

Global Warming Kills: The Effect on Earth and How to Prevent Further Damage

Global warming is detrimental to the environment and has gradually exacerbated over the years. Escalating global temperatures have immensely affected and deteriorated aquatic conditions and life. Sea levels have increased due to melting glaciers, melting ice sheets and shrinking glaciers. Extreme weather has become a frequent occurrence, precipitation has intensified and droughts have led to worsening conditions in the Southwest. Ecosystems are changing due to climate change. Certain species' populations are increasing, resulting in a decrease of their prey while others are forced to adapt and face possible extinction.

Humans heavily contribute to global warming. Burning of fossil fuels, demolishing agriculture, and other activities have prompted the release of greenhouse gases-- primarily carbon dioxide (CO₂)--leading to the greenhouse effect or heat being trapped on the Earth's surface. Global warming damages the quality of life for many species, including humans, and may lead to the extinction of organisms that fail to adapt. New generations will have an absence of some modern day organisms and resources due to global warming.

The ocean, which absorbs an abundance of heat in its upper layer, has significantly increased in size due to melting ice and temperature. Usually, the ocean stores and releases heat without an eminent increase in temperature, stabilizing the Earth's climate system. As greenhouse gases are released, sunlight is trapped primarily in the upper ocean. According to a study recorded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, "More than 90 percent of the warming that has happened on Earth over the past 50 years has occurred in the ocean."

The ocean becoming warmer will affect the survival of coral reefs, a source of nutrition and shelter for many marine animals. Humans heavily contribute to the release of fossil fuels, especially through the use of technology. The Industrial Revolution boomed through the use of technology which led to acidity in the water increasing by thirty percent. According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the number of carbon dioxide being absorbed each is "increasing by about 2 billion tons per year."

Harmful algae, cyanobacteria, and bacteria will escalate, resulting in an increased chance of contracting water-borne illnesses and a decrease in water quality. Calcifying organisms and species that detect threats from consumers face an increased risk of predation which will heavily disrupt the food chain. In the future, sea levels are predicted

to increase while threatened species are calculated to decline in population with some marine organisms facing extinction.

Extreme weather is occurring worldwide, with some areas facing large amounts of precipitation and others experiencing droughts. As a result, certain regions lack water which harms agriculture and vegetation. While others face heavy downpours which, according to The National Climate Assessment, "has been significantly above average.." since 1991. The sea level rising is predicted to increase the intensity of floods due to heavy downpour which will destroy individuals' property, agriculture, and may lead to their death.

As average and extreme temperatures amplify, an "increase in deaths and illness from heat" is expected to occur which will primarily affect those vulnerable such as children, the elderly, and those struggling economically (U.S Global Change Research Program). Many individuals will die due to extreme weather caused by global warming.

The lifestyle of organisms will be disrupted by climate change. Polar bears have become an endangered species as of 2008 due to a loss of sea ice habitat. They require ice to hunt seals, therefore a deficiency has led to them becoming malnourished. The hibernation of animals has changed and some species are migrating to colder areas to avoid scorching temperatures. More animals will face extinction due to the changing climate.

Technology has abundantly affected global warming. Factories emit chemicals and fossil fuels which harms the air quality and contributes to the greenhouse effect. If humans recycle, reduce, and reuse, further damage can be minimized. Recycling can lead to less waste being confined in landfills and will preserve energy, conserve natural resources, and reduce the need to accumulate raw material such as plastic. Reducing and reusing can diminish the demand for raw materials and can lessen the number of greenhouse gases released in factories when manufacturing a product.

Rather than disposing of unwanted appliances or clothes, one can donate them to a local charity. Buying reusable items and from companies that recycle their products can heavily assist to limit factory-borne fossil fuel. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, "About 94 percent of the food we throw away ends up in landfills or combustion facilities."

When shopping, the consumer should only purchase what they need rather than buying in bulk to prevent food being wasted. Natural resources should be preserved rather than used in excess. Cars use a natural resource oil for their engines while also releasing fossil

fuels. To prevent an excess use of oil, individuals should travel using bikes and by walking which are both medically and environmentally beneficial.

Water, a natural resource should be limited by reducing the time spent in the shower and turning off the faucet when not being used. Those who are not sensitive about environmental protection should be informed of the dangers of global warming and simple tasks such as recycling that can easily prevent further damage.

Encouraging students and children about the dangers global warming and every day energy-efficient alternatives will lead to a large mass of people acknowledging and responding to a major issue. The state of New Jersey and lawmakers can respond to global warming by establishing a law that requires each town to recycle rather than to dump items in a landfill. Moreover, the state could encourage large businesses, schools, and local governments to inform workers, students, and citizens about ways to save the Earth's natural resources by reducing daily usage.

In the end, small lifestyle changes can make a big difference in global warming.