

Time to Take the Hint

Robert Frost once observed, “Nature is always hinting at us. It hints over and over again.”

Today, nature is hinting loud and clear. It’s telling us there is only so much carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases that our atmosphere can bear without grave consequences to the environment and life.

Nature’s clock is ticking. Now is the time to take action.

We don’t have forever. An overwhelming body of scientific evidence shows that greenhouse gases produced by humans are warming the planet. To keep catastrophe at bay, we need to cut greenhouse gases by 80 percent over the next 40 years or so.

Just about everything we do produces carbon dioxide: heating our homes, driving our cars, powering our businesses and farming our land. Eliminating all carbon emissions from transportation and electricity would still miss the 80 percent reduction target. Yet the answer isn’t to go back to a world lit only by fire, without cars or life-saving medical equipment. It is to tap into the power of new thinking, new technology and lifestyles.

This won’t be easy – but can be done: Climate change is not only a threat, ignored at our peril. It is an opportunity to apply the enormous capacity of

this nation to innovate, invent and chart a new path of sustainable growth. Wouldn’t we all be proud if America could lead the world in this way – and not as a polluter?

No silver bullet will solve all of our environmental problems. But that doesn’t mean there aren’t answers. A comprehensive, multi-dimensional effort can lower greenhouse gases and ultimately stabilize them at levels that protect the environment.

What will it take to do this?

New investment will be critical. So will new technology. And new laws and regulations that not only curb greenhouse gas emissions, but unleash the power of the private sector to innovate and create the green jobs of the future.

Perhaps most important of all is the role of new thinking. Nature’s hint, now approaching a clarion call, is that we must develop new, clean ways to meet the challenge of a carbon-constrained world. So let’s re-imagine our energy future. And work together to build it.

It’s time to take the hint.

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PSEG

We make things work for you.