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Greta Thunberg's hope for the future

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Why are we asking a teenager how to solve the climate crisis?

“It’s absurd,” says Greta Thunberg, [in an Opinion Video guest essay](#), that we are asking her to answer this question. Even more absurd, she argues, “is the fact that the climate and ecological emergency is being reduced to a problem that needs to be fixed.”

On Tuesday, evidence of what Thunberg calls the “political and economic failure” to adequately address climate change was on full display when the United Nations released [its annual report](#) detailing “the difference between where greenhouse emissions are predicted to be in 2030 and where they should be to avert the worst impacts of climate change.”

The report paints a bleak picture of missed targets and pledges that don’t go far enough.

In this short film by Norma V. Toraya and Jared P. Scott, Thunberg criticizes the presidents, prime ministers, kings and queens attempting to wield her image for their own political gain.

The animated video offers a unique window into the life of the 18-year-old Swedish activist.



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The filmmakers integrate memorable quotes from Thunberg into their film. “You all come to us young people for hope. How dare you!? You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words,” Thunberg famously said to the United Nations.

The video unpacks the experience of being iconicized, the experience of being Greta Thunberg. And Thunberg is correct — selfies and hashtags won’t save the planet.

And yet she still believes humanity has not failed. In a rising ocean of troubling news, she has managed to hold on to hope.

Hope, not from politicians and leaders, but from ordinary citizens.

As political powers head to Glasgow next week for [COP26](#), Thunberg has a message to those of us not going to Scotland: “Hope comes from people, from democracy, from you.”

“It’s up to you and me,” she says. “No one else will do it for us.”



We're Facing a Climate Disaster. Why Is Greta Thunberg Hopeful?

“All political and economic systems have failed, but humanity has not yet failed.”

Featuring Greta Thunberg