

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL WARMING

AS GLOBAL TEMPERATURES CONTINUE TO RISE (GLOBAL WARMING), WE'LL SEE MORE CHANGES IN OUR CLIMATE AND OUR ENVIRONMENT. THESE CHANGES WILL AFFECT PEOPLE, ANIMALS, AND ECOSYSTEMS IN MANY WAYS. FOR EXAMPLE, GLOBAL WARMING MAKES THE SEA RISE, AND WHEN THE SEA RISES, THE WATER COVERS MANY LOW LAND ISLANDS. THIS IS A BIG PROBLEM FOR MANY OF THE PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND PEOPLE ON ISLANDS. THE WATER COVERS THE PLANTS AND CAUSES SOME OF THEM TO DIE. WHEN THEY DIE, THE ANIMALS LOSE A SOURCE OF FOOD, ALONG WITH THEIR HABITAT (HOME). ALTHOUGH ANIMALS HAVE A BETTER ABILITY TO ADAPT TO WHAT HAPPENS THAN PLANTS DO, THEY MAY DIE ALSO. WHEN THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS DIE, PEOPLE LOSE TWO SOURCES OF FOOD, PLANT FOOD AND ANIMAL FOOD. LESS RAIN CAN MEAN LESS WATER FOR SOME PLACES, WHILE TOO MUCH RAIN CAN CAUSE FLOODING. MORE HOT DAYS CAN DRY UP CROPS AND MAKE PEOPLE AND ANIMALS SICK. IN SOME PLACES, PEOPLE WILL STRUGGLE TO COPE WITH A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT. IN OTHER PLACES, PEOPLE MAY BE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY PREPARE FOR THESE CHANGES. THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE WILL BE LESS SEVERE OVERALL IF PEOPLE REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF GREENHOUSE GASES WE'RE PUTTING INTO THE ATMOSPHERE AND WORSE IF WE CONTINUE PRODUCING THESE GASES AT CURRENT OR FASTER RATES. WHILE GLOBAL WARMING CAUSES CHANGES IN OUR CLIMATE IT CAN ALSO CREATE NEW CHANGES, DISEASES WOULD BE AN EXAMPLE. MALARIA AND VECTOR BORN DISEASES NOW BEING EXPERIENCED IN THE HIGHLANDS IS ONE EXAMPLE OF NEW CHANGES THAT OCCUR BECAUSE OF CHANGES IN THE CLIMATE.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO DECREASE CARBON EMISSIONS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE?

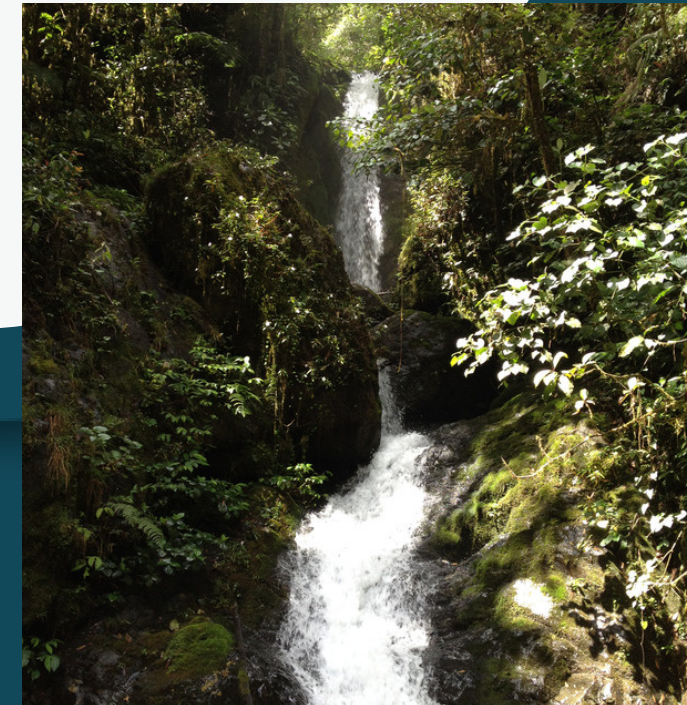
FIRSTLY WE MUST UNDERSTAND, THAT CHANGES WILL NOT HAPPEN OVERNIGHT, BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE CAN DO TO HELP DECREASE CARBON EMISSIONS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.

WAYS TO DECREASE CARBON EMISSIONS.

