

TEXT 2

Al Roker (b. 1954), a famous American weather reporter, author and television personality. He is well recognized for his acclaimed work in broadcast meteorology, reporting major weather events such as both Hurricane Katrina and Sandy.

Al Roker

An extreme weather report from America's weatherman

I first started doing television weather in 1974 when I was a sophomore in college, and I have seen a lot of changes that I know you have. From history-making hurricanes¹, we're talking about record-breaking blizzards². I've been... Yeah, OK, laugh at my suffering. I'm glad you feel that good...

5 Hurricane Sandy³... This was really, to me, a game changer as far as climate, when people realized what was going on. Hurricane Ida⁴, which came onshore, causing massive problems not just at landfall but also as it moved inland causing massive, massive flooding. A lot of us recently experienced dangerous air quality because of wildfires⁵ up in Canada, that smoke stretched as far south as Atlanta⁶. We're also experiencing atmospheric rivers⁷, cyclogenetic bombs⁸ of low pressure. We've also looked at rising ocean levels and, of course, paralyzing winter storms, stretching from
10 Texas into the Northeast, unprecedented⁹ heat, and flash flooding¹⁰ all within the last couple of weeks. If we were to talk about everything that's going on, all these extreme weather events that have been happening in the last couple of years, we would literally be here for a couple of hours. [...]

Let's talk about, for example, hurricanes. Did you know that between 2016 and 2019, we had four straight years with Category 5 hurricanes? That's the top of the level. That is unprecedented. And
15 beyond the increasing frequency, hurricanes are also intensifying more rapidly. We're seeing that happen time and time again with these hurricanes as they approach shore. And this is because the environment is favorable, because the ocean waters have heated up. [...]

Wildfires. OK, we know about the wildfires that happen out West, and the average acreage¹¹ burned in warm season has nearly doubled. There is no more wildfire season out West. And the folks out
20 West were laughing at us in the East saying, "Hey, get used to it. This is what we've been

¹ orkaner

² snestorme

³ Hurricane Sandy: orkan i USA, 2012

⁴ Hurricane Ida: orkan i USA, 2021

⁵ skovbrande

⁶ hovedby i delstaten Georgia, USA

⁷ atmospheric rivers: ekstreme skybrud

⁸ cyclogenetic bombs: pludseligt opståede, meget kraftige storme

⁹ uden fortilfælde

¹⁰ flash flooding: pludselig, stærk oversvømmelse

¹¹ areal

seeing.” We’re getting used to bad air quality and in fact, the intensity from these frequent wildfires has led to the deterioration of our lifestyle, our air quality, loss of property and crops. It is just really one of these things that is changing how we live.

25 But what happens to those folks who actually struggle? Struggle with the actual impacts of climate change? Now, we’ve known for years that communities that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change are the ones that are least responsible for climate change itself. In fact, the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the IPCC¹², estimates that in the next 30 years, and that’s not that long, 140 million people will be displaced¹³ worldwide. That’s more than the population of Russia. That’s how many people we’re talking about. Here in the United States, federal
30 government has had to start to compensate Indigenous communities¹⁴ because they’ve had to move because of sea level rise and warming of the atmosphere. We were recently in Alaska and saw the change that has happened to the Indigenous communities there because of their lifestyle, their community, and their heritage¹⁵ is being lost because of this.

35 Now about 75 percent of the world lives under the poverty line in rural areas. And these are the same areas whose natural resources are being undermined and destroyed by extreme drought¹⁶, torrential rainfall¹⁷ and wildfires. And even though they try to do what they can, these events often force these communities from their very homes, changing their lives, their communities, and their culture. [...]

40 Now what can we do? How do we change things? How do we get those solutions going that help us harden ourselves against climate change? Well, one of the most impactful options is electrification. Sure, we think about cars, but what about stoves? What about lawnmowers, leaf blowers? In fact, a recent automotive test¹⁸... think about this, running a leaf blower for 30 minutes adds more pollution to the atmosphere than an F-150 truck¹⁹ driving 3,800 miles. ... One leaf blower. And not to mention the noise. [...]

45 And in fact, when we talk about our lawns, because a lot of lawn care goes into this, we need to stop thinking about, you know, that green, lush lawn. Let’s rethink that to using more shrubbery²⁰, more brushes²¹, more drought-resistant plants. It’s called xeriscaping²². So that there’s less green as far as lawns, well-manicured lawns, and more natural, indigenous²³ plants that help conserve water and help the actual planet keep that water in.

¹² FN’s klimapanel

¹³ fordrevet

¹⁴ *Indigenous communities*: USAs oprindelige befolkningsgrupper

¹⁵ kulturarv

¹⁶ tørke

¹⁷ *torrential rainfall*: skybrud

¹⁸ *automotive test*: biltest

¹⁹ *F-150 truck*: stor firhjulstrækker

²⁰ buskads

²¹ krat

²² beplantning, som reducerer behovet for vanding

²³ *natural, indigenous*: (her) naturligt forekommende

50 And then there's another area that we can talk about. I know you look at me and you think, "Yes, he's fashionable. Yes, he's... he's GQ²⁴." Right? OK. Well, the fact of the matter is, you know, fast fashion, that is just a real detriment²⁵ for our environment. It's cheap, quick, mass-produced fashions that are meant to be discarded, fill up our landfills²⁶, cause pollution because of the dyes that are used. So, what you end up doing is adding to landfills and spending a lot of money. Instead, find good, durable, sustainable clothing that's going to last more than one season and you help
55 reduce our landfills and causing more problems. And look good doing it, too.

And lastly, the most important thing. Engagement. You have to be engaged. You have to know, let your elected officials know that this is important to you. You have to vote. You have to vote. You have to go out there and support politicians who are going to support our planet.

60 You know, one of the things that has changed my outlook in a very short period of time. Nine days ago, I became a grandpa. [...]

And I was thinking about, what kind of world is she going to have? I mean, let's face it. I'm only going to be here, if I'm lucky, maybe another 15 years. Who knows? But it's her world. All of our grandkids and their kids, it's going to be their world. What world are we leaving them? This younger generation is going to fight this fight. So, support them. Support politicians who decide that our planet and its
65 health is the more important thing, that climate change is the most existential threat to our survival. And make sure that you do what you can. Be conscious of the decisions you make. We can all get together and make each individually come together and make a great change and change our planet.

Thank you very much.

(2023)

²⁴ *Gentleman's Quarterly* (herremodemagasin)

²⁵ ulempe

²⁶ lossepladser