

## CURRENT PERSPECTIVE Num 41

# BEYOND THE TIPPING POINT:

## I. PROLOGUE

Over the past five decades, the author has marveled at the perseverance of Climate Change Deniers and Climate Change Skeptics. They seemed unable and / or unwilling to UnderStand, much less accept, the growing scientific documentation concerning the dysfunctional trajectory of Planet Earth's Vital Signs that is caused by Mass OverConsumption by humans – especially those in the Global North. The more evidence that has emerged, the more they dug into positions of Denial and Skepticism.

For one who has been concerned with this reality – but occupied by the more comprehensive, immediate threat to human civilization poised by dysfunctional and unsustainable Human Settlement Patterns – there seemed to be no immediate downside to just allowing the evidence to accumulate. There appeared to be no rush, yet.

**Then in the three week period from 24 July to 13 August 2019 a Tsunami of new data based on recent research flooded SYNERGY's inbox. This Tsunami set the stage for Profound Transformations.**

***CURRENT PERSPECTIVE # 41: BEYOND THE TIPPING POINT*** documents a classic example of what Malcolm Gladwell described in his insightful book ***THE TIPPING POINT*** (Little Brown, 2000). *CP # 41* provides references to recent books and reports and a listing of key resources published during **The Three Week Tsunami** and into October and November 2019. This *PERSPECTIVE* provides suggested tools that may help Climate Change Deniers and Climate Change Skeptics shake off the shackles of their past misconceptions. It also provides observations on what might be explored now that there is no basis for Denial and Skepticism.

This *CURRENT PERSPECTIVE* is **NOT** the author's attempt to provide **PROOF** of Global Warming, Climate Change or Human Causation. That task is left to the **SCIENCE BASED SOURCES** cited in this *PERSPECTIVE*. If the readers have doubts about the substantive assertions by those cited, please address those concerns to the cited scientific sources. This *PERSPECTIVE* documents that the myths and wishful thinking that have supported Climate Change Deniers and Climate Change Skeptics have evaporated.

*CURRENT PERSPECTIVE # 44* is presented in four parts:

- I. PROLOGUE,
- II. THE THREE WEEK TSUNAMI,
- III. OVERARCHING CONUNDRUMS NOW THAT THE TSUNAMI HAS PAST,
- IV. TOOLS TO HELP DENIERS AND SKEPTICS COPE WITH REALITY.

## II. THE THREE WEEK TSUNAMI

Based on this avalanche of new information, it is the author's position that the facts which scientists and citizens have published in the last four months – and especially during and since **The THREE WEEK TSUNAMI** – makes most of what Climate Change Deniers and Skeptics believed six months ago to be largely irrelevant.

**A VACUUM THAT IS DEVOID OF THEORIES,  
RESEARCH AND DATA IS ALL THAT REMAINS TO  
SUPPORT THE BELIEFS OF CLIMATE CHANGE  
DENIERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE SKEPTICS**

**HOMO SAPIENS HAVE TURNED THE CORNER. THEY  
HAVE COLLECTIVELY REACHED, AND NOW PASSED,  
THE TIPPING POINT WITH RESPECT TO THE CAUSES  
AND IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**

It is now clear that Global Warming is caused by Homo sapien's consumption patterns (aka, Mass OverConsumption) and these consumption patterns have resulted in dysfunctional Human Settlement Patterns and Atmospheric ImBalance.

Together these consumption patterns generate Greenhouse Gases directly and indirectly. These Greenhouse Gases – not just Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) but also Methane, Sulphur hexafluoride, Ozone et. al. – will impact the function and sustainability of Human Settlement Patterns SOONER rather than "sometime later."

**TO PLACE THE FACTS IN THE MOST CLEAR TERMS POSSIBLE: HOMO  
SAPIENS ARE CAUSING THE ACCUMULATION OF GREENHOUSE GASES  
IN THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. IF THE MASS OVERCONSUMPTION BY  
HUMANS CONTINUES ON THE CURRENT TRAJECTORY, THEN BASED ON  
DATA DELIVERED IN THE THREE WEEK TSUNAMI, HUMANS FACE A  
FUTURE THAT MAY LEAD TO MASS EXTINCTION OF THE SPECIES.**

This will be a “slow” process in sync with geologic time. However, the current trajectory may spell the end of all life on the Planet. Up until now the demise of all life on the planet was assumed to occur when the Sun becomes a Red Giant and incinerates the Earth’s surface in 5.4 to 7 billion years from now. See *TIMEFULNESS: How Thinking Like A Geologist Can Help Save The World*, (Marcia Bjornerud , *Princeton University Press*, 2018) and *10 Billion Years from Now: A hypothetical peek at the future of the Earth and its intelligent species*, (John Michael Greer, *Adbusters*, May / June 2015 republished by *Utne* Fall 2015). Also see *The Next Ten Billion Years* (Ugo Bardi, *Cassandralegacy* Sep 2012). The later Perspective addresses the past ten billion years as well as the next ten billion years. Bardi’s and Greer’s Perspectives end with differing scenarios but with similar ultimate consequences.

**The time to intelligently and successfully address humans existential crisis and the related impacts is NOW. That is because it will soon be impossible to reverse or even slow the current trajectory due to self-reinforcing feedback loops.**

**For that reason it is imperative that as many Climate Change Deniers and Climate Change Skeptics as possible start to UnderStand the data supporting the International Scientific Community Consensus on topics related to Climate Change. This migration is imperative to support immediate, Profound Transformations to reverse the currently accelerating trajectories that are unsustainable and are compounding Economic, Social and Environmental Dysfunctions.**

**DENIERS AND SKEPTICS NO LONGER HAVE PLAUSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO THE REALITY OF HUMAN MASS OVERCONSUMPTION DRIVING GLOBAL WARMING / CLIMATE CHANGE.**

**The question now is: How do humans evolve vast-majority support for the Profound Transformations of Commons-Based GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES, ECONOMIC SYSTEMS and SOCIAL SYSTEMS that insure the evolution to an “Ecological Human Civilization?”**

**More on that question after a review of the New Resources and the Three Week Tsunami.**

## A. NEW RESOURCES IN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS.

During the past four months as part of the research to support completion of the fourth draft of *THE LITTLE BOOK* (Risse, 2020), the author has reviewed a number of books. Among the books the author has considered are six that impact an overarching UnderStAnding of the current status of Climate Change.

The first three books are by Yuval Noah Harari – *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, (2015 in the US), *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow* (2015) and *21 Lessons for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (2018). These books refresh the brain and there-by provide fertile space for clear thinking.

The next three books were released within weeks of one another in the Spring of 2019. The first is *Losing Earth: A Recent History* (Nathaniel Rich, *Farrar, Straus and Giroux*, 2019). This volume goes beyond *Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientist Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming* (Naomi Oreskes & Erik Conway, *Bloomsbury Press* (2010).

Nathaniel Rich names names and exposes responsibilities with respect to Climate Change **OBFUSCATION**. Rich does not go back as far as Eunice Foot’s 1856 discovery (and John Tyndall’s followup in 1859) **THAT CO2 IN THE ATMOSPHERE TRAPS HEAT** on and above the Earth’s surface. Yes, that has been settled science for 173 years.

Nathaniel Rich starts with that which was KNOWN, and broadly agreed to in **1979** (40 years ago). Rich spells out the origin of the layers of obfuscation that Climate Change Deniers and Skeptics have come to rely on. For a summary of the core driver of the ‘failure’ of AGENCY and Citizen Climate Action see *The Real Reason the Climate Movement has Failed*. Erik Curren, *Transition Voice* Aug 2019.

