



# THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MY DAD



VISION JIŘÍ SVOBODA

SCREENPLAY, DIRECTION MARTA KOVÁŘOVÁ SCRIPT EDITOR JAN GOGOLA ML. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MARTA KOVÁŘOVÁ, PETR KAČÍREK EDITING VARVARA ŠATUNOVA  
SOUND KLÁRA JASKOVÁ, MICHAL GAZDAG, BRONĚK SMID MUSIC BUDOŇ STARÉ DÁMY PRODUCERS JAN BODNÁR, JAN HUBÁČEK CO-PRODUCERS SILVIA PANÁKOVÁ, MARTA KOVÁŘOVÁ

[WWW.WORLDACCORDINGTOMYDAD.COM](http://WWW.WORLDACCORDINGTOMYDAD.COM)

PRODUCER: GNOMON. CO-PRODUCERS: dařhej, MARTA KOVÁŘOVÁ WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Zlatý trn, vřf PARTNERS: Consulting, Togga, Indies scope, Foley Stage, home media, TOTALFILM, DENÍK, ekolist.cz MEDIA PARTNERS:

# THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MY DAD

**My dad has an idea of how to save the plant.**

The documentary debut film of Marta Kovářová

## General information

CZ/SK/2023/77 minutes

**Vision:** Jiří Svoboda

**Director, screenwriter:** Marta Kovářová

**Producer:** Jan Bodnár, Jan Hubáček - GNOMON production s.r.o.

**Co-producer:** Silvia Panáková (Dayhey, SK)

**Dramaturgy:** Jan Gogola Jr.

**Camera:** Marta Kovářová, Petr Kačírek

**Editing:** Varvara Shatunova

**Sound:** Klára Jašková, Michal Gazdag, Broněk Šmíd

**Music:** Budoár staré dámy

**In cinemas:** 2. 11. 2023

**Genre:** Documentary

**Recommended accessibility:** 15+

**Copy types:** 4K DCP / FullHD MP4

Dolby Digital 5.1 / Stereo

**Format:** 16:9, colour

**Language:** Czech, English

**Subtitles:** English, Czech

**web:**

[www.TheWorldAccordingToMyDad.com](http://www.TheWorldAccordingToMyDad.com)

**trailer:**

<https://youtu.be/S4VrdM33FiM?si=H1tILsgsxdP4C6nC>

## Synopsis

The documentary film, *The World According to My Dad*, captures the joint dream of a material physicist and his artist daughter for an effective solution to save the planet. Together, and with humour, they venture into many different platforms where no one is expecting or welcoming of them. On their journey, they try to navigate their way not only around the world of climate politics and the powers behind it but also with each other.

### About the movie

Material physicist, and enthusiastic handyman from Brno, RNDr. Jiří Svoboda, CSc., DSc., has an idea on how to save the planet. Yet nobody listens to him. His daughter Marta, a musician and mother of two, resents it. She decides to take up a camera and go "into the world" with her dad. She wants to test if the world could work the way her father imagines it should. Humour is brought to the film by their conflicting characters and jointly invented strategies on how and to whom to present their idea; they meet environmentalists, activists, experts, and politicians and manage to travel from their home kitchen to the world climate summits. Their attempts to penetrate public structures expose the nature of power that decides who can enter where and with what topics.

All those approached by the pair agree that Jiří's plan to save the Earth would be an ideal solution to the climate crisis. However, after four years of wandering around with his idea of a global carbon tax and dividends for all, they still stand alone. Are they coming up with the idea too late? Or too early?

Although they have yet to succeed in the field of international politics, they discover unexpected dimensions of their mutual relationship and, as a result, go home from the world summit in Glasgow with a song in their heart. "Tax the Carbon globally!"

A strong personal story, Jiří's humour, and charisma, Marta's original songs, raw film material, and an inspiring idea to save the planet create an unmissable film with a potential societal impact.



### **What the creators say about the film**

Shooting an environmental documentary movie today can be seen as trying to be trendy. But what if I must? When my children were born, I realized I was experiencing something like the climate grief. I had to start doing something. I wanted to give my children a world to live in. And I was lucky - I have a dad who has been thinking about it for some time already. Among the apocalyptic scenarios, his idea shone with hope.

