
CLIMATE CHANGE: NATURE DOESN'T NEED PEOPLE, WE NEED NATURE.

“Humanity faces many threats, but none is greater than climate change. In damaging our climate, we are becoming the architects of our own destruction. We have the knowledge, the tools, and the money (to solve the crisis).”-Prince Charles



David McNew, Photo from the fires in Paradise, California. Recorded as one of the worst forest

Confusion behind Climate Change

The controversy around Climate Change has turned into an ongoing dispute of whether people believe the earth is actually changing and the type of government action that needs to be taken. An example of this debate can be shown through a recent article that states that the White House plans on selecting federal scientists to reassess the government's climate change analysis. This type of leadership is the result of all the skepticism and discussion behind the reliability behind the idea of climate change.

So what exactly is Climate Change?

Climate change is defined by NASA as a broad range of global phenomena created predominantly by burning fossil fuels, which add heat-trapping gases to Earth's atmosphere." These changes can be seen through the reduction of ice, rising sea levels, shifts plant blooming, extreme natural disasters, an increase in the earth's overall temperature.

"The United States is the second largest contributor to CO2 in our atmosphere, though it is home to just 4.4 percent of the world's population. If everyone in the world lived the way people do in the U.S., it would take four Earths to provide enough resources for everyone".

-WORLD ATLAS, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, POPULAR SCIENCE

How has it recently changed?

In November 2018, the US government published The National Climate Assessment which outlines the ways climate change impacts the US now and how it will in the future. The report shows how climate change impacts agriculture, water, energy, human health, the economy and much more. In terms of global warming, NASA states, "The planet's average surface temperature has risen about 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit (0.9 degrees Celsius) since the late 19th century, a change driven largely by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions into the atmosphere". Global warming was a major contributor to the polar vortex that hit the United States in January. Contrary to the tweet displayed by our president, National Geographic responded to the tweet as, "Warm temperatures in the Arctic cause the jet stream to take these wild swings, and when it swings farther south, that causes cold air to reach farther south". Although there were record cold temperatures in the United States, the rest of the world was still abnormally hot. It is predicted to see a lot more of this unstable weather in the US.



Donald J. Trump 
@realDonaldTrump

In the beautiful Midwest, windchill temperatures are reaching minus 60 degrees, the coldest ever recorded. In coming days, expected to get even colder. People can't last outside even for minutes. What the hell is going on with Global Warming? Please come back fast, we need you!

