

THE FLETCHER FORUM of WORLD AFFAIRS

THE FLETCHER SCHOOL, TUFTS UNIVERSITY

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Picturing a Green Planet

EDITOR'S NOTE

The last time *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs* centered an issue on climate change was in 2015, just after the signing of the Paris Agreement. Much has changed over the last eight years: warming projections have decreased from 4 degrees to 2.7 degrees Celsius; climate denialism has been replaced by trepidation; and electric vehicle sales have grown more than 800 percent. In many ways, however, the situation remains the same. Climate change is still a crisis, and the world has yet to meet the moment.

Scientists now agree on the deadline to do so: emissions must halve by 2030. We have eight years to undertake an equitable green transformation by radically transforming our economy, and with it, our values as an international community. But what will such a world look like? *The Forum* has brought together sixteen practitioners and academics from around the world to begin to answer that question and help us imagine an attainable future.

When it comes to reducing emissions, **DEBBIE GORDON** makes the argument for focusing on methane in mitigation efforts. **DANIEL REIFSNYDER**, who contributed to our last edition on climate change, brings the Paris Agreement home by walking through what household-level emissions reductions can look like. **TOBY PETERS** and **LEYLA SAYIN** discuss ways to sustainably expand the global cold-chain to improve health outcomes without driving up emissions.

Taking a bird's-eye view of sustainable economic development, **ALVIN CAMBA** and **TIANYUE STEVEN GU** make the case for investing in technologies to decarbonize large-scale infrastructure initiatives, pulling back the veil on the carbon-intensive industries of cement and steel. **SALIEM FAKIR** presents a vision for an extended just transition, building on South Africa's Just Energy Transition Partnership to help fund the move away from fossil fuels. **BRETT MATTHEWS** focuses the spotlight on financial inclusion as an essential tool for building resilience to climate change among oral communities.

In the diplomatic arena, **EKATERINA BLIZNETSKAYA** walks us through the flaws and opportunities inherent to Russia's 2021 Low-Carbon Development Strategy. **MIHAELA PAPA** argues that we need to develop a climate peace-building agenda to tackle the existential threats posed by climate change and nuclear war.

Moving to the “how” of the next decade of climate transformation, **CHRIS DECARDY** provides concrete suggestions of how philanthropy can build on its successes and learn from its blindspots to accelerate climate action. **DANIEL MAGRAW** and **MIRIAM SIEMES** explore the legal implications of the right to a healthy environment. **ANANDANA KAPUR** and **DINESH KAPUR** call for a cultural reset in addressing climate change that emphasizes healthy dialogue and investment in “green skills.” **SUMANT NARIAN** argues that social nudging is the best approach for increasing the adoption of green homes in India and beyond.

Looking to the future, we are excited to include an interview with **KIM STANLEY ROBINSON** on his book *The Ministry for the Future*, and his predictions for the landscape of the future. **FATIMA AHMAD** provides a comprehensive overview of what implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act could look like in the United States.

Finally, we turn to Central Asia with an interview with Ambassador **TATIANA GFOELLER**, who speaks about her time as U.S. Ambassador to Kazakhstan.

It is our hope that this edition of *The Forum* builds upon the climate change conversations happening within The Fletcher School to enrich policy discussions globally. We intend to provide hope that is rooted in real solutions to the climate crisis—solutions that will allow us to achieve greater global equity rather than reinforce the unsustainable status quo. We are grateful to each author who took the time to contribute their thoughts, as well as to the entire team of *Forum* editors who bring enthusiasm and care to every word. I would like to extend a special thanks to our Managing Print Editor, Anna Braverman, who was the engine behind this edition even as she managed a full-time job this fall.

We look forward to engaging with you, our readers, on these articles, as well as the content we publish on our website (fletcherforum.org) and podcast. Consider this edition an invitation to join us in imagining a socially and environmentally sustainable world; will you answer the call?

LILY HARTZELL
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