When people hear about climate change, they often ask the same question: What can I do? Faced with an existential threat, people want purpose. They want to know how they can hold back the rising tide. Often, people look to their own lives for change, to try to lower their own pollution. While this is a valuable training ground, changing your behavior is not as powerful as changing the infrastructure and institutions around you. We should think about climate action as a series of circles: starting with yourself, but moving outwards into community, and finally policy change. It’s not easy, and you can’t do it alone. But each one of us can chip away at the laws and corporate policies that keep us stuck in our current energy system. Working together, we can slowly shape it into a new form. Do not demand that your smallest, personal circle be pure before you start working on the broader circles of community and policy. Because that day will never come. Let’s dig in today to shift the system—and tomorrow and the day after.

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