

"Life is like a game of cards. The hand you are dealt is determinism; the way you play it is free will." Jawaharlal Nehru

Everyone likes to play games, right? Well, almost everyone. And all the players like to win, of course, even those who say they play for fun.

HOWEVER, the most important aspect about playing life on Earth is that you have at least one card to play, and that is not a small feat, especially as it concerns our planet and the future, we could have on it.

We all are (I mean everyone in this room) up to date with climate change and all the consequences it comes with: heatwaves, rising of the sea levels, changes of seasons, extinction of species and so on. Those are just the results of our actions, of our decisions because what nature does is to react. We, as a population, are responsible for the air, soil, and water pollution, for diseases like breathing problems, strokes and heart attacks caused by heat, for the carbon footprints of the objects that surround us etc. BUT we are also aware of that and just by being here we show that we care and so do numerous other people, scientists, researchers, and developers, who work harder than anyone to come with solutions, real and outstanding answers that can have major effects. But for they trying to combat climate change, we would not stand a chance against it.

Nevertheless, just because they have more cards to play does not mean that the rest of us are powerless. On the contrary, not only can we make a difference by staying united and working as one for the same goal, but in time we could also have the same contribution. Recycling, reusing, and reducing are our cards and how we play them depends on our free will. That is where it gets personal, and it is the idea from which I have started this whole speech. I was reluctant at first as so many of us are but after months of recycling and reusing, it became a habit and now it is almost like a lifestyle. It can be fulfilling, and it brings me happiness whenever a friend starts recycling after visiting me. It can seem in vain, but it is just the first step we can take. In time I have discovered that my efforts are important and that is what I hope I can reach out to you, that your actions are so important. Well, there are more measures we as normal citizens could take, like taking our bicycle for a ride instead of using cars, or trying to invest in green alternatives for energy, transportation and so-forth. For a start, we should all just take into deep consideration what kind of impact each one of us has on the environment and if we find it a positive one then we need to carry on, but if we discover that it is rather a negative one then we should not hesitate and start looking for solutions to change that. If I somehow made you curious then please visit the site: www.carbonfootprint.com to calculate your carbon footprint and your family's as well.

To sum up, all of us have a role to play in this game of life and depending on our 'strategy' we will get the result we all wish for, a healthy and thriving planet.