

# IT'S ALL CONNECTED

Inspiring ↔ Informative ↔ Actionable

presented by



## Feedback Is Not Always Good

Melting polar ice is an issue for all of us.

For starters, Earth is one highly interdependent ecosystem and things far away can have very real consequences for us locally. Take the jet stream, for example. In the Northern hemisphere, this band of winds is created by the collision of cold air from the arctic bumping into warm

air from the equator. When those air masses fluctuate, the jet stream moves and that helps determine the weather we experience. However, as the arctic warms, the jet stream slows down and becomes wobbly because the temperature differences between the air masses have narrowed.

The effect manifests as unusual weather patterns, causing excessive heat and drought in some places or polar vortex winter storms in others. This cycle becomes a concerning *negative feedback loop* in terms of climate change since warming air masses contribute to ice melt. Ice reflects heat, but dark ocean water absorbs it which then leads to warmer water causing more ice melt, and so on.

Researchers have identified [dozens of feedback loops](#) affecting the climate, such as the example above. Many of these feedback loops, also referred to as tipping points, interact with one another which makes it a challenge to accurately predict when, how severe, and where the most impacts will be, now and in our not so distant future. There is a very real possibility that not only will some tipping points be reached, but we could have a [tipping cascade](#) with unknown consequences to Earth's climate pattern for decades or centuries to come.

*"It's too late to fully prevent the pain of climate change, but if we take meaningful steps soon while prioritizing human basic needs and social justice, it could still be possible to limit the harm,"*  
according to William Ripple, Professor of Ecology at Oregon State University.

These scenarios provide yet another impetus for us to set our sights on immediate [emissions reductions on a global scale](#). While this sounds like an enormous task fit only

for governments and global corporations, just remember that you have the power to vote with your voice, your wallet, and your individual actions.

This holiday season and into the New Year, we encourage you to [start a social movement right in your friend and family circle:](#)

- Choose to support businesses and products that consider the environment and their impact.
- Flip the switch and buy that fair trade chocolate or bird friendly coffee for a few dollars more rather than supporting those other companies that opt to continue destructive practices in providing their products.
- Don't buy fish that isn't sustainably caught.
- Skip the straw.
- Get reusable...everything.
- Fix rather than replace anything you can.
- Buy used.
- Repurpose leftovers.
- Toot your own horn and let others know about the steps you are taking and how those actions matter.
- Walk, ride a bike, or use public transit as much as possible



*Every little action makes a difference.* Start small and build from there. Cheer on your loved ones for taking little steps too. Doing good for Mothership Earth is truly doing good for yourself and your descendants. They will thank you for it, which seems like the best gift of all. **Happy Holidays!**



### Tread Lightly Near Wildlife During Winter

Winter weather provides us with ample snow fun and adventures. However, for animals who don't hibernate, winter is a time of scarcity and harsh days. So, [follow this advice](#) and be mindful when out and about recreating this season. Even if the ground isn't covered in snow, food and shelter offerings become less abundant in winter when plants are dormant. Don't make life harder for our animal friends who need every bit of their energy stores to

survive! Keep your distance and opt for plan B if necessary.

## Quick Connections

Books, websites, documentaries, podcasts, events, quotes, and more



[The Wave: In Pursuit of the Rogues, Freaks, and Giants of the Ocean](#) by Susan Casey captivates the reader with vivid descriptions of large and unusual waves of all kinds from the perspective of extreme



Learn best practices for protecting nature with this [free basics-level course by Leave No Trace](#), a leading force in environmental protection. Being equipped with Leave No

surfers, mariners, and scientists. Ocean lover or not, you will be in awe after reading this one.

Trace training makes our communities and outdoor spaces healthier.

Designed for every person regardless of age, experience level, or anything else that makes us all unique.



### Quote we're pondering

*"The Earth is a fine place and worth fighting for."* - Ernest Hemingway



Support Jumpstart Nature and get a jumpstart on your holiday shopping with apparel from the [Jumpstart Nature store](#).

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## Community Connections

We want to connect with you. The holidays are hectic times and it's easy to put aside your good planet-friendly habits. How do you stay on track? We love to hear tips from others.

We read each and every response and will share selected reader stories in upcoming newsletters.

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Your feedback is important. [Tell us](#) how we are doing and what you would like to see covered in future newsletters.

**Every connection counts!** Please help grow our community of everyday heroes by sharing this newsletter with a friend or colleague.

*Thank you,*

*Michael Hawk, Founder*

*Laura Schare, Editor*

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### Jumpstart Nature

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