Top tips: Buy less and swap big items

By Angela Terry

SHOPPING has been sold to us as a leisure activity. We are taught to think of ourselves as "consumers". But there are so many ways to spend your time rather than online shopping or trudging round a shopping centre.

The stark truth is that our overconsumption is driving the linked crises of climate and nature. As things stand, humans are currently using natural resources 1.75x faster than our planet's ecosystems can regenerate. Healthy, self-sustaining ecosystems, like oceans and forests, are indispensable to keeping our planet liveable. They regulate the climate and absorb carbon emissions. But our shopping habits are putting them at risk.

Living with just the things we need doesn't only help the environment, it makes for a simpler, less stressful life. Have a rule of "one in, two out". If you buy something new, tell yourself you must then take two things to a charity shop.

Consider sharing big items with neighbours or friends. Or you can rent items instead of buying them.

You can extend this way of thinking to presents too. You don't have to max out your credit card on overly-packaged things that your loved ones don't need. Make homemade presents – like brownies or a jar of chutney or jam – or gift tickets to a sporting event or show.

Angela Terry is an environmental scientist and the founder of One Home (onehome.org.uk).

limiting global warming to 1.5C was not something he thought was achievable.

In an interview with Jeremy Hunt MP, the philanthropist and Microsoft founder said mankind was much richer and more knowledgeable today about climate change than in the past, but more had to be done with technology and fast.

He said: "What happened with solar panels where they were very expensive, and now they're cheap, or lithium ion batteries – we need to do that for about six other technologies.

"You know, green steel, cheap hydrogen, offshore wind. And so it does require lots of money.

"We have many paths of innovation, we're not just counting on one path but we will have to see rapid innovation.

"It's all a matter of degrees, so to speak."

He said that "hitting 2.5C [warming level] is better than hitting 3C" but added: "1.5C will be very difficult. I doubt that we'll be able to achieve that."

Nicola Sturgeon said there was now a

need to be to protect the long-term future of the climate.

"How big that gap is remains to be seen, but what is really important is the process that comes out of [the summit] to close that gap in the future."

She said the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) of each country – which lay out how governments plans to cut emissions – should be reviewed annually or biannually.

And US climate envoy John Kerry praised the Glasgow climate conference, saying he had never seen such ambition and energy around climate change talks as he had at this

> "I've seen more energy and more urgency than I've ever seen and I've been doing this since 1988

World urged to follow Scotland's lead in loss and damage funding

By David Bol

AN SNP minister has called on other nations across the world to follow Scotland in taking responsibility for climate loss and damage after being praised by a leading charity for bringing forward £1 million of "pioneering" funding for the global south.

The Scottish Government has become the first nation to pledge funding to the global south for loss and damage – seen as the first meaningful admission that the actions taking place in developed countries are having destructive consequences in poorer states who are not causing it.

Research by Oxfam found that from 1990 to 2015, the richest 10 per cent of the world's population was responsible for more than half of the global emissions.

At a COP26 event organised by the Scottish Government and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, SNP Environment Minister Mairi McAllan formally called for other countries to follow Scotland's lead in taking responsibility for loss and damage.

Ms McAllan said: "We believe that the responsibility of tackling the climate crisis must fall on the countries with the greatest responsibilities for the position that we are in and the greatest respective capacity to make a contribution.

"Scotland is rising to that challenge, we are trying to rise to that challenge, and we call on others to do the same."

She added: "We have a moral responsibility to acknowledge the urgency and the urgent need for action on loss and damage.

"In Scotland, we're already trying to play our part.

"We are absolutely dedicated to embedding fairness in what we do in our climate action domestically and around the world.

"Scotland takes its role as a co-operative and helpful neighbour very seriously."

Danny Sriskandarajah, CEO of Oxfam GB, said: "The £1 million announced on loss and damage may seem small compared to the billions that we are talking about in this conference, but for many of us who are deeply concerned about loss and a damage, it's the sort of pioneering leadership that you're showing that we appreciate.

"Even if we don't get substantial progress at this COP, what's really important is that loss and damage is secured as a regular and central agenda item for subsequent COPs. That justice dimension is intrinsically linked to climate action. Climate action without climate justice, I think, is morally and technically bankrupt."

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