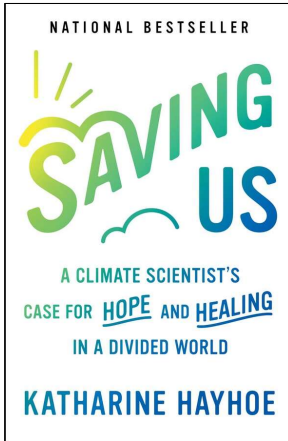


1/23/2024

CLIMATE CHANGE: PUTTING HOPE INTO ACTION

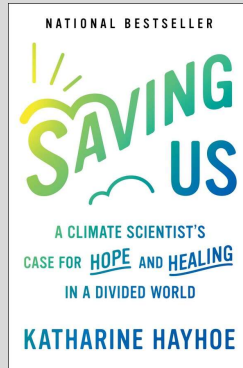


SECTION 1 – THE PROBLEM AND THE SOLUTION

WHAT TO EXPECT EACH WEEK

We will cover a section from
Saving Us...

- 1- The Problem and the Solution
- 2- Why Facts Matter – and Are Not Enough
- 3- The Threat Multiplier
- 4- We Can Fix It
- 5- You Can Make a Difference



Quick overview of the section

What stood out for you?

Discussion questions

You can find them here:

[www.gracepresby.org/
climate-change-putting-hope-
into-action](http://www.gracepresby.org/climate-change-putting-hope-into-action)

Each section is 3-5 chapters long (about 60 pages).

We'll spend 2 weeks on the last section because we want to spend some time talking about how we might put these ideas into practice – the “putting hope into action” part.

The overviews will be quick, with enough info to spark discussion (in case you didn't get a chance to read everything in the book). You'll find the schedule of readings and discussion questions on Grace's Climate Change Putting Hope Into Action web page. It will be updated with slides or any supplemental material we might use.

KATHARINE HAYHOE



Katharine Hayhoe is an atmospheric scientist whose research focuses on understanding the impacts of climate change on people and the planet.

Her areas of expertise include science communication and various ways of assessing regional to local-scale impacts of climate change on human systems and the natural environment.

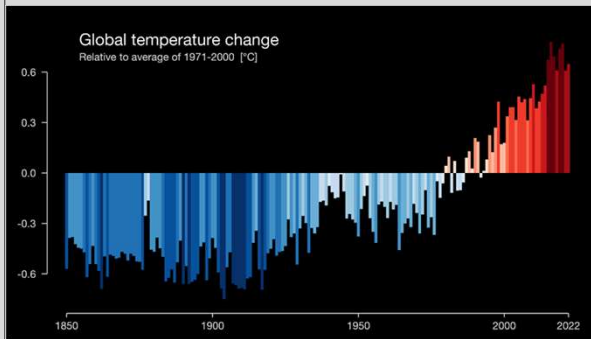
Katharine Hayhoe was born in Canada and studied Physics and Atmospheric Science in college.

She is the Chief Scientist for the Nature Conservancy, as well as the Distinguished/Endowed Professor of Public Policy and Public Law at Texas Tech University and a lead author for the Second, Third, and Fourth U.S. National Climate Assessments.

She comes from a Christian background and her faith is important to her work. This book comes out of her work in climate change and her experiences in talking with others – particularly skeptics – about the impacts of climate change on their lives and what they can do about it.

BASIC PREMISES OF THE BOOK

“I’ve seen political biases drive people to reject simple facts: **climate is changing, humans are responsible, the impacts are serious, and the time to act is now.**” (p. ix)



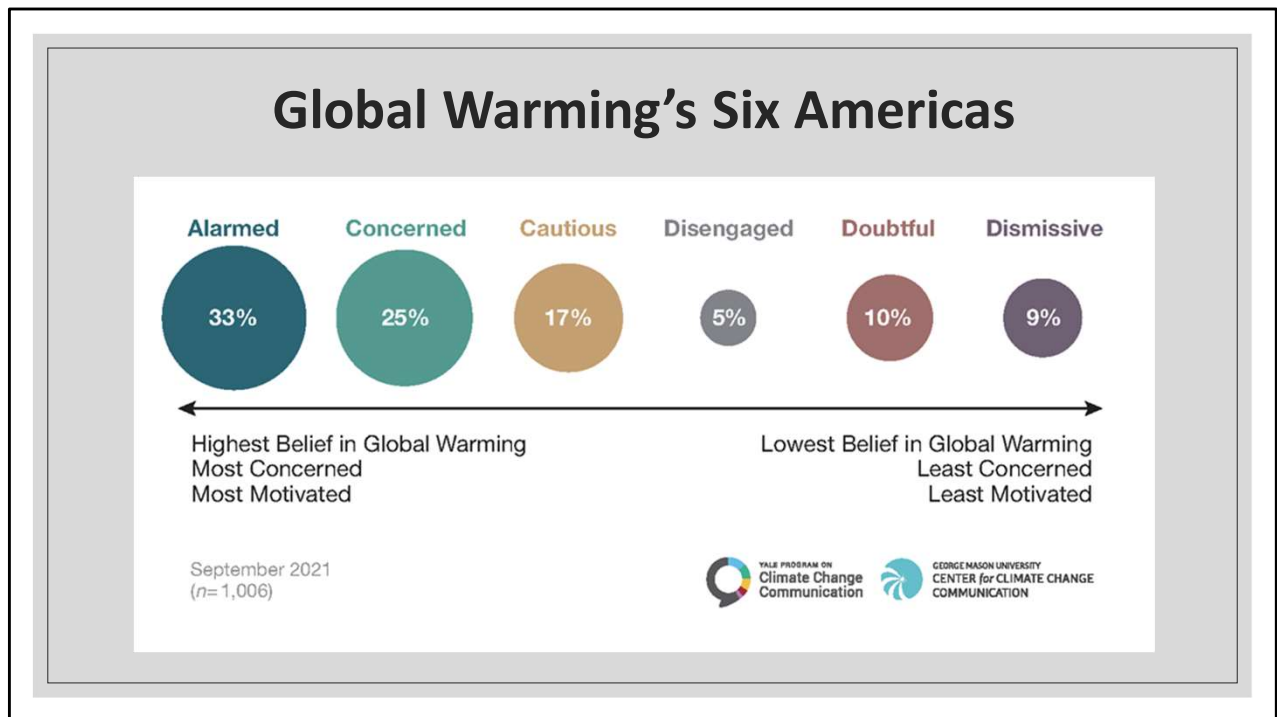
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“...the single most important thing that anyone... can do to bring people together is... **Talk about it.**” (p. xi)

