

Film treatment by Paul Maple and James Dyke

‘THE RACE IS ON’ Secrets + Solutions

In order to avoid disaster, the international community has agreed to limit global warming to no more than 2°Celsius. For that to happen, changes are required across all sectors of UK society. Very few people appreciate just how profound these changes will be.

This film is about the central secrets of climate change; about the hidden changes that will soon affect most people’s lives. The 2015 United Nations Paris Climate Agreement relies on large scale undeveloped and untested ‘negative emissions technologies’. If these technologies fail to work as predicted, then at current rates of pollution, scientists say that society has just 18 years left before dangerous climate change is ‘locked-in’.

THE RACE IS ON tells this epic story through the words of four world leading experts: climate scientist Dr. Gavin Schmidt from NASA, renegade economist Kate Raworth from Oxford university, senior UK universities energy and climate researcher Professor Kevin Anderson, and principal researcher from Zero Carbon Britain, Paul Allen. Charismatic sustainability academic Dr. James Dyke guides the story through a labyrinth of seemingly insurmountable problems to show us that not only do we have the solutions to hand - a post-carbon UK is a healthier and happier nation.

THE RACE IS ON explores a collection of urgent physical, economic and political issues through gripping and decisive insights. The lives of millions of people, and the investment of trillions of dollars worth of real estate are at stake as temperatures and sea levels continue to rise. However, innovative solutions such as Europe’s largest floating solar array demonstrate that not only is change possible - new technologies can bring about their own benefits including lowering electricity bills. Meanwhile, vested interests continue to profit from the current economic system which recognises climate change as an ‘externality’ - mainstream economics is unable to distinguish the living planet as the source of all of human sustenance. There is a growing movement of people who are aware that a new system needs to be built which accommodates the urgent changes that the physics demands. This new system is already here, and needs to be nurtured, discussed, and supported; it is a new emergent economic model. Stylistically, the film’s thematic expositions are illustrated with inspiring poetic visuals, carefully selected relevant key facts and voiceover. The film’s genre is instructional design / national building.

At this pivotal time; in contrast to Donald Trump pulling the USA out of the United Nations Climate Agreement; this film introduces the idea of poly-centric governance - whereby solutions to these problems can be worked upon at all levels within society (state, city, community, and individual). Individuals and community groups are making an impact, whether it is through reducing meat consumption, making cities liveable, or organising community action. This gigantic transition is happening now. The UK has a huge renewable energy potential and the financial and intellectual wherewithal to bring about this necessary transition which would demonstrate real leadership globally.

THE RACE IS ON shows that the UK could help lead the world into a new low carbon revolution and so help safeguard everyone’s future.