

## Climate Change: How Climate Change Is Affecting The Planet

Have you ever wondered how many problems truly exist in the world today? It could be simple things like forgetting to take out the trash, being late to a job interview, or dealing with stress over certain things. Bigger issues could include dealing with family concerns, trouble handling personal health, having no idea what to choose for a career, and other similar concerns. People around the world handle difficulties; even the world itself can have issues. There are issues with ocean pollution, overpopulation, rising sea levels, and air pollution, among others. Unfortunately, we can't fix all the concerns in the world. One of the biggest issues in the world today is climate change. According to [UN.org](https://www.un.org/), climate change focuses on changes in weather and temperature patterns over time. So, is climate change really a big problem? Or is it not a big deal, and should we focus on other problems instead? It may not seem like it currently, but climate change could influence the Earth in the future, and effects are already happening.

What exactly causes climate change? Burning fossil fuels creates greenhouse gas emissions. The gas lingers in the atmosphere and doesn't get released into space. This causes the heat to be trapped, which raises the temperature. The UN says that "the main greenhouse gases that are causing climate change include carbon dioxide and methane." It can also be caused by gasoline from cars; cutting down trees and clearing forests releases carbon dioxide. There are also activities that contribute to climate change. "Over the last 200 years," says the UN, "climate scientists have shown that humans are responsible for virtually all global heating." The website says that in the 1800s, "human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas." Some people may think that climate change is an increase in temperature, but it is much more than that. It causes "intense droughts, water scarcity, severe fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms, and declining biodiversity." A change in one area can affect other areas. Climate change can affect us in diverse ways. According to the UN, this can affect us by "hotter temperatures, more severe storms, increased drought, a warming rising ocean, loss of species, not enough food, health risks, poverty, and displacement." Due to these activities, the temperature has been increasing by over 1.5 degrees Celsius. Scientists also say that the temperature could increase by 2.8 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. According to the [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int/), "3.6 billion people already live in areas highly susceptible to climate change," continued, "through the years 2030-2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,00 additional deaths per year." The website says it will be caused by undernutrition, malaria, diarrhoea, and heat stress. Overall, climate change may pose problems for the Earth and living species.

Is there any way to fix climate change? If so, what can people do to help? There are methods that can help prevent climate change, such as cutting energy consumption and other activities.

Some things people can do to help are save energy at home. According to the UN, “Much of our electricity and heat is powered by coal, oil, and gas.” You can use less by limiting cooling and heating usage. Light bulbs and efficient electric appliances can also be an effective way of saving energy. Using cold water for your laundry or hanging out your clothes to dry can also help. The UN says you could also change your house’s source of energy. If your house gets its main source of energy from oil, gas, or coal, it can be replaced by renewable sources, such as wind or solar energy. Cars run on energy by using gasoline or burning diesel, which causes a large amount of carbon dioxide. Airplanes also “burn large amounts of fossil fuels, producing significant greenhouse gas emissions,” according to the UN. Ways to reduce carbon dioxide may include riding a bike, walking, or taking public transportation, such as trains or buses. This can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. You may also limit the amount of stuff you buy to prevent more waste, as well as reusing, repairing, and recycling. There are also other options available to help prevent global warming, even if it’s just a little.

Although climate change is worsening at present and has serious effects, we have the ability to prevent it from causing further harm. If people come together and commit to this, not only will there be fewer problems for the earth, but also for us and our future. The problems climate change creates cannot always be fixed later on, and posterities won’t be able to do anything to fix them. Future generations may be seriously affected by the consequences of climate change, which is why we must take action before it’s too late.