

Global Warming

Global warming is a major issue of our time. However, many people are unclear about the main ideas underpinning the issue. This sheet explains what global warming is, how human activity causes it, and what can be done to stop it.

How Global Warming Works

Gases such as carbon dioxide trap heat from the sun.

This causes global temperatures to rise.

The process is known as the greenhouse effect.

Human activity is a major factor in the rise of greenhouse gases.

How People Cause Global Warming

Factories and vehicles produce emissions and exhaust fumes.

Many developing countries are becoming industrialised.

The number of cars on our streets is growing.

Cheap air travel is allowing more people to fly.

Effects of Global Warming

Global warming will have a significant impact on our planet.

It will cause certain places to become inhospitable.

Rising temperatures will cause melting of the polar ice caps.

Sea levels will rise.

We can expect more extreme weather conditions.

Flooding and droughts may become more common.

Solutions to Global Warming

Governments could introduce laws to limit emissions from factories.

They should invest in renewable energy from solar, wind or water power.

They could impose “green taxes” on drivers and airplane companies.

Individuals should try to decrease their carbon footprint.

We should take public transport rather than driving.

We should take fewer flights abroad for holidays.

Summary

Human activity is responsible for causing global warming. There are several ways in which we produce emissions which cause the greenhouse effect. For example, factories and vehicles produce exhaust fumes. The rate at which we emit greenhouse gases is accelerating. Developing countries are becoming industrialised, which means there are more power stations, factories and vehicles worldwide.

Global warming will have a negative impact on our planet. It will make places on the planet inhospitable for humans to live in. For example, rising sea levels may flood some towns and cities. Furthermore, global warming creates more extreme weather conditions such as droughts, which may make certain places impossible to live in due to a lack of water.

There are many possible solutions to the climate emergency. Firstly, governments could introduce laws to limit emissions from factories and vehicles. They should also invest in renewable energy from solar, wind or water power. Furthermore, individuals should decrease their carbon footprint. For example, we can take public transport rather than driving, and take fewer flights abroad for holidays.

Practice Question

Global warming is one of the most serious issues that the world is facing today. What are the causes of global warming and what measures can governments and individuals take to tackle the issue?