

Ask a Leader: Hear from Katie and Gold



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Happy Earth Day, friend!

Last week you asked two of our Obama Leaders, Katie Hawkins and Gold Chinder, some great questions about protecting the environment. Now, we're excited to share their responses to help you celebrate our planet all year long.

Read on for a preview of the Q&A, then [check out all of their responses here](#).



[Read the full Q&A](#)

How can you build coalitions with those who are skeptical about climate change?

Gold Chinder: We have to look at what matters to them: food, water, family, tradition. And share real stories from communities already impacted.

Katie Hawkins: Coalition building for climate work is best approached by taking the time to connect with community members to better understand what is happening in their day to day lives. It takes time to build this trust and respect different opinions, but it is through these conversations you can establish common ground and understanding.

What's a change you've made in your own life to help the planet?

GC: In Mozambique, I focus on educating people about biodiversity conservation, and I inspire the younger generation to live a sustainable life and promote it.

KH: Show up in my community. It could be working on trails, helping at my son's school on an environmental project, donating time or resources to the local nonprofits, or giving public comment on climate resiliency initiatives at a town council meeting. Just show up; your community and the planet need you.

[Read more of Gold and Katie's responses here](#), and stay tuned for the next opportunity to ask our changemakers some tough questions!

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