

# Surely the Climate's a-Chang-in'

Ted Burrowes

Judy Harrison & Ted Burrowes

Gm Dm Gm B $\flat$  A7 Dm C A

Come ga-ther 'round peo - ple \_\_\_\_\_ I've some - thing to say, \_\_\_\_\_

A7 Dm Gm C Dm G7 C-Fsus C

A cli-mate ca - ta - stro - phe's head - ing our way. \_\_\_\_\_

C F C C7 F C C7 F Dm7 C Am7

It will be ev - en worse if we choose to de - lay.

16 Dm Am/C B $\flat$  7 A7 Gm A

Ac - tion now \_\_\_\_\_ is what we are need - in'.

Gm Dm Gm B $\flat$  A7 Dm G7 C-Fsus C

The sci-ence is \_\_\_\_\_ clear \_\_\_\_\_ and ain't go - in' a - way. \_\_\_\_\_

A7 Dm C Am7 Dm

That sure - ly the cli - mate's a - chang - in' \_\_\_\_\_

32 G/A Dm C Am7 D

That sure - ly the cli - mate's a - chang - in' \_\_\_\_\_

(with audience participation)

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# Surely The Climate's a Changin'

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- Verse 1: Come gather 'round people, I've something to say.  
A climate catastrophe's heading our way.  
It will be even worse if we choose to delay.  
Action now is what we are needin'.  
The science is clear and ain't goin' away  
That surely the climate's a-changin'. *(repeat last line -with audience participation.)*
- Verse 2: There's species extinctions. It's perfectly clear  
We're interconnected - there's much we should fear  
All that's living's at risk - yes, the whole biosphere.  
Web of life, the web we must treasure.  
Keep working. Don't give up, for the world we hold dear.  
All will prosper if climate stops changin'. *(repeat)*
- Verse 3: The oceans are rising, with peril and woe.  
The land is so finite, there's no place to go  
That will give each one peace and enough room to grow.  
Yes, the consequences are sweeping!  
Let's fully agree that we'll reap what we sow,  
We must slow and, then stop climate's changin'. *(repeat)*
- Verse 4: With rainstorms and wildfires the prospects are dire.  
It's crucial now to act like our house is on fire.  
Speak to all of the world, don't just preach to the choir.  
If humanity is worth savin'  
Connect with everyone, hoping all to inspire,  
To agree that the climate's a-changin'. *(repeat)*
- Verse 5: Oh writers and artists who speak from the heart.  
Your message must be forceful, from facts don't depart.  
Aim for meaning and insight, deep truths to impart.  
Being bold, but yet with surprises.  
Share wisdom, and love, using all of your art.  
'Cause climate is non-stop a-changin'. *(repeat)*
- Verse 6: We mothers and fathers, our daughters and sons  
Are the ones who'll be hurt by the things we've not done.  
And as time marches on, harm will come to each one.  
Oh the consequences are nearing.  
They're coming so fast and cannot be outrun,  
As relentlessly climate's a-changin'. *(repeat)*
- Verse 7: Come young folk, come seniors, and all in between,  
We must all raise our voices, be heard and be seen.  
You can play your own part, have a place in the scene.  
Everyone! Everywhere! Every way!  
Join hands; add your voice; and join up with a team.  
It's together we'll slow climate's changin'. *(repeat)*

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- Verse 8: Elected officials, it's time to stand tall.  
Be faithful to your oath as you care for us all.  
The physics don't listen to political stall.  
Seize the day with farsighted vision.  
It's become very clear that our margins are small.  
Oh so swiftly the climate's a-changin'. *(repeat)*
- Verse 9: In a spiritual context we each must assess  
If our actions conform to the things we profess.  
Do they further life's meaning and guide faithfulness?  
Does the voice in your heart give agreement?  
And you clerics must ask what perspectives you'll bless  
As our life paths we're mindfully changin'. *(repeat)*
- Verse 10: While looking for causes don't focus on blame;  
Responding with derision or aiming to shame.  
We will not solve our problems, we'll only inflame,  
Kind intent; gentle words; list'ning ear.  
And focus on accord, build a base of common aims.  
Side by side we will stop climate changin'. *(repeat)*
- Verse 11: The models are not perfect, we do understand.  
But data affirm climate's quite out of hand.  
And with tipping points coming the flames will be fanned.  
Climate woes are rapidly growing.  
They touch all of life, in the sea and on land.  
Climate burdens are growin' and growin'. *(repeat)*
- Verse 12: It's physics not posturing that's making the call.  
So all institutions, the great over all,  
Must now undertake widespread woe to forestall.  
Let's get busy finding solutions!  
All species everywhere, both the large and the small  
Are at risk as the climate keeps changin'. *(repeat)*
- Verse 13: Denial is futile, the science is clear.  
Dismissal of the facts will not make them disappear.  
The heat waves and flooding will grow more severe.  
Look ahead. Open mind. Fresh ideas.  
And progress brings us hope as new pathways appear.  
This is how we will halt climate's changin'. *(repeat)*
- Verse 14: As problems gain momentum we must not obscure  
There's value in each action, of that rest assured.  
And a gram of prevention's worth a kilo of cure.  
What you can. Where you are. When you can.  
Each step nurtures hope, and will help us endure.  
As together we lessen the changin'. *(repeat)*

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Verse 15: You singers and listeners, it now is the time  
To create some new verses with challenge and rhyme,  
That offer perspectives with new paradigms.  
Let's share, openly, and completely.  
The context will evolve. Fresh ideas need to shine  
In response to how climate's a-changin'. *(repeat)*

Verse 16: So ev'ry one list'ning, resolve to be part  
Of the global engagement of brain and of heart.  
Put your hand to the plow, and be firm, and be smart.  
We'll succeed if everyone's tryin'.  
But we need everyone to commit to a start,  
What we do must be truly wide rangin'. *(repeat)*

-- end --

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*Please think of this whole song as a seed. You'll certainly choose the verses you want and their sequence. But more than that, change the wording to better reflect your perspectives, alter the music to best suit your own style. More broadly, write new verses and even write new music. And check our website: [ClimateChangeMusic.org](http://ClimateChangeMusic.org) to see what others have done and shared, and consider sharing what you've done. You'll also find there a text file of the verses, intended to simplify the process of your choosing the verses you want without having to transcribe from the PDF.*

*Questions? Comments? Send an email to: [TheClimateSong@gmail.com](mailto:TheClimateSong@gmail.com).*

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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.