I felt like it was my mission to shoot a film that could spark a wider discussion not only about my father's concept but also about what our journey reveals about the relationship between power (people) and disease (of the planet). Where are the gaps and what are the limits?! Why is it so stuck? I would like the film to inspire the audience to be brave enough to fight for great deeds even when it seems impossible to succeed.

- **Marta Kovářová** (director)

I think there are many "standard" lectures, articles, or books out there about the climate crisis. Our film opens up the topic in a radically different but very accessible way, so people who don't have time or don't want to think about it, have the opportunity to start. Above all, it encourages us to start thinking about the climate crisis in a completely new and different way. The unpleasant truth is not that there is something wrong with the climate or that we do not have the technical means to deal with it. The unpleasant truth is that we cannot admit to ourselves that the methods we are using to solve it are not effective.

- **Jiří Svoboda** (main protagonist)

The story is based on the determination of a daughter and a father who are not professional activists, ecologists, filmmakers, or climatologists and who, despite this, embark on an uncertain adventure across the mentioned categories which seem to belong only to the relevant experts. The self-made academic handyman and analytical Don Quixote from Brno who goes to world forums with socks in sandals, becomes an infectious, stimulating, funny, tight-lipped, and sometimes even annoying personification of planetary consciousness.

- **Jan Gogola Jr.** (dramaturge)

Marta's full-length documentary debut aims to introduce the concept of uniform global carbon taxes and 100% dividends to the viewers as a hope for solving the climate crisis. At the same time, it is also a unique portrait of the author of this idea - Marta's father - the renowned physicist Jiří Svoboda. The film has a clear environmental appeal but is also a funny probe into family life. It reflects the unusual relationship between art and science in the personification of a father and a daughter who are united by a plan to save the planet.

- **Jan Bodnár** (producer)

### **Marta Kovářová - biography**

Bc. MgA. Marta Kovářová, Ph.D. graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts and the Faculty of Natural Sciences in Brno. She currently teaches at the Department of Art Education of the Faculty of Pedagogy of the Masaryk University in Brno, sings in the band Budoár staré dámy, and lives with her two children and husband in Dolní Cerekev where they founded the cultural association Roztoč kolektiv.

### **Jiří Svoboda - biography**

RNDr. Jiří Svoboda, CSc., DSc. graduated from physics at the Faculty of Science of today's Masaryk University. He studies thermodynamic modeling of transport phenomena and the development of microstructure in solids at the Institute of Materials Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. As an established material physicist, in cooperation with foreign experts, he is developing an alloy of the future that is supposed to withstand extremely high temperatures. In his free time, he has been suggesting effective solutions to the climate crisis for decades and designs and builds passive houses according to his conceptual framework which he called Optimatism.



## Interview with Marta

*Why did you decide to make a film that portrays your family so intimately?*

There are already enough alarmist and annoyingly educational films about the climate crisis. The subject is often presented fatally. I was lucky; my dad not only had an idea of how to get out of the crisis but also a gift for presenting things with humour.

*What was the most interesting thing you learned about yourself/your dad during the filming?*

About myself, above all, the fact that I was terribly naive. I didn't know much about the world and its actual functioning. I believed that we would achieve something great in our journey. I had no idea how difficult it could be to break through with the idea. I wanted to bring hope to the viewers, heal grief, and film interviews about how beautiful it would be if the world worked according to Jiří. I expected friendliness. Instead, I have a movie about how hard it is. I think that this intensive several-year experience of ours has brought us closer together. Not that we go out for a beer together, no, but we know each other's potential and limits.

*What makes your dad's idea to save the world special?*

It is simple, fair, and without the possibility of cheating. It leaves nobody behind and thinks about everything, all the extracted carbon as a potential CO<sub>2</sub> emission, and all the people and their natural environments. His point of view is global. Current emission reduction strategies function as a competition between states to reach net zero first (often at the expense of others). But in reality, we are one team, all Earthlings are in the game.

*How do you perceive the connection between art and activism?*

Activism calls for action with a clear purpose, appeals to the masses, and provokes the mass media. The connecting thing is that even activist action can work with artistic language. An engaged artist is just as important as an engaged scientist, indeed as an engaged anyone. If we all started to see the planet's problem as our own, we wouldn't be where we are now. Before, I didn't need to get too involved, I dealt with personal stories in music. But after I moved with my children to a village where the forest behind our house has dried up and a completely useless storage facility for spent nuclear fuel should be excavated behind the hummocks, it moved me, it made me an activist!