1. CONSERVING FORESTS BY:
STOPPING DEFORESTATION FROM AGRICULTURAL LEASES/REDUCING IN COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE
REDUCE IMPACT LOGGING/PROMOTE REFORESTATION
2. REPLACE TREES BEING CUT DOWN FOR BUILDING HOUSES OR TO MAKE GARDENS BY PLANTING AN-OTHER TREE.
3. CHOOSE GREEN ENERGY INSTEAD OF OIL, COAL AND GAS. FORMS OF GREEN ENERGY WOULD BE, GEOTHERMAL POWER, SOLAR POWER, WIND POWER AND TIDAL POWER.
4. REDUCE THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF YOUR CAR; KEEP IT MAINTAINED AND RUNNING WELL.
5. TURN POWER POINTS OFF WHEN NOT BEING USED.
6. RECYCLE EVERYTHING THAT YOU CAN.
7. START COMPOSTING FOOD SCRAPS.



CLIMATE CHANGE & DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



CLIMATE CHANGE FACT SHEET

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

CLIMATE CHANGE REPRESENTS A CHANGE IN LONG-TERM WEATHER PATTERNS SUCH AS RAIN OR SNOW PERIODS. THESE CAN BECOME WARMER OR COLDER. ANNUAL AMOUNTS OF RAINFALL OR SNOWFALL CAN INCREASE OR DECREASE. IN FACT, THE SIGNS ARE ALL AROUND US! OBSERVATIONS AND MEASUREMENTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD PROVIDE STRONG EVIDENCE THAT THE CLIMATE HAS ALREADY STARTED TO CHANGE. EXAMPLES MAY BE HIGHER TEMPERATURES, CHANGING RAIN AND SNOW PATTERNS, MORE DROUGHTS, WARMER OCEANS, RISING SEA LEVELS, WILDER WEATHER AND INCREASED OCEAN ACIDITY. MAN'S INTERACTIONS IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE WARMING OF THE EARTH IS THE RESULT OF MAN'S INTERACTIONS, USE OF FOSSIL FUELS AND CARBON EMISSIONS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.



WHAT IS GLOBAL WARMING?

GLOBAL WARMING REFERS TO AN AVERAGE INCREASE IN THE EARTH'S TEMPERATURE, WHICH IN TURN CAUSES CHANGES IN CLIMATE. IT IS WHEN THE EARTH HEATS UP (THE TEMPERATURE RISES). THIS HAPPENS WHEN GREENHOUSE GASES (CARBON DIOXIDE, WATER VAPOUR, NITROUS OXIDE, AND METHANE) TRAP HEAT AND LIGHT FROM THE SUN IN THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, WHICH INCREASES THE TEMPERATURE. THIS HURTS MANY PEOPLE, ANIMALS, AND PLANTS. A WARMER EARTH MAY LEAD TO CHANGES IN RAINFALL PATTERNS, A RISE IN SEA LEVEL, AND A WIDE RANGE OF IMPACTS ON PLANTS, WILDLIFE, AND HUMANS. GLOBAL WARMING CAN OCCUR FROM A VARIETY OF CAUSES, BOTH NATURALLY AND HUMAN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS BURNING OF FOSSIL FUELS LIKE OIL AND COAL AND OTHER CAUSES SUCH AS DEFORESTATION (CUTTING DOWN TREES) FOR LAND USE AND AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES. IN COMMON USAGE, "GLOBAL WARMING" OFTEN REFERS TO THE WARMING THAT CAN OCCUR AS A RESULT OF INCREASED EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES FROM HUMAN ACTIVITIES.



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL WARMING?

PEOPLE OFTEN CONFUSE GLOBAL WARMING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE, THINKING THAT THEY BOTH HAVE THE SAME MEANING WHILE OTHERS USE ONE WORD FOR THE OTHER. THIS IS NOT THE CASE AS THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN THE MEANING OF THE TWO WORDS. "GLOBAL WARMING" REFERS TO THE INCREASE OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE TEMPERATURE, DUE TO A BUILD-UP OF GREENHOUSE GASES SUCH AS CARBON DIOXIDE IN THE ATMOSPHERE. "CLIMATE CHANGE" IS A BROADER TERM THAT REFERS TO LONG-TERM CHANGES IN CLIMATE, INCLUDING AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION (RAIN, SNOW OR HAIL). GLOBAL WARMING CAUSES CLIMATE CHANGE, THE EFFECTS OF WHICH MAY INCLUDE MANY DIFFERENT CHANGES IN CLIMATE AS WELL AS WARMING WHICH CAUSES CHANGES IN WEATHER EVENTS LIKE WILDER STORMS, MORE OFTEN AND MORE SEVERE DROUGHTS IN SOME AREAS, FLOODS IN OTHERS, RISING SEA LEVELS, COASTAL FLOODING AND COASTAL STORMS.

