

Bill McKibben

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Years, Climate, Real, Fuel, Country, World, Fighting, Energy,
Needs, Ice, Numbers, Political, Community, Done, Ocean, Oil, Atmosphere,
Long*

Climate change is the single biggest thing that humans have ever done on this planet. The one thing that needs to be bigger is our movement to stop it.

~Bill McKibben

The technology we need most badly is the technology of community, the knowledge about how to cooperate to get things done.

~Bill McKibben

Very few people on earth ever get to say: 'I am doing, right now, the most important thing I could possibly be doing.' If you'll join this fight that's what you'll get to say

~Bill McKibben

what you do every day is what forms your mind and precious few of us can or would spend most days outdoors.

~Bill McKibben

In 50 years, no one will care about the fiscal cliff or the Euro crisis. They'll just ask, "So the Arctic melted, and then what did you do?"

~Bill McKibben

Global warming is no longer a philosophical threat, no longer a future threat, no longer a threat at all. It's our reality.

~Bill McKibben

Advent: the time to listen for footsteps - you can't hear footsteps when you're running yourself.

~Bill McKibben

We've been given a warning by science, and a wake-up call by nature; it is up to us now to heed them.

~Bill McKibben

The real negotiation is between humans on the one hand and chemistry and physics on the other. And chemistry and physics, unfortunately, don't bargain.

~Bill McKibben

We can either save the planet from catastrophic warming, or protect fossil fuel CEOs. Not both. Do the math(s)

~Bill McKibben

There is no ideal Christmas; only the one Christmas you decide to make as a reflection of your values, desires, affections, traditions.

~Bill McKibben

The laws of Congress and the laws of physics have grown increasingly divergent, and the laws of physics are not likely to yield.

~Bill McKibben

In reality, climate change is actually the biggest thing that's going on every single day.

~Bill McKibben

It is unbelievably sad and ironic that the first victims of global warming are almost all going to come from places that are producing virtually none of the problem.

~Bill McKibben

Profiting from companies that are overloading the atmosphere with carbon and changing the atmosphere is wrong.

~Bill McKibben

A world where one tenth of the population gets to be extremely wealthy, and six tenths very poor, is not, in the long run, a stable place.

~Bill McKibben

We have built a greenhouse, a human greenhouse, where once there bloomed a sweet and wild garden.

~Bill McKibben

The world hasn't ended, but the world as we know it has-even if we don't quite know it yet.

~Bill McKibben

There is a tendency at every important but difficult crossroad to pretend that it's not really there.

~Bill McKibben

We can no longer imagine that we are part of something larger than ourselves - that is what all this boils down to.

~Bill McKibben

everyone knows, at some level, that the sharp line between "good weather" and "bad weather" is a fiction, that we need rain as surely as we need sun.

~Bill McKibben

What makes us different? We're the creature that can decide not to do something that we are capable of doing.

~Bill McKibben

A voluntary simplification of life-styles is not beyond our abilities, but it is probably outside our desires.

~Bill McKibben

When you are in a hole, stop digging!

~Bill McKibben

There's no happy ending where we prevent climate change any more. Now the question is, is it going to be a miserable century or an

impossible one, and what comes after that.

~Bill McKibben

For the first time in 150 years, the USDA reported there were more farms in America, not fewer. That has to make you happy.

~Bill McKibben

I just keep trying to explain what's going on with our planet - and now, to explain what's going on with our politics, which explains why we're not doing anything about the former.

~Bill McKibben

I think fracking for gas will reduce the incentive to turn to renewables, and I think it will do a lot of other damage across the countryside.

~Bill McKibben

You can have a healthy fossil-fuel balance sheet, or a relatively healthy planet

~Bill McKibben

Irene's got a middle name, and it's Global Warming.

~Bill McKibben

Because the financial power of the fossil-fuel industry is so great it can, and has, delayed any real action of the climate issues almost everywhere.

~Bill McKibben

I've always been opposed to population control. In climate terms, population is not the biggest problem going forward.

~Bill McKibben

The real tight interface is between the book and the reader-the world of the book is plugged right into your brain, never mind the [virtual reality]

bodysuit.

