

Cheyon Sheen
Username: cheyonsheen
cheyonsheen@gmail.com
Institut Sainte Marie - Jambes

- In other words, if you could change the world, what would **you** do and how would **you** do it? Your only instructions are to be creative, bold, and brilliant. Make your idea clear, concise and thoughtful. Our goal is to work with each of you to put ideas into action and through that change the course of our future!

If I could essentially do anything to change the world, I would implement a carbon tax on all carbon emissions. I would use William D. Nordhaus idea of putting a price on carbon dioxide, calling it the “social tax of carbon.” Basically, he applied economics to environmental damage. He researched precisely how much environmental damage is made for a ton of carbon. For example, a ton of carbon costs \$60 because it is “quantified by in things like rising sea levels that would damage your home and raise your insurance cost and lower your property value, [so] that cost has been inflicted by a certain amount of carbon dioxide. He is putting a literal price tax on carbon and making that a tax. Producers will move to less carbon-heavy things because it is profitable, and consumers will stop buying carbon things because it will be more expensive. (https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/19/podcasts/the-daily/climate-change-un-report-carbon-tax.html?rref=collection%2Fcolumn%2Fthe-daily&action=click&contentCollection=podcasts®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=6&pgtype=collection) If I was in charge I would implement this idea. This is the biggest step in reversing climate change. So much is focused on the consumer and what we want. We learned throughout PGC the damage WE are putting on the environment for our OWN profits. We can continue to profit in environmentally conscious things when the tax is put on carbon-heavy things, reverse the roles, and the producers and consumers will choose for themselves the environmentally conscious way/product because it profits them too. It’s a brilliant idea that would cause a lot of tension at first, but I would gradually implement it to let the economy and people adjust. I would put it on big companies first, then all companies, and slowly put it on other carbon-heavy things. I don’t want to implement it on cars yet because I know there are a lot of people who can barely even afford their gas, and if there is no public transportation you can’t go to work or school... but at some point, there would be a small tax on gas that would be projected to increase in the next years, so people could plan how they would find different solutions. I would also increase the EPA, teaming up with economists to help communities and states adjust to this carbon tax, making all their citizens are still receiving the goods and products they need to survive. Also, I would hold a lot of educational classes to teach people the importance of this tax, that it’s not just a tax to burden the economy. The money of this tax would then go into communities that need help adjusting to more environmentally conscious ways.