

# USS MARIE CURIE

Volume 3, Issue 3  
www.usscurie.org

## *Ship's Log*



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*To Boldly Go, Together*
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# Status Report

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## Command

Captain Steven – Commanding Officer

## Science

Lieutenant Jen – Chief Science Officer

Lieutenant Junior Grade Seth – Deputy Chief of Sciences

Lieutenant Niamh

## Operations

Lieutenant Commander Ren – Chief Operations Officer

Lieutenant Bryan – Deputy Chief of Operations

Ensign Patrick

## Engineering

Commander Meg "Squirrels" – Chief Engineering Officer & First Officer

Lieutenant Stephen – Ship's Librarian & Judge Advocate General Officer

## Tactical

Lieutenant Erica – Chief Tactical Officer

Ensign Bianca

## Communications

Lieutenant Samantha – Chief Communications Officer

## Medical

Commander James – Chief Medical Officer

Captain Brady

Welcome back to the Curie! We hope you enjoy your stay with us. Here's the recent news from our lovely Chapter.

First, the crew's first D&D campaign will be starting soon, led by our Chief of Communications Samantha. Take a look at our #tabletop-general chat room for times if you'd like to sit in and watch the game!

Second, the Marie Curie's Extra Life initiative (led by Chief Operations Officer Ren and Chief Science Officer Jen) begins this month! Be sure to take a look at their Extra Life thread in #games-and-hobbies to begin participating.

Extra Life is a company intended to enable streamers to raise money for their local Children's Hospital. It's never too late to donate to our crew's fundraising page: <https://www.extralife.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donordrive.team&teamID=61468>.

That's all for now, live long and prosper, Curie!



# Science Deck

## Climate Change: *To Boldly Go, Together*



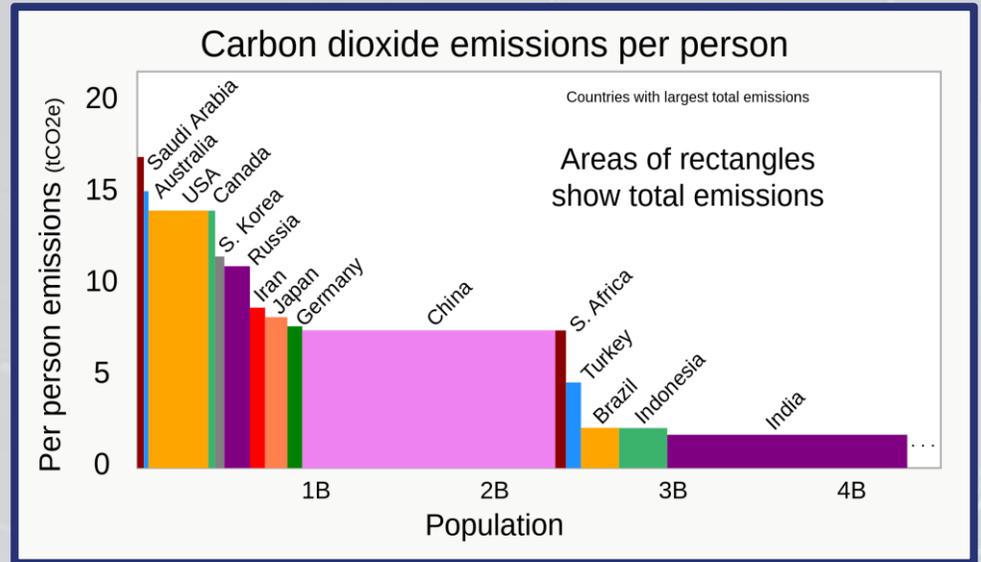
*Photo courtesy of Markus Spiske*

Although *Star Trek* takes place in an essentially utopian society, the future history of Starfleet tells us that we not only fail to address climate change, we have to endure a global nuclear war and make first contact with the Vulcans before we grow into good relations with our environment.

That's not a future I can accept, nor is it one that we have to.



To recap the physics of climate change: when sunlight enters the Earth's atmosphere, most of it is absorbed by plants, dark surfaces, water, and metal, while the rest is radiated back into space.

