

# Script Runaway Train

Animation in black and white

Scene 1: Focus on smoking train

A: Hey, look at yourself; yes, that`s you on the train.

B: Oh yes, that`s me, but who are all the others ?

A: Only the rest of mankind, more than 7 billion of us, the number is increasing so fast one loses track of it.

B: Wow it seems we are going pretty fast.

A: You bet we do, just look at the belching smoke we pump into the atmosphere. We have round about two hundred locomotives, they call themselves countries, powering us ahead into a bright future

Scene 2: view past the train towards the wall, which slolw grows bigger as the train gets closer to it

B: Bright future? Isn`t that a wall looming in front of us?

A: You bet it is. Our best scouts, they call themselves scientists, have known about it for more than 50 years.

B: Well, nowadays you don`t have to have eagle eyes to see it, it so big and scary. I wouldn`t want to crash into it.

A: Neither do I, that is why I call it the Wall of Horrors, as it would mean a collapse of the world as we know it, floods, fires and not just the death of a multitude of species, but the death of whole ecosystems from corals to forests, the ecosystems we need for our own survival.

B: That really sounds horrible. Lucky that we have known about the danger for so long, we surely have stepped on the brakes to avoid hitting the wall!

A: Sorry, but we really talked about the problem, hard discussions we had and some train drivers have actually really started to put their feet a bit less hard on the gas pedal, though I have to admit that others have really floored their engines and our speed has increased quite a bit.

B: What? You want to tell me we are speeding up to hit the wall, are we crazy or suicidal?

Scene 3 Zoom on old people stepping hard onto the gas pedal, smiling having fun; all look backward

A: Well, look at them. They say they can't see the problem and are having a hell of a time.

B: But they are looking in the wrong direction!

A: Exactly. But they are so old anyway that they will be dead before we hit the wall. They have nothing to lose and they are so fat that we can't get past them to the controls.

B: Horror!

Scene 4: view of the train from the side on a downhill track which gets ever steeper

A: Yeah, but things can always get worse, because nature is behaving so stupidly and our track is all downhill from now on.

B: What do you mean?

A: Oh, imagine that just because we heat up the planet "a little bit" the sea ice is melting and instead of reflecting the heat of the sun back into outer space the heat is now absorbed by the water that used to be covered by the ice and the water is absorbing the heat, making the planet hotter, melting more ice, making the planet hotter, melting more ice, etc. I think you are getting the point. And the forests instead of sucking the carbon out of the atmosphere are burning in the

hotter, drier climate, heating up the planet, starting more forest fires and so on. It is truly downhill from here on.

Scene 5: short blackout, then again the train going at full speed (smoke belching from its chimneys, towards the wall)

B: I`m shocked, I`m speechless, **I want to pull the emergency brake!!! Where is it?**

A: Well, we have found a kind of break, but it works really slowly by sucking the smoke back out of the atmosphere, but for some reason nobody wants to use it. I guess they think it is too expensive. (Probably those in command have an insurance policy for train wrecks anyway). But anyhow it would not stop us from hitting the wall, it needs too much time to work.

B: But aren`t we considered a very clever species, aren`t we inventing real important stuff like gadgets that switch on the light on command so that we don`t have to get off the couch or cars that drive us around while we sleep. Can`t we invent stuff that really helps mankind and sucks more smoke back in or come up with a real brake.

A: You forget that all the clever minds are so busy with more important things like enjoying life as much as possible with all the money they have earned with their brilliant ideas. Why should they help the rest of us?

B: But aren`t they and their kids sitting on the same runaway train. A train that is actually increasing its speed. Won`t they crash into the wall like all the rest of us?

A: Oh, they will and they will regret it but the joke is that we do not really have to invent an emergency brake because we have already known about it for quite a while. But some people said it is too dangerous to use a brake as you never know what could happen when you use it.

B: You are kidding, you are kidding me, **you must be kidding me. You must! That is crazy!!** We are wasting our time with futile discussions with old men

who don't want to take their feet from the gas pedal and are afraid to use a brake and all the while we are risking the future of mankind and the whole planet.

**This is nuts!!!! I will pull the brake now!**

(Sound of screeching brakes)

Speaker:

Just in case you are not ready to end your future as road kill on a runaway train help us to pull the emergency brake. Put your name, or better even your face behind our push to stop this nonsense and save our planet and its ecosystems on which our future survival and prosperity rests. Post your name/picture together with the hashtag: #cooltheartcticnow

And spread the message to all your friends!

A stable climate is one of the most basic human rights and it is a precondition for life on this planet as we know it.

What the world needs is a **comprehensive global climate stabilization program** that makes sure that the world never exceeds the 1,5°C scientists have agreed on as the absolute last bearable upper limit for global warming and cools it back down to the temperature last seen at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by the end of this century.

Such a programme must rest on three pillars:

- 1: Stepping of the gas = reducing greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible
- 2: Slow brake = sucking the gases out of the atmosphere where CO<sub>2</sub> would linger for 150years otherwise to reduce their levels to preindustrial times and store it underground, where by the way they could become useful for mankind again when the next ice age comes around in a few thousand years.

3: Emergency brake = temporary cooling for as long as it is necessary, that means until the greenhouse gas levels have returned to much lower levels and the sea ice level is back up. To achieve this and to stop the world from being truly flooded by the melting glaciers in Greenland and Antarctica we have to start cooling the Arctic and then Antarctica immediately.