“...the **biggest challenge** we face isn’t science denial. It’s a combination of **tribalism, complacency, and fear.**” (p. xi)

“**Beginning a conversation with something that unites** us instead of something that divides us means we are starting at a place of mutual respect, agreement, and understanding - which is pretty much the opposite of where most conversations about contentious issues like climate change begin these days.” (p. xii)

From the Preface – Hayhoe lays out the reasons why she wrote this book. Section 1, as the title implies, gives an overview of the Problem and the Solutions, which she develops in later sections. We are going to build off her premises in this series of discussions.



The science behind climate change is clear. To move constructively, we need to understand where people stand on climate change in the US.

Alarmed: most engaged, worried about climate change, strongly support actions to address it

Concerned: think global warming is a significant threat, but not as high a priority; less certain on taking action

Cautious: aware of climate change, uncertain about causes, not very worried about it

Disengaged: largely unaware of global warming

Doubtful: doubt climate change is happening or that it is human-caused; perceive it as low risk

Dismissive: reject reality of human-caused global warming; oppose most climate change policies

The dismissives are the ones you are least likely to persuade to change their minds about climate change – their opposition is not based on studies and facts but on ideology, political perspectives, and personal identity. Hayhoe recommends focusing on the other groups.

DON'T OVERLOAD THEM WITH SCARY DATA

“Start with something you have in common. Connect it to why climate change matters to us personally – not the whole human race or the Earth itself, but us as individuals....

“Then, describe what people can and are doing to fix it. There are all kinds of solutions...” (p. 11)



“By bonding over values we truly share, and by connecting them to climate, we can inspire one another to act together to fix this problem.” (p. 11)

This is her “how to” for getting to meaningful, constructive, impactful conversations about climate change. Don’t overwhelm people with data, don’t try to scare, pressure, or guilt-trip people into acting (ask yourself how well that works for yourself). Build on relationships and common interest, not fear. Follow up with what we can do about it.

START WITH WHO YOU ARE

Where I Live

What I love Doing

Where I'm From

Those I Love

What I Believe

Get to know the people you talk
with – listen!

Be genuine



See Chapters 2 and 3 for guidance

In Chapters 2 and 3, Hayhoe shows how to prepare with an inventory of who you are so that you can begin to connect with the people you want to talk with. We also have to spend time getting to know them. We'll come back to this in our discussion session.

Don't force connections – be genuine. Be loving and caring.

CONNECT CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS TO SHARED VALUES

“...to care about a changing climate, **we don’t have to change anyone’s values or try to transform them into anything other than who they already are.** We just need to be people who want this planet to continue to be a safe, hospitable home for us all.” (p. 33)



Note the emphasis: Our goal is not to try to transform someone or get them to change their values/identity. Our best approach is to connect the impacts of climate change to what they already care about and then talk about how they can do something about that. You’ll see plenty of examples of conversations she’s had and approaches she’s taken in the book. These are not scripts – they’re ideas.

What jumped out at you in Section 1?

Discussion



That's the wrap. Before jumping into discussion questions, what jumped out at you in Section 1?

Potential follow-up: See where people fall on the issue.

1 – how much credence do you give the science?

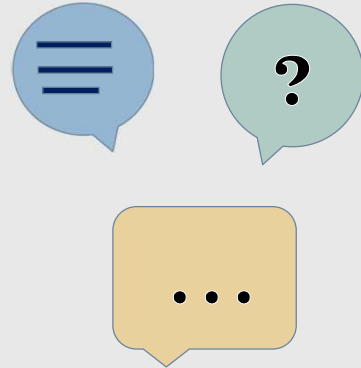
2 – in terms of all of the other concerns in your life, where do you place this?

3 – Do you believe climate change is/will directly impact you?

Added Q if it doesn't come up: How many of you feel overwhelmed by climate change, aren't sure you can do anything about it?

Hayhoe's premise is that having impactful conversations about climate change starts not with science but with what we have in common and how those interests intersect with climate change. How does that compare with your experiences in engaging others on controversial topics?

Discussion



What impressions do you have on Hayhoe's basic premises?

Following Katherine Hayhoe's lead on Chapter 2 (Who Am I?), answer these questions:

Who are you? Where are you from?
Where do you live now? What do you love doing? Who do you love and care for? What do you believe?

Discussion



This is an opportunity to share who you are. You don't have to share this with others, but you're encouraged to do the inventory. For those who want to share, we can also take a look at how these aspects of your life intersect with various aspects of climate change.