The second book published in the Spring of 2019 is *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming* (David Wallace-Wells, *Tim Duggan Books*, 2019). This volume provides a step by step guide to the path to *The Sixth Extinction, an Unnatural History* (Elizabeth Kolbert and Henry Holt 2014). This path is due to heat trapped in the Earth’s atmosphere. David Wallace-Wells book is “Enough to induce a panic attack ... a brutal portrait of climate change and our future lives on Earth.” to quote Mark O’Connell’s review in *The Guardian* for 27 Feb 2019, *The Uninhabitable Earth: A Review of our terrifying future*, by David Wallace-Wells

It is now well documented that CO2 has been the cause, a major factor and/or the result of “geologic events” in all five of the Mass Extinctions over the last 450 million years. (*Earth’s Five Mass Extinction Events*, John Cook, 15 Apr 2010, *skepticalscience.com*). Also see again *TIMEFULNESS: How Thinking Like A Geologist Can Help Save The World*, (Marcia Bjornerud , *Princeton University Press* 2018)

Finally there is *Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?* (Bill McKibben, *Henry Holt*, 2019). McKibben (author of *The End of Nature*, *Random House*, 1989) fingers the primary actors who have generated and supported the myths that the Climate Change Deniers have relied on. They range from Ayn Rand, and the Koch brothers to their acolytes and the politicians they influence and finance. McKibben widens the scope of potential drivers of human extinction beyond just Climate Change to other possible supporting triggers of the extinction of *Homo sapiens*. These threats include Artificial Intelligence and Human Genetic Modification as additional ways that “the human game” could end.

## **B. THE THREE WEEK TSUNAMI.**

**In The Three Week Tsunami (24 July to 13 August 2019) several important new resources were published. They put a sharp focus on THE TIPPING POINT with respect to the urgency of evolving an UnderStAnding of the reality of Climate Change / Global Warming. Among the key Tsunami resources are:**

*Climate Change: Current warming ‘Unparalleled’ in 2,000 years* (Matt McGrath BBC 24 July 2019) This BBC feature summarizes and provides links to three recent European academic studies. McGrath’s text explains why the “Little Ice Age” and other events were geographically limited and thus were not as significant as some have suggested. It is now clear that fluctuation in the Sun’s radiation level (aka, sun spots) and the migration of the Earths Axis of Rotation had little impact on the Earth’s actual warming and cooling cycles over the last 2000 years. The graphing of these cycles is documented by a range of confirming empirical data sets.

**The graphic on page 2 of McGrath’s summary puts to rest Climate Change Deniers / Skeptics reliance on the myth that “these warming and cooling cycles happen from time to time” and “the current cycle is no different from what has happened in the recent past.”**

**In sum: The amplitude of the current warming trend and the speed of the current warming trend dwarfs the magnitude and speed of prior warming trends over the past 2000 years.**

*Climate Change: 12 Years to Save the Planet? Make that 18 Months* (Matt McGrath BBC 24 July 2019). A second article by the same author on the same date spells out why the new information noted above reset the timing for effective action. This is due to the already scheduled international conferences planned to refine and implement action on the Paris Accords of 2016. These conferences include the September 2019 meetings at the UN Headquarter in New York City that have triggered a world-wide “strike.” *Climate Change: Impacts ‘accelerating’ as leaders gather for UN talks*, ( Matt McGrath, *BBC*, 22 Sep 2019.)

**'DESERTIFICATION' and the Role of Climate Change.** (Robert McSweeney, *Carbon Brief* 7 Aug 2019.) provides profoundly scary maps and data on recent, current and projected Desertification.

## **AND THEN THE OTHER SHOE DROPPED**

On 8 August 2019 The United Nation's International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued *A Special Report on Climate Change and Land: Climate Change , Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land management, Food Security and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems*. Among the publications responding to this text are the following:

*We must change food production to save the world, says leaked report: Cutting carbon from transport and energy 'not enough IPCC finds* (Robin McKie 4 Aug 2019 *The Guardian*.)

*Climate Change Threatens the World's Food Supply, United Nations Warns* (Christopher Flavelle, *The New York Times*, 8 Aug 2019)

*WE'RE EATING THIS PLANET TO DEATH.* (Matt Simon, *Wired* 8 Aug 2019)

*To Slow Global Warming, U.N. Warns Agriculture Must Change,* (Rebecca Hersher and Allison Aubrey, *National Public Radio*, 8 Aug 2019)

*Land Use Policy Key to Reining in Global Warming, U.N. Report Warns.* (Julia Rosen and Anna M. Phillips, *Los Angeles Times*, 8 Aug 2019)

*This Land Is the Only Land There Is: Here are seven ways to understand the IPCC's newest climate warning.*(Robinson Meyer, *CityLab* 9 Aug 2019)

*In-depth Q&A: The IPCC's Special Report on Climate Change and Land,* (Daisy Dunne [www.resilience.org](http://www.resilience.org) 9 Aug 2019)

The IPCC report on land use is of special concern to **SYNERGY** due to its impact on Human Settlement Patterns. Human Settlement Patterns have controlling impact on the Three Spheres of Human Experience – Economic, Social and Environmental. The Science of Human Settlement is concerned with far more than 'just' Climate Change. See *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE* (Risse, 2000) and *TRILOGY* (Risse, 2010). The *Three Week Tsunami* reports reinforce prior perspectives such as *The Planet Can't Survive Our Transportation Habits*. (Laura Bliss, *CityLab*, 9 Oct 2018)

**THERE IS ALSO CRITICAL NEW INFORMATION PUBLISHED DURING THE THREE WEEK TSUNAMI THAT IS UNRELATED TO THE UN / IPCC LAND USE REPORT:**

*New Models Point to More Global Warming than Expected*, Bob Henson, *resilience.org* (13 Aug 19). For the first time in 40 years new climate models for the next IPCC comprehensive “assessment” due in 2021 / 2022 show **FASTER** rates of temperature change than expectations based on prior models.

*Extreme Climate Change Has Arrived in America: Here Are the Fastest Warming Places* (Steven Mufson, Chris Mooney, Juliet Eilperin and John Muyskens, *The Washington Post*, 13 Aug 2019.) Warming places are clustered along the Canadian border including the counties that fall in Glacier National Park. (See Appendix TWO)

In addition to “the usual suspects” – parts of Southern California, Eastern Oregon, the Western deserts, New York City and Philadelphia – there are **OUTLIERS** on the map of the fast warming places such as **Northern New Jersey** and **Southern Rhode Island**. These are all places where the AVERAGE temperature has ALREADY gone up MORE than 2 degrees Celsius. It will be recalled that Two degrees Celsius is the level of planet-wide warming that must not be passed if drastic consequences are to be avoided.

*The Washington Post* paired the above story on two degree plus Hot Spots with a republication of a summary on WATER: *Mapping the strain on our water: Pockets in several U.S. states – and across the globe – are draining their limited water supplies* (Bonnie Berkowitz and Adrian Blanco, *The Washington Post*, 6 & 13 Aug 2019) Humans can live without fresh food for extended periods but Homo sapiens die without fresh water in hours. The hotter, the faster.

**RESOURCES PUBLISHED SINCE THE THREE WEEK TSUNAMI**

Since the middle of August, 2019, the author has noted other critical perspectives on the topic of Climate Change. They do not spell out “solutions” but help clear the underbrush of misguided tangential thoughts. **Perhaps most important is:**

***DANGEROUS NEW HOT ZONES ARE SPREADING AROUND THE WORLD***, (Chris Mooney and John Muyskens, *The Washington Post* 11 Sept 2019). On 11 September, *The Washington Post* followed up the Hot Spot coverage in the United States noted above with a world-wide perspective. The time-lap map showing the growth of Hot Spots from the late 1800s to 2018 is a masterpiece of graphic journalism. The growth of a Hot Spot off the coast of Uruguay that decimated an important clam fishery in 1994 is documented in detail.

