

# 61 years

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(A speculative future of a sustainable society in 2080 based off of the redefinition of wealth and wellbeing)

## **KARMA? What's that?**

The dawn of 2019 marked the introduction of a new eco-currency, KARMA that was based on individual contributions of eco-actions towards reversing the effects of climate change. Based on KARMA's potential for revitalizing the planet, it began garnering early adopters around the world.

These early adopters were economists, technologists, and environmentalists, who strongly believed in the role KARMA would play in reversing climate change, and collected KARMA before it was backed by value. Early adopters earned KARMA by carrying out eco-actions set by the United Nations on how to prevent the escalation of climate change, and verified their completion of tasks through video or photographic proof on Youtube, Instagram, and other social media channels. From these channels, KARMA spread globally and replaced likes and follows as the new metric for social status.

## **Ecogrammers are the new cool kids on the block ;)**

With the declaration of climate change as an ecological emergency in 2020, instead of aspiring to be Instagrammers living a life of luxury, the new trend was to become Ecogrammers to live a moderate sustainable life. Many individuals from impoverished communities began accumulating a large collection of KARMA by simply living the lifestyle they've always had of not requiring natural resources.

## **Everyone wants some KARMA**

As KARMA matured, many investors began backing the value of the currency. The years leading up to 2030, where KARMA became fully adopted, many businesses designed new strategies to capture this new market holding millions in KARMA.

## **CODE RED: Our planet is dying!**

With the declaration of climate change as a global emergency, the United Nations started hosting thematic competitions on environmental sectors humans were negatively impacting, and gave away KARMA as prizes. These competitions were similar to hackathons, but it was the overall impact your executed solution held during the competition that determined who was victorious.

I remember shaking with anticipation when they hosted the first competition in Vietnam focused on sustainable farming. Living in Vietnam, I've always had grandeur ideas on how to reverse the effects of climate change, but without the proper tools they just remained ideas. However, with these competitions I was able to share my solution with my entire community. Suddenly, I found myself destined for more than just a life tending to crops, and people recognized me as part of a new class of Eco-heros that they trusted to drive our community towards more sustainable systems.

### **Eco-Olympics is a sexy sport**

The Olympic games also collaborated with the United Nations to incorporate a new section for sustainable sports dedicated to these thematic competitions, where the winners of each community around the world compete on creating globally-scalable solutions for these themes.

I eventually competed on the Olympic-level, and won my first gold in sustainable farming and even today in 2080, the fundamentals of sustainable farming is still founded on my solution. For the first time in my life, I found meaning and brought recognition to my home country as a leader in sustainable farming, along with a flow of KARMA into Vietnam that funded our sustainable farming practices.

### **What goes around comes around**

As 2030 rolled in, KARMA became fully adopted and backed with value, early adopters, Eco-heros, and individuals from impoverished communities found themselves with newfound wealth. The production of new KARMA has also reached a standstill.

Governments began imposing high taxation on those carrying out negative eco-actions. Many products created from non-environmentally conscious ways became highly unaffordable with traditional forms of money. For example, a plastic bag may cost 1 KARMA coin, but 50 USD.

With the initial wave of resistance towards adopting sustainable lifestyles, obtaining KARMA was a major driver for those who struggled to live without their un-sustainable products. Seeing as how more impoverished communities were rich in KARMA, many trades of traditional money with consumerist countries for KARMA began balancing out the monetary inequity in the world.

Additionally, businesses that avoided implementing sustainable practices into their product lifecycle faced heavy taxation, and sanctions on their outreach to the public market. The most coveted time slots for commercials and top search results were given to companies that injected the most sustainable practices into their businesses. Only brands and companies that continued working towards the Earth's future were allowed to be seen, heard and flourish.

### **Are we dead yet?**

As 2040 approached, the effects of climate change reached its peak. The planet witnessed a very dark decade, and KARMA experienced massive fluctuations in value, but with Eco-heros around the world showing that stability can be achieved through eco-actions, this led to massive participation in the projects essential to reversing the effects of climate change.

### **The Earth is given a voice**

As targets for zero emissions was reached in 2050, the number of eco-heroes exponentially increased, and the largest contributors of eco-actions started emerging as decision makers in the world.

A new liquid democracy was established in 2065, where communities could elect eco-heroes that would lead policy decisions within their community, and represent their community's interests with a seat at the table with other global decision makers around the world. I, for one, am proud to be Vietnam's eco-hero in sustainable farming and serve as a voice for the planet in all global policy decisions.

### **KARMA reproduces and reproduces and doesn't stop...**

From the learnings of the previous decade, local currencies following the same framework as KARMA spawned in different communities around the world. The new currencies were valued differently, and had their own monetary policies that protected the local communities' interests along with the planet's.

### **And...we're alive!**

To flatten the hierarchy with the elite class of eco-heroes, a final KARMIC metric system was implemented where products, services and privileges were priced according to your lifestyle's degree of eco-actions.

By 2080, due to the KARMIC metric system, the idea of wealth has been completely redefined to mean living a moderate sustainable lifestyle, and positive environmental actions were not just important for your wealth and status, but also for your personal growth and development.