

## Global Warming

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I believe that global warming is an issue that everyone should know about. Global warming threatens people, animals, and the whole world. As Robert Orden says, “there is so much pollution in the world that if it weren’t for our lungs then there would be no place to put it all.” In my essay I will be stating the causes of global warming, its effects, and how we can prevent global warming.

Global warming is caused when fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas) are used as fuel. When fossil fuels burn, they release gases into the atmosphere, which can trap heat from the sun’s rays and cause the earth to heat up. Cars release a dangerous fume called carbon monoxide. If you stand behind a car and breathe in the exhaust you may die. Obviously, when this goes into the air there is a problem. Carbon monoxide is also in cigarettes and with so many smokers and drivers there is a lot of carbon monoxide in the air that we breathe every day. The reason that there is more asthma now is because a lot of smoke can cause asthma. Too much smoke and fumes can send you to the hospital... or kill you.

Fossil fuels will someday run out. If we have not switched to renewable energy by then many people will have no power. The sooner we switch, the better-for us *and* the environment.

I do believe that global warming is a big issue. If it is factories and cars that are causing the ice caps to melt then we can do something about it. Many polar bears drown each year and may soon go on the endangered species list. We can save another species’ life - or let it die. The choice is ours.

Thirty percent of all species are threatened by climate change. Just a small change in the temperature could kill hundreds of species.

The ice caps melting will cause floods because the water from the ice caps will have nowhere to go except into the ocean. The sea level will rise and many places will be buried under water. Millions of people could lose their homes. This could destroy businesses, homes, schools, and kill many people. People on small islands will almost certainly have to evacuate. They will have to find new homes and jobs and may not have enough money.

Climate change could also cause twice as many forest fires in Canada and drought in poorer countries. Many people will be left with very little water.

Poisonous gases are also causing acid rain. Acid rain is caused when fumes and gases from factories mix with clouds and come down in the form of hail, snow, or rain. The result may be deadly. Acid rain strips down trees and buildings. Many historical sites may be ruined in a few years. How do we know whether it is raining acid rain or not? We don’t. Acid rain mixes in with ordinary rain and may be falling right now.

We can help stop global warming. If we switch our energy to solar, wind or water instead of using fossil fuels, there won’t be as many gases going into the atmosphere. We can also carpool, take the bus, ride our bikes, or walk instead of taking a car. If you can walk there in fifteen minutes and the weather’s nice, you should walk. If we use less electricity, then even if we still use fossil fuels, there will be less energy being used and fewer gases. Turn off the TV and get outside. Getting more fit will also help you be able

to walk or bike longer and will help you stop depending on your car as much. That will reduce carbon monoxide. Only turn on one or two lights in a room and turn them off once you leave. Turn off computers and TVs when no-one is watching them. Don't leave the fridge open – it wastes electricity.

To recycle or not to recycle: a very environmental question. Everyone always thinks obviously recycling, right? But does it use more energy to recycle or to make new paper every time?

Trees help people to breathe, and with so many dangerous gases, more living trees are needed. It uses energy to chop down trees, transport them, and make them into paper. Recycling also uses energy. However, landfills are filling up soon we may be in a large problem other than climate change - too much trash. And making more paper makes more trash.

A third of North America's paper from recycling bins goes to China for recycling. China is the manufacturer of many things and leaves the largest ecological footprint of any other country in the world. I think that it must use up a lot of energy just to get it over to China and that it might be easier if North America builds more recycling plants. However, construction uses up electricity and this would add more greenhouse gases to the air above North America.

I think that global warming is an ongoing problem and more energy should be conserved before ice melts and the ozone layer breaks (if that is caused by global warming). Everyone can do their part to help and we can all try to stop global warming in its tracks.