Correspondence: “[How researchers can help fight climate change in 2022 and beyond](#) (Nature)”

This editorial adopted a cornucopian position, i.e., human ingenuity and market modification are the solutions to cope with climate change. Authors suggested that research priorities should focus on technological innovation regarding batteries, cars, and renewable energy. However, despite major research efforts in these areas in the past 30 years, CO_{2eq} emissions are still rising.

Major CO_{2eq} emitter countries have to reduce their respective emission by 5% each year to achieve the Paris agreement and limit global warming to around 2°C. In concrete terms, high-income countries have to reduce their household energy use by 73%, and reduce their motor vehicle ownership by 96%¹. It is highly unlikely that technological innovation alone will solve this issue; this focus further ignores that efficiency gains are often counterbalanced by negative behavioural rebound effects². Efforts should be concentrated on promoting sustainable lifestyles in high-income countries: “*a cluster of habits and patterns of behaviour embedded in a society and facilitated by institutions, norms and infrastructures*”³. Focusing only on technological solutions to reduce the CO_{2eq} emissions is ineffective. Climate change issues rest on inequalities within and between countries, but also on intergenerational inequalities. Social and psychological sciences will be key to accelerate changes in organizations, laws, social relationships and individual behaviours. This contrasts with just 0.12% of all research funding spent in social sciences for climate mitigation⁴.

Technological promises are delaying successful climate change mitigation strategies and there is little time left. Social and psychological sciences are needed to accelerate combined individual and structural sustainable changes.

Signed by Paquito Bernard¹, Guillaume Chevance², Laura König³, Vera Araújo-Soares⁴

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3. Akenji, L., Lettenmeier, M., Koide, R., Toivio, V. & Amellina, A. *1.5-Degree Lifestyles: Targets and options for reducing lifestyle carbon footprints*. (2019).

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