

Fighting Climate Change

Read the information about each topic below to fill out the chart on the next page.

Using Fossil Fuels for Energy

Humans burn fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas to produce electricity. The burning of fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide into the air. This contributes to different parts of climate change including warming the planet, sea level rise, drought, floods, habitat loss, and more. There are other power options available like wind, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal, and nuclear. Many areas have agreed to use more green energy, but few promise to stop using fossil fuels completely.

Droughts Causing Increased Wildfires

As the world warms from climate change, water on our planet warms. Warmer water evaporates more easily, so some areas of the world will experience droughts, long periods of time without rain or other precipitation.

Droughts can impact parts of our world including wildlife, the economy, agriculture, and access to safe drinking water. Droughts put us at high risk for wildfires. California has many areas that are prone to drought and fires. Wildfires cause billions of dollars of damages each year.

Using Oil to Make Plastics

Plastic production requires the use of fossil fuels, and most plastics are also made from fossil fuels. This contributes to climate change by creating emissions. Today, 8.3 million pounds of plastic exist on Earth. Almost every plastic product ever made still exists. It can take anywhere from hundreds to millions of years for different types of plastics to break down. Plastic can also be a threat to wildlife that may eat or get tangled in it. Humans face the problem of microplastics, microscopic, degraded pieces of plastic that can even be found in human drinking water in some areas.

Sea Level Rise

The sea level has already risen about 9 inches. By 2100, the sea level could rise another 7 feet. If humans can reduce their carbon dioxide emissions, it may only rise as much as 2 feet. Unfortunately for humans and animals living on the coast, sea level rise is a huge threat. Many communities near the coast are already making preparations for a higher sea level. About 30% of all humans live near coastal areas. Animals like sea turtles and sandpipers that breed and live on beaches will be most impacted.

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After reading the previous page, write one way that you can help, one way the United States government could help, and one way the world could help solve each issue or make it better.

Using Fossil Fuels for Energy

Your Life

Droughts Causing Increased Wildfires

Your Life

Using Oil to Make Plastics

Your Life

Sea Level Rise

Your Life

The Government

The Government

The Government

The Government

The World

The World

The World

The World