**Well, what can l do – to influence public policy?**[[1]](#footnote-1)

* + 1. **Vote.** Vote in every election – local, state and Federal. Vote for climate friendly candidates, and then once they’re in office, keep pressuring them, and hold them accountable. Call their D.C. offices. Call their local offices. Send them emails regularly. We can write letters and make phone calls to our elected officials and go to protest rallies and demonstrations to advocate for certain policies - all of which are important to do. But until we have climate friendly people in positions where the rules are made, it’s going to be an uphill battle.
    2. **Join a campaign or an activist group**. There are local chapters of groups like the Sunrise Movement and 350.org in many communities. If you’re really hardcore, you can join Extinction Rebellion. They do direct actions, which is a really good way of moving the Overton window (the range of policies politically acceptable to the mainstream population at a given time) and getting people awake. [And don’t forget our own Anabaptist Climate Collective. Get engaged with them. Perhaps most importantly, they are linking up with, and building alliances with, other faith-based climate groups thus expanding the sphere of influence.]
    3. If you don’t have the time to do that, **donate money** - to organizations such as Fridays for Future - the youth organization that is organizing the climate strikes that Greta Thunberg started. Climate Power and Evergreen Action are two new organizations who are writing climate policy in a new way and lobbying on the Hill to get them passed. The Third Act - a community of Americans over the age of sixty who is targeting big banks that are the biggest lenders to the fossil fuel industry. The Southern Environmental Law Center. Donate to groups that are working on electoral politics directly, like the Environmental Voter Project. The ability to put climate friendly candidates in office is a huge part of the climate fight.
    4. **Organize your workplace** – to get your organization to make greener business decisions or to lobby Congress for climate friendly policies.
    5. **Talk about climate change** - one of the most impactful things that you can do is simply talk about climate change in your social networks, especially when it feels most socially awkward and embarrassing. Because unless we continue to break the kind of conspiracy of climate silence that allows people to look away, we’re not actually going to have the kind of pressure internally and psychologically in people that will help them join the climate movement. We as a culture need to normalize that it’s actually healthy not to be happy in the face of climate change. It means that we’re actually human beings who are having an appropriate and ethical moral response to the suffering that is in the pipeline for everybody, including our own children and grandchildren.
    6. So that’s my (their) list of things to do. **Pick one - and do it.**
* And note that we are all on a journey and that: (a) different people can be at different places at different times on the methods they use to advocate for climate friendly candidates and policies. Going on the streets is not for everybody but writing an email or giving money can be done by most anyone. (b) Ask yourself: What actions make me come alive and scale that up to larger spheres of influence.

1. Adapted from The Argument podcast: Got Climate Doom? Here’s What You Can Do to Actually Make a Difference, with Genevieve Guenther and David Wallace-Wells on what matters and doesn’t in your personal fight against climate change. Wednesday, November 10th, 2021 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)