

Stable Planet Alliance

How We Can Align To Create A Viable Society

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Stable Planet Alliance

Stable Planet Alliance is committed, with others, to inspiring thoughtful public engagement in doing everything required, in a kindly way, to pull out of our ecological nosedive. We champion the North Star of *creating a compassionate, just and ecologically sustainable world*.

In this article we will take you through how we might work together to accomplish this. We start with the big picture.

Humanity's existential crisis

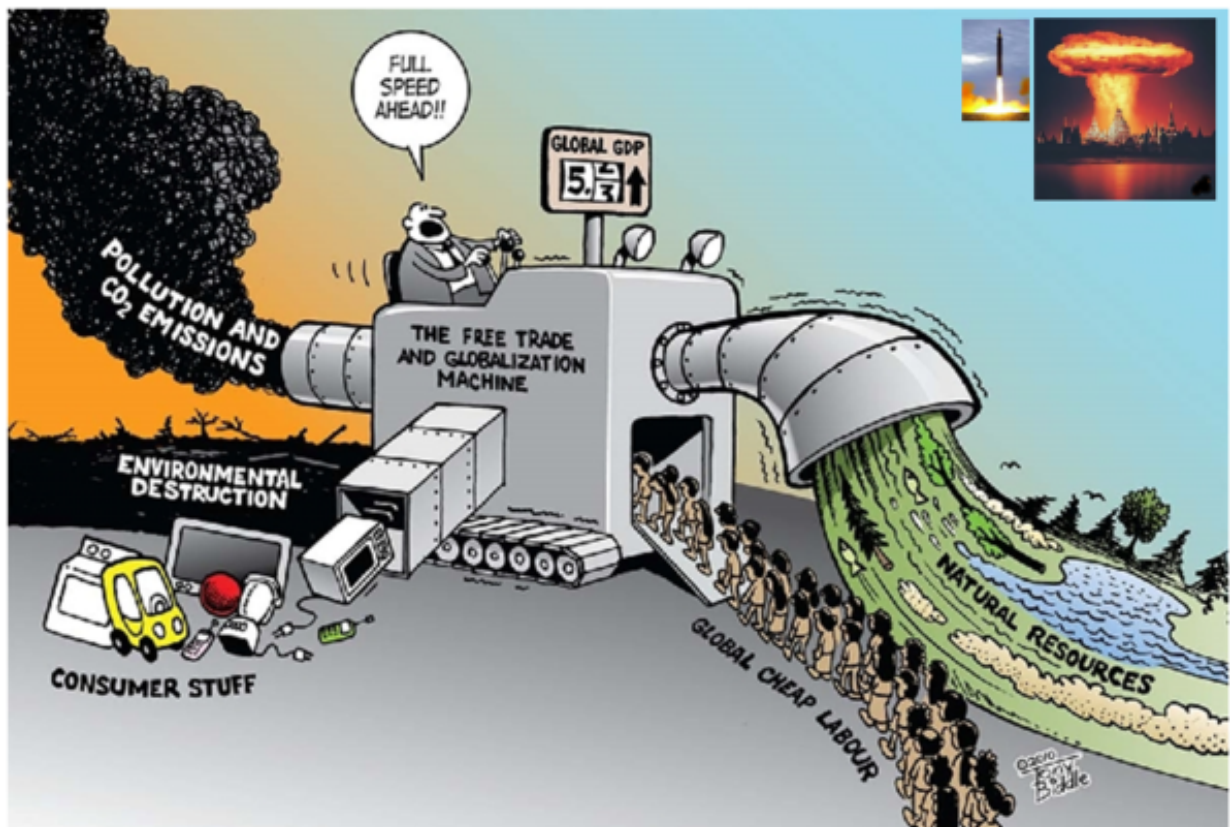
This cartoon by David Parkins captures our current existential crisis.



'Climate change' is a stand-in for a whole suite of disastrous ecological trends. Globally, humanity is in severe ecological overshoot. We have a large population which is using more resources each year than Earth can continue to provide. Metaphorically, the well will run dry, and in places like the Ogallala Aquifer in the American Midwest, it already is.

Our proper goal is to mobilize public will to vastly reduce resource use. This means vastly reducing industrial production... which (uh oh!) means intentionally slowing the economy. No one wants to slow the economy, but our future well-being depends on it.

This cartoon by Tony Biddle captures the economic-industrial system we need to transform.



I added the nuclear images. Logically, continued militarized geopolitical competition, with nations increasing their 'defense' spending on ever more deadly offensive weapons – including unstoppable hypersonic nuclear missiles, will likely result in global nuclear annihilation followed by a nuclear winter.

