Global Climate Change Action Plans
and
Indigenous Governments

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Indigenous Climate Action Plans

- Need global climate action plans and resources
- Results within 10 years, action within 18 months
- Must change everything, including political leadership and a global economy incompatible with climate adaptation
- Climate adaptation led by indigenous governments
For states that did not/do not contribute to climate change

- Opportunity —
  - Claim status as climate creditors
  - Design adaptation plans that protect vulnerable communities
  - Indigenous governments reclaim JURISDICTION / GOVERNANCE / ECONOMY
The prospect is our grandchildren constantly fleeing and recovering from drought, flood, fire, famine and inequality.
T&H [Regional Tribe] & IRA Tribes in southeast Alaska

- Sitka Tribe of Alaska
- Klawock Cooperative Association
- Craig Tribal Association
- Yakutat Tlingit Tribe
- Petersburg Indian Association
- Organized Village of Kasaan
- Central Council Tlingit and Haida
- Hydaburg Cooperative Association
- Organized Village of Kake
- Douglas Indian Association
- Ketchikan Indian Association
- Hoonah Indian Association
- Wrangell Cooperative Association
- Chilkoot Indian Association
- Skagway Traditional Council
- Chilkat Indian Village
Climate change impacts incompatible with a peaceful, stable society

• 4 degrees C - 2 to 3 meter ocean level rise; 6 degrees C – 3 to 5 meter ocean level rise
• Diminishment of drinking water
• Heat events would become normal and unremarkable
• Crop failures
• Intense storms
• Wildfire
• No accounting for non-linear tipping points (ocean saturation for methane capture, methane release from thawed tundra, ice free arctic, Antarctic ice shelf release)
Example:
United Kingdom Report:
Progress in Preparing for Climate Change – 2019 Report to Parliament – Committee on Climate Change – July 2019

A summary applicable to all states
- States failed to implement plans
- Climate change is accelerating
- State plans do no address all risks
- Priority for action plans eroded
- States not prepared for 2C rise
- State resources are not allocated
- Improved responses needed from public and private sectors
What is wrong with them?

POLITICAL IDEOLOGY
• Liberty vs. Freedom

HUMANS AND NATURE
• Humankind dominates nature

RELIGIOUS IDEOLOGY
• Only God can destroy humankind

IDEOLOGY of DEREGULATED CAPITALISM
• Privatization of public infrastructure
• Deregulation of corporate sector
• Lower corporate taxation paid by cuts in public spending

TRADE TRUMPS CLIMATE CHANGE
• Foreign investment privileged over domestic production
• Atmosphere, waters and land treated as free waste dump without cost allocation
• Income inequality
• Low wages follows pollution
Indigenous Leadership

• States must defuse carbon cycle
• Even at Net Zero, temps will still rise and ocean levels rise, but within consensual norms
• Deregulated, extractive capitalism must radically change.
• Society has no choice as moderation, half-measures and delay is ineffective.
• Must apply indigenous leadership and knowledge.
Climate Adaptation or Else

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

• Radical changes to social norms must be achieved if science and governance solutions can be accepted.
• Indigenous peoples’ knowledge must be shared.

ALTERNATIVES TO EFFECTIVE ADAPTATION

• Technological climate change adaptation measures will be reserved for wealthy communities and withheld from poor and indigenous communities.
• Industries will develop to profit from climate impacts as disaster capitalism.
• Public infrastructure will continue to crumble.
The Great Transition
T&H Solutions

CLIMATE ACTION ROADMAP

• Design and implement tribal climate action plans for ADAPTATION and RESILIENCE
• Assert jurisdiction – beginning with SE Alaska conservation district
• Recapture utilities (e.g., energy grids and broadband) to the public common infrastructure
• Decouple impacts from economic activity to assess impact costs and allocate in life cycle from manufacture to consumption
Tribal Climate Adaptation Guidebook


- A holistic approach to adaptation planning called *community-driven climate resilience planning*

- Community-driven climate resilience planning

- The process by which residents of vulnerable and impacted communities define for themselves the complex climate challenges they face, and the climate solutions most relevant to their unique assets and threats.”
Climate Change Adaptation Plan
Goals for Closed Loop Villages

- 100% renewable energy (hydro, wind, solar, geothermal, waste to fuel, tidal) and storage - replace carbon fuels of diesel, gas, propane
- Inter-ties to hydro fueled transmission grid
- Feed-in tariff promoting net metering programs
- 100% electric vehicles
- Food security through waste to fuel byproducts
- Remediate (backhaul)/prohibit all materials with toxic release inventory (TRI) chemicals and persistent bioaccumulative toxic chemicals
- Promote local manufacture through distributed production
- Emphasize/enable/promote low intensity activities like home food gardens
- Recapture fisheries, minerals, cultural resources shared as the public common resource
Obstacles