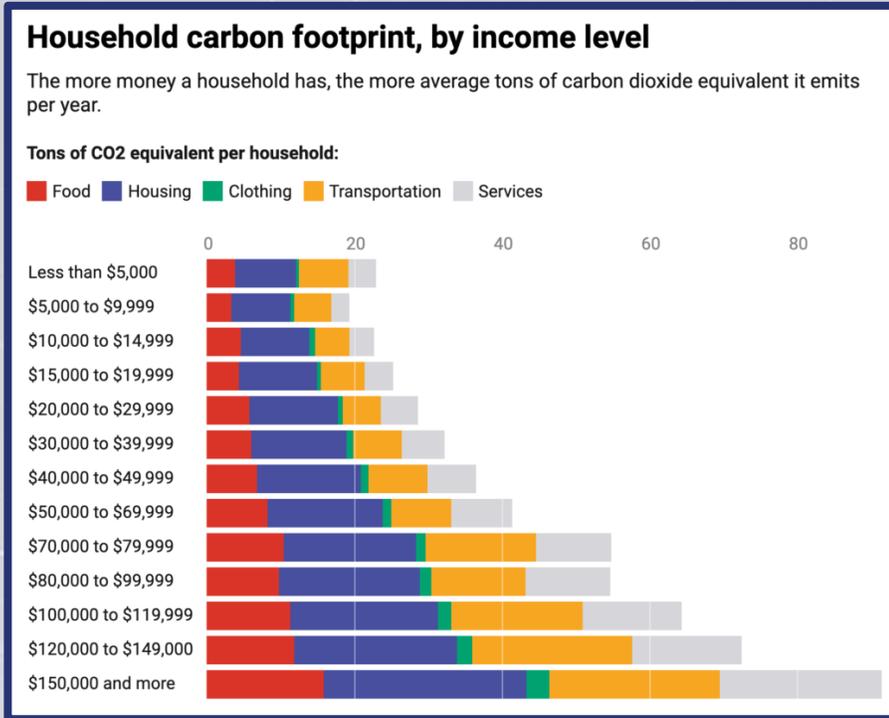


The Earth's atmosphere contains a small amount of “greenhouse gasses” (GHGs), or gasses like carbon dioxide and methane that trap some of the escaping sunlight (which is generally a good thing, unless you think Rura Penthe looks like a nice place to live).

Since roughly the 1500s, and especially since the late 1800s, some humans have altered the Earth's natural cycles so that GHGs have been steadily increasing, causing widespread climate change. The bulk of GHG emissions over that time period were caused by the burning of fossil fuels, especially coal (formed on land in environments with lots of plant residues, like swamps) and petroleum (formed at the bottom of the ocean from the remains of tiny plankton). What climate change actually looks like depends on where you are, but for the most part you can expect hotter and drier conditions year-round with fewer but higher-intensity rain events.

The production of GHGs is extremely unequal across the globe. Most charts focus on the total GHG emissions per country, which is rather misleading because it ignores population size; the below graph partially remedies this fact by showing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita, which still smooths out large differences in consumption between different economic classes. The top emitters tend to be highly developed countries, followed by others who started industrializing relatively recently.





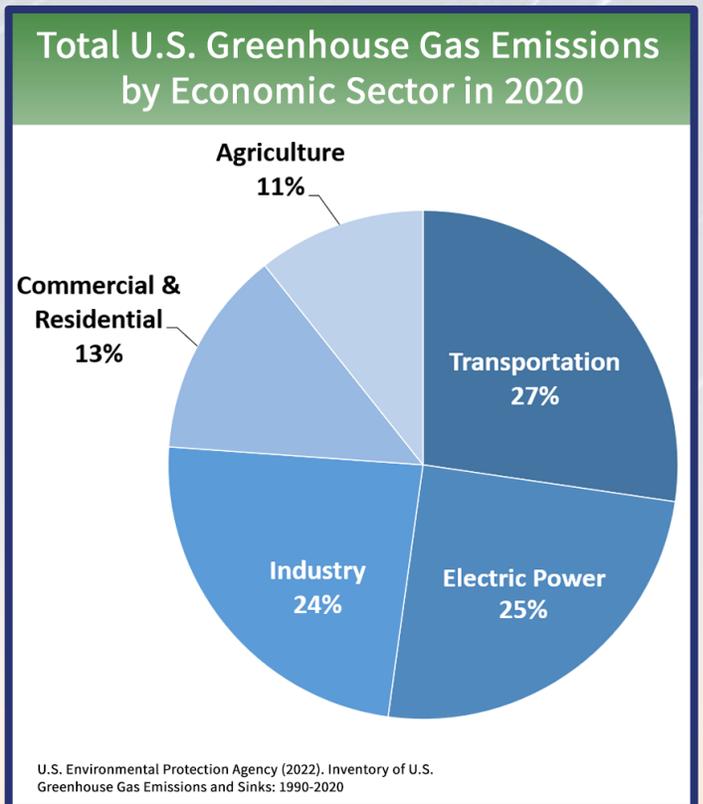
The same relationship between wealth and emissions is evident when you zoom in to the household level in the United States.