Also among the most important new resources is a 38 page followup to *The Washington Post* 'Hot Spot Reports' – ***Over 2 Degrees Celsius*** – covering the United States and the planet noted above. On 3 October 2019 *The Washington Post* published ***2 Degrees Celsius: Beyond The Limit: Radical Warming in Siberia leaves Millions on Unstable Ground*** (Anton Trolanovski and Chris Mooney. Dramatic melting of the permafrost has opened a new industry – searching for mastodon tusks in the melting muck while calling into question the economic livelihoods of 4 million Russians plus the massive release of the super greenhouse gas – Methane.

## **ALSO OF INTEREST ARE:**

***The Amazon Fires are more dangerous than WMD's***, (Franklin Foer, *The Atlantic*, 24 Aug 2019) and related coverage in *The Atlantic* as well as coverage of the Amazon Rainforest fires in other national and international media.

***Are we doing enough to prevent human extinction?*** (Dylan Matthews, *Future Perfect*, *Vox*, 29 Aug 2019)

***The 'Reasonable' Rebels: Conservatives say we've abandoned reason and civility. The Old South used the very same language to defend slavery.*** Eve Fairbanks, *The Washington Post*, 29 Aug 2019)

***Climate Crisis: Greenland's ice faces melting 'death sentence'***, David Shukman, *BBC*, 3 Sep 19)

***Half-Baked and Out of Time***, Helen Camakaris, *New Internationalist* republished by *Resilience.org* 3 Sep 2019.)

***Why a Hipster, Vegan, Green Start-up Service Economy Lifestyle cannot be Sustainable: Dematerialized service economies, industrial veganism and hipsterized eco-aesthetics will only deepen the social and ecological damage wrought by capitalism***, Vijay Kolinjivadi, *Uneven Earth*, 3Sept 19.

***Climate Gentrification: Coming to a Community Near You: It is hard to predict if you are safer over here or over there***, Nathalie Baptiste, *Mother Jones* 5 Sept 2019.

***Climate Change: 'Invest \$1.8 trillion to adapt'*** (Victoria Gill, *BBC News* 9 Sept 2019) Investments in: Warning Systems, Infrastructure, Improving Dry-Land Agriculture (permaculture), Restoring and Protecting Mangroves, Water. Also See ***Big ideas and the harsh deadline of climate change***: Big Ideas about energy and agriculture (permaculture) on the Kansas prairie and the hard deadline of climate change. Allen Best, *mountaintownnews.net* 11 Oct 2019)

***A Globalized Solar-Powered Future is Wholly Unrealistic and our Economy is the Reason Why.*** Alf Hornberg, *The Conversation*, 13 Sept 2019.

***As Society Unravels, the Future is Up for Grabs*** (Jeremy Lent, *Patterns of Meaning* 16 Sept 2019.)

***Choosing Extinction*** (Paul Gilding, *Cockatoo Chronicles* 19 Sept 2019.)

***Growing Pain: The Delusion of Boundless Economic Growth*** (Ian Christie, *resilience.org* 26 Sept 2019) The only sustainable growth is DEGROWTH. Also see *CURRENT PERSPECTIVE # 03 DEGROWTH – Shrinking to Survive Then Prosper* 13 June 2010. [www.hppts.emrisse.com](http://www.hppts.emrisse.com)

***Rich get richer and poor get poorer in this economy***, Chris Tomlinson, *The Houston Chronicle* 27 Sept 2019. Also see *In Search of a Sane Economy*, (Philippe Van Parijs, *Open Democracy* 18 Oct 2019)

**HERE ARE RESOURCES CONCERNING THE SEPTEMBER 23 TO 27 UN “SUMMIT”:**

***Climate Change: Impacts ‘accelerating’ as leaders gather for UN talks***, ( Matt McGrath, *BBC*, 22 Sep 2019.) ***Climate change: Scientists to report on ocean ‘emergency’ caused by warming***, Matt McGrath *BBC* 23 Sep 2019, ***Climate Change: UN panel signals red alert on ‘Blue Planet***, Matt McGrath, *BBC* 25 Sept 2019, ***New U.N. climate report: Monumental change already here for world’s oceans and frozen regions***, Chris Mooney and Brady Dennis, *The Washington Post* 25 Sept 2019.

**THE UN “SUMMIT” DID NOT STEM THE TIDE OF IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS.**

***A successful climate plan must also tackle the housing crisis***, (Daniel Aldana Cohen *The Guardian*, 1 Oct 2019)

***As the climate collapses, we can either stand together – or perish alone***, Tim Hollo *The Guardian*, 3 Oct 2019) Collective action is our only hope for enduring climate breakdown. Calls for survivalism will only hasten catastrophe.)

***Why Degrowth is Essential: A Rejection of Left Economist Phillips, Sharzer, Bastini, and Parenti***, Ted Trainer, *Resilience.org* 17 Oct 2019.

In addition to resources of general interest concerning Climate Change there are indicators of interest in the details of the structure of Functional and Sustainable Human Settlement Patterns. Of utmost most importance is ***Dunbar’s Number and Genuine Community***, Damaris Zehner,

*Integrity of life* 24 Sept 2019. This number has a scientific base and needs to be reexamined and reconsidered in the context of the ***Organic Components of Human Settlement Patterns***. See *CURRENT PERSPECTIVES #37 Organic Components: The Building Blocks of Functional and Sustainable Human Settlement Patterns*. In summary, there are multiple Dunbar's Numbers that match each of the Organic Components of Human settlement patterns.

As a **Capstone** of the resources published since *The Three Week Tsunami* we would submit the 5 Nov 2019 publication in *Bioscience* and summarized in "***More than 11,000 scientists from around the world declare a 'climate emergency: Analysis outlines six major steps that 'must' be taken to address the situation***" Andrew Freedman, *The Washington Post* 5 Nov 2019. The list of six or eight strategies (depending on who is counting) falls far short of a clearly articulated comprehensive agenda but it does touch most of the bases.

Two resources cited earlier are worth a reread at this point to provide overarching context:

***10 Billion Years from Now: A hypothetical peek at the future of the Earth and its intelligent species***, (John Michael Greer, *Adbusters* May / June 2015 republished by *Utne* Fall 2015). Also see ***The Next Ten Billion Years***, Ugo Bardi, *Cassandra's Legacy* Sept 2012. The later perspective starts with a review of the last 10 billion years to provide context for what to expect from two scenarios (one 'good,' one 'bad') over the NEXT 10 billion years. (Spoiler Alert – Greer projects a recycling Universe with "survival" at the molecular level; Bardi projects eventual collapse of the Universe in spite of humans selecting sustainable short-term strategies.)

## **C. THE THREE WEEK TSUNAMI – THE BOTTOM LINE**

Taken together the information in *The Three Week Tsunami* and that which has been published through November 2019 confirms that humans face potential Mass Extinction due to the cumulative impact of their actions and inactions. See again ***Choosing Extinction***, Paul Gilding, *Cockatoo Chronicles*, 9 Sept 2019.

***IN THIS POTENTIAL SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION, HUMAN MASS OVER-CONSUMPTION COLLECTIVELY REPLACES THE VOLCANOS, THE ASTEROIDS – ALL THE AGENTS OF DRAMATIC CHANGE IN THE ATMOSPHERE AND ON THE EARTH'S SURFACE WHICH CAUSED THE PAST MASS EXTINCTIONS.***

**HOMO Sapiens LIVE IN A GREENHOUSE. UNINFORMED, MISINFORMED AND SELF-INTERESTED FORCES NOW CONTROL THE THERMOSTAT AND THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES.**

### III. OVERARCHING CONUNDRUMS

#### NOW THAT THE TSUNAMI HAS PAST THERE ARE THREE OVERARCHING CONUNDRUMS TO CONSIDER

Before moving to strategies that may help Climate Change Deniers and Skeptics see their way clear to join the majority, and help save humanity from itself, there are three overarching conundrums to address:

- A. **The enormity of the tasks ahead in both complexity and scale.**
- B. **The importance of agreement on “Principles,” not just agreement on simple objectives or ‘engineering specifics’ and sketched out “solutions”.**
- C. **The Need To Talk**

#### A. **The enormity of the tasks ahead in both complexity and scale.**

The first Conundrum / Complication is the ENORMITY of the strategies that must be collectively considered and implemented. The author has seen no evidence nor heard any claim of a comprehensive overarching strategy or agglomeration of strategies. Even the most fierce backers of ACTION NOW on the general topic of “Climate Change” apparently do not YET grasp the magnitude of the Profound Transformations that must be addressed in the decades ahead. The **Capstone** noted above from 11,258 scientists from 153 countries declaring a “climate emergency” lists strategies in general terms. The section titled “A few specifics” at the end of this Part below provides examples of the Profound Changes necessary.

