

How Do You Plan for Your Future on a Rapidly Warming Planet?

61 Franklin Street Community Garden

Speaker 1:

Is there a way that climate crisis and thinking about it impacts how you plan for your future?

Speaker 2:

So the thought that comes to mind with that question is, thinking about where to live.

Speaker 3:

It's like the climate and the political state of the world. It's just very hard to think about the future. It just doesn't seem very hopeful, happy. So it's thoughts or feelings that I tend to try to avoid.

Speaker 4:

I have no idea what places are going to be resilient or what the city's going to be like in the next 50 years.

Speaker 5:

I wanted to buy house. I'm planning, but I'm not sure when I'm going to do it, because I heard that water level is rising and other thing meanwhile could get affected. I can't make the decision. Should I buy house here or different state? That's a little confusing for me.

Speaker 6:

I was thinking if I should have children because it's too many people, but I was thinking that's good to have children, myself, to give them the good ideas, to maybe help the planet and the world. That's why I should sacrifice my natural biological need to have children, but maybe I will have only one because there's no room. I feel that's too crowded.

Speaker 7:

It make me make right here the decision how far I want to go.

Speaker 8:

Where in this world would it be a good place for me to take my family and just stand still and not work?

Speaker 1:

What is their timeline?

Speaker 8:

What's the time? I don't know. That's up in the air. It's not going to be long, but it's just up in the air. I just don't want to be here. Here is a flood zone. I don't want to be here.

Speaker 9:

A little of me is thinking about this place as impermanent a bit, and I think that kind of made me want to double down on being in the community in more of this way, in a communal, trying to learn more about this type of [inaudible 00:02:50].

Speaker 10:

I want to prepare. I'm thinking about having children and it's been true my whole adult life. This is going to be my biggest regret either way. Either I'm not going to do this thing that I really want to do, which is have a family. I love kids. I was a nanny for a long time. I'm either not going to do this or I'm going to do it, and I'm going to be filled with regret that I had a child and they're not going to have any water by the time they're 37.

Speaker 11:

What are you going to do?

Speaker 10:

I think I'm going to have a baby.

Speaker 11:

I'm having a baby, too.

Speaker 12:

You can tell New York is messed up because in the spring, one day it's super cold. One day it's super hot. It's not normal for us to be living like that. We kind of adapted to it, but it's not right.

Speaker 13:

I don't know. And even if you move to another place, it's not to say we're going to escape it because it's affecting and impacting the globe.

Speaker 14:

I plan as if everything's normal, but I always have this worry in the back of my head. It's similar, to the COVID pandemic. You make plans, but you accept that it could go awry at any moment.

Speaker 15:

I didn't have children. I've been thinking about climate change for a very long time. I specifically did not. I made a choice back when I was 30. So 30 years ago I was not going to have children because I'm not having my child die in a lava flow or a catastrophic event. I just didn't want to overpopulate the world. I thought the world was getting too hot. Big business is too bad. It's going to be worse. And I was right.

Speaker 1:

Are there ways that thinking about climate crisis affects how you plan for your future?

Speaker 16:

Not really. We live here. My husband bought flood insurance. I'm like, "What's that really going to do?"

Speaker 17:

Simple life. I used to think, I want to get rich, have a big house, and have no worries. But with that, I feel comes worries to everybody else. So comes worries to the future and how it would affect the environment, which is something I would be passive about if I was just going to go that route. And now I want a simpler life. I want to farm and think about what I eat and where it comes from and do it in my backyard and have love for those plants and things like that.

Speaker 18:

Oh my God. It definitely plants, oh my God. From little simple things like, I don't even think I want have kids, something like that or I don't want to bring them into this world. It affects things like how I'm going to...

Speaker 1:

You don't want to have kids because of that?

Speaker 18:

Yeah. I'd rather adopt or something.

Speaker 1:

Do you think if it weren't for climate change?

Speaker 18:

I probably would. Can you believe that? I do think of that. That's why I wouldn't. Why would I want to bring my kid, when in 10 years, there's a chance that this world could probably end?

Speaker 1:

What does that mean when you say this world could probably end?

Speaker 18:

In some ways, another pandemic, another apocalyptic event, something. I'm not trying to scare anyone or believe the four horsemen are going to come down and end the world. That's not what I'm talking about. This world is on a time. We're all on time. On borrowed time. We're all on borrowed time. And we have to understand that there might not be enough time left, I guess. I don't know.

Speaker 19:

Most people, most times in history have had to deal with a much higher level of precarity and destruction in the world. I don't know, if my ancestors, were able to survive, the pogroms and so forth, who am I to give up now?

Speaker 20:

I used to make maps and be like, this is the United States. Here's all the fracking wells. Here's the oil pipelines. Here's the hurricanes. And here's the tornadoes. And at the end of the day, I think I'm lucky to live in the Northeast where being far north and inland is a good bet. But I don't know, there's zero

guarantees. And I think that's why it's really important to be like, I have to be rooted in making good decisions for today while watching the future. And it's not easy.

Speaker 21:

After high school, I plan to go straight into the Navy. If the climate crisis impacts the ocean, I know it'll impact the ocean a lot. It'll impact me because my life is going to be on the ocean. I'm shifting my whole life around to be a soldier. As a soldier, it would impact me because, I don't know what's going to happen. I don't know what it's like. I don't know if the ocean is going to go down suddenly or go up suddenly. You never know.

Speaker 22:

Where we're going to live in the future? I think it was always in the back of my mind. And I think...that's a flag. Yes.