



## Planetary Emergency

As Mother Earth Project (MEP) cofounder, I have recently created a MEP WhatsApp Thread for Climate Activists worldwide. This thread allows members to share their day-to-day challenges and ideas for activating change in their communities. In this article, I thought I would share some of the activists' concerns. Although we feel relatively safe in our wonderful Somerset, the rising world temperatures now place all corners of the earth one catastrophe away from being another devastated community.

### Drought, Deforestation, Plastic Pollution, Flooding, and Famine

Activists from around the world are reporting problems in their parts of the world. Here are some examples:

- Gracious from Zimbabwe reports: "Chipinge was at the epicenter of the cyclone Idai in 2019 and much infrastructure was affected, ranging from schools, hospitals, companies and churches. Vegetation was destroyed and several fields were washed away. The roads were badly damaged. Lives were lost as people were drowned from the floods and also from dams that were over spilling."
- Evelyn from Uganda reports: "Plastic pollution and famine are the most pressing issues in the country."
- Moise from Democratic Republic of Congo reports: "Deforestation is a major issue in our country, with foreign companies taking all of the profits and leaving Pigmies without their habitat."

Back in the U.S., my recent visit to New Orleans showed that one year after the recent hurricanes, there are more than one hundred blue tarps covering damaged roofs, just within my eyesight. Locals have indicated that there are not enough professional roofers and carpenters to fix all of the devastation. As we all know, service professionals are in great demand nationwide.



*Raising Environmental Awareness with a Mother Earth Mural on a public bathroom building in Zimbabwe, by artist Laston Simeon]*

### How Does This Relate to Somerset?

In general, we all seem relatively safe and there doesn't appear to be a compelling reason for us to be too concerned. Our Town is 295 feet above sea level and presently we have little threat of wild fires. But, as we already know, we have major stormwater issues that will continue to worsen with more severe weather, and our access to the world's food supply and services is showing many signs of instability, all caused by global warming and its repercussions. And then there is the possibility of more severe hurricanes and tornadoes in the future that are now hitting random places all over the US.

Let's continue our focus on living sustainable lives and encouraging others to do as well. For those interested in learning and doing more please visit our website, [www.motherearthproject.org](http://www.motherearthproject.org). And, of course, if you have ideas regarding how our Town can become more sustainable and carbon-free, please reach out to the Environment Committee at: [tos.environmentcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:tos.environmentcommittee@gmail.com).