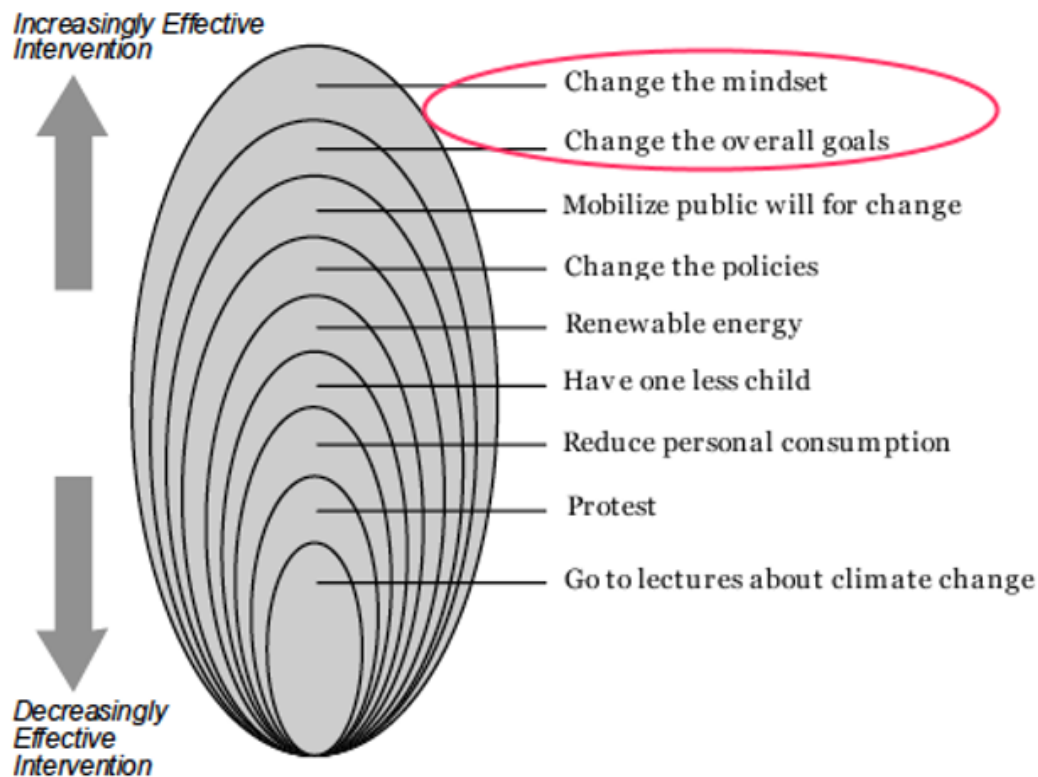
With such a complex system it can help to have a positive goal to orient our actions. A useful goal is to create a compassionate, just and ecologically sustainable world.

This goal encompasses the aspirations and practical actions of much of the environmental-progressive-spiritual movement.

Transforming this system over time requires transforming the thinking that drives it.

Systems thinker Donella Meadows wrote a famous essay: *Leverage Points: Places to Intervene in a System*. She suggested that most influential leverage points in any human system are the paradigms – or ways of thinking, worldviews – that organize the system, and the goals of the system.

This graphic is an adaptation of her idea.



How might we affect people's thinking?

We have created a new role for social activists: Evolutionary Catalyst.

At a personal level, Evolution Catalysts talk with people they know – and influential decision-makers – about our existential emergency and the system that drives it. The aim, provided we can take it to scale, is to prepare people mentally and emotionally to support leadership, or be leaders, for deep and large-scale transformative change... including slowing the economy.

Our idea for taking this to scale is to mobilize the members of established groups – there are millions – to act as Evolutionary Catalysts.

So another role for Evolutionary Catalysts, if they have (or develop) the communication skills, is to reach out to leaders of established groups and to influencers to engage them in this vision.

We have two tools for personal conversations.

- [Escalating Disasters](#)

This tool enables people to appreciate why we need to change our destructive system. It brings home to people the reality of current trends towards a hothouse Earth, the collapse of our ecological life support systems, and potentially nuclear annihilation.

- [Kitchen Table Conversations](#)

This tool enables people connect-the-dots on the systemic drivers of fossil fuel emissions and ecological damage. It enables people to be clear about what needs to change.

These communication tools use graphics to guide the conversation. They cover the important points in a relatively simple way. No PhD required! People can use them with little or no training.

We also have a slide deck that Evolution Catalysts can use to introduce. to leaders of groups, the idea of aligning to shift the zeitgeist.

- [Stable Planet Alliance outreach conversation slide deck](#)

Partnership-respect relating

There are two wings of a viable society. Ecological sustainability is one of them. Many civilizations have collapsed because they destroyed their land. Some indigenous cultures endured because they took care of the land.

The other wing is what systems thinker Riane Eisler calls *partnership-respect relating*. *Partnership-respect relating* stands in contrast to *domination-control relating* which is about power over others. Think of war, empires, patriarchy, economic exploitation and bullying.

