

PLANT
Baby
PLANT

A CALL TO ACTION

A CALL TO ACTION

from **Robin Wall Kimmerer**



We're being buried in an avalanche of threats to the lands we love — as climate commitments are reversed, the EPA is dismantled, logging accelerated in the National Forests and other losses too numerous and painful to list. I've been feeling both drained and enraged by the attacks on our values and **I bet you have, too.**

The chant "Drill, Baby, Drill" is an affront to pretty much everything I have dedicated my life to. **"Drill Baby, Drill" drills into my soul. Do you feel the same way?** It says that the best and highest use of our beloved Mother Earth is to rip her open and burn her up. It announces to the world—despite the clear and compelling science that tells us if we want a livable planet, we must not add more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere—that "we're gonna do it anyway." It torches the notion of a circular economy and doubles down on the one-way road to a human-caused climate catastrophe.

My inbox is full of despairing "what can I do?" messages from readers. **Like you, I am searching for acts of resistance, for something I can do to counter the firestorm.** I've made my daily calls to legislators. I've written letters and gone to protests. I've donated. I want to do something more direct and tangible. I want to give love back to the land which is so threatened by the extractive worldview.

"Drill, Baby, Drill" is an intentional slap in the face to people who value land, life, health and justice over corporate profits. It's a stick in the eye to fierce advocates for environmental justice. Well, I want to raise a garden-gloved middle finger in return. How about you?

Youth, elders, urban, rural, Democrat or Republican, I think there's one thing on which we can all agree: **It's wrong to wreck the world.** Our collective finger is raised in opposition to an agenda and a value system that actively harms the land we love.



In these times of great political division, **where else could we find common ground but in care for the ground itself**, our common home?

As my Haudenosaunee neighbors invite, can we bring our minds together as one and send gratitude, love, and respect to the Earth beneath our feet? **Nature-based climate solutions are for everyone.** After all, the trees don't ask how you voted before they shade your house. They don't ask who you are before offering you an apple. Their generosity is unconditional. Maybe we could follow their example.



The agenda of "Drill, Baby, Drill" is "anti-everything": anti-science, anti-justice, anti-truth, anti-climate, anti-biodiversity, anti-songbird, anti-water, wildlife and wellbeing. And dare I say it, "anti-American"? Well, I have no intention of wallowing in the toxicity of anti-everything. **I want to be for something, not against everything.**

I am for purple mountain majesty, I am for the fruited plain, for bees and butterflies, bison and cranes, rabbits and roses, for children who can pick berries and be dazzled by fireflies at night. I am for snow. I am for people working together, sleeves rolled up in common purpose, instead of devising ways to tear each other down. And I bet that you are, too.

As I lecture around the country, I am always asked, “What can I do?” At the very top of my long list of responses is,

“Raise a garden and raise a ruckus”.

And so that’s why I am embracing a new mantra of resistance to counter “Drill, Baby, Drill”. I invite you, my friends, my neighbors, my readers, my fellow citizens into a new movement called **“Plant Baby Plant”**. We will counter the forces of destruction with creative resistance.



When I’m searching for direction, grasping for solutions, I go to my elders for guidance: my elders, the plants. In the worldview of my Anishinaabe peoples, plants are understood as our teachers of creativity, generosity and healing. They represent intelligences other than our own and models of right relationship. They know what to do about climate change—and they are doing it. They don’t spew eons of accumulated fossil carbon into the air. They take it out. They don’t try to go backwards to outdated energy technologies—after all, plants have already converted to a completely solar economy!



As a plant ecologist, I know how our traditional Indigenous perspective aligns with the scientific evidence. Every green leafy being is removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and turning it into life support by providing food and habitat and storing carbon in rich fertile soil. Plants cool our overheating planet with shade and transpirative cooling without using a single watt of electricity. Plants should be the model for our energy policy. **Plants know what to do to slow climate change. But they can’t do it alone.**



We will ally ourselves with the good green world, not against it. In protest of “Drill, Baby, Drill,” we will plant trees, raise gardens of all kinds, protect wetlands, restore prairies, create native plant landscapes in homes, churches and school yards, parks and parking lots. We will enact Tree Justice so that every corner of our neighborhoods have the healing benefits of nature.



Gardeners, patient and peaceful, may not seem like warriors. But our passions lie in nurturing the land, in countering destruction with regeneration, in fostering beauty in the face of ugliness, in sharing the abundance of the land with our communities. **These are the skills of creative resistance that we need in this moment of peril.** Farmers, will you join us in using your gifts of time and talent and love to counter “Drill, Baby, Drill” with Plant Baby Plant?

Is planting enough?



Nope. Carbon removal from reforestation, restoration and rewilding are not enough to match the output of greenhouse gases from industrialized human society. But with many hands and many roots we can collectively make a dent.

And **planting does so much more than store carbon, of course.** Plants build habitat, create soil, purify air, regulate rainfall and they make us happier and healthier. Planting together can create communities of mutual reliance and common purpose, instead of conflict and division. Because everyone benefits from a happy planet.

The carbon impact of the fossil fuel industry dwarfs ours. But we're also creating something else: biodiversity, food security, community, justice, soil, local economies, friends, picnics, community power, and joy.



Not only will we plant trees and food and wildflower meadows, but we will plant our feet and say “no more destruction.” And we will plant a flag, to claim that **this is what good citizens do on behalf of Mother Earth.**



Together we can counter the anti-climate actions with pro-climate actions supporting nature-based climate solutions. It's not everything—we still need to hold our government to climate commitments. We still need to demand accountability from corporate thieves. We still need to support the restoration of democratic principles as well as restoration of land.

We don't have to be complicit in destruction. You don't have to sit by while what you love is in danger. **If our leaders won't lead, then we will.** We can take our future into our own hands and PLANT.



Ask the trees and grasses and the wetlands to help. As we help them, they will help us, in the ancient reciprocal gift economy of living beings.

Will you join me and pick up a shovel? Plant Baby Plant!

—Robin

About Plant Baby Plant

Founded by Robin Wall Kimmerer in 2025, Plant Baby Plant is a growing grassroots movement inviting people to heal land, build community, and grow power through tangible acts of care for the living world. PBP mobilizes neighbors, schools, and organizations to restore ecosystems, strengthen local bonds, and reimagine our collective future rooted in reciprocity.



PLANT *Baby* PLANT



RAISE A GARDEN • RAISE A RUCKUS



@plantbabyplantmvm



@PlantBabyPlant



@PlantBabyPlant



PlantBabyPlant.com