



Greta Thunberg, outside the Swedish parliament. (photo: Wikimedia)

6 Environmentalists Inspiring Climate Action

By Irma Omerhodzic, EcoWatch 17 July 19

It's important to remember that one person can make a difference. From teenagers to world-renowned scientists, individuals are inspiring positive shifts around the world. Maybe you won't become a hard-core activist, but this list of people below can inspire simple ways to kickstart better habits. Here are six people advocating for a better planet.

1. Gail Bradbrook

Molecular biophysicist Gail Bradbrook is the co-founder of [Extinction Rebellion](#) (XR). She's [been referred](#) to as the "Godmother" of this international environmental movement "that uses non-violent civil disobedience to achieve radical change in order to minimize the risk of human extinction and ecological collapse." Bradbrook first co-founded the group Rising Up!, which then progressed and became XR.

For more insight into what Bradbrook's all about, check out these articles below:

[The Global Extinction Rebellion Begins](#), Truthout.

[Gloucestershire mum is 'Godmother' of group behind naked Commons protests who want to bring London to a standstill today](#), Gloucestershire Live.

2. Greta Thunberg

Sixteen-year-old Swedish climate activist [Greta Thunberg](#) has inspired an entire generation of kids to participate in her "Fridays for Future" protest movement. [Just last month](#), Greta and her movement were honored with an Amnesty International award for their "unique leadership and courage in standing up for human rights."

Thunberg's speeches are collected in her book [No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference](#). She has said that she hopes the book causes panic. "I want you to panic ... I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is."

If you're looking for a good place to follow what's going on with the [climate crisis](#), follow [Greta on Twitter](#).

3. Naomi Klein

Naomi Klein is an award-winning journalist, activist and author. Since publishing her New York Times bestseller [This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate](#), Klein has become a strong force in the environmental movement.

Klein has a new book coming out in September, [On Fire: The \(Burning\) Case for a Green New Deal](#). The book is described as an expansive, far-ranging exploration that "captures the urgency of the climate crisis, as well as the energy of a rising political movement demanding change now."

4. Bill McKibben

Bill McKibben is an author, environmentalist and activist. He is the founder of [350.org](#). Nearly 30 years ago, he published the first book on climate change, [The End of Nature](#), written for the average person to understand the looming crisis. No climate activist list would ever be complete without acknowledging McKibben's consistent dedication to our planet.

Vox recently interviewed McKibben and captured [his best advice](#).

5. Xiuhtezcatl Martinez

Xiuhtezcatl Martinez is a 19-year-old Indigenous environmental activist, musician and youth director of [Earth Guardians](#). He recently [told Rolling Stone](#), "I've been protesting since before I could walk."

He's also one of the plaintiffs on the youth climate lawsuit [Juliana v. United States](#). In 2015, Martinez and 21 other youths filed a lawsuit against the U.S. federal government. For more on the trial, follow EcoWatch including [this article](#) that discusses what's happening with this lawsuit.

Martinez recently wrote an [op-ed](#) in Teen Vogue in April that explains the power of young voices. "Young people and marginalized communities

are reclaiming our power and our voices in the movements that are shaping our future. From [Standing Rock](#) to [Flint](#), from the [Bayou](#) to [DC](#), we're beginning to see a different face of environmental leadership," he said.

6. Bea Johnson

Bea Johnson fits a year's worth of trash into a jar. Yes, just one little pint-sized mason jar! She is a pioneer of the zero-waste movement. Refinery29 featured her in a recent article titled [Marie Kondo Came For Your Stuff; Bea Johnson Is Coming For Your Garbage](#).

Johnson's blog, [Zero Waste Home](#), and [her book](#) by the same name have inspired an entire movement devoted to a minimalist lifestyle. She believes that a zero-waste lifestyle is not only good for the planet, but also for our personal health. The book garnered international interest and has been translated into 26 languages.

Johnson was recently interviewed by Here and Now's [Peter O'Dowd](#). Listen below for five tips on how to live a more zero-waste life.