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VEGAN KIDS and
**THE GREEN
NEW DEAL**

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LUNCHBOX ideas

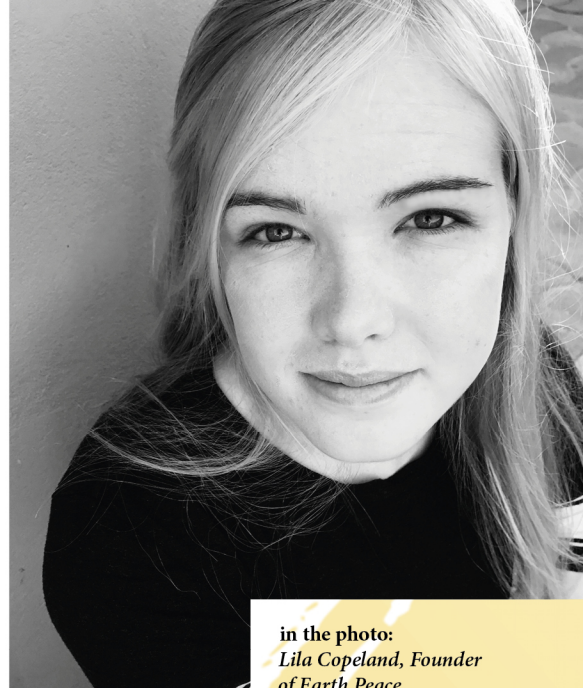
HOW TO STAY
on **BUDGET**
THIS YEAR



Meet
*Daniella Monet
& Evanna Lynch*

Founders of **KINDER BEAUTY**

Activist and actor Pamela Anderson and Earth Peace youth director Lila Copeland at the Healthy Freedom campaign kick off at LAUSD June 2016.



in the photo:
Lila Copeland, Founder
of Earth Peace.

VEGAN KIDS AND THE GREEN NEW DEAL

KIDS ARE LEADING THE FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMAN SURVIVAL ON THE PLANET. ONE ARM OF THE FIGHT STARTED IN 2015 IN LOS ANGELES, WHEN A CALIFORNIA NON-PROFIT, DRIVEN BY STUDENTS, DECIDED TO TAKE ON THE PROBLEM OF ANIMAL AGRICULTURE AND ITS RELENTLESS DRIVING OF THE PLANET INTO THE SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION. *Story by Lila Copeland*

We recognize that the way people eat will drastically have to change in order to prolong life for all the organisms on earth; the focus we students chose was to revolutionize food options in schools.

Cut to 2018 when, for the first time in American history, two politicians, Ed Markey and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, wrote down a plan outlining what America must begin to do if we have any hope of stemming climate change.

Critics howled that it was radical, wasteful and just too much. In reality, it's not nearly enough. In March 2019, conservatives pushed the non-binding resolution called the "Green New Deal" prematurely to the floor for a vote and, as expected, it was smashed. This doesn't mean it's dead in the water, but it does mean that the proposal will have to undergo change to make it to the floor again.

In response, Senator Lamar Alexander, a conservative, hit the floor with a proposed "New Manhattan Project for Clean Energy" that focuses on investing millions into clean energy research and development. Regardless of which approach will eventually be voted through, we must stand up for the environment and take action. As David Roberts, a Vox journalist, wrote, from where we stand today, incrementalism when it comes to climate change is not going to work, we need radical, groundbreaking moves now to abate the coming disaster. When it comes down to it, neither one of these plans that have been put forth so far are enough. The one key, mandatory and crucial piece of the puzzle that is still missing is the end to animal agriculture.

For years, as a vegan activist from the age of 4 months and a vegan food activist since 2011 when I started my non-profit Earth Peace, I have stood by and watched "environmentalist" after "environmentalist" stand on their soapbox with In-N-Out Burger in hand, pontificating about fossil fuel being the end all and be all to our climate change crisis. I have tried to start a dialogue with a few of the cause-celeb young activists who get their flash of glory in the press, about ending animal agriculture and the topic is deflected with acrobatic flair. The elephant in the room is the largest driver of climate change, confirmed by more peer-reviewed scientific studies than I can list here, bigger than all forms of transportation and fossil fuels combined. Yet

no one is ready or willing to face the central fact that we humans will face extinction if we do not give up meat, dairy and eggs. Stat.

With Earth Peace we decided that systemic change has to come from the young and work its way up to the old, so back in 2014, we started the Healthy Freedom campaign for a vegan lunch option every day of the week in all Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) schools. Even speaking to fellow vegans it was difficult to get the right support at the right time to push our resolution through with the Board of Education. However, we finally did it in the summer of 2017 with a crew of dedicated student partners, doctors, athletes and, friend of the animals, Pamela Anderson. I am still humbled by the amount of work we did together as students to achieve this goal.

Across the board, kids were incredibly supportive of the change. In the pilot phase of Healthy Freedom, we had a food services director at LAUSD who took on the challenge of bringing vegan awareness to the forefront in schools

lunch options in its first semester. On Mondays, when vegan chili was served, that number jumped to 51%. With statistics like these, we know kids are ready for change. As Greta Thunberg has been known to say in her speeches, they understand our house is on fire, the flames are licking the floor boards, and the time to act is now. Baby steps are not going to cut it.

So, Earth Peace is getting involved in the Green New Deal, as we all should be. We are developing a college coalition that will occupy congress, that will activate nationally, and that will move the end of animal agriculture into the spotlight, where it belongs. By continuing to drive the vegan school lunch agenda both state and nationwide, we are allowing kids the freedom to choose food that can save the planet and their own health. We stand squarely with Oxford researcher Joseph Poore, whose study that proved dietary change will deliver environmental benefits at a scale unachievable by changes in production alone. We fully support the World Bank's proposition that the government should eliminate all subsidies to animal agriculture and



below: Dr. Michael Klapper (Cowspiracy) argues for the abolition of dairy from school lunches before the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education the night of the Healthy Freedom launch June 2016.



where, even in 2017, only about 5% of kids had ever even heard the word vegan. Once, at a food tasting in a middle school in the valley, a student turned to me and asked "Do they have veggie burgers in the market?" I was amazed. Thanks to this food director, who took it as his personal challenge to win the pilot, a whopping average 13% of kids in the pilot schools chose the vegan

impose a meat tax to phase out animal-based foods. #nomeatby2035 might be a massive goal, but with only 11 years left until we hit the critical point of no return, we have no time left for minor changes.

Visit www.earthpeacefoundation.org to learn more and join the #nomeatby2035 revolution.