There is a problem of attacking ‘solution A’ by an advocate of solution B or supporting a ‘planet saving solution’ as an excuse for not supporting other necessary strategies. For example: *The fusion energy dream is inching toward planet-saving reality.*, Dennis Whyte, *The Washington Post* 8 Nov 2019. It would be nice to have an abundant source of costly but ecologically benign energy but that alone will not solve – or even effectively address – Climate Change given how far Climate Change has progressed to date.

Here is an example of a gratuitous attack: Chris Tomlinson – one of the most broad minded members of the energy media – has attacked a candidate for the nomination to the presidency. “*Sen Elizabeth Warren’s rhetoric should strike terror in the heart of every businessperson*” stated in *Warren’s got 50 plans because central planning always works* (pure sarcasm – Ms. Warren is not advocating ‘central planning’ and Mr. Tomlinson knows it), Chris Tomlinson *The Houston Chronicle*, 23 Oct 2019. If there is to be a solution, part of the answer will come from the likes of Ms. Warren and part of the answer will come from the fossil fuel industry and they, and others had better learn to work together SOON.

Especially complex is the role of the energy production sector – the fossil energy industry. On the one hand they want to be part of the solution by being paid to help remove CO2 from the atmosphere. On the other hand they want to continue to supply energy and petroleum based plastics that are a large part of the problem. ***Oil sector climate initiatives target Texas coast and Gulf of Mexico.*** Jordan Blum, *The Houston Chronicle*, 24 Sept 2019. What better place to set up to pull CO2 out of the air than the REgion where the fossil energy industry is pumping the most CO2 into the atmosphere.

Also see “***Oil and gas companies are Part of the Climate Change Solution***”, Chris Tomlinson, *The Houston Chronicle*, 4 Oct 2019. ***Some big names in energy endorse drastic climate action***, James Osborne, *The Houston Chronicle*, 13 Nov 2019. At the same time the oil and gas industry has a wildly unstable economic base reflecting its wildcat history. ***Ominous sights ahead for crude prices, industry***, Jordan Blum *The Houston Chronicle*, 8 Oct 2019. ***Oil industry cuts back as shale indicators sour***, Erin douglas, *The Houston Chronicle* 25 Oct 2019.

The ***Green New Deal*** is an example of an idea that is a magnet for rabid support and frantic criticism. Consider the following:

***The Green New Deal Battles Business as Usual. Both Will Doom Us***, (Andrew Nikiforuk *The Tyee*, 21 Aug 2019, republished by *resilience.org* 28 Aug 2019)

***False Hopes for a Green New Deal***, Rufus Jordana, *Open Democracy*, republished by *resilience.org* 3 Sep 19)

***Land Without Bread: the Green New Deal Forsakes America’s Countryside***, (Catherine Tumber, *Local Futures*, 16 Sept 2019)

***Six Problems for Green Deals***, (Mark H. Burton, *Steady-State Manchester*, 17 Sept 2019) A UK perspective.

***Green Party Debates Green New Deal***, Don Fitz, *Resilience.org* 17 Oct 2019.

***A Green New Deal for an Ecological Economy***, Leah Temper, *Uneven Earth* 25 Oct 2019.

***Platforms for a Green New Deal***, Bart Hawkins Krebs, *An Outside Chance* 1 Nov 2019

***Trade Governance will Make or Break the Green New Deal***, Shaun Sellars, *Uneven Earth* 14 Nov 2019.

After reading these resources what position should a not-for profit in Europe take with respect to a specific Green New Deal proposal?

**One strategy or nest of strategies will not solve all the drivers of Climate Change in all parts of the world at all scales from Global to DOoryard.**

The Complication of COMPLEXITY refers to both technical complexity and scale of complexity. There are Global, Continental, nation-state concerns. Because of the diversity and complexity of almost every nation-state it will be most efficient to delegate the detailed strategies down to REgions for the reasons noted below in the section on “a few specifics.”

Special new AGencies at all scales must sort out the organic components without jumping to conclusions concerning the relevance of existing “political subdivisions” including “cities.”

**There must be a combination and CONSILIENCE of strategies to reflect new ideas.**

A **Comprehensive Conceptual Framework** provides the key to UnderStanding and thus being able to achieve functional and sustainable human settlement patterns as established by *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE* (Risse, 2000). The **Comprehensive Conceptual Framework** must not be too complex to UnderStand

The “tiny print protocol” with full “urls” implanted to the text with hyphens between every word is a road block to comprehensible reading. Obviously, the current Perspective does not follow that protocol. See *Appendix One* with respect to *Vocabulary, Capitalization and Typographic Style*.

**There is a growing chorus of support and many of these new voices will claim inclusion of their priorities as price of their support.**

More and more citizens see the hand writing on the wall but they do not see the Complications of the complexity in scale or technical details. *Americans increasingly see climate change as a crisis, poll shows*, Brady Dennis, Steven Mufson and Scott Clement, *The Washington Post* 13 Sep 2019) and *Mainstream gets religion on climate*. (Bart Anderson, *Resilience* 16 Sept 2019.) *Evangelicals see the light on Climate Change*, James Osborne, the Houston Chronicle, 1 Oct 2019. *The Rebellion Hypothesis: Crisis, Inaction, and the Question of Civil Disobedience*, Samuel Alexander *Rebellion Hypothesis* 18 Sept 2019.) The last source explores the Euro **Extinction Rebellion**.

## **AN ECOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION**

The **OVERARCHING CONCERN** is not just “Global Warming,” or “Climate Change,” the concern is the prospect of Homo sapiens extinction as explored by both David Wallace-Wells and Bill McKibben in their two books cited in PART II. All humans need to UnderStand the Comprehensive Context of Climate Change.

The need for an OVERARCHING REALITY and for a Comprehensive Conceptual Framework is needed for climate change.

One can come to UnderStand the **Comprehensive Conceptual Framework** via the articulation in *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE* (Risse, 2000), *TRILO-G* (Risse, 2010) and *THE LITTLE BOOK* (Risse, 2020). These books evolve the **Comprehensive Conceptual Framework** to articulate the path to **Functional and Sustainable Human Settlement Patterns**. This Framework is a Unified Field Theory of Human Settlement science.

There are other paths to this critical UnderStanding. The author was recently provided a copy of Dr. David Korten's 4 Sept 2018 perspective *Ecological Civilization and the Future of the City*. This is a splendid summary of the path Homo sapiens must follow and why. The perspective is grounded in the work of Gro Harlem Brundtland and **The World Commission on Environment and Development** that resulted in the landmark UN publication *Our Common Future* (1987). This effort was followed up by the creation of the **Earth Charter Commission** and the drafting of *The Earth Charter*.

**Professor Korten does an excellent job of matching the text of *The Earth Charter* with the current need for universal commitment to an ECOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION and solutions to existential threats including the impact of Climate Change.**

There is one shortcoming in Prof Korten's text: The use of the uncapitalized word 'city' in the title and the text. Dr. Korten's daughter has assured the author that the use of this word was due to the host of the conference at which this perspective was presented (Seoul Special City, South Korea). Ms. Korten states that her father embraces the central role of the BioRegion (aka, New URban REgion) in evolving functional governance structures.