### Interview with Jiří

*Would you tell us why you chose to focus on the environment in addition to your profession as a material physicist?*

As a physicist, I am interested in the laws that make the world run. More than twenty years ago, I realized that climate is a topic that needs to be addressed and that it will be a big problem for global society. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are associated with almost every human activity and are still growing, even though more and more money is being spent on reducing them. The current climate protection system is inconsistent, leaky, and administratively burdensome. Some places manage to reduce emissions with great fanfare and at considerable expense, but in other places much more is quietly released. I tried to think of a way to make things better in the world.

*What are the foundations of your concept?*

To be global. So that everyone in the world is naturally motivated to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions without having to change their behaviour. In my proposal, climate protection pays off for every individual, company, and state. We cannot rely on the voluntary modesty of most people and green subsidies favour only selected technologies and measures while their range is many times wider. I consider it easiest to go to the source of the emissions and make the carbon in fossil fuels more expensive with a global carbon tax. Increasingly expensive fossil fuels will cause us to increasingly use suitable emission-free alternatives and energy savings. Equal carbon dividends will help people with the rising costs.

If we adjust the rules of the market so that it works in the same way as if fossil fuels were running out, it will be the most effective tool for solving climate disruption. The global market makes sure that there is bread and meat in the shops, and it can just as well make sure that it is in the economic interest of all of us to reduce CO2 emissions even without the need for politicians to manage it.

*Do you think that implementing the global carbon tax only in the Global North would be sufficient, or does it have to be implemented everywhere in the world at once?*

Even if, for example, the developed world reached zero emissions in the foreseeable future, the developing world would have no qualms about using fossil fuels that would remain cheap and available. If global emissions are not brought under control by a global concept, then the decarbonization of the planet stands no real chance. It is interesting to think about what prevents these considerations from entering social life. After all, that was what our journey with my daughter was about. I go into more detail about this in the book **How to Get a Hen to Lay Duck Eggs**, which will be released at the same time as the film.

*Do you think there is hope that people will really feel like there needs to be a radical change?*

The hope is never at zero and it springs eternal. Our film which offers a new perspective on solving the climate problem can have a potentially high appeal. Yet its impact or chance of success in advancing the concept remains small. But if we multiply the probability of the concept's implementation and its possible benefit, we can arrive at a very large number. This motivates me not to give up.

### **Reviews and film criticism**

#### **What was said about the movie:**

Through the figures of the father, who is in front of the camera, and his daughter, the author of the film, who is mostly behind the camera, we are transported from global dimensions to the personal lives of both protagonists. We literally go from the kitchen table to global summits and back to their living room. Their sometimes-naive journey to save the planet is a sincere effort to open an important discussion and inspire people to actively seek their way to a healthier planet.

- **Katarína Krnáčová** (AVF producer)

The World According to My Dad by Marta Kovářová, an artist and a musician, is, on one hand, a deeply personal picture, analysing the relationship between a daughter and her father, a scientist who is trying to push through his project of a unified global carbon tax. In a broader context, it is a picture of an individual's Quixotic struggle with the system and social setting. The film with quirky protagonists brings environmental activism in a form that does not lack humour and insight...

- **Lenka Tyrpáková** (playwright, KVIFF)

**Additional materials: photos/ trailer/ poster**

[www.TheWorldAccordingToMyDad.com](http://www.TheWorldAccordingToMyDad.com)



