What happens if we operate with the logic that rapid decarbonization must take place now before we can address any other political, ethical or social problems. This is, to be sure, a controversial idea with various logical (or illogical) consequences. A provocation for traditional ethics, "climate first" puts us in an awkward position that is neither purely technophilic nor purely ecological, working against the idea that there is an easy link between environmental justice, sustainability and reduction of carbon emissions. We cannot totally dismiss geoengineering any more than we can embrace it.