

## Degrowth Is the Only Sane Survival Plan

Just this week, two articles published in the *Guardian* (a British newspaper) highlighted the climate crisis and the failure of the global community to respond in a manner commensurate with the seriousness of the situation. The first reported that [CO<sub>2</sub> levels have reached a new high](#) (421 parts per million), while the second [presented the results of a survey of the world's top climate scientists](#). Almost 80 percent of the respondents expect global temperatures to rise by 2.5 degrees C or more by the end of this century. This is well above the Paris Climate Accord goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C.

In [a recent article posted on the TomDispatch website](#), environmentalist Stan Cox raises some challenging questions about climate change, economic growth and consumption. He notes that as far back as 1972, scientists were questioning the viability of an economic model predicated on unlimited growth. They observed that “the excessive consumption of resources... is depleting reserves to the point where the system is no longer sustainable.” Technological advances will not be enough, “the change needed to put us on a different trajectory will also require a change in belief systems, mindsets, and the way we organize our society.”

Stan Cox goes on to explore the concept of *degrowth*. Degrowth policies include “reducing less-necessary material production and energy consumption, converting to workers’ ownership, shortening working hours, improving and universalizing public services, redistributing economic power, and prioritizing grassroots social and political movements.” He recognizes that such measures may be impossible in our current political climate but holds out hope that more enlightened political leaders might be able to turn the tide and head off disaster.