Prof. Korten's perspective elegantly documents that citizens need to solve the threat of Climate Change. That would be done with the very same actions Homo sapiens must use to evolve an Ecological Civilization with Functional and Sustainable Human Settlement Patterns.

***Prof. Korten's concept of an Ecological Civilization could provide a overarching Comprehensive Conceptional Framework especially as it relates to the Commons.***

## **THE POWER OF THE COMMONS**

It will be important to employ the power of the COMMONS at each level of organic component of Human Settlement Pattern – The Community, Village, NEighborhood, and CLuster. (A formal governance structure is not needed at the DOoryard or UNit scales.) Again see *CURRENT PERSPECTIVE #37* as well as *THE LITTLE BOOK* (Risse, 2020).

The Power of the COMMONS has an important history as noted by Prof Korten above. See Gro Harlem Brundtland and **The World Commission on Environment and Development** and in the landmark UN publication *Our Common Future* (1987).

A core text that demonstrates the fallacy of (and obliterates) Garrett Hardin's *The tragedy of the Commons, Science* 1968 and which reinforces the need for Commons is *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*, by Nobel Prize winner Elinor Ostrom (Cambridge University Press, 1990 / 2008)

A recent volume *FREE, FAIR AND ALIVE : The Insurgent Power of the Commons*. (David Bollier & Silke Helfrich, *New Society Publishers*, 2019) is well regarded and comprehensive on the topic of the Commons. See *Reimagining the Commons: Q&A with David Bollier*, Robert Raymond, *Shareable* Nov 25 2019. Also see "*Every Time a Civilization is in Crisis, There is a Return of the Commons*", Michel Bauwens, *OuiShare* 29 Oct 2019.

The author's experience in drafting, implementing and managing an owner-based, Village-Scale Governance Structure with an important role for commonly held land at each of the CLuster, NEighborhood and Village Scales in Burke Centre, VA is outlined in *CURRENT PERSPECTIVE # 37*

## THE SUBJECT OF PRINCIPLES

An additional sphere of Complexity is the subject of Principles.

There is a need to focus on principles and not get hung up in the details of strategies until there is overarching support and UnderStAnding of the Principles related to Climate Change. Citizens of the Global North do not want to foist Nuevo-Colonialism by corporation on the Global South which faces the primary peril..

*THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE* (Risse, 2000), Chapter 17 focuses on the importance of Principles to guide the process of evolving Functional and Sustainable Human Settlement Patterns.

The comprehensive strategy for Climate Change must go beyond any single strategy now on the table. *Corporate Climate Commitments: Who Should Lead Climate Action* : Ryan Gunderson *Resilience.org* 8 Nov 19. The first task is to insure that all parties are at the table.

That means there must be an UnderStAnding of the three STructures and the role of the ORganizations that citizens use of organize society: *ENterprises, AGencies* and *INstitutions* as defined in *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE*. It may be required that the evolution of entire New Entities are created at all scales.

Use of word “principle” is not necessary. Phrases such as “Keystone Altitudes” and “Policies of Enough” could carry the right meaning. *Keystone Attitudes and Policies of Enough*: Anne B. Ryan, *Feasta*, 7 Nov 2019

## THE NEED TO TALK

In the meantime it has emerged that one focus of creating grass roots support for intelligent responses to the current dysfunctional trajectory of Human Mass OverConsumption and Climate Change is to “have a conversation.”

*Most of us are hypocrites on Climate Change, Maybe that’s progress*, (Kate Cohen, *The Washington Post* 25 Aug 2019.

*Here’s what happened when I went door-knocking in Pennsylvania*, Jane Fonda (30 Aug 2019.)

A program titled “**We Need to Talk**” was sponsored by the Post Carbon Institute as a fundraiser. It was staged on 9 October 2019 as advertised in the *PCI Messenger* for Aug 2019. The program featured Karin Kirk (*How to identify People Open to Evidence about Climate Change* 9 Sept 2019 and *Lets Talk* 30 Sept 2019) and Susanne Moser. Both participants have experience in making presentations to groups of Climate Change Believers and Deniers. Their presentation focused on interactions that assume that parties know each other.

Another very important thread is laid out by Andrew Ferguson in *Can Marriage Counseling Save America?*, *The Atlantic* Dec 2019. The premise here is to build on the strategies that have grown out of millions of hours of successful marriage counseling by INstitutions such as **Better Angles**. This strategy also assumes that the participants know one another.

### *Malcolm Gladwell to the rescue?*

Just in time comes the man with an answer to every question. In mid 2019, Malcolm Gladwell released *Talking to Strangers: What we should know about the people we don’t know*. That sounds like an answer to the question left on the table by the “lets talk to our friends and acquaintances approaches.”

Sorry, *Talking to Strangers* is not much help. First according to Gladwell, one learns more by OBSERVING strangers than by meeting and talking to them. Direct personal contact with strangers often results in the falling into what Gladwell and others call the “Default to Truth” (perhaps better termed “Default to The Most Likely Misunderstanding” or perhaps “Default to Believing that the Most Obvious Outcome is the Right One,”

The second major problem with dealing with strangers according to Gladwell is falling into “the Fallacy of Transparency” (aka, the first impression of strangers based on their appearance as if that is the truth,”

In fact there are as many theories about interaction with strangers as there are analysts. For example see *The bias that can cause catastrophe* (The Outcome Bias. David Robson *BBC*, 2 Oct 2019..

## **A FEW SPECIFICS TO ILLUSTRATE THE SCOPE OF “PROFOUND TRANSFORMATIONS”**

With the examination of the three Complications / Conundrums it is almost time to search for ways to help Deniers and Skeptics and but first, a note on a few specifics.

To implement the actions required to evolve Functional and Sustainable Human Settlement Patterns and thus protect humans from the impact of Climate Change and other Settlement Pattern Dysfunctions as well as Mass OverConsumption will require Fundamental Change in the Governance Structure as documented in *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE* (Risse, 2000), *TRILO-G* (Risse, 2010) and *THE LITTLE BOOK* (Risse, 2020).

**It is clear that the municipal / state / nation-state Structure spelled out in the Northwest Ordinance (1784 / 1785) no longer functions to support the wellbeing of the vast majority of U. S. citizens. See *We are in our Articles of Confederation Moment*, Danielle Allen, *The Washington Post*, 25 July 2019)**

A nation state of 320,000,000 has out grown the Framers wildest dreams and has resulted in citizens alienated and feeling remote from their AGencies. It will be imperative to move what are now nation-state powers down to the scale of the New Urban REgions and to evolve democracy-based Governance SStructures for EACH of the organic components of Human Settlement Patterns. See *CURRENT PERSPECTIVE # 37* also see *Dunbar’s Number and Genuine Community*, Damaris Zehner, *Integrity of Life* , 24 Sept 2019.

It is easy to describe in sweeping terms the scope of needed action. (See the 8 elements of the Capstone document signed by the 11,000+ Scientist on 5 November 2019. When it comes to nuts and bolts it is a different matter.

The enormity of the task ahead has been characterized as requiring a world wide mobilization akin to the World War Two mobilization in the United States and Great Britain. Further, that level of effort must last for at least the rest of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This will not be a just an AGENCY, ENterprise and INstitution mobilization but must involve every citizens’ action including diet, housing, mobility and livelihood in addition to their impact

on the natural systems upon which humans rely for survival. *How Then Shall We Live?*, (Laurie Cone, *resilience.org*, 19 Sept 2019.) See again *Choosing Extinction*, Paul Gilding, *Cockatoo Chronicles*, 9 Sept 2019, *Humanity and Nature are Not Separate – We Must See them as One to Fix the Climate Crisis*, (Heather Alberro (SP?), *The Conversation*, 19 Sept 2019), and finally *For the Sake of Life on Earth, We Must Put a Limit on Wealth*, (George Monbiot, *The Guardian* 19 September 2019)

As established by *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE*, (Risse, 2000) the *New Urban Region* is the basic Economic, Social and Environmental Building Block of the Current Urban Structure. “Global” Governance and Nation-State Governance are out dated vehicles that insure citizen inequality, wealth and wellbeing.

