5.Mitigation

Mitigation means preventing or reducing damage that might happen from climate-related disasters, such as extreme heat, flooding, hurricanes and other weather events, etc. Minimizing possible future damage is mitigation. Different communities and geographic areas will need different ways of minimizing damage. Examples of mitigation are listed below, but each community and nation will have more specific ways of trying to protect communities, people, homes, wildlife, and ecosystems against climate disasters. Disaster preparation is a form of mitigation. Here are some examples of mitigation and disaster preparation.

> Creating local rapid response teams
> Training local people to fight fires and bringing firefighting equipment
> Building seawalls if they are effective in a local area
> Relocating communities in endangered areas
> Raising streets and installing drainage to prevent flooding
> Having small planes and helicopters in remote areas to fight fires
> Create local cooling centers from extreme heat
> Do all the homes in a neighborhood have air conditioning?
> Has anyone identified the people in a community on oxygen or who have medical needs that would be endangered in power outages? Is there a plan to assist them and their caregivers if needed?
> Climate change disasters makes the need for universal health care insurance for all people an extremely important way of helping people be protected in case of injury or illness from disasters or pandemics caused by a warming climate, overcrowding of animals in factory farms, and communities living closer to wildlife. This is also an important aspect of creating a "just transition."
> Equip a community center or local school in each community with solar or wind power for people to come during long power outages
> Countries like the U.S. that tend to be value individual independence, may need to think of actions that help groups of homes instead of only individual families. One example is community gardens or people planting different food crops in the same community and neighbors sharing with each other.
> Create community-wide disaster mitigation plans.
> Shift to solar or wind power as a community-wide project. Maybe everyone can have at least one room powered by renewables so they have heat and air conditioning and a kitchen powered in case of prolonged power outages.

One of the biggest issues facing the world regarding climate change is the increasing scarcity of safe and healthy drinking water. Creating community plans

for ways that communities experiencing climate disasters or heat can be prepared with clean drinking water sources is an important aspect of mitigation. Also planning ahead and being proactive in limiting unnecessary uses of water now can help reduce water crises and shortages in the future.

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_____ Sodas use massive amounts of spring water and water from other sources that they often do not pay communities for. This should be restricted or not allowed. Take Action   Learn More

_____ Many corporations use water in industrial and other processes. National and global audits should be done to see how much water is used by who and for what purposes to determine the most appropriate uses of water.
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_____ Many areas out west in the U.S., many areas in Africa, and other countries have scarcities of clean water due to severe droughts from climate change. There are already strong disagreements and negotiations for water rights in areas all over the U.S. and also internationally.
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_____ Agribusinesses out west and sugar corporations in South Florida use large amounts of water that leave residents, wildlife and the Everglades without enough water.   Communities needs for safe drinking water should be prioritized over corporations' uses unless they are related to medical services or other primary public-supporting functions.
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_____ Fracking for oil and gas by fossil fuel corporations use massive amounts of water. Oil corporations have destroyed drinking water in areas of the Amazon Rainforest and many other places around the world through oil spills, constant oil leaks and runoff, leaching of toxic chemicals into groundwater, and other crimes. Fossil fuels corporations should be required to pay independent organizations and cleanup companies to clean these areas as much as possible and restore drinking water, wildlife, and ecosystems.
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_____ Homes and businesses can be adapted to use less water in many ways. One example is low flush toilets.
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