~Bill McKibben

The roof of my house is covered in solar panels. When I'm home, I'm a pretty green fellow.

~Bill McKibben

But tolerance by itself can be a cover for moral laziness.

~Bill McKibben

Community is as endangered by surplus as it is by deficit. If there is too much money floating around it enables people to have no need of each other.

~Bill McKibben

We've built a new Earth. It's not as nice as the old one; it's the greatest mistake humans have ever made, one that we will pay for literally forever.

~Bill McKibben

Warm air holds more water vapor than cold, and so the atmosphere is about 4% wetter than it was 40 years ago. This loads the dice for flood and drought, and we're seeing both in stunning abundance.

~Bill McKibben

I'm far less a leader than a writer.

~Bill McKibben

Most of the men and women who vote in Congress each year to continue subsidies have taken campaign donations from big energy companies.

~Bill McKibben

we use TV as we use tranquilizers- to even things out, to blot out

unpleasantness, to dilute confusion, distress, unhappiness, loneliness.

~Bill McKibben

Spend 70% of your spare time doing things close to home and the other 30% doing work at the global and national level.

~Bill McKibben

The earth is a museum of divine intent.

~Bill McKibben

Alone among businesses, the fossil-fuel industry is allowed to dump its main waste, carbon dioxide, for free.

~Bill McKibben

In the last two years 24 countries have set new all-time temperature records. We've seen flooding on an epic scale in every continent .

~Bill McKibben

If it's wrong to wreck the planet, it's wrong to profit from the wreckage.

~Bill McKibben

Colonialism of one kind or another, imperialism of one kind or another, and slavery, and on and on and on.

~Bill McKibben

We're not at the point of trying to stop global warming; it's too late for that. We're trying to keep it from becoming a complete and utter calamity

~Bill McKibben

According to new research emerging from many quarters that our continued devotion to growth above all is, on balance, making our lives worse, both collectively and individually

~Bill McKibben

TV makes it so easy to postpone living for another half hour.

~Bill McKibben

I imagine a certain amount of consumer impulse will be replaced by community connection. You can already see it starting with things like the local food movement.

~Bill McKibben

There are so many symptoms of this disease it's hard to know where to start to catalogue them, but just look at the effects on hydrology - on the way water moves around the planet.

~Bill McKibben

When we think about global warming at all, the arguments tend to be ideological, theological and economic.

~Bill McKibben

The latest computer modeling I've seen indicates that at mid-century, there might be 150 million people classified as "environmental refugees."

~Bill McKibben

I did very much like [Barack] Obama's attack on fossil fuel subsidies for fossil fuel companies. We asked for that in demonstrations and petitions, and now we'll try to push it forward.

~Bill McKibben

[Kids] will grow up into a world that's difficult and wonderful, and they'll make the best of it they can, and hopefully help turn it in the best possible direction.

~Bill McKibben

If one wanted to stigmatise, that's how one would do it - lots and lots of people saying "we're severing our ties".

~Bill McKibben

Climate change is a huge problem, an almost insoluble problem.

~Bill McKibben

We'd like to get the fossil fuel industry on the back foot for a while, having to deal with us.

~Bill McKibben

We spend a lot of time playing defence against bad things. So, in the US, one of the focusses has been this huge Keystone Pipeline project, another has been the coal ports on the Pacific Ocean.

~Bill McKibben

At least I sure hope it will - and I see good signs all the time, especially in things like the rise of local agriculture.

~Bill McKibben

We couldn't outspend the fossil fuel industry - they have more money than God.

~Bill McKibben

We'd won the argument 15 years before, we were just losing the fight. And so it became clear to some of us that we would need to organise to fight, that we weren't going to win.

~Bill McKibben

The habits of the West in terms of consumption.

~Bill McKibben

Sometimes, I, anyway, get tired of playing defence, and like to play offence.

~Bill McKibben

We had other currencies that we could find work in - the currencies of movements: passion, spirit, creativity.

~Bill McKibben

Here, there's more of a movement, it doesn't mean we're winning any more, but we're at least fighting.

~Bill McKibben

I think [George W.] Bush has done nothing right about global warming.

