

## Gorbachev-Gore Guild

One was born in poverty, and slept on top a Russian stove, and the other to a wealthy farmer turned US Senator. One succeeded as the Head of USSR, and the other was tipped, somewhat controversially at the post, of becoming the US President. They share a common vision, arising from their vast experience and bird's eye view garnered from their globally salient positions. A vision that I believe will bring humanity together on one common issue – the global challenge to make the planet more sustainable for its present and, just as importantly, its future tenants.

“We cannot go on like this”, the common voice of reason from these gentlemen regularly cries out to heads of states, heads of companies and community. Many of you would be surprised to learn that both Gorbachev and Gore have authored books on the sustainability crisis. Gorbachev also chairs Green Cross, an organisation set up for environmental disaster relief, and Gore is the Chairman of Generation Investment Management (GIM), a niche funds management group focussed on socially responsible investment. They both spend a tremendous amount of their time speaking to the masses highlighting the importance of deliberate and early environmental and social action.

Gore is part of a recently-completed riveting (at least it was to me as one of the first to watch it, thanks to GIM/VicSuper) documentary, ‘An Inconvenient Truth’ soon to come to a cinema close to you. Described by journalists as Gore’s re-run by stealth for US Presidency, the film is simple in its message – we are in unprecedented times with regard to climate change and global environmental crises. Immediate attention and action is not optional. It has some strong messages to governments and companies. Concluding with a song by Melissa Etheridge of the same name as the film, it aptly brings to screen some simple messages to members of community for self-reflection and action that doesn’t cost the Earth, but perhaps may just help save it.

It’s neither an accident nor a coincidence that an unlikely guild has formed of Gorbachev and Gore on one issue that threatens us as a species, and co-inhabitants. Whether it’s a case of a common enemy, or simply the crystallising picture of staring at planetary death, Gorbachev and Gore will certainly not be the last of the leaders to reinforce this growing guild.

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