

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## Most exciting era in history

This month begins the most exciting and important decade in the history of civilization.

That's no exaggeration.

Substantial mitigation of greenhouse gases must begin now, or it will be too late to ward off the most catastrophic consequences of climate change. This is the decade that will determine the future of humanity.

Thumbnail background: It took 200,000 years for the world's human population to reach 1 billion people (by about 1800). Then, a little more than a hundred years later, the population doubled, to 2 billion (about 1920). Now, in 2021, world population has more than tripled, to nearly 8 billion people.

All these people are burning ever more fossil fuels, emitting more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Climate change means disastrous, almost inconceivable changes. Coastal cities like New York underwater. Wildfires. Violent storms. Droughts. Species extinction.

The early stages of climate change are here now. Last year, more than 4 million acres of California — an area larger than Delaware and Rhode Island combined — burned in wildfires.

The human race has experienced weather extremes before, but that was back in our hunter-gatherer era.

Our civilization depends on buildings, roads, underground pipes and electric lines. We can't just pick them up and move them.

The election of Joe Biden as president gives us hope there will be a national effort to mitigate climate

change. He will direct every government agency to do its part to reduce greenhouse gases.

When Biden is inaugurated, the United States will rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement. China and the United States, the world's two biggest greenhouse gas emitters, have pledged to become "carbon neutral" by midcentury. That's going to mean enormous changes in how we live and work.



Commentary by  
Tom Hylton

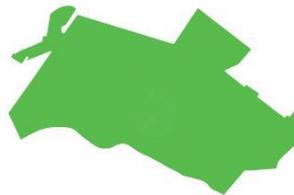
Everything that now burns fossil fuels — cars, trucks, building heaters, industry — needs to be powered by electricity, which in turn needs to be generated by wind, solar and nuclear rather

than coal, oil, and natural gas.

Meanwhile, using land more efficiently and limiting suburban sprawl are two of the most important ways we can limit greenhouse gas emissions in our small part of the world.

Pottstown, thanks to its multi-story buildings and compact form, is already far more energy efficient — and sustainable — than the car-dependent suburbs.

And there's much more we can do. We'll be addressing that in the weeks and months to come.



**OUR HOME — Let's make Pottstown  
as green as possible.**



Pottstown, PA

Earth: 4.6 billion years old

Humans: 200,000 years old

Recorded civilization: 5,000 years old

Pottstown: 269 years old