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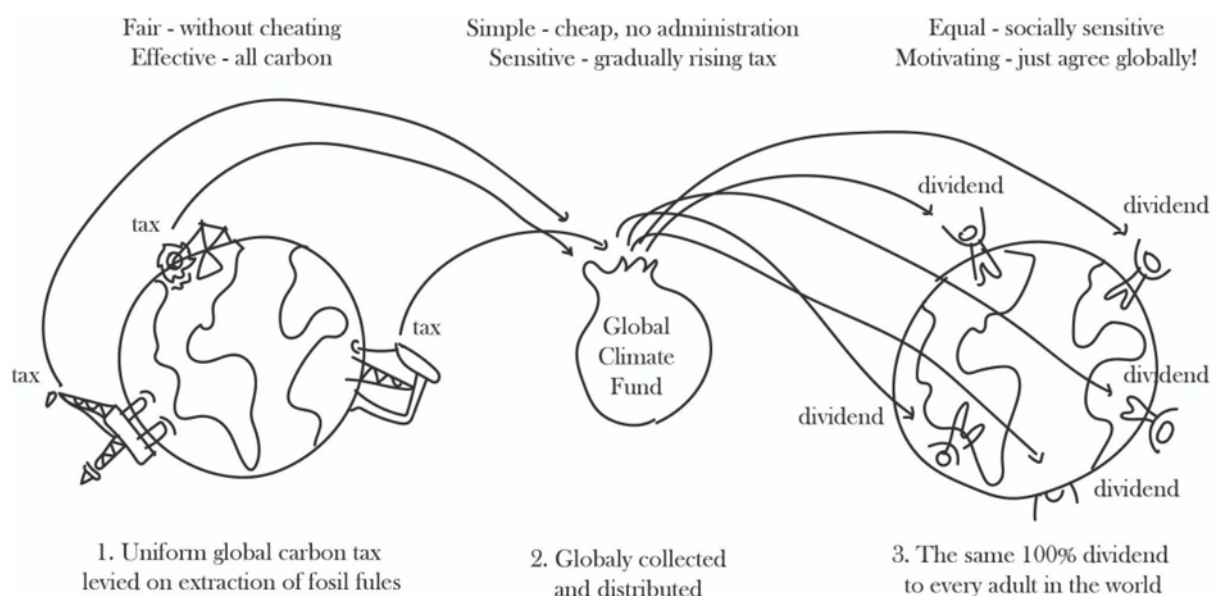
Contact PR: P2M Consulting - Lucie Medková - medkova@p2m.cz/ +420 603 759 360

### The concept of a unified global carbon tax and its 100% dividend

The promising concept of a national carbon tax on fossil fuel extraction and 100% dividends for the US was formulated and introduced in 2009 by James E. Hansen. Hansen proposed that the country should impose a time-increasing tax on all carbon contained in extracted or imported fossil fuels. This tax, after being added to the price of fossil fuels, is automatically reflected in the prices of all products and services according to their carbon footprint without any calculation or additional administration. To compensate people for the increase in prices, the collected tax is then distributed to all people in the country. This is called a 100% dividend. Low-carbon products and services will effectively become cheaper, and high-carbon products more expensive. The demand for low-carbon products will increase significantly and their production will increase at the expense of high-carbon products. There will be systematic economic pressure to reduce the consumption of fossil carbon in all areas of social life. The consumption of people and the behaviour of companies will spontaneously change in favour of reducing the carbon footprint. Free decision-making in the market environment will be strengthened. This will determine the most appropriate and feasible low-carbon measures at a given time and place. However, even this concept is insufficient if we want to solve the problem of the climate crisis globally, not just to reduce CO2 emissions in one country.

### What characteristics should the "best" concept for global climate protection have?

It should be simple, fair, and without the possibility of cheating. It should cover it with minimal administration of all global CO2 emissions from fossil carbon and consider social and climate (environmental) justice. All these are, in my opinion, necessary conditions for achieving success in solving the unprecedentedly complex problem of the climate crisis. We'll call the concept "A Uniform Global Time-Progressive Carbon Tax on Fossil Fuel Extraction and Its 100% Dividend", Uniform Global Carbon Tax and 100% Dividend for short. So, let's expand Hansen's concept to the entire world and see how it would work.



The atmosphere belongs to everyone, everyone who damages it by emitting emissions should pay for it. So let the valuation of fossil carbon be uniform throughout the world, gradually increasing over time. Fees from miners would be collected into a common global fund established for this purpose. The fund would then send money to every adult in the world in the form of a monthly dividend (like a pension). The same amount for everyone. People with a low carbon footprint would profit from this (dividends will cover the increased costs), and those with a high one would probably reconsider their behaviour.

The rules of the global market adjusted in this way will cause all ecological behaviour to become economically advantageous. Then the majority of the population and companies will naturally get involved in climate protection without us having to re-educate anyone. In the global economy, the most necessary but most significant changes in favour of carbon neutrality will occur through spontaneous development, without us having to force anything.



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