

GLOBAL WARMING - GLOBAL WARNING

We often come across this word Global warming almost every day in newspapers. It has become a threat to today's world. How? For this query to be answered first we must understand the term global warming.

It means the increase of temperature in the atmosphere. It is caused by burning of fossil fuels like coal, petrol, diesel, CNG, LPG etc. and by volcanic activity. The greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, CFC, methane etc. These gases act as the covering glass which increases due to the combustion of fuel, deforestation and agricultural activity. These gases increase the atmospheric temperature which cause the melting of glaciers and ice-caps and with the result of that water level in the oceans submerge several islands and develop different rain patterns and increased desertification. This phenomenon is called 'Global Warming'.

The concentration of carbon dioxide is increased day by day in the atmosphere. In about 1890 it was about 275ppm. In the year 2003, it is about 350ppm and by the year 2040, it is predicted to become 450 ppm.

EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING

The predicted effects for the environment and for human life are numerous and varied. The main effect is an increasing global average temperature. From this flow a variety of resulting effects.

On the Eco- System:

Increasing global temperature means that ecosystems will change; some species are being forced out of their habitats (possibly to extinction) because of changing conditions. Many of the species at risk are Arctic and Antarctic fauna such as polar bears, emperor penguins, many salt wetland flora and fauna species and any species that inhabit the low land areas near the sea.

On Forests:

Forests in some regions potentially face an increased risk of forest fires. Rising global temperature might cause forest fires to occur on larger scale and more regularly. This releases more stored carbon into the atmosphere than the carbon cycle can naturally re-absorb, as well as reduces the overall forest area on the planet, creating a positive feedback loop.

On Agriculture:

Rising atmospheric temperatures, longer draughts and side effects of both, such as higher levels of ground-level Ozone gas are likely to bring about a substantial reduction in crop yields in the coming decades.

Flood defence:

For historical reasons to do with trade, many of the world's largest and most prosperous cities are on the coast, and the cost of building better coastal defenses (due to rising sea level) is likely to be considerable. Some countries will be more affected than others. Particularly low lying areas such as Bangladesh and the Netherlands would be worst hit by any sea level rise in terms of floods or the cost of preventing them.

In developing countries, the poorest often live on flood plains, because it is the only available space of fertile agricultural land. These settlements often lack infrastructure such as dykes and early warning systems. Poorer communities also tend to lack the insurance, savings or access to credit needed to recover from disasters.

HEALTH

Direct affects of temperature rise:

Extreme high temperatures increase the number of people who die on a given day for many reasons people with heart problems are vulnerable because ones cardiovascular system must work harder to keep the body cool during hot weather, heat exhaustion, and some respiratory problems

increase. Higher air temperature also increases the concentration of ozone at ground level. In the lower atmosphere, ozone is a harmful pollutant. It damages tissues and causes problems for people due to asthma or other lung diseases.

DISEASES

Global Warming is expected to extend the favorable zones for vectors conveying dykes infectious disease such as dengue fever and malaria. After years of debate consensus among most of the world's scientists holds that we are warming the planet. Unless we take steps now to curb global warming our way of life, our planet and our children are all in grave danger. There is hope. Each of us can make simple decisions that will reduce global warming.

Responsible choices:

The choices we make and the products we buy test our commitment to maintain a healthy planet. When we burn fossil fuels such as oil, coal & natural gas to run our cars and light our homes we pump carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the air. This thickens the heat trapping blanket that surrounds the planet, causing global warming. Choosing modern technology can reduce our use of fossil fuels and help protect the planet. These 40 steps will help curb global warming, save you money and create a safer environment for the future.

Support clean, renewable energy:

Renewable energy solutions such as wind and solar power can reduce our reliance on coal burning power plants, the largest source of global warming pollution in the USA.

Replace incandescent light bulbs with fluorescent bulbs:

Compact fluorescents (especially those that burn the longest each day) produce the same amount of light as normal bulbs, but use about a quarter of the electricity and last ten times as long. Each switch you make helps clean

the air today, curb global warming and save you money on your electricity bill.

Plant a tree, protect a forest:

Protecting forests is a big step on the road to curbing global warming. Trees "breathe in" carbon dioxide, but slash-and-burn farming practices, intensive livestock production, and logging have destroyed 90% of the native forests of the United States and you can take action in your own backyard planting shade trees around your house will absorb carbon dioxide and slash your summer air-conditioning bills.

REDUCE! REUSE! RECYCLE!

Producing new paper, glass and metal products from recycled materials saves 70% to 90% of the energy and pollution, including carbon dioxide that would result if the product came from virgin materials. Recycling a stack of newspaper only a 4 feet high will save a good sized tree.

More frequent use of Public transportation helps the environment by reducing the time spent in cars. Boats and ferries are the most efficient methods of fossil fuel transport, followed by trains, then buses. Aeroplanes can be more than ten times less energy efficient than cars. Walking is the least impactful mode of transportation followed by the bicycle, whose usage produces no carbon emissions.

Around the world there is an increasing awareness of the importance of climate change as a factor in a range of issues. Many environmental, economic & social issues find common ground in the form of climate change. Global warming can be slowed, and stopped with practical actions that yield a cleaner, healthier atmosphere. The question is will we act soon enough? It is a matter of time. Ultimately it is up to each of us, as individuals and families, to take action to slow down and eventually reverse global warming through everyday awareness of our energy use and attention to ways we can conserve electricity and minimize fossil fuel usage. Climate change is the most serious

problem we face in the 21st century. Future generations are depending on us to do whatever we can to turn things around.

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