

Laureates' Call

Basel, Switzerland, September 17th, 2021

We, Environmental Laureates from all over the world assembled for sun21 here in Basel, like to express our profound concern about the increasing imminent threats to the global environment, especially for our climate and biological diversity.

We urgently demand that climate and biological diversity protection is made a high priority in all countries. This decade will give us the last chance to avoid passing disastrous tipping points, beyond which the world is in danger of changing irreversibly into a biologically impoverished 'Hothouse Earth'. This will be catastrophic for peace and security, health, well-being, rights, and opportunities of present and future generations.

We are convinced that the protection of climate and biological diversity should no longer be seen as a burden for the economy, but rather provides numerous economic and social opportunities.

We ask for legislation making Ecocide a criminal offense at the national level and at the International Criminal Court.

**We feel that our desire for the protection of the earth is well expressed in a poetic way by Esther Maag in her poem
“The world I want to live in”:**

The world I want to live in

1. What I smell

The world I want to live in smells like an early morning – fresh and new.

It smells like green apples and sundried laundry,
like lavender, vanilla and canella.

It smells of drying hay and earth after rain.

It smells like sap in a needle wood,
it reminds me of happy childhood.

It triggers my olfactory memory:

a breeze of jasmine and amber – the perfume of my first love.

The air carries an odour of herbs and a hint of pine.

The world I want to live in evokes a feeling of freshness and fragrance.

Therefore, we reduce all the emissions of factories and vehicles.

Therefore, we abolish all gasoline engines.

Therefore, everybody stops pieing in dark corners.

Therefore, we take care for sanitation everywhere.
Therefore, we purify all polluted waters and let them flow freshly and freely.
Therefore, flying becomes rare and expensive and not on kerosine.
Therefore, we filter all fumes and dusts.
In the world I want to live in, the air is clean, the sky is clear and I can see the stars.

2. What I taste

A bitter coffee wakes me up,
a salty soup nourishes me,
a hot pepper excites me,
a sweet cake comforts me
and a sour beverage satisfies my thirst.
I taste it or I leave it, but I never waste it.
The world I want to live in offers all the tastes.
The world I want to live in offers all the food.
I grow it or I buy it
and all I eat is nourishing and strengthening my body,
neither too much nor too less,
not poisoned nor processed.
The food I eat is healthy and enough.
Food doesn't travel far – food is produced locally.
Food doesn't make men or animal suffer – food is produced ethically.
Food doesn't destroy neither soil nor water – food is produced biologically.
Food is mainly from plants, food is not wasted, but better tasted.
The world I want to live in tastes sweet and hot and bitter and sour and salty.
The world I want to live in tastes deliciously!

3. What I see

The world I want to live in looks fascinating and divers.
I see cities and villages and nothing in between.
No ugly agglos nor grey molochs –
either city or countryside and fertile landscapes in between.
There is wild land and there is cultivated land,
populated by a vast variety of species,
flying, swimming, running and crawling over our planet.
I need to wear glasses while biking, because the air is full of insects,
enough food for the swallows above my head,
enough living space and habitat for each species on this earth.
When I look around, I see people dressed in beautiful colors,
in purple red, emerald green, cobalt blue, alabaster white, coral pink and marigold.
All these colors belong to clothes,
clothes you wear for long,
clothes you got second hand,
clothes you wear a second time,
clothes you know where they come from and how they were produced – long living and sustainably.
My eyes enjoy the colors and the variety of all the world around me.

4. What I hear

The world I want to live in is quiet.
I can hear the crickets chirring,
the birds chirping,
the waves rolling
and the river burbling.
And all the rest is silent.
We listen to the sound of silence.
There are no steady sounds of annoyance,
machines work silently.
Only if you go partying, there is sound and music and laughter,
but you sleep peacefully and silently and work quietly.
No slamming doors and angry voices,
no motorcycles roaring over the passes
and cars howling through the valleys,
because there are no gasoline motors anymore
and noises and rumors are limited.
No fun for all the lovers of showing off by roaring machines.
The show-off had its show-down and had been shut down.
Trains and trams roll smoothly, so do cars.
Airplanes are rare, because there is much less travelling anywhere,
for you work at home and travel by bike or hike.
No noise – no nuisance.
No noise – no stress.
Less stress in stillness - more time to listen to the sounds of silence.

5. What I touch

The world I want to live in is tangible and not only digital.
I move around and touch the ground.
I feel the sun and the wind on the skin.
I sense the textures and its patterns,
the smoothness and softness of a rabbit's fur,
the roughness and rawness of a tree's bark.
I sense and touch all these qualities.
I move around and feel alive.
The world I want to live in is tangible.
Therefore, we reduce the time in digital rooms
and spare a lot of gigabytes and all the energy consumed by them.
The use of energy is smart and driven by intelligent systems,
produced by sun and wind and water – renewable and endlessly.

6. "Climate Climax"

The world I presently live in, is hot and cold and hot and cold and hot and cold and wet and dry and wet and dry and wet and dry.

The world I presently live in, becomes hotter and colder and wetter and drier.

The world I *want* to live in, is warm and nice and moderate.

Woods are growing,

crops are growing

and even glaciers are growing.

There is an adequate amount of sun and rain and wind and snow.

There is enough sun to grow and to empower everything everywhere.

There is enough rain to water and to empower everything everywhere.

Therefore, we reduce CO2 to Net Zero as soon as we can,

in traffic, in heating, in cooling, in producing, in agriculture and in financing.

All countries reduce CO2 to Net Zero as soon as they can,

in traffic, in heating, in cooling, in producing, in agriculture and in financing.

Therefore, we only use renewable energies any more.

Therefore, we insulate and isolate.

Therefore, we internalize the principle of cradle to cradle.

Therefore, we have a lot to do,

everybody has a lot to do.

And we do it,

we just do it.

Esther Maag, September 2021

President sun21 energy&resources

International Convention of Environmental Laureates (ICEL), September, 17th and 18th, 2021.

A platform for environmental award winners

The International Convention of Environment Laureates is the flagship event of the European Environment Foundation. The congress, which will take place in Basel (Schweiz) from 2021, brings together winners of environmental awards and prizes from all over the world to make contacts and work together. Since its introduction in 2012 to 2018, the convention was held in Freiburg im Breisgau (Germany). The European Environment Foundation was looking for a new partner. She found it with sun21 energy & resources, a non-profit organization in Basel (Switzerland). From 2021, sun21 will hold the convention every two years in Basel. The convention will continue to be developed and refined in order to optimize the exchange of ideas and experiences and to respond to the needs and wishes of the participants.

sun21, energy&resources

