

What can we do to stop global warming?

Can we stop global warming?

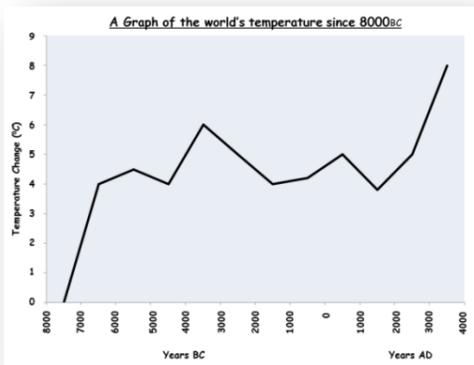
Simply....NO!!



We can't stop global warming. Not even if we stop burning fuels right now. The extra carbon dioxide in the air already will cause temperatures to rise by at least 1°C. But we can try and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide we produce, to limit temperatures rising. It's the best we can hope for.

So what are we doing? We are burning more fuels than ever before. So we are producing more carbon dioxide than ever before. So global warming is speeding up. And here is the big worry. As the world heats up we will reach tipping points, when things suddenly get far worse.

For example, if it gets hot enough trees will die. So they will stop taking in CO₂. On



decay, they will give out C O₂ and the levels will shoot up even faster.

And then, one day, it will be too late. Temperatures could rise out of control. Climates would change drastically. Living things could not cope and we would not recover. We must take urgent action now. What are we waiting for?

Global Scale Responses

Global agreements between nations have always been in place. In June 1992, The Earth Summit took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This was a meeting organised by the UN to discuss climate change. The result of the meeting was the first international environmental treaty which aimed to stabilise greenhouse gas emissions.

In December of '97 the same group met again in Kyoto, Japan. At this meeting the Kyoto Protocol was signed which came into force in 2005. By 2008, 181 countries had signed the protocol.

It stated that:

- Greenhouse gas emissions to be cut by 5.2% compared to 1990 levels.
- Each country agreed to a national limit on emissions (8% EU, 7% USA, 6% Japan and 0% Russia).
- It allowed increases of 10% for Iceland and 8% for Australia because they were not using their carbon allowance!!!!
- In order to achieve their targets, countries could either cut their emissions or trade them with other countries. It was called carbon credits and was like a new currency for politicians.

Finally in 2007 in Bali, Indonesia, representatives of over 180 countries were present to agree on the Bali Roadmap in which initiatives were agreed to try and secure future climate.



It's not just governments that are globally trying to improve the climate. Non-governmental Organisations (NGO's) are also doing their bit. Greenpeace for example is focusing its campaign against the use of fossil fuels. They want energy use in a more sustainable way.



They want to do the following:

Cooling Towers	Capture the heat from cooling towers and re-use it. This would save 2/3 of the heat lost.
Heat and Power Systems	Combine the 2 and save energy. The distance that the energy travels could be cut in half by doing this.
Renewable Energy	This would reduce the use of fossil fuels.
Transport	This produces 22% of the UK's carbon emissions. Low carbon and electric

	cars and making public transport more efficient.
Air Traffic	Produces more carbon than all the UK cars. Raise the taxes of flying to discourage people from taking short-haul flights.

Local Scale Responses

There are 5 groups locally who can help:

1. Schools
2. Local Companies
3. Interest Groups
4. Councils
5.and YOU!!

Schools:

Many schools now recycle and have introduced energy efficient water and central heating systems run on renewable energy sources. Simple things like 'switch off lights' signs have helped save millions.

Local companies use wind turbines and solar panels to provide energy for themselves and local homes.

Interest groups such as 'Manchester is my planet' work with councils to allow commuters with low carbon cars to have a green badge for reduced city centre parking.

Councils themselves have been given more than £4million to reduce carbon emissions from household waste. Different bins and not sending rubbish to landfill are 2 very positive steps.



And finally you...

- Don't turn on heating put a jumper on.
- Ride a bike or walk rather than use a car.
- Turn off lights.
- Recycle all waste.

And many more!

Could these be our options:

