

Anthropogenic climate change is the greatest challenge humanity has ever faced.

Climate change harms our ecosystems with intense wildfires, floods, and heat waves. It exacerbates the health impacts of poor air quality, creates and worsens food shortages, and makes clean water more difficult to access. The climate crisis destroys communities by damaging homes, increasing unemployment, and weakening local economies.

With supply chains in jeopardy, the global economy has become more uncertain. Marginalized groups, without the means to adapt, are experiencing the harshest impacts of climate change, with 'climate refugees' becoming more common.

Things will get worse before they get better: Extreme weather events are expected to become more frequent and more damaging unless urgent global action is taken to address the crisis by equitably implementing carbon emissions reduction solutions at a significant scale and speed. Those who have benefited most from the industrial age have been responsible for the vast majority of carbon emitted into the atmosphere and thus have a duty to lead.

As a global community of athletes, Olympians, major-leaguers, and students, we have witnessed the effects of the climate crisis on our sports, the sports industry, and how our sports intersect with the rest of society.

Extreme weather due to climate change, from wildfires, to more intense storms and heat waves, to declining snowfall, are threatening the viability of some sports and making some mega-sporting events difficult to organize and host. Poor air and water quality, in many cases exacerbated by climate change, are making sports and life much more challenging. It is becoming harder for young athletes to play, train and achieve the same level of success we've been fortunate to attain.

While the world is behind in the climate fight — the 2018 UN IPCC report said that humanity needs to decarbonize by 45 percent by 2030 if we are to avoid the harshest impacts of climate change — there is time for a meaningful #ClimateComeback.

That is why, as members of the global sporting community, we are raising our voices to call for much needed change that needs to start now. We stand in support of the millions of young people who are demanding meaningful, global climate action and implore global leaders in government and business to heed this call.

Finally, we call on fellow athletes, fans, organizations, government, and business leaders to unite to achieve the four goals of COP26:

1

Secure global net zero emissions by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach.

We urge all governments to end their financial and legal support for the fossil fuel industries which have largely driven this crisis.



2

Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats.

We advocate that governments, businesses, and NGOs prioritize decarbonization programs over offsets.



3

Mobilize finance to deliver on 1 and 2.

We endorse the adoption of equitable carbon pricing regimens that would accelerate decarbonization and reduce income inequality.



4

Collaborate to finalize the Paris rulebook.



By doing so, we will be helping to lead the much needed #ClimateComeback that is necessary for humanity to meet this challenge. We owe no less to ourselves, our youth, and the future of sport.

This is a game we can and must win.

Athletes

Mara Abbott, Retired Olympic Cyclist (USA)
Jordin Andrade, Olympic sprinter (Cape Verde)
Tahne Badenhorst, Rowing Student-Athlete (USA)
Lauren 'Lu' Barnes, Pro NWSL Soccer Player (USA)
Issa Batrane, Pro Beach Volleyball Player (UK)
Dotsie Bausch, Retired Olympic Cyclist (USA)
Cam Bentley, Rowing Student-Athlete (USA)
Freddie Bialokoz, Pro Beach Volleyball Player (UK)
Lisa Blair, Solo Sailor Around Antarctica (Australia)
Lily Brazel, Retired Pro Field Hockey Player (Australia)
Jeremy Casebeer, Pro Beach Volleyball Player (USA)
Abby Casiano, Volleyball Student-Athlete (USA)
Britta Clark, Ultramarathoner (USA)
Joe Cooke, Pro Cricket Player (UK)
Rhydian Cowley, Olympic Race Walker (Australia)
Arianna Criscione, Retired Pro Soccer Player (USA)
Olivier Crouvazier, Ultra-Marathoner (France)
Alex Cruz, Wrestling Student-Athlete (USA)
Gaby Dabrowski, Pro Tennis Player (Canada)
Marcus Daniell, Pro Tennis Player (New Zealand)
Alessandro De Pol, Former Pro Basketball Player (Italy)
Nuno Dias, Pro Martial Arts Athlete (Cape Verde)
Simone Dominique, Volleyball Student Athlete (USA)
Caity Driver, Rowing Student-Athlete (USA)
Susan Dunklee, Olympic Biathlon Racer (USA)
Heather Fell, Retired Olympic Modern Pentathlete (UK)
Aaron Finder, Retired rower (USA)
Brooke Forde, Olympic swimmer (USA)
Maggie Fralin, Soccer Student-Athlete (USA)
Bridget Franek, Retired Olympic Steeplechaser (USA)
Bella Franz, Long Distance Runner (USA)
Tara Geraghty Moats, Ski Jumper/Nordic Combined (USA)
Garry Gilliam, Retired NFL Player (USA)
Lia Godfrey, Soccer Student-Athlete (USA)
Oppong Hemeng, Collegiate Fencer (USA)
Laurel Ivory, Soccer Student-Athlete (USA)
Lily Jarrett, Rowing Student-Athlete (USA)
Sofie Junge Pedersen, Pro Soccer Player (Denmark)
Ben Kamali, Wrestling Student-Athlete (USA)
Allie Kantor, Women's Golf Student-Athlete (USA)
Elena Karakasi, Volleyball Student-Athlete (Greece)
Angela Kerek, Retired Pro Tennis Player (Germany)
Kaitlin Anne Kellner, Cross Country Student-Athlete (USA)
Nicole Kiefer, Tennis Student-Athlete (USA)
Joie Leigh, Retired Olympic Field Hockey Player (UK)
Merle Liivand, Pro Open-Water and Ice Swimmer (Estonia)
Erik LiPuma, Professional Runner (USA)

Michaela Moran, Soccer Student-Athlete (USA)
Zoe Morse, Pro NWSL Soccer Player (USA)
Alena Olsen, Pro Women's Rugby 7s Player (USA)
Carlos Mario Oquendo, Olympic Cycling BMX Racer (Colombia)
Julien Pierre, Retired Pro Rugby Player (France)
Jacquie Pierri, Pro Ice Hockey Player (USA)
Alexandra Rickham, Retired Paralympic Sailor (UK)
Arizona Ritchie, Softball Student-Athlete (USA)
Serafina Rivera, Volleyball Student-Athlete (USA)
Sadey Rodriguez, Track & Field Student Athlete (USA)
Laughlin Ryan, Soccer Student-Athlete (USA)
Brianna Salvatore Dueck, Retired Pro Basketball Player (USA)
Michael Schmidt, Distance Runner (USA)
Jenna Schulz, Cross Country Student-Athlete (USA)
Georgina Rose Seal, Rowing Student-Athlete (UK)
Gemma Shepherd, Cross Country Student-Athlete (UK)
Carter Shields, Rowing Student-Athlete (USA)
Luke Smith, Retired Olympic Volleyball Player (Australia)
Seyi Smith, Retired Olympic Sprinter and Bobsledder (Canada)
Kristine Sommer, Pro Women's Rugby 15s Player (USA)
Abbigail Starnes, Field Hockey Student-Athlete (USA)
Amy Steel, Retired Pro Netballer (Australia)
Brent Suter, Major League Baseball Pitcher (USA)
Brenda Taylor, Retired Olympic Track & Field (USA)
Alexis Theoret, Soccer Student-Athlete (USA)
University of San Francisco Women's Volleyball (USA)
Andrea Vargas, Olympic Track & Field (Costa Rica)
Noelia Vargas, Olympic Race Walker (Costa Rica)
Mike Völlmin, Pro Ice Hockey Player (USA)
Zoe Wassell, Cross-Country & Track (UK)
Zona, Softball Student-Athlete (USA)

EcoAthletes and the greater community from the sports industry endorse this message.

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