

Climate Change

A survey was conducted regarding climate change. 10 participants took part in the survey.

The questions asked were the following:

1. What is climate change?
2. What are the causes of climate change?
3. What are the effects of climate change?
4. What can we do to reduce the rapid change in our climate?

What is climate change?

All participants mentioned changes in temperatures and weather patterns which may be natural or due to human activity.

What are the causes of Climate Change?



- 9 participants mentioned the rise in temperature. **Global Warming** is due to the emissions of Carbon Dioxide gases from factories, a phenomenon known as the **Greenhouse Effect**, where a blanket of heat is wrapped around the earth, keeping the planet toastier. The use of fuel based transportation was also mentioned as a main contributor to the rise in temperature.
- 1 participant mentioned the fact that the **Ozone Layer** hole is widening and so the rays of the sun are getting closer to our planet, which increases the temperature of our climate.

What are the effects of climate change?

- 1 participant mentioned **Eutrophication**. This occurs when water algae blooms up due to the rise in temperature, causing the deterioration of water quality which in turn decreases the level of oxygen in water. This results in water dead zones as fish find it hard to survive.
- 5 participants mentioned **a rise in sea levels**, due to melting glaciers and ice caps. This harms animals because it destroys their habitats. The polar bear and the penguin were mentioned in this regard.
- 2 participants mentioned **changes in rainfall**. In some countries this results in more severe and frequent storms which cause flooding and landslides, destroying homes and communities. On the other hand, in other countries, water is becoming scarcer. Droughts can stir destructive sand and dust storms which expand deserts, reducing land for growing food. These participants mentioned the fact that many people now face the threat of not having enough water on a regular basis.
- 2 participants mentioned **overconsumption**. The use of energy in our households, how you move around, what you eat and how much you throw away all contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. So does the consumption of goods such as clothing, electronics, and plastics.

A common concern of all participants was that our lifestyles have a profound impact on climate change. So, a more holistic eco-friendly conscience is essential. Awareness without action is futile.

So, what can we do to make a worldwide campaign to help save our planet?

1. Think about how you shop -

Remember the four R's

Reuse, Reduce, Repair, Recycle



- Buy less stuff
- **Upcycle** - Repair what you have; find new uses for old toys and clothes.
- **Recycle** - donate stuff to charity shops.
- Buy **second-hand goods**.

2. Think about what you eat

- Minimize animal based product consumption.
- Buy vegan products instead.
- Look out for fruit and vegetables that have been organically and sustainably produced.
- Buy fruit and vegetables locally and in season.

3. Think about how you travel

- Walk or cycle to school if you can
- Use electric means of transport

4. Plant trees

- Planting trees is a natural method of removing carbon dioxide from our planet.

5. Use renewable energy sources

- Solar energy
- Wind energy

Remember, YOU can make a difference. If we each just do our own little part, together we can make an enormous difference. You are never too small to make an impact. So, whether you change the way you eat, the stuff you buy, the way you travel, or educate others about what's going on in our planet, there's always SOMETHING you can do!

The MOST important thing that we can do is to be KIND to each other and to all the other creatures living on this planet. Let's work together and take action to make the world a better place, for us and for all the beautiful beings, large and small that we share it with.

(Source: World-Whizzing Facts by Dr Emily Grossman)

