the past five years, hundreds of scientists have conducted research and compiled the data on hundreds of climate solutions. These are not concepts or prototypes. These were found "in applied, hands-on practices and technologies that are commonly available, economically viable, and scientifically valid." (2)

They created detailed climate and financial models for each of these. And had a 120 member advisory board of a wide variety of earth scientists, economists, politicians and activists to review this work.

A book detailing this work was published last year with the subtitle: *The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*. The project continues to collect and organize information with a much more extensive collection at drawdown.org.

The table of contents divides over 100 of these solutions into several areas including energy, food, women and girls, buildings and cities, land use and materials.

The projected cost to implement all of these solutions is \$129 trillion over thirty years. That is about \$440 per person per year. They also detail net cost of making these changes as compared to continuing business as usual. Making these changes would actually save \$74 trillion over thirty years. In other words, it cost much more to not make these changes.

The title Drawdown, refers to reducing the green house gases in the atmosphere. Simply reducing our current emissions is not adequate to end global warming. And it does not factor tipping points or cascading events like the loss of methane sinks or antarctic ice shelves. There is still urgency. But there is possibility. If we act.

The point is that not only is there a lot that can be done, there is a lot that is being done. The primary obstacle is political will not technological prowess. We have to want this to happen.

(1) <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/news/global-climate-201809>

(2) Drawdown, Edited by Paul Hawkins