

Speech by Quinn MacAskill at Climate Strike Rally organized by the Sackville Youth Climate Change Coalition.

Dec 6, 2019

This global climate strike is happening today for a reason. I don't know how many of you are aware, but there are meetings going on in Madrid, Spain right now called COP 25, about how to address the climate crisis on a global scale. About 25,000 people from 200 countries will be there! These meetings will be crucial in the fight against climate change, and will likely determine whether we will stay under 1,5 degrees Celsius or not. That is why youth all over the world were on climate strike last Friday, the 29th, and more of us are out today, striking for our futures to demand that solid actions come out of COP 25.

There is another reason for the timing of this climate strike, and that is the holiday season. Let's face it; the way we currently celebrate during the holidays is terrible for the environment and climate. Everything is centered around consumerism and more material objects, often none of which are crafted locally and must be transported from far away, creating a lot of carbon emissions in the process. We've decided to have a bit of a theme surrounding consumerism and big companies for this strike seeing as these corporations are almost always terrible polluters and hold way too much power in our governments. Youth may not be able to vote for our political leaders, but we can vote with our dollar. Because every single time you buy something, you are telling that store and other companies that you like that product, so they will make more of it. So, every time you go to buy something, ask yourself, do I really want to vote for this? There's a big difference between buying a highly packaged candy bar made with palm oil from a big box store, then buying a fair trade, sustainably made chocolate bar from a small local store. If every one of us here today chose to use our dollar to vote for environmentally friendly products, think of what a difference it would make! Especially if we encouraged everyone we know to do the same. We can be especially conscious of this during the holidays as we are purchasing gifts for family members and friends.