~Bill McKibben

I think that so far the political and economic power of the fossil fuel industry has trumped all else.

~Bill McKibben

I think that some of it is electoral - helping candidates that are willing to take dramatic actions, not just to say a few words about how climate change might be a problem.

~Bill McKibben

I don't think the fossil fuel industry will listen, not until we build up a lot of pressure. I do think we can persuade some shareholders that they don't want to be involved in this enterprise.

~Bill McKibben

We have to transition to new technologies, making it more expensive to continue with the old and polluting technologies and cheaper to go to the clean ones.

~Bill McKibben

The fact that Washington has been a complete logjam for anything for the last six years has got to change because we need to have federal policy that really allows us to move quickly and nimbly.

~Bill McKibben

One degree turns out to be enough to really unhinge all sorts of earth's ecosystems.

~Bill McKibben

I think we need to go straight at the fossil fuel industry.

~Bill McKibben

Policies that engage us again in the international fight for real climate protection.

~Bill McKibben

My guess is that liberating the fossil fuel industry to frack anywhere they want will drive down the rate at which we're converting to sun and wind. And it's entirely a rate problem at this point.

~Bill McKibben

We'll never get there if we let the climate crisis bloom unchecked, so for the moment the key is to organize, organize, organize!

~Bill McKibben

If you were running a solar company you may be okay - you may be able to keep growing. The question for physics is: Can you grow fast enough to begin to catch up with the damage?

~Bill McKibben

There's a part of all of us whose impulse is to say, "Let's keep everything the same until I die and then you can do whatever you want afterward." And that's a difficult part.

~Bill McKibben

From some tiny portion of the wealth the west accumulated in a hundred years of filling the atmosphere with carbon.

~Bill McKibben

Renewable energy is far more labor-intensive than fossil fuel production.

~Bill McKibben

A price on carbon sufficient to keep 80% of current reserves underground, rebated directly to citizens.

~Bill McKibben

It's off the charts - and if you don't believe the scientists, ask the insurance industry, the people we pay to analyze risk in our society.

~Bill McKibben

Pat Robertson had decided that global warming was real and we need to do something about it struck me as powerful evidence that the Holy Spirit is hard at work in this question.

~Bill McKibben

If the Holy Spirit is capable of the heavy lifting required to get Pat Robertson to change his mind, then that strikes me as a very good sign.

~Bill McKibben

By themselves, they are not enough; we also need to engage in political action.

~Bill McKibben

Stop thinking about global warming as a future threat and understand it instead as a present emergency, one that requires a far stronger policy response than we'd imagined.

~Bill McKibben

We use the web to help people organize in the flesh, and then we take the images of those events and put them back on the web to make them add up to more than the sum of their parts.

~Bill McKibben

So far the earth has warmed about a degree Fahrenheit globally averaged. That doesn't seem like an enormous amount but it's unlike what we would have expected twenty years ago.

~Bill McKibben

We just see a sort of cascading amount of data of the damage that is being done by those increased temperatures.

~Bill McKibben

Probably more than anything else, the place that we really see the effects of the power of even the relatively mild temperature increases so far is in the melting of everything frozen on the planet.

~Bill McKibben

Certainly, packets of sea ice, in say the Arctic, which have failed to fully reform in the last couple of years.

~Bill McKibben

It now appears that the fracturing of that ice is happening much more quickly than people previously thought, apparently at a slow melt.

~Bill McKibben

On the top of these mile thick slabs of ice the water is percolating quickly to the base and greasing the skids, as it were, for the slide of that ice into the ocean.

~Bill McKibben

All the science in the last few years, or almost all of it, really serves to show that the [climate] effects are larger and more rapid than we had thought even a decade ago.

~Bill McKibben

There is basically no one not on the payroll of Exxon Mobil or coal companies who any longer contend that this is not something to worry about.

~Bill McKibben

Those of us in the west have figured out a lot of ways to damage the lives of poor people in this country and around the world over the years.

~Bill McKibben

Probably nothing that we have ever managed to do quite equals the basic undermining of the physical stability of the planet on which most of the world's poor people depend.

~Bill McKibben

Solar power seems to be truly bipartisan in its appeal.

~Bill McKibben

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