

**Looking Back from 2050 to 2016 in Lake Oswego  
To What We Did to Stop Global Warming  
And Save Our Life Support System  
For Our Children's Children**

*By Matt Briggs*

It's March 31, 2050. I just turned 100 years old today, and I'm riding my self-balancing electric bike through one of Lake Oswego's city-wide bike paths into the huge year-round Farmers Market for local restorative organic farmers.

As I ride into downtown with my new stem cell grown knees and hips and my Apple Memory Hard-drive hooked to my helmet, everywhere I look I see the change that came from The Oregon Statewide Climate Plan and Lake Oswego's adoption of it in 2017 that eliminated 90% of our carbon emissions by this year, 2050.

I see solar panels on almost every house and business roof and community solar along main highways connected to our Statewide Smart Grid of Renewable Energy and various Energy Storage facilities balanced in a smart grid by our wonderful Columbia River Hydropower and a little natural gas.

The tree cover has increased, and migrated by design to the north sides of houses and businesses leaving the south exposure open to the sun to maximize energy for rooftop and wall solar panels. There is far less water-guzzling grass than in 2016 and all the lawnmowers are acoustic.

I see rainwater catchment systems on most houses and businesses---they get us about half the water we need, slow down rain runoff, and cut some of the 10% of carbon emissions from just pumping water.

Almost all houses and businesses have been retrofitted from being energy guzzlers to energy sippers.

These days smart machines do much of the work and most people drive less and work at home---telecommuting or teleconferencing with their colleagues. I see far fewer cars on the roads, and most are electric run on renewable electricity. There is more happening in the City Neighborhoods. I just passed Porter's Jazz Club headlining famous Oswegan jazz pianist Randy Porter---he must be old as dirt now.

When I think back on the last 35 years of what we did to mitigate the effects of climate change and create a better community in Lake Oswego, I would have to say I did not see it coming. In 2016, just about everybody thought the highest goal was more growth and more consumption. But research showed that we were consuming and polluting more than the Earth's natural systems could process and clean up. We were poisoning ourselves---the smartest animal who had ever lived was committing environmental and economic suicide.

Unfortunately, powerful corporations that made so much money off the extractive fossil fuel economy did not want to give it up. They spent massive sums to change the laws and control the lawmakers so they could keep destroying the Life Support System for money.

But all around the world in 2015-16, growing groups of people took the time to push back hard and work for solutions. The United States signed the Paris Climate COP 21 Treaty committing our entire country to get off fossil fuels by 2050. The Tar Sands Pipeline was stopped. In 2017, the new 9 Judge US Supreme Court upheld the United States "Clean Power

Plan” phasing out high emission coal utility plants. In Oregon in March of 2016, lots of green organizations and companies worked with the two largest utilities and hammered out the compromise “Coal to Clean” law to eliminate 80% of our Carbon Emissions by 2050. This eliminated all Electric Utility coal plants, accelerated the transition from oil to renewable electrical transportation. It also systematized the cultural and legal transition to a citywide codes and laws for Energy Efficiency and Conservation. All these were guided by the economics of “Full Cost Accounting” where all external costs to us from corporations like pollution, disease, decommissioning nuclear plants, the acidification of the oceans, droughts, floods, stronger storms, sea level rise, massive forest fires, food and water shortages, environmental refugee movement, and war were INCLUDED in the prices of everything and INCLUDED in all decision making--- putting the fair price on carbon emissions. This true cost made them expensive and unable to compete with clean energy and restorative action.

To get there, in 2017 the whole State of Oregon including Lake Oswego adopted a Climate Master Plan that took 90% of the 2005 carbon emissions out of the sources--- buildings, factories, appliances, electronics, agriculture, energy, transportation, and deforestation, and optimized the whole system in a smart grid over the last 34 years.

Our goals gradually changed from Quantity of Stuff to Quality of Life. Now we take more time for family, friends, and interests. Young and old live together in the same neighborhoods as income inequality has gone down. Life spills everywhere into the streets with sidewalk cafes, farmers markets, concerts, sports, gatherings of all kinds. With the cleaner air, water, and food, our health is much better and we are the richer for it both in our pockets and our attitudes.

I am gliding into the jammed Farmers Market now. The biggest solutions surprise was finding out how changing what we eat, and how we grow it could lower emissions so much. When we shifted from long distance industrial, chemical and fossil fuel based agriculture to local, restorative, organic agriculture we got several big benefits. As documented in “The Soil Will Save Us”, when farmers use a system of diverse cover crops combined with quickly rotating animal herds, lots of rich soil is built by pulling 25% of all the carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and the carbolic acid out of the oceans deep into the soil. Now our local farmers get 25% more production with 50% less cost (no fossil fertilizer, no pesticides or herbicides, no plowing), 50% less work, and make more money producing lots of healthy food locally. And for our part, when we cut our meat consumption by 75%, we eliminated another 15-20% of emissions from deforestation and animal methane (mostly cow burps). By changing how we grew our food and what we ate, we put a big dent in global warming.

We are not done yet, but we rose to the challenge and made laws to protect our Life Support system and keep our destructive behavior in check. We decided that it made both environmental and economic sense to change the way we lived.

We gave our children’s children a chance at a good life.

Or not.

It’s up to us.

*Matt Briggs is a Lake Oswego resident and entrepreneur who has sold wild mushrooms worldwide from increasingly climate change damaged forests for thirty-five years. From 2006-2013 he wrote, produced, financed, and directed 300 people in 9 countries in the making of the documentary "Deep Green---Solutions to Stop Global Warming Now" in an effort to visually show the best solutions available worldwide to Stop Global Warming.*