

Holthaus calculated that last year he travelled 75,000 miles by plane, mostly for climate projects, but also for vacations. He used a carbon footprint calculator developed at UC Berkeley and he "found that if he stopped flying, his carbon footprint would go from being about double the American

The new IPCC report stated that the evidence that humans have created global warming is a 95% likelihood. The body expects the rise in world temperatures to range from an awful 1.5 degrees Celsius to a catastrophic 4.5 Celsius. The IPCC is the foremost climate authority in the world and its findings are only made after hundreds of scientists and government officials agree.

On October 1, 2013 a respected meteorologist named Eric Holthaus tweeted that after reading the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) "I just broke down in tears in boarding area at SFO [San Francisco airport] while on phone with my wife. I've never cried because of a science report before." He then decided he would stop being an airline passenger.

The two scientists made the startling claim that **it's too late to maintain the climate by replacing fossil fuel use with renewable energy**. They said that would take decades. They say we only have years to get our act together and "the only way we can get our emissions down is to actually reduce the level of energy we consume."

Then on Nov. 21 in the midst of the climate conference in Poland, two climate scientists, Kevin Anderson and Alice Bows-Larkin, who work at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research in England, spoke on Democracy Now. They said they haven't flown in years. They came by train across Europe to Poland rather than fly. To go to a conference in China they also went by train, a trip of many days. So average to around 30 percent less than average."

Goodman asked them if train travel was that much better than plane travel in terms of carbon emissions. They had this very interesting answer:

"Actually, it doesn't really matter, in terms of the journey, whether it's better or not, because what happens if you go by train is you don't go very often. So you immediately curtail about how much you travel."

Traveling 5,000 miles (NYC to San Francisco and back) by different means of transport we get these results: car 2.8 tons of carbon dioxide, plane 2.2 tons, Amtrak rail 1.2 tons. Hours of travel *one* way: car 44 hours *non-stop*, (five days more likely), Amtrak 46 hours, plane 6 hours.

If we don't fly we may have travel to much less interesting places. We may never go to Hawaii or Tahiti. We may have to travel only as nicely and as often as the rich did in the 19th century. Damn.

But realize what's at stake.

Should We Stop Flying?

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