



ENVIRONMENT

It's Up To All Of Us©

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Vocabulary & pronunciation study by
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Words are explained alongside the text

Stressed syllables are underlined and in bold*

It's up to all of us. That's the message of Leonardo DiCaprio's feature film. "*Before the flood*" is not another action or drama movie - although the **cinematography** is impressively similar to that of Leo's **blockbusters** - it's a **documentary** about climate change. And the first week of its **release**, it was made **available** for free on National Geographic Channels - that's quite unusual too!

DiCaprio comments that for some reason "people **tune out** when we talk about climate change". **Understandably** - in the West it is rather **schizophrenic** to listen to **apocalyptic** scientific **scenarios** and take **environmentally** friendly action, while at the same time being immersed in the highest level of **consumerism** the earth has ever seen. We can have everything we need and everything we want, we don't have to **worry**. We **don't even have to** pay **that much** for it. This movie is said to be made for those of us who still have the power to consume differently: in what we buy, what we eat and how we get our **power**. Made for those of us who can vote for leaders who will fight climate change by ending **fossil fuel subsidies**, putting a price on carbon and investing in **renewable energy**. The only way to achieve important change is if it is **propelled** from below.

The call goes way beyond changing the kind of **light bulbs** you use. Indeed, the big names who made this movie - Fisher Stevens, Martin Scorsese and DiCaprio himself - support the idea that leaders are in reality

It's up to (exp.) it is the responsibility of

blockbuster (n.) very popular profitable film

to release (vb.) to make public

to tune out (phrasal vb.) to stop paying attention to something

to worry (vb.) to be anxious

don't even have to (exp.) it's not necessary to do something

that much (exp.) a lot

power (n.) mechanical or electrical energy

fossil fuel (adj. n.) oil, coal or natural gas

subsidy (n.) financial help from the government

renewable energy (adj. n.) energy which exists naturally

to propel (vb.) to cause to move forward

light bulb (n.) electric device producing light

public opinion *followers*. If the majority calls for its leaders to take action, they have no other choice but to act. This has **historically** been seen with respect to other **societal** debates such as gay marriage or women's votes.

The movie won't convince those who still think that climate change is a Chinese **conspiracy** against US industry, or the latest **scientific** joke since the **evolution** of **species**. However, it could have a considerable impact in terms of **reaching out to** non-partisan audiences on the topic. It doesn't question the whole system, it informs against its **drifts**. It doesn't put the **responsibility** on a single player, it **lucidly** calls for a collective **consciousness** and a search for more **sustainable** models free from corruption. It **overlooks** the questions of availability of alternative resources, growth led models and **local powers** yet it promotes the first urgent and **realistic** steps toward **tackling** climate change as a global **issue**: "The only thing that we can do is to **control** what we do next, how we live our lives, what we consume, how we get involved and how we use our votes to tell our leaders that we know the truth about climate change. [...] We are the last best hope of the earth".

to reach out to (phrasal vb.) to contact

drifts (n.) changing tendencies

lucidly (adv.) in a clear way

sustainable (adj.) capable of continuing for a long time

to overlook (vb.) to fail to consider

local powers (exp.) local government

to tackle (vb.) to work on

issue (n.) subject

to control (vb.) to manage

***Tip!** Some words are very similar in English and in French, but the pronunciation is often different. Look at these words, count the syllables and take note of the stressed syllable:

cinemat**o**graphy, schizop**h**renic, apocal**yp**tic, scenar**io**s, histor**ic**ally,
soci**e**tal, refug**ee**, scient**if**ic, responsib**il**ity, **con**sciousness