

# Stewardship shift not difficult

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Thank you to The Daily Progress for Derek Quizon's article on Charlottesville's Area Tree symposium dealing with climate change and trees ("Climate change topic of Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards symposium," March 29). The symposium warned that we're on a path to warming dangerous for trees.

When our kids were young, my husband and I bought a miniature cherry tree for our small yard. It quickly grew taller than our kids. We were excited when it bloomed and then stood by it picking and eating ripe cherries, spitting seeds into the lawn. Every couple years, we chose another miniature tree: fig, pear, apple, plum, and almond trees. The plum tree yielded the most fruit; squirrels stole the pears; the cherry tree lived longest.

One summer night, a family of raccoons was sitting on our plum tree's branches. We didn't harvest many plums that year: We had to share them with raccoons.

Engineers, like Stanford's Mark Jacobson, say we have the technology to furnish all our energy needs by 2030 without emissions. If we have the technology, and we realize the harm we're causing, why aren't we cutting emissions and stabilizing the climate? Why aren't we willing to share the planet with trees and raccoons?

Probably people are just scared of change, and don't know the technology already exists. They don't know that if Congress passes helpful legislation, the transition can happen easily.

For more information, please contact Citizens' Climate Lobby, an organization of volunteers lobbying Congress for legislation to cut emissions and stabilize the climate without the need for more divisive regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency.

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