

Cambria Keely

At the beginning of the pandemic, the shutdown of Asian factories left blue skies in Beijing, a city known in the U.S. as the epicenter of extreme air pollution. Environmentalists celebrated the idea of a world where people everywhere could breathe freely without concerns of lung diseases, and biodiversity would begin to thrive again. As industrial cities started to become pure again, and those of us that rely on their products still had access to essentials, environmentalists tried to spread the message of "Look, we can do this! This is our chance to make our Earth healthy again!" Despite the fact that factories have since reopened, we have not missed our chance to put an end to unnecessary carbon pollution.

At the very moment that I am typing these words, Earth's carbon budget is rapidly depleting. According to Carbon Brief, the IPCC report on the 1.5 degree Celsius maximum temperature rise suggests that we will hit that temperature rise mark next year, based on 2016 carbon emissions. Does that not terrify you? It terrifies me. Other sources say we have 25 years to prevent a global temperature rise of 2 degrees Celsius, which is barely the blink of an eye in terms of the Earth's history. 25 years is just over half as long as the Kalama fracked-gas-to-methanol-refinery is expected to be in production, meaning that if this project is permitted, the methanol refinery will still be heating our planet long after the 2 degree temperature rise has been surpassed.

"We do not have the time" was one of the most emphasized phrases in the recent methanol hearings, and it is completely correct. We absolutely do not have the time to make exceptions. We must not allow any new fossil fuel industries to make our Earth sicker, and furthermore, must shut down any existing fossil fuel consumers in Washington. I beg you with utmost urgency to deny the shorelines permit for this fracked gas polluter.