

WHAT'S NEW ON EVERYTHING EARTH

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Everything Earth

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COP26 FAILED. IS WALL STREET THE ANSWER?

Global climate summit, COP26 concluded today, November 14, with little appreciable progress. Climate change scientists say that governments' commitments fall well short of measures necessary to keep global temperatures at the targeted 1.5 C increase. At current emissions rates, that target will be exceeded in less than 12 years.

The challenges at Glasgow were admittedly daunting even before unpleasant surprises arose, such as India – a newly industrialized country - demanding trillions of dollars annually to subsidize their fuel transition. Meanwhile, leaders of Russia and China, two of the world's largest users of coal were not even in the building.

No wonder even the most ardent climate activists are beginning to look to Wall Street for hope. As green technology becomes competitive, money is pouring into ESG "sustainability" stock funds, making Wall Street a powerful partner in fight against climate change.

Some Wall Street insiders believe that the ESG surge equals green-washing rather than a real desire to support green innovations. Others point to the fact that the new investor activist Engine No. 1 drew enough support among majority stockholders to get three members with strong environmental credentials elected to Exxon's Board – a remarkable feat at the very top of one of the most powerful energy conglomerates in history.

Bottom line, it's not an either-or situation. Governments must provide the carrots and sticks, subsidies and regulations, to inspire corporations to change their paradigm from a traditionally singular focus on Return-on-Investment to a recognition of their larger responsibility to the global community.

Bottom line, neither public nor private institutions tend to make fundamental change unless their constituents demand it. That's you. Our bed is burning. It's time to call on corporations to join the fight for our planets survival. Like it or not, they are the ones with the power to push over the line to a fossil-free future. See "3 Minutes to Change the World" below for how to influence one of the world's most powerful retail role-models.



PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS: "SERENE ON THE WING" "FALL SPECTACULAR"

"Serene on the Wing" by Matt Messner features a Brown Pelican on the St. Petersburg Pier. Their numbers have recovered since being nearly wiped out by DDT in the 1970's. They acclimate easily to humans, often landing on boats and opening ice chests for free bait fish!

"Fall Spectacular" by Mari inspires a sigh for the coming coziness of cooler



weather and a winter inside a white picket fence

RECIPE OF THE MONTH: PEAR PIE



Why doesn't anyone ever consider making a pie out of pears? I didn't – until they started falling out of the sky. Ok, out of my tree. Pears are naturally sweet, packed with nutrients and in-season for months. Nevertheless, it was only the tree's relentless abundance that inspired my now famous Pear Pie.

Added bonus? Make this pie peeless without actually peeling the pears.

Ingredients:

6-8 ripe pears of any variety
1/3 c. sugar
2 t. each cinammon, lemon juice
2-3 T. cornstarch or flour (more if your pears are extra juicy)
2 prepared 10" pie crusts
Opt'l: 1/3 c. each dark chocolate, chopped nuts + 1 c. slivered coconut

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

The secret to pear pie without peeling is to freeze the pears, and let thaw. The skin turns orange, but the flesh stays creamy white. Slice in half, pull out the stringy center, and scoop or squeeze the fruit off the skin and into a medium pan. Totally messy, so kids love to help! Not only is it a super time-saver you lose none of the flesh to peeling.

Add sugar, cinammon, lemon juice and a pinch of salt and bring to a low boil. Simmer 5-10 minutes. Take off heat and stir in the cornstarch slowly. Bring back to a boil for 1 minute. It will thicken as it cools.



Meanwhile, press the crust into a 10" pie plate and poke with a fork.

This next step is optional. I do it because my homegrown pears are massively juicy and this keeps the crust from getting soggy. That's my excuse, but, seriously – chocolate and coconut with pears? Eye-rolling good!

Melt the chocolate in the microwave on med-high for 2 minutes, *stirring every 30 seconds*. While chocolate is hot, spread it over the bottom of the crust. Optionally, sprinkle coconut on top. When chocolate has cooled and hardened (about 5 minutes), pour in the pear mixture.

Top with the second crust, slice in some vents. Bake at 400 for 35-45 minutes.

Note: the second crust adds a lot of fat. Yum! But if you prefer, top with more coconut (and chopped nuts if you like) for *only the last 10 minutes of baking* otherwise the coconut will burn.



TAKE 3 MINUTES TO CHANGE THE WORLD

To look at Walmart's website is to believe there is no reason to contact them to encourage environmental responsibility. "36% of our global energy needs were supplied by renewables in 2020" trumpets their [ESG report](#). According to the [EPA, it's 14%](#). Either way, it's a good start.

But Walmart has been accused of green-washing for leading with such stats which are true but misleading: it's "global energy needs" refer to its own stores and plants. But Walmart's *supply chain* is responsible for *95% of its total emissions* impact. It has recently initiated "Project Gigaton" to begin tackling its supply chain's massive impact on the environment.

Walmart's other environmental sins – its plastic bags choke oceans and landfills; it relies on gas-guzzling trucks and cargo planes for distribution - are multitude. However, it has committed to environmental responsibility that goes far beyond government mandates. To continue competing or doing business with Walmart, industry will have to respond to, even emulate, a retail role-model such as Walmart.

"Anything that Walmart does drags the rest of the retailers along," said [David Hyatt](#), a professor at the University of Arkansas. With thousands of suppliers around the globe, Walmart has the potential to "reach across international boundaries and push companies to act on environmental issues, bypassing the sometimes grinding slowness of political action," agrees [Michael Vandenberg](#), co-director of the Climate Change Research Network at Vanderbilt Law School.

What you can do: Contact Walmart with a polite message thanking them for making commitments to zero emissions and especially to Project Gigaton. Please ask them, however, to do more including:

- ✓ Rather than mislead the public about recycling, ban plastic bags from stores and reduce plastic packaging. Walmart brands alone use [1 million tons](#) of plastic every year. Walmart knows that the multitude of "recyclable" products and packaging on its shelves actually end up choking oceans and landfills.
- ✓ Support environmental legislation and candidates. According to the [Institute for Local Self-Reliance](#), "Walmart is one of the largest corporate campaign contributors in the country. Its dollars skew heavily in favor of candidates who consistently vote against the environment."

Contact Kathleen McLaughlin, Chief Sustainability Officer at Walmart, Inc, at the [World Resources Institute](#) or on her Facebook or Twitter page: [@KathleenForGood](#).

UP NEXT: SECRETS FOR A FUN, FABULOUS AND OFFBEAT HOLIDAY SEASON

Stay tuned for December's "What's New on Everything Earth". Meanwhile, check our website, [EverythingEarth.net](#) for weekly blog posts and updates.