

Our Obstacles and Solutions to Achieving Harmony with the Earth

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What's Up with the Environment?

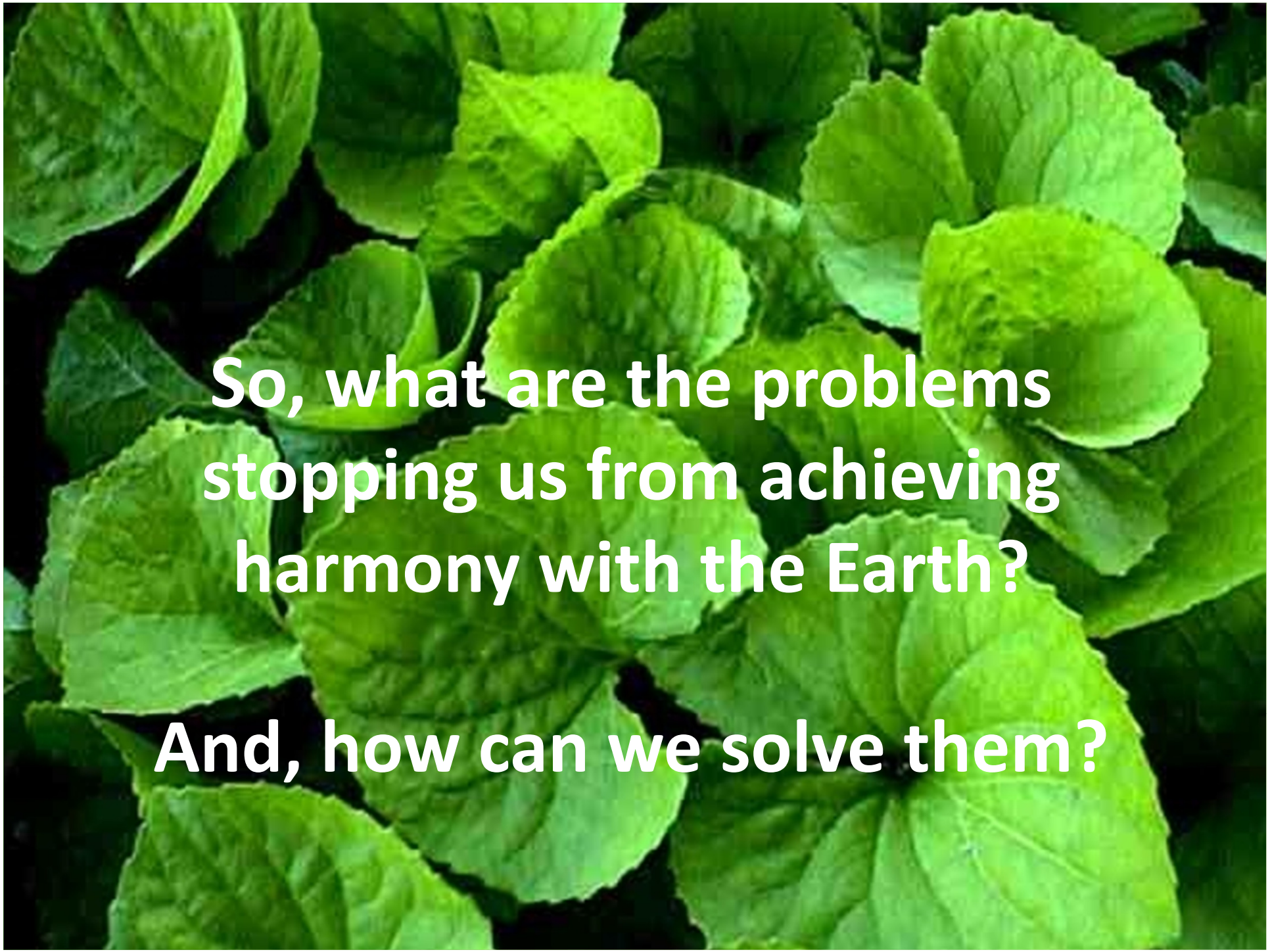
- Current world population: approx. 7 billion
- Population growth rate is rapidly increasing
- More people → more stress on environment
- Scientific data suggest global warming
- Carbon emission > carbon removal
- Excessive use of fossil fuels and other non-renewable resources