Partnership-respect relating is about using one's influence to support people and promote their well-being.

Partnership-respect



Birth without violence

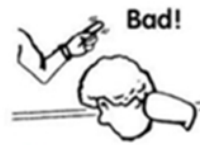


Aikido uses circular movements that enable advanced practioners to take care of their attackers

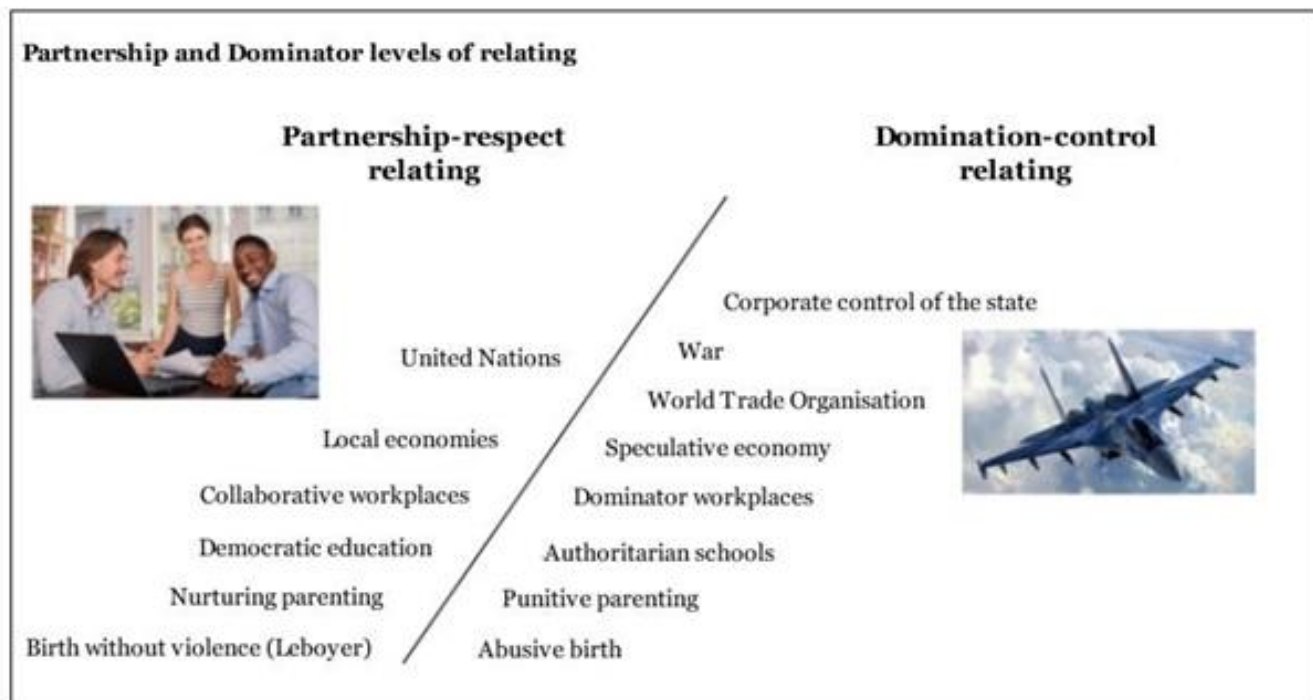


*Government
of the people,
by the people,
and for the people.
Lincoln*

Domination-control



This contrast applies at every level as a fractal from child-rearing to global governance.



There is a quote from the Bible about 'turning swords into plowshares'. Given the advent of nuclear weapons, this is not an idealistic dream; it is a necessity of our time. I suggest that if we are to avoid nuclear annihilation, we do well to embed partnership-respect relating as the 'way things are done around here' throughout our society. We have well developed ways to act on this.

John F. Kennedy summed it up:



Preventing and resolving trauma

A psychoanalyst commented, "The roots of war lie in child abuse." Robin Grille's *Parenting for a Peaceful World* explains the psychology of abuse, and describes how underlying rage from the hurt of unresolved trauma can play out as domestic violence

or the dynamics of war.

Buddhists have long asserted that our true nature is compassion. More recently, Internal Family Systems therapists have demonstrated this empirically. As people resolve trauma, their innate care and compassion emerges. This matches my own personal experience.

Unresolved trauma obscures our true nature. As Bessel van der Kolk shows in *The Body Keeps the Score*, we now have highly effective experiential techniques for resolving trauma. My book *Inner Work* is a manual of techniques people can use to resolve their own emotional triggers.

- [Andrew Gaines Inner Work](#)

The techniques in *Inner Work* can be introduced to people they know by Evolutionary Catalysts. In doing so, they are acting not as a professional psychotherapists, but as trainers.

