

On climate change and lifestyle

David Oltmans argued well in his Aug. 2 letter to the editor's last paragraph: when climate activists say immediate climate action is necessary, but their lifestyles don't reflect the crisis they describe, it screams hypocrisy. I attended a climate conference (went by train). I was horrified when other conferees discussed sending kids to summer programs in Ecuador, and vacationing in Vietnam. I was angered: how can they advocate for responsible governmental action if they don't act responsibly about personal choices?

I appreciate journalists who cover climate news, and decide to stop flying. I respect activists who fly when it's the only way to advocate effectively, but won't fly for personal reasons. I try to forgive activists who fly regardless.

Unlike Oltmans, I appreciate the Paris accord. I'm sorry the discrepancies between what some activists say and do, distorts Oltmans' analysis of the accord.

But the main problem with his essay is: most people in America (even most people in Houston County) think climate change will harm our children and future generations. Most people want America to regulate emissions, support renewables, and require utilities obtain 20 percent of electricity from renewables. Yale Climate Communications provides color-coded online maps, indicating by county and state, what Americans think about these topics.

Most Americans trust climate scientists. Climate scientists advise acting now to improve the situation facing our grandkids.

Most Americans understand that one individual's climate actions are insignificant. Without concerted state and national action, people feel helpless. Although I don't fly, eat meat, or own a car, I recognize that I'm nuts to curtail myself without concerted effort by everyone.

Readers should please support climate organizations that seek climate legislation, feel more hopeful, and be able to tell grandkids what you did about climate change when you realized it would be harmful to future generations.

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