- Obstacles are social and political, not technological
- Invest in the bones of our society
- Need federal and state funds
- Need tax authority and restoration of tribal tax base
- Need international funds - seek status as party to Paris Accord
- Need cradle to cradle material/product compliance/accountability
- Need life cycle cost accounting for products with fees assessed to manufacturer/seller/purchaser
- The “Polluter Pays” – strict liability
- Carbon tax
- Higher royalty/severance tax
- Cap and dividend
- Fairness - burden on wealthiest and largest consumers, not on middle class and poor - corporations windfall profits go to executive pay and share buybacks when carbon costs are not imposed
Critical Questions

- What overarching strategies, sustainability initiatives, and no-regrets actions should indigenous governments adopt to respond to climate change impacts, to the expected energy transition, and to develop their own strategic climate action plans?
- Effective models are needed to achieve global climate action goals.
Strategic Response

• Develop an overarching strategy for adaptation and resiliency in responding to global climate impacts.

• Prioritize no-regrets measures to reduce GHG emissions within indigenous governments’ jurisdiction, including ensuring private company compliance to operations and disclosure requirements.

• A long-term sustainability plan, including emissions targets.
Localized energy transitions - Immediate impact on GhG emitting operations and value chain segments

- Rapid penetration of electric vehicles (EVs) to replace traditional internal combustion engines
- Diesel fuel replacement as primary energy
- Regulate Scope 1 & 2 (direct) and 3 (indirect) hydrocarbon materials, including plastics and single use containers
- Support closed loop energy byproducts utilization
Expand into new energy & support the energy transition to nonhydrocarbon energy assets through new opportunities:

- **The power value chain**, including the production and distribution of large-scale and decentralized renewable energy plus storage
- **Advanced mobility and new fuels**, such as biofuels, hydrogen for fuel cells, and EV charging stations
- **Energy efficiency equipment, software, and business models**, such as the development of service companies that use digital tools to measure and improve the energy intensity of plant operations inside and outside the industry
- **Carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS)** technologies that capture carbon dioxide from power plants or industrial sites for use or permanent disposal
- **The circular economy**, waste-to-energy production, costs for persistent materials sufficient for backhaul or biodegrading, and prohibition of toxic release inventory chemicals and persistent bioaccumulative toxic chemicals.
Creating an Indigenous Government Climate Action Model

• Apply traditional knowledge while developing STEM skills among the young.
• Protect the closed loop environment
• Protect the transboundary habitat through jurisdiction and participation
• Data reporting systems that monitor performance in achieving climate action goals
• Governance and business processes that facilitate decision making in the face of greater uncertainty by incorporating scenario-based, dynamic analysis to forecast, manage risks, and enable the development of creative strategic choices
• Capabilities to manage businesses according to traditional values, and to bring broadband infrastructure to our communities and greater STEM skills to our citizens
• Management approaches for integrating new technologies and ventures that assesses emissions and toxins in a closed loop environment and enables businesses to develop and grow beyond community boundaries
T&H
Transboundary Mining Goals

• All cruise ships can dump treated wastewater 3 miles offshore.
• Some areas, known as donut holes (blue lines on map) are located 3 miles from ALL shorelines, but are still relatively close to communities.
• Most cruise ships are permitted by Alaska’s Department of Environmental Conservation
• (DEC) to dump treated wastewater while moving at 6 knots or faster, anywhere, anytime in Alaska.
• Some cruise ships are permitted to dump while docked at port.
Transboundary Mining Impacts

- Impacts of hard rock mining activities on southeast Alaska watersheds
- The 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty Article IV states, “...boundary waters and waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted to the injury of health or property of the other”.
- Great concern about long-term impacts of pollution in the transboundary watersheds caused by leaching of upstream mines and tailings ponds filled with waste materials from existing and expanding mines.
- Pollutants will have long-lasting impacts on water quality, fish, other aquatics species, wildlife and human health in southeast Alaska communities.
- These impacts could become permanent with significant pollutants from the exposed waste rock that include selenium, mercury, nitrates (nitrate-N), sulfates, and cadmium
T&H
Transboundary Mining Goals

• Participate directly in relations with the State of Alaska and US Federal Government in discussions with the Dominion of Canada / Province of British Columbia and Yukon Territory.

• Support the authorization, FUNDING and implementation, through tribal participation, of a long-term environmental study of the transboundary effects of mining activities in the Yakutat Bay to Portland Canal ecosystems, watersheds, aquifers and basins.

• Support transboundary mining regulations and polluter pays / strict liability / state responsibility principles in domestic and international law, and in accordance with the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 Article IV.

• Collaborate with the International Joint Commission.
T&H Transboundary Recommendations

- A group of legal and technical experts review the issues in the context of the BWT mandate
- Collaborate with IJC to develop content for science and effective measures
- Indigenous governments, US and Canada negotiate measures and mechanisms that address liability, redress and prevention in the context of transboundary damage caused by extractive mining activities
- Indigenous governments conduct environmental science
- Apply Indigenous Knowledge