Perhaps even more strikingly, residential emissions make up less than 10% of the United States' yearly total (see below), less than half that of industry, power generation, or transportation.

This is always surprising to me, given the general emphasis on reducing GHG output at the household level; if we could decarbonize the energy sector (i.e., switch from fossil fuels to wind, solar, geothermal, and tidal energy), we could reduce national emissions by up to 25%.

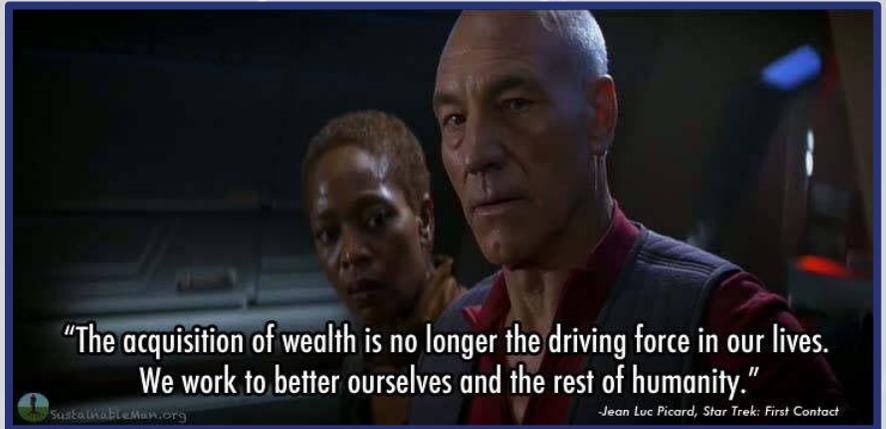
That shift would also have profound implications for racial equity and public health: [68% of Black Americans](#) live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power, which means (among many other impacts) that Black children have an asthma rate nearly twice that of white children. Climate change is an intersectional issue, and the people who contribute the least are often impacted the most.

This leads me to the best advice I've heard about addressing climate change: focus on helping people, because what is good for people will generally be good for the Earth (thanks to [Dr. Chandler Puritty](#), formerly of UCSD, for this insight).



Walkable, more accessible neighborhoods and better public transit means less auto emissions. Bringing jobs and industries back to the US means less shipping emissions. Remote work and conferences means less aviation emissions. Fighting cancer, asthma, and a whole slew of other ailments means shutting down coal and petroleum power plants and refineries. The list could go on and on, but you get the point.

I fell in love with *Star Trek* because of its hopeful version of the future. The world of the United Federation of Planets, so different and yet so similar to our own, is an aspiration for many of us, and it's so easy to forget that the future is birthed from the choices we make in the present.



The choice before us now is simple: do we accept the future history of *Star Trek*, or do we help each other be better? One man cannot summon the future, but we can all change the present.

Deputy Chief of Sciences Seth



# Enlistment Information

## Are you a Starfleet International member?

Great! Email us at [computer@usscurie.org](mailto:computer@usscurie.org) and let us know what you want in a SFI chapter, and we'll find a place for you in our online community.

## Not a Starfleet International member?

No worries! While we highly recommend joining SFI, our chapter accepts interested "civilians" regardless of their association. If you're interested in joining STARFLEET, check out their official website [sfi.org](http://sfi.org), then email us at [computer@usscurie.org](mailto:computer@usscurie.org) and let us know what you're looking for!



**Adventure Awaits.**

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[computer@usscurie.org](mailto:computer@usscurie.org)

**Join STARFLEET**  
The International Star Trek Fan Association Inc.

