

Why can't capitalism be sustainable?

Although science has increasingly demonstrated the seriousness of the ecological crisis, the problems keep getting worse. Governments have failed to take action to solve the climate crisis—or toxic pollution, overfishing, ocean acidification, and other problems. The reason for this failure lies in the social system that dominates the world—capitalism. Several features of capitalism make it contrary to any solution of the ecological crisis:



- **The profit motive:** The whole economy is structured around production for profit for a small elite. There is no accounting of ecological costs—if it's profitable to burn oil, oil will be burned.
- **Production for the market:** In order to be profitable, corporations need to sell as many things to as many people as possible. This leads to wasteful results, such as a transportation system that forces everyone to own a car rather than building publicly-owned transit.
- **Unplanned economy:** The lack of economic planning leads to irrational decisions, such as building sprawling suburbs when a compact city would be more efficient
- **Uncontrollable growth:** In order to be “healthy”, a capitalist economy must continually expand production and profits. Together with the above factors which make the system produce the wrong things in the wrong way, this means that capitalist production continually breaches ecological limits.
- **The capitalist state:** The world's governments protect their own local capitalists at the expense of workers and the planet, so they won't consider regulations that would challenge profitability.

This system is stacked against us. In order to win the ecological reforms we need now, we have to build a working people's movement that challenges the power of capitalists and the capitalist state. Ultimately, we need to get rid of the profit motive and institute a truly democratic, ecosocialist society.



**SYSTEM CHANGE
NOT CLIMATE CHANGE
THE ECOSOCIALIST COALITION**

System Change Not Climate Change: The Ecosocialist Coalition is a network of individuals and groups dedicated to fighting against ecological destruction and the capitalist system that causes it, and for a new, sustainable world. Find out more and get involved at www.SystemChangeNotClimateChange.org