Moving nation-state powers to the Regional scale is an umbrella concept. It means, for example that there is no longer a Biggest Dog Government (aka, ‘federal’ government) that has the last word in spite of the rights and interests of the vast majority of citizens. There should be no ‘supreme court’ above the Regional scale. Rather there should be a consensus process that arrives at positions which represent the best interests of the vast majority of citizens – aka, no more *Citizens United*.

That means that the Judicial System as a third branch of General Purpose Governments (at the Cluster, Neighborhood, Village, Community and New Urban Region levels) would stop at the New Urban Region scale. Issues of Governance involving Mega-Regions, Contents and Global questions would be required to follow representative legislative processes that have the support of the majority (or Super-Majority?) of the New Urban Regions involved. The current system of power allows ‘Court Packing,’ the impact of which can last for decades and thwarts the best interest of the vast majority of citizens.

Democracy requires **DIRECT CITIZEN PARTICIPATION** rather than structures that reflect the temporal and spacial realities of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century such as the Electoral College. The ‘solution to the Electoral College by adding 50 seats in the House of Representatives to cure the allocation of Urban vs. Non-Urban representation and to rebalance the Electoral College is a band-aid.

The broad taxing powers cannot be trusted to a governance structure beyond the New Urban Region scale. The Interstate Commerce Clause must be inverted to support **Regional Import Replacement** as a core economic objective of New Urban Regions. The true, full cost of alternative human settlement patterns must be assessed to the beneficiaries including the owners of vacant land that is served by public services. See *Progress and Poverty, An Inquiry into the cause of industrial depressions and of the increase of want with increase of wealth...The Remedy* Henry George, 1879 First Publication, American Edition *Rbt. Schalkenbach Foundation*, 1970. For current application see *How to Tax Monopolies: A 19<sup>th</sup> -century proposal to prevent landlords from gaining excessive wealth could have digital applications* Noah Smith, *Economics*, 21 Oct 2019.

Another illustrative concept is that advertising will NOT be a deductible business expense – a function of a sustainable civilization is to **MINIMIZE** Mass OverConsumption, not encourage and facilitate it – Good by Black Friday. Eventually, the core information function of advertising would be provided by a system of endorsements by CLuster and NEighborhood scale AGencies. This will provide a source of revenue for small AGencies that is backed up by the opinions of citizens with actual experience with a product or service. The role of social media “enfluncers,” suggests this strategy will work with constructive guidance and regulation.

Another example would be that at the REgional scale, the land use control system would be akin to the one drafted by the author and others outlined in *Vol 21, # 2 Syracuse Law Review Winter 1969*. This land use control system was designed to implement the REgional AGency Land Use Powers needed to solve the problems documented in *A Study of Problems in Areas of Transition*, E M Risse *New York State Office of Planning Coordination* 17 June 1969,

These brief notes of the scope of “Profound Transformation” are offered in the spirit of *As Society Unravels, the Future is Up for Grabs* (Jeremy Lent, *Patterns of Meaning* 16 Sept 2019) “Theory of change shows that now is the time for radically new ideas to transform society before it’s too late.”

## **AMONG THE REMAINING QUESTIONS ARE:**

**What is the role of technology and do humans want to amerce themselves in The Fourth Industrial Revolution or should they pursue a path to a Commons-Based Environmental Civilization? *Do We Want to Advance Towards a Fourth Industrial Revolution?* , ( Paz Serra Portilla, *resilience.org*, 13 Sep 2019), and**

**What Sort of Governance Structure do we want to evolve? See again *A Globalized Solar Powered Future is Wholly Unrealistic – and our Economy is the Reason Why*, (Alf Hornberg, *resilience.org* 13 Sep 2019) The title of this Perspective does not do a good job of conveying the breath and depth of the document. The text has the flavor of Harari’s book *Homo Deus* noted above. It addresses the psychological function of money (“all purpose money”) and the incompetence the ‘free market’ / ‘investment’ / ‘Growth’ to reflect, protect and support the interests of a democratic society or the need for a strong role for **THE COMMONS** to balance the interests of Individuals. The Governance Structure must also recognize the importance of DeGrowth to curb Mass OverConsumption. See **CURRENT PERSPECTIVE # 03 DEGROWTH – Shrinking to Survive Then Prosper @ [www.emrisse.com](http://www.emrisse.com)**. Also see **DEGROWTH, Why Degrowth is the only Responsible Way Forward**, Joel Foramitti, *Open Democracy* 23 Sept 2019) and **Defending Degrowth in not Malthusain** , Giorgos Kallis, *Degrowth.de* Nov 2019. This subject is beyond the scope of this **CURRENT PERSPECTIVE** and will be further addressed in future **CURRENT PERSPECTIVES** and in **THE LITTLE BOOK** (Risse, 2020.)**

## IV. TOOLS TO HELP DENIERS AND SKEPTICS UNDERSTAND AND TAKE INFORMED ACTION BASED ON REALITY

### WHO ARE THE DENIERS AND SKEPTICS?

A review of the planned “Euro Media Blitz” provides a window. The Deniers and Skeptics include very few credentialed Climate Scientist, most of the ‘scientists’ are from other fields. Almost all of the “**ACTIVE VOCAL**” Deniers and Skeptics are now, or have been, retained by foundations supported by carbon ENterprises that support Climate Deniers and Climate Skeptics. See *Climate Science Deniers Planning European Misinformation Campaign, Leaked Document Reveal*, Richard Collett White, *DeSmog UK* 16 Sep 2019) and *Losing Earth: A Recent History* (Nathaniel Rich, *Farrar, Straus and Giroux*, 2019).

The author can recall no, at least ‘plausible,’ excuse that Deniers and Skeptics have relied on to support their denial and their skepticism other than the ones addressed in *The Three Week Tsunami* and since that time. These now defunct ideas included sunspots, tree rings, the migration of the Earths axis, etc. If new contradictory evidence emerges, professional Climate Scientists will be the first to know it. That is because they are the ones doing the field work, manning the monitoring stations and carrying out the research that produced *The Three Week Tsunami*.

There is fierce professional pride among Climate Scientists. This will help insure that if something fundamentally inconsistent with the current trajectory outlined by *The Three Week Tsunami* cannot be swept under the rug.

But there is another safeguard. There are ecologists and ecological economists such as Prof. William E. Rees – an early collaborator with his former student Dr. Mathis Wackernagel on the widely embraced “Ecological Footprint impact metric.” Prof. Rees offers “*Don’t Call Me a Pessimist on Climate Change. I am a Realist. Face Facts*.” Rees asks questions concerning “the data on the modern world economy’s deep addiction to fossil fuels. He asks a question about Climate Change Progress then when he is correct that there is none based on the facts, it is hard to say that realism does not support a prospect for no action.

### NEW TOOLS

At this point what many Global Warming Deniers and Skeptics ‘need’ are ‘simple’ tools to clear their heads and initiate action to cut the emission of Greenhouse Gases and to remove Greenhouse gases from the atmosphere before it is too late.

## CURRENT VALID MAPS

For REgions where flooding is a common occurrence, what is needed is for a competent engineering team to draft REgional Maps of the areas OUTSIDE all flood plains based on empirical measures such as “if there is 40 inches of rain in 48 hours in this specific SubREgional and /of REgional watershed.” As will be clear from CURRENT PERSPECTIVE # 42 the basis for mapping contemporary New URban REgions (and their SubREgions) takes into account the delineation of Bio-REgions and Bio-SubREgions..

Some New URban REgions are already adrift from sane, much less realistic, delineation of REgional parameters. *Tropical Storm Imelda Will Likely Be South East Texas’ fifth 500-year Flood in five Years.* (Amal Ahmed, *Texas Observer*, 20 Sept 2019) *Repeat flooding has residents asking: Is Houston worth it?* Maggie Gordon, *The Houston Chronicle*, 20 Sept 2019) The descendants of Deniers and Skeptics and others who are well to do will be able to move to higher ground and thus escape the rising water for decades but they will not be able to escape the heat and its impacts on the environment.