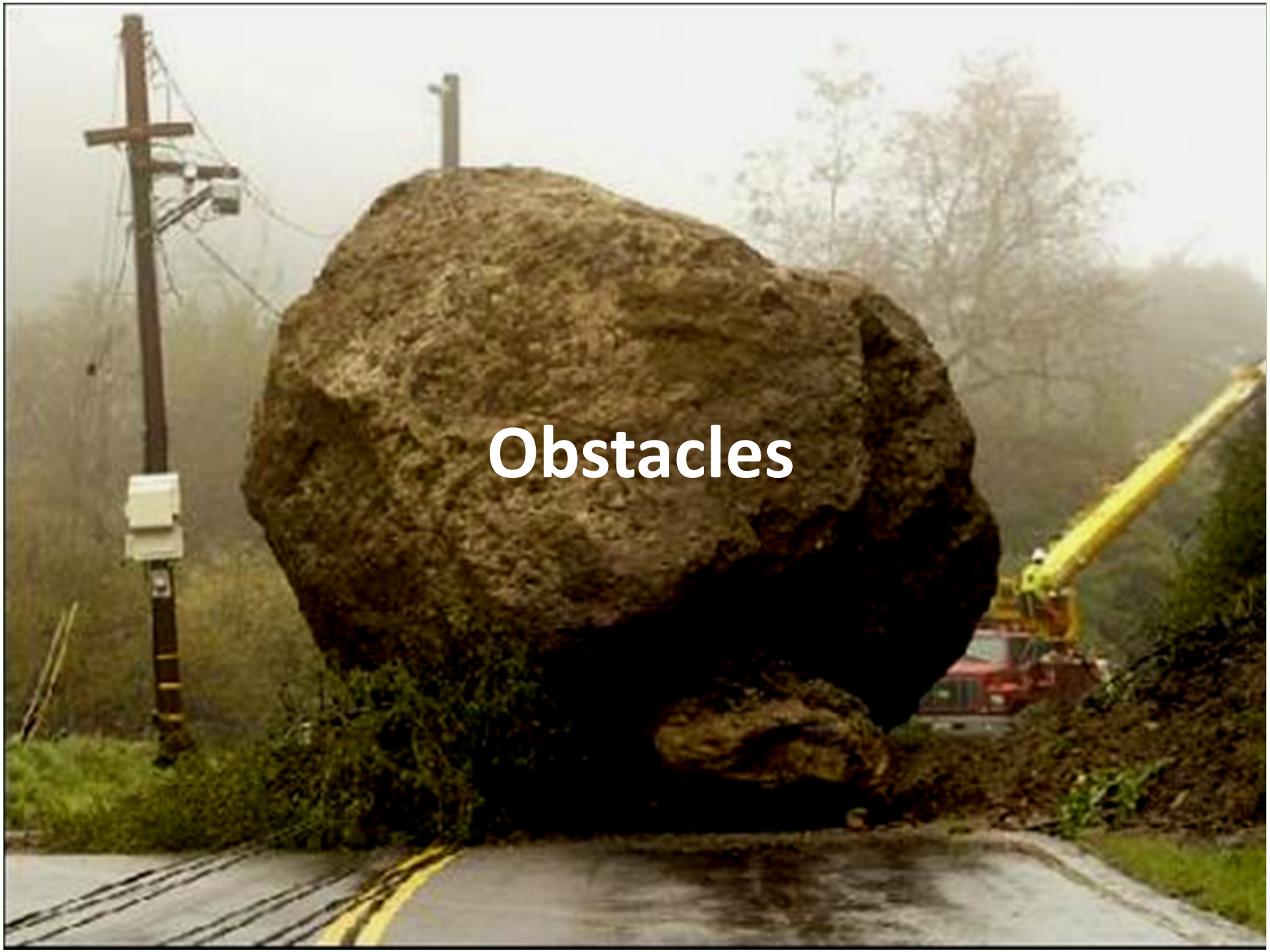


Why Should You Care?

- We must consider the world we are leaving for future generations
- To keep Earth healthy and safe, we must be concerned about environment




So, what are the problems stopping us from achieving harmony with the Earth?
And, how can we solve them?


Obstacles

Obstacle #1

- Economic difficulties in developing countries
  - Lack of funds for environmental change
  - Widespread poverty



Obstacle #2

- Western governments are manipulated by people with a stake in petroleum oil companies
  - Not willing to lose money in promoting alternative energy use
  - Difficult to make change from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources through government policy



Obstacle #3

- Lack of public information in nations across world on environmental issues
  - Not publicized as often as necessary
  - Lack of awareness → lack of concern



Obstacle #4

- Hesitation to change daily habits or lifestyles
  - Comfortable and/or successful with current technologies and ways of living



Obstacle #5

- Problems in mindset/attitude toward environmental problems and solutions
  - "Why me?"
  - "I am just one person; what can I really do to help the environment?"




Solutions

Obstacle #1

- Economic difficulties in developing countries



Solution #1

- Follow Mr. Mechai's example as in Thailand
  - 1) Population control → introduction of contraceptives
  - 2) Education for the poor
  - 3) Concern for environment & social problems as part of Bamboo School curriculum

Obstacle #2

- Western governments are manipulated by people with a stake in petroleum oil companies



Solution #2

- Make government aware that change from petroleum to alternative energy sources can be gradual plan of action (multiple years required)
  - Alternative energy can become new method for making profits
    - More energy-efficient & cost-efficient over time

Obstacle #3

- Lack of public information in nations across world on environmental issues

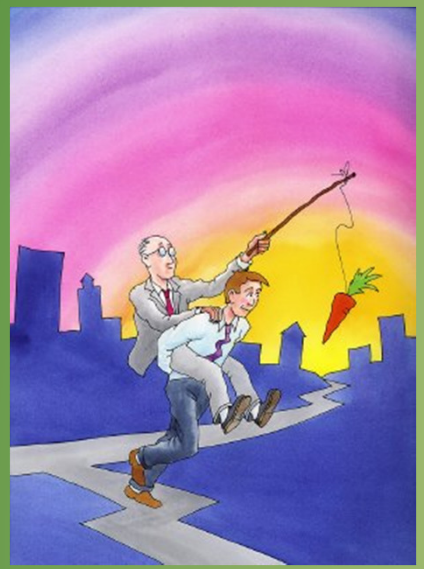


Solution #3

- Integrate environmental studies into school curriculum
  - Provide incentive to schools that adjust curriculum
- Add daily environmental section to newspapers

Obstacles #4/5

- Hesitation to change daily habits or lifestyles
- Problems in mindset/attitude toward environmental problems and solutions



Solutions #4/5

- Provide incentive to be eco-friendly at home
  - Social responsibility
- Teach children in preschool that environmental awareness is important and that anyone can make difference – Mechai model
  - Songs, alphabets, games


What Now?
• Every obstacle has solution
• We depend on environment, but environment can benefit from our help
• Change takes time
• Our choice to take action


What will you do?