♡ 210K 7:28 PM - Jan 28, 2019

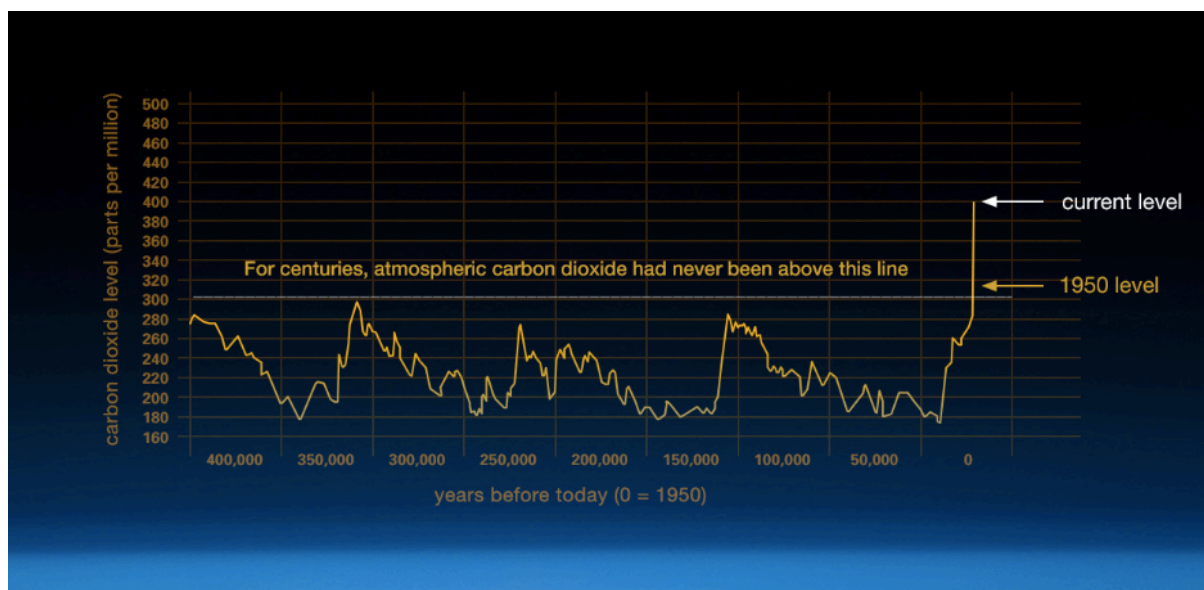


Why is this happening?

The Majority of warming at the global scale over the past 50 years can only be explained by the effects of human influences. Human activity has triggered climate change and can be described by NASA as, "The industrial activities that our modern civilization depends upon have raised atmospheric carbon dioxide levels from 280 parts per million to 400 parts per million in the last 150 years". Humans are the problem, but we can also be the solution. Do you want to be known as the generation that had the education, resources, and money to solve this issue but didn't? Do you want to watch future generations scramble to clean up our mess because we chose to do nothing? Do you want to watch your president understand that there is scientific evidence of climate change and chose to completely ignore it?

Impact

Being such a huge problem, climate change can feel foreign and distant to most people. It is hard to connect with something so complex, but climate change is happening and it WILL impact the not only the US, but the entire world. For example, in the United States, many rural communities rely on natural sources to provide food, water, and energy. While urban communities rely on rural areas for different goods and services. Explained in the National Climate Assessment, “Warming trends, climate volatility, extreme weather events, and environmental change are already affecting the economies and cultures of rural areas”. Communities need to sustain economic and social well being are threatened by Climate Change’s threat to natural resources.



This graph displays how the CO₂ levels have risen since 1950 presented by the NASA

Aside from these simple changes that you can make to help save our world from a climate catastrophe, the most important thing you can do to make a difference in our earth’s future is to VOTE. Let me say that again VOTE, VOTE, VOTE! The Trump Administration has signaled that they plan to pull out of the Paris Climate Agreement, which is aimed to deal with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance. The United States needs leaders who believe in climate change and do not ignore the science behind it. Vote for those who are dedicated to your, your children’s, and your children’s children future. The only way to truly to fight this issue is to have the government’s support and a leader who is dedicated to our people above money or profit.

It’s not too late to help stop this growing issue. There are simple actions you can take everyday to help improve our environment.

1. **Reduce your consumption of animal products:** Buy less meat, cheese, milk, and butter. Educate yourself on the meat industry, factory farming, and the impact it has on our environment.

2. **Buy locally sourced produce:** Support your local farmers market and purchase locally sourced, seasonal foods.
3. **Waste Less:** Practice mindful eating and allow your body to absorb the nutrients that food offers. Food waste is a huge issue in the United States.
4. **Choose Electric:** Chose to buy an electric car or carpool to reduce your carbon footprint. Chose to walk or bike to work.
5. **Use a dryer rack instead of a tumble dryer:** By choosing to use a drying rack instead of an electric dryer you are choosing to reduce the CO2 that would usually be emitted.
6. **Insulate your home and wear more layers:** Heating used in homes and in public requires a lot of energy. Insulate your homes and put on a layer next time you think of turning up the thermostat.
7. **Don't feel helpless:** It is easy to feel like you have no control over the environment but there are so many small actions that you can take everyday. Use this current political climate to spread your awareness and knowledge to friends, family, peer, neighbors, and colleagues about this issue. Lastly, do not forget to vote and to vote for a figure who believes and will be proactive about climate change.

“There’s one issue that will define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other, and that is the urgent threat of a changing climate.”

-FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

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