## A CONVERSATION TOOL

During **The Three Week Tsunami** in July and August 2019, the author happened to mention an aspect of that days email avalanche to a neighbor.

From his response it was clear he was not in tune with the reality of **CLIMATE CHANGE**. Our neighbor’s business card states that he is a consultant to “the energy, hydrocarbon processing and EPC industries.” (EPC translates to Engineering, Procurement and Construction industry, aka Design-Build for the fossil energy and – **PETROCHEMICAL** – industries.)

The neighbor acknowledged that he and I were operating on different wave lengths. He suggested “I’ll show you what I read, you can show me what you read.” That seemed like a way forward that had potential for wider application.

The first step in evolving this Deniers and Skeptics Tool might be to circulate an edited version of CP #41 **BEYOND THE TIPPING POINT** with cover notes to INstitutions that might sponsor a one-on-one strategy with a revised CP as the hand out. The next step would be sending members of INstitutions out to engage Deniers or Skeptics with whom they are acquainted and then fine tune the strategy based on the feedback from these conversations to help address strangers.

This would involve editing of this **CURRENT PERSPECTIVE** and considering the points raised in *How should we talk about what’s happening to our planet?* (Dan Zak, *The Washington Post*, 27 Aug 2019) and *Messaging guru offers list of words to use and avoid to build support for climate solutions*, (Erik Curren, *erikcurren.com* 9 Aug 2019)

The implementation would start with one-on-one conversations and hopefully expand in the manner of the ‘epidemics’ profiled in Malcolm Gladwell’s *THE TIPPING POINT* (2000). This would be an alternative to or supplement one-on-one discussions among acquaintances.

Creating this conversation tool would be the first step on the path to a sustainable future as outlined by Professor Korten.. Other steps include the Profound Transformation of Governance (AGency) Structures, the Profound Modification of the Economic (ENterprise) Systems and the Profound Transformation of Societal (INstitutions) Structures.

As spelled out in *THE LITTLE BOOK* (Risse, 2020), the Profound Transformations such as those noted in the section titled **“A Few Specifics to illustrate the Scope of “Profound Transformations”** above will be required to achieve Functional and Sustainable Human Settlement Patterns. As a ‘by product’ the transformations will also bring atmospheric gasses back into Balance. An all-out concerted effort – akin to World War II as noted above – would be required and it would take perhaps as long to accomplish these profound Transformations as the time span since the First Industrial Revolution started causing atmospheric degradation in the mid-to-late 1800s. Those emissions have been followed by the impact of industrial farming, deforestation and transportation, especially Automobile emissions due to dysfunctional Human Settlement Patterns.

## **A QUIZ AS AN ELEMENT OF THE CONVERSATION TOOL**

An element of this Deniers and Skeptics Tool might be a quiz based on a column by Professor R. Dean Decker (*Climate Change is Normal and Global*) published in the 14 July 2019 *Richmond Times Dispatch*. This is exactly the sort of misinformation that Climate Change Deniers and Skeptics jump on with glee: “See we told you so!!!”

Both the title and the text are misleading with the most blatant misunderstanding being presented in the first paragraph.

### **The quiz would ask contestants to identify the Seven Core Assertions of Misinformation in Prof. Decker’s column.**

These SEVEN Misinformations (fake news in sheep’s clothing) are low key and appear to slip right past most readers. However they call into question whether Decker has any idea of what he is talking about.

If contestants cannot identify at least five Misinformations they would be urged to read the resources published over **The Three Week Tsunami** that resulted in the current status being **BEYOND THE TIPPING POINT** as noted above.

## THE PATH AHEAD

The reaction to early drafts of this PERSPECTIVE have been mixed. One long time friend and long time Denier has seen his position erode as the possibility of sun-spots and other false hopes to explain a hoped for short-term Warming cycle evaporated. This person now agrees that the Planet is warming and that human's Mass OverConsumption are responsible. However, this person will not step up and make a positive contribution until all those who are proponents of 'government action' change their personal habits – stop taking long vacation flights, stop eating red meat, help COmmunities evolve long term solutions etc. The logic of that position is as flawed as someone who is very obese saying that they know that being vastly overweight it is BAD for them as an individual but they will not change their diet and exercise until all the other fat people commit to those activities.

## FUTURE STEPS

Future Steps must begin the evolution of STRATEGIES to:

- Drastically lower the production of Greenhouse Gases via a carbon tax, aggressively phasing out carbon based energy and implement a diet transformation for humans [and domestic animals] as suggested by David Wallace-Wells.
- Remove existing CO2 from the atmosphere by carbon capture including abandoning the current practices of industrial agriculture and implementing Permaculture to the maximum extent possible. See *Farming Our Way Out of the Climate Crisis*. (Jonathan Foley, *Medium*, republished by *resilience.org* 28 Aug 2019) and *Regenerative Agriculture is Trending in South Africa*, (David Smedley *Sustainable Food Trust*, 17 Sept 2019)
- Evolve functional and sustainable Human Settlement Patterns. This will drastically reduce energy consumption due to transport systems inability to overcome the cost providing Mobility and Access within dysfunctional Human Settlement Patterns. See again *The Planet Can't Survive Our Transportation Habits*. (Laura Bliss, *CityLab*, 9 Oct 2018)
- A place to start on this path is a fair allocation of the total cost of location decisions and the implementation of Henry George's strategy to tax land based of the public cost of providing urban services and not on the value of the "existing improvements." See *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE* (Risse, 2000), *TRILOGY* (Risse, 2010) and *THE LITTLE BOOK*, (Risse, 2020). With respect to Henry George see *The Mason Gaffney Reader: Essays on Solving the "Unsolvable"* *Henry George Institute* 2013) and earlier references.

These objectives will be the focus of future *CURRENT PERSPECTIVES* and the next draft of *THE LITTLE BOOK*. (Risse, 2020).

Yours for an Environmentally Sustainable Civilization.

E M Risse

[www.emrisse.com](http://www.emrisse.com)

## APPENDIX ONE

### ON VOCABULARY, CAPITALIZATION AND TYPOGRAPHIC STYLE.

In the evolution of a robust and functional Vocabulary and effective Typographic Composition to accurately articulate the complexity of Human Settlement Patterns, SYNERGY / E M Risse applies three Principles:

ONE – EVOLVE A VOCABULARY – WORDS AND PHRASES – AND  
TYPOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION TO PRECISELY ARTICULATE THE ELEMENTS  
AND PARAMETERS OF A **COMPREHENSIVE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**  
for **FUNCTIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT PATTERNS**;

TWO – AVOID THE USE OF **CORE CONFUSING WORDS**;

THREE – **EXPAND THE USE OF CAPITAL LETTERS** TO MORE CLEARLY  
ARTICULATE THE SPECIFIC MEANING OF KEY WORDS AND PHRASES AS  
WELL AS FOCUSED TYPOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION.

*SYNERGY* / E M Risse avoids the use of Core Confusing Words and attempts to evolve words, phrases and letter sequences that are intuitively clear in the context used. The Core Confusing words that are avoided include **UNCAPITALIZED** use of the words “city”, “exurban”, “family”, “local”, “rural”, “sprawl”, “suburban” and “urban”.

Capitals are employed for the key elements of the Human Settlement Pattern Vocabulary. Words that have specific meanings with respect to Human Settlement Patterns are treated like Proper Nouns to avoid confusion. Within the guidelines of conventional grammar, ENterprises, AGencies and INstitutions are free to employ All Caps, Initial Caps and Interior Caps to differentiate and advertise their structure, products and services.

