

How Do You Live Ethically in the Midst of the Climate Crisis?

Prospect Heights Community Farm

Speaker 1:

I, personally, am filled with dread every time I have to get a plastic bag because I forgot my bag. And then, I was just sharing with my partner, I just read somewhere that it actually costs, or takes, a lot of resources to create this reusable bag that's never going to decompose either. And I'm like, "So what am I doing? Do I bring the reusable bag? Do I get the paper bag? Do I..." You're just constantly in this flip-flopping of trying to do the right thing, bringing your own straw, bringing your own utensils, that it just, into my day-to-day life, I'm constantly thinking about it in my head and I can't stop.

Alice:

And I really felt such a huge conflict because I was like, this is not what I want to do. Like I want to get my piece of land and I want to secure it. And I think the conflict that I was feeling was between like current Alice and future Alice. But at the end of the day, I think the idea that like liberation is a collective act like me having a piece of land, isn't going to make a difference. And if I'm an acupuncturist and this is like the path that I've chosen, which I think farming and acupuncture were both skill sets that made me feel like, okay, I can serve my community now. Like I can be useful now, even if I'm doing this for the future, when I think we're going to all live underground or whatever, like whatever apocalyptic scenario may come forth, like I do think it's really important to live in the here and now.

Speaker 3:

There's something all backpackers, try to abide by; it's called 'leave no trace.' So I would very much like to leave no trace, when I live, as I live my life.

Speaker 4:

I don't overuse water. I definitely, like if I was to brush my teeth, I'll wet the toothbrush real quick, turn the water off. Take a shower, shower real quick, make sure I'm all clean, turn the water off.

Speaker 1:

It brings a lot of big feelings for me in terms of anxiety and sadness and guilt.

Speaker 5:

There's no real purity. Like if I quit my job tomorrow and became like a full-time climate activist, I would still be making moral compromises. So, I'm not saying it wouldn't be a good thing for me to do and that it wouldn't be better. But I think that maybe I justify it to myself on some level, because I know that....

Speaker 6:

I've become a more conscientious consumer, even though I know that's also something that only mitigates just a little bit of harm.

Speaker 5:

But the bigger policy changes require showing up in ways that you don't feel like you have time to do.

Speaker 7:

Maybe not have time, but have the conviction, the willpower to consistently be at protests, to consistently being calling and lobbying.

Speaker 9:

I mean, hey, I was very comfortable to just be a grandma type, doing my little gardening and all the rest, and now I'm going to rallies and I'm documenting everything I see. Because it's like, I can't be comfortable. I have children in my family that I'm going to leave this planet to.

Speaker 10:

It's just seeing people get hurt by climate change and seeing that hurt, seeing people die from it, I just said like a fuel law for me that I should... If you're aware of it, make that your passionate in life, in your career to be an advocate for it, you know?

Speaker 11:

I'm not going to lie, you kind of just hit something. You hit something for me too. I'm kind of like, you're reminding me of like, that made me think about this disconnect we have? Living in this kind of like consumerism New York, I guess. I don't want to say the world because everywhere got their, different places, but like living in New York, it's like I consume, consume, consume. Goes to the store, buy. It's kind of like you miss that step of like, the growing process, like tending to that life, making sure everything's okay. Like caring for it in a way that's like, I want you to live. I want you to be the best you can be when you get bigger, have your fruits and everything. It's kind of like a more intimate way of living with your food. I guess. I don't know what they called it, but like....

Speaker 12:

Also, being able to just walk down the street and like touch stuff and be outside has helped me so much. Changed my life, really.

Speaker 13:

I remember the first year of us being here. I, and we're vegetarian by the way, I only cooked whatever was growing in the garden.

Speaker 8:

Simple, simple pleasure; small, simple pleasures, like put some seed and watching how they grow and give you some something for you for your salad.

Speaker 14:

There isn't much that I can do about it [inaudible 00:05:03] in visual, but working as a group, say with this garden and the way that we grow food, the way that we handle our waste products, the plastic, the recycling, the composting, all that sort of thing. We try, I try to do my part that way.

Speaker 15:

So when the city shut down the composting operation, I proposed to the garden, because the idea was to collect food scraps of the front gate from people from the community. We started with, the first weekend. People didn't know about it yet. There were maybe 20 people that came by and we collected 40 pounds. The very next weekend, I think we had 75 people and collected like 400 pounds, and now we're collecting 2000 pounds. That's our, that's like our limit every Sunday. What makes me smile so much is when I see kids, like their eyes wide, wide open and they're seeing what we're doing and they're getting into it and they're going to have that connection to their food and their impact in the world and their connection to everyone else planted really early.

Speaker 16:

This all has a big influence on how I look at gardens and how I look at open spaces. And how I believe how important it is that we must conserve, assist, maintain, whatever it is. We need open space, especially in the urban situation.

Speaker 17:

I wanted to share though, like what I want to do for the future. Which is kind of like this opposite of being the farmer. I want to be a pilot because I want to be successful in life.

Speaker 18:

Like on an airplane, pilot?

Speaker 17:

Yeah, airplane pilot. And airplanes is a big problem with like carbon emissions that they put in the air. I'm having a bunch brain farts now. So I can't mention the names though.

Speaker 18:

I know I can smell them...

Speaker 17:

But planes they're having, they're like being built to take less, to produce less carbon and like less greenhouse gases. So I just wanted to share that. So you don't feel like I'm being a hypocrite.

Speaker 18:

I don't feel like you're being a hypocrite. I know we are living in such a complex time where we have these desires that don't necessarily align with....

Speaker 17:

Our values?

Speaker 18:

Yeah.

Speaker 17:

Yeah.