Among many effective techniques, the techniques in *Inner Work* were selected because they are easy to teach, and people can use them on their own.

For millennia in the West parenting has been abusive. However – good news! – in many quarters parenting has been getting better. There are many parents who raise their children with care/respect, and support them in developing in their own unique way.

A proper goal, in alignment with a compassionate world, is to have parenting revered as a key process that has benefits to society. In other words, we raise happy kids who grow up to be emotionally balanced people who contribute to society.

There are programs that encourage parents to bring out more of their nurturing side rather than their punitive side, thus reducing the amount of childhood trauma.

Some Evolutionary Catalysts may encourage insurance companies, government health agencies and local governments to invest in parenting programs. This would be economically beneficial (fewer health problems later and reduced crime rates). Importantly, this would be a direct contribution to evolving a compassionate, just and ecologically sustainable world.

Putting this all together

Our globalized civilization is far down the track of ecological self-destruction on an almost unimaginable scale (which is why communicating Escalating Disasters is important). And to be blunt, the logical conclusion of the current escalating arms competition is nuclear annihilation.

Changing course requires profoundly improving people's mental and emotional

functioning. Collectively we must become the kind of people who can create and enjoy a life-affirming culture.

On a personal level, this means being willing to live frugally within Earth's capacity to support us. It also means raising happy kids, and organizing our institutions so that we operate within planetary boundaries.

At the level of government we need leaders who embody partnership-respect values, and who are ecologically literate. Internationally, this means electing leaders who are committed to diplomacy, not war.

A prerequisite for any of this to happen is improving people's mental and emotional maturity. It's time for us to evolve beyond adolescence as a species.

There is an old fable. The mice held an emergency counsel to deal with the cat. A clever idea was put forward: What if we put a bell on the cat? The question arose: who will do it?

Who will bell the cat? Where might we find communicators? Our thought is to inspire the members of established groups – and millions of people who are not part of organized groups – to act as Evolutionary Catalysts. Each of us is part of 'the general public', and each of us has our own social networks. By talking with friends, neighbors and business colleagues, engaging our social networks, we can go beyond our usual thought bubbles.

Stable Planet Alliance provides purpose-built communication tools to enable effective conversations about transformative social change. At an outer level, *Escalating Disasters* and *Kitchen Table Conversations* enable people to grasp what must change if we are to leave decent opportunities for coming generations.

The purpose of inspiring millions of these conversations (that's what it will take; think big!) is to prepare the ground for ecologically responsible leaders to be well received when they put forward policies consistent with reducing industrial production and preserving our ecological life support systems.

It is said that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. It turns out that you can, our brains are designed to learn and adapt throughout our lives. But this is not necessarily easy, and there is far more to it than merely giving people 'messages'.

Adult's paradigms – our habitual ways of thinking, perception, and doing things – are deeply wired into our nervous systems.

They have been developed over years through the long process of growing up in a family, going to school, being immersed in the culture, picking up ideas and perceptions from the media and our friends, and by pursuing our own interests... with whole processes profoundly influenced by our temperaments.

Because this 'wiring' is so deeply ingrained, I have made an aphorism: Messages bounce off unprepared minds. Generally people only receive messages they are already open to. Otherwise messages are typically ignored or rejected.

The idea behind Evolutionary Catalysts is to create situations where people can be gently introduced to new ideas, and perhaps reconsider their views. Rather than delivering messages, we want to create a context where people think for themselves in the context of a friendly back-and-forth conversation. On an individual level, perhaps the most straightforward way to do this is to arrange time to have coffee. And, these ideas can be presented in a relaxed organizational gathering.

Evolutionary Catalyst Training

We have a course to equip people to be Evolutionary Catalysts. We are piloting the course *Catalyzing Healthy Cultural Transformation* in the fall of 2025. Please email info@StablePlanetAlliance.org if you are interested in joining us.

By participating in this course you'll have the opportunity with others to explore your own beliefs and attitudes, and discover ways to come more into your own power.

The Evolutionary Catalyst Launch

There can be strong taboos against talking about doomsday topics. People do not want to offend their friends or feel like pariahs.

I imagine that there are even stronger taboos about slowing the economy. Our collective consciousness is paralyzed.

To break the paralysis, Stable Planet Alliance and others are planning an Evolutionary Catalyst Launch. It will run over a two-week period in early 2028. During the Launch we will host a multitude of workshops, trainings, think tanks, business roundtables, posters, advertisements, grassroots social media posts, lectures and more.

Simultaneously, thought leaders and public intellectuals will publish articles and broadcast podcasts urging their audiences to become leaders and communicators in their own right. Filmmakers and artists will release new films and artwork.

This communication blitz can shift the Overton Window - the zone of what is acceptable to talk about.

However, our long-term intention, as you know, is much larger. It is to change the direction of society.

Join us!

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