**Why then should those trying to UnderStand and Articulate the complexity of Human Settlement Patterns be required to rely on confusing words and phrases and arcane rules of grammar?**

Due to the fact that Capitalization survives most inter-system translations, Capitalized terms are employed when a specific definition of a word or phrase is intended. ALL CAPS are used for emphasis. This is because *italics*, underlining, **bold**, **color** and **highlighting** are often lost in software translations – e.g. the software used by different email providers.

Many words, phrases and letter sequences used in SYNERGY / E M Risse communications, **CURRENT PERSPECTIVES (CPs)** and **BOOKS** that APPEAR to exhibit ‘irregular capitalization’ are defined in the GLOSSARY linked from the *RESOURCES* page at <https://www.emrisse.com>. The evolution continues and some use of Capitalized words have not yet been added to SYNERGY’s on-line GLOSSARY. Many of the words used by SYNERGY are defined in *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE*, APPENDIX ONE – LEXICON, however, these definitions were current when that book was last revised in the mid 2000s.

In addition to consulting the GLOSSARY, one can **Google** ‘e m risse’ followed by the word, phrase or letter sequences in question – for example ‘e m risse J / H / S / R / A’ – and find a definition and / or find the word, phrase or letter sequence used in context.

Links are not provided for referenced resources which are not in the control of SYNERGY. References to resources not authored by E M Risse can be located via an Internet search.

An expanded Capitalization strategy has been employed since the publication of *CP # 33* (June 2014). In the past, a second capital has been used **WITHIN** compound words with specific meanings (e.g. OpenSpace, SubRegional, etc.) to focus attention on the need to UnderStand the exact meaning of these terms.

As noted in APPENDIX TWO of *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE*, there are some important words for which there is no good substitute in English. In the past the words Unit, Cluster, Neighborhood, Village, Community and Region (including New URban REgions) have been capitalized.

In *CURRENT PERSPECTIVE # 33* and subsequent publications, a double capital is used to start the title of each organic component of human settlement pattern – e.g. UNit, CLuster, NEighborhood, VillAge, COmmunity, REgion. Also additional words will be given Interior Capitals (e.g. HouseHold and SubREgion) as the need arises.

In terms of Typographic Composition paragraphs are short and indented and **bold** text is used to highlight important perspectives. In addition, the titles of referenced books, reports and papers are treated as text. This is done on the assumption that the author can best paraphrase the content

and context of the subject matter. This strategy avoids the insertion of long number and symbol sequences in references that distract the reader.

If you do **NOT** find the avoidance of Core Confusing Words, expanded Capitalization to indicate the application of a precisely defined Vocabulary or Typographic Composition useful to articulate a **Comprehensive Conceptual Framework** for Human Settlement Patterns, you are

welcome to create your own strategies to achieve UnderStAnding in the context of Awareness => Interest => UnderStAnding => Informed Action with respect to Human Settlement Patterns.

However: Do not be deluded and think that you will achieve UnderStAnding much less Informed Action using an inadequate Vocabulary which triggers Unfounded and Conflicting Neural Linguistic Frameworks. The use of confusing words and phrases reflect Disorienting Naive

Reality founded on Primitive Genetic Proclivities. See *CURRENT PERSPECTIVE # 24 Live By / Die By* linked from the *CURRENT PERSPECTIVES* page at [www.emrisse.com](http://www.emrisse.com).

NB: Evolving a functional Vocabulary is an ongoing process and feed back is welcomed. Please DO NOT provide blanket negative feedback UNLESS you also provide alternative strategies to evolve functional Vocabulary and Composition. The continued use of Core Confusing Words and limited Capitalization of words – especially for the organic components of human settlement – is NOT an acceptable response. Also see *Millennials Destroyed the Rules of Written English and Created Something Better: The Spelling and Grammar Rules Do Not Apply on The Millennial Internet*, Rachel Thompson, *Mashable* (2 Apr 2018).

This NOTE updates both **APPENDIX ONE – LEXICON** and **APPENDIX TWO – CORE CONFUSING WORDS** of *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE* (2000, Risse)

## **APPENDIX TWO**

### **MELTING GLACIERS**

The author grew up in and around Glacier Nation Park, Montana. The Northern Rocky's were, and are, a great place to learn about Homo sapiens relationship to the natural world. In the early 50s (when I was 14) my second paying job was as a COmmunity reporter for a Pulitzer Prize winning weekly newspaper. Mel Ruder, the founder, editor and publisher of *The Hungry Horse News*, was a constant source of great photographs and relevant news impacting the citizens of the Upper Flathead Valley and the environs of Glacier National Park.

Mel took special interest in the yearly surveys of the Park's largest glacier – Sperry Glacier. The 'news' was that this glacier was shrinking along with the other glaciers in the National Park. These glaciers last grew during the Little Ice Age's visit to the Pacific Basin in the 15<sup>th</sup> century

but had been quite stable for 400 years – until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

It was not just the US Geological Survey staff geologist that Understood the importance of the glaciers trajectory. At the age of 16 I hiked 145 miles by myself on a wilderness journey that included a side trip to see Boulder Glacier. Boulder Glacier had been a major visitor attraction in the 1920s and 1930's because it was accessible by tourists on horseback. The Boulder Glacier part of my coming-of-age adventure was inspired by Don Robinson, the Park's Asst. Chief Naturalist: "Go see Boulder Glacier before it is gone." There was not much left of the glacier when I got there.

In 1997, Al Gore was too late. He could only publish a picture of where Boulder Glacier once existed (pages 46 and 47 of *AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About it*, Al Gore, 2006). Gore visited Sperry Glacier to see a shrinking glacier. It is now projected that all of the Parks glaciers will be gone by 2030.

During one of the five summers that the author worked for the National Park Service he spent the season at Sperry Chalet maintaining the trails in the Sperry Glacier environs. Since then, on our occasional visits to the Park I observed the Glaciers – including Sperry and Grinnell – shrinking and the snow fields melting earlier and earlier. In August, the mountains look like those in Arizona, not the snow capped ones I recall seeing in Northern Montana. As a mountain climbing photographer I have dated proof of this pattern.

In the 50s it was not clear why the glaciers were melting. When the topic of The Ozone Hole, The Greenhouse Effect and the data on Climate Change began to be 'news' in the 70's and 80's, I knew exactly what they were talking about.

## **APPENDIX THREE**

### **Those Who Remain Skeptical**

An objective of CURRENT PERSPECTIVE # 41 is to outline a process to bring together the vast majority of citizens in a common effort via one-on-one interactions. Some who are now Deniers and Skeptics will not be willing to become active in sustainability efforts. On the other hand, if

they do not BELIEVE in their Denial and Skepticism they may not be willing to actively attack those efforts.

After reading the Dean Decker column and not spotting the misleading parts, if contestants are still uncomfortable with the reality of Climate Change due to human actions then they have at least two choices:

**ONE:** Admit they are at the bottom of the swale in the graph of the Dunning-Kruger Effect used by psychologists to depict the timing of the acquisition of actual knowledge vs. the lack of actual

knowledge with which humans are born.

They will need to pull out their Amazon Card to acquire and read the cited Three Week Tsunami resources as well as the last three of the six books noted above.

**TWO:** Sign up for the next national conference of the Flat Earth Society and order their tin hat. The hard core Climate Change Deniers and Skeptics will not be alone. Those who do not want to join the effort to support the Common Good will have plenty of company.

Although the exact percentage of the current population of the United States that believes "The Earth is Flat" is not known with precision we do know that the percentage that do not believe that "the Earth revolves around the Sun" stands at 29 percent.

On the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 flight there are also many who still believe the "Moon Landing" was staged in the Nevada desert.

In her book *Timefulness: How thinking Like a Geologist Can Help Save the world*, ( Marcia Bjornerud, *Princeton University Press*, 2018) distinguished between those who think the Earth is 'young' based on religious documents vs those who understand geologic time.

Then there are the 48 percent that do not believe Homo sapiens share a common ancestor with a non-human animal.