

Are You Feeling Anxious about Your Future due to Climate Change?

Are we doing enough to help save the Planet?



Introduction:

In the present moment, based on people's behaviour and their way of life, I observe that the majority is not adapting to the new circumstances and this will likely not have a limiting effect on the rise in temperature, that is keeping the rise below 1.5 Celsius degrees. The majority of people still believe that climate change will not have an impact on their livelihood, safety, and security. This is a wrong assumption due to the evidence which already show that climate change is having an impact on people's micro environment, in many areas.

Weather patterns that affect people's lives

The weather patterns are changing. There are more frequent droughts and with them come wildfires destroying the natural habitat of many species and encroaching on the urban areas. There is a lot of evidence of these calamities in many forested areas around the world. Many wildfires risks depend on temperature, soil moisture, and presence of trees and other plants.

In Australia it is normal for a bush fire to occur now and then, but it was never as destructive as it was from 2019 to 2020. 21% in the year of 2019 to 2020 of "temperate broadleaf and mixed" forests

were burned. Each year 1% of the natural lands would burn in the last 20 years, but at the last two years this changed. 70 animal species, one of them being koala, lost 30% of their habitat and 21 species out of the 70 are classified endangered and close to extinction because of the latest wildfires.



[twip-01-kangaroo-fires-ps-200102_hpMain_1_16x9_992.jpg](#)

Many acres of forests are burned each year in the western United States due to climate change. The evidence of this is the number of dry, warm, and windy autumn days in California which has more than doubled since the 1980s. Same as in Australia and California, hot dry summers are fuelling massive fires in Siberia. The fires have released more than 500 mega tons of Carbon Dioxide equivalent in the atmosphere, the highest total ever for the region that is according to the EUs atmospheric monitoring service.

According to climate scientists, the Arctic temperatures are warming faster than anywhere else on the planet. The temperature rise is attributed to the effects of human made climate change. Amazon, the Earth's lungs are also under threat, but a lot it is to do with human activities linked to deforestation and agricultural expansion. Land use change and deforestation has an influence on local temperature and climate, which is comparable to the effect of climate change. It is very possible that by 2100 because of human infused deforestation and in conjunction with global warming, the Amazon will cease to exist and the whole vast region will change into a Savannah.



[118409175_gettyimages-1163385258-594x594-1.jpg](#)

There also many more destructive weather conditions, like stronger hurricanes, and excessive precipitation/rain in short time lapse. These past few years have been recorded as the warmest years in history and I want to remind you that many climate experts are alarming us that we have 8

years left until 2030 before we hit a non-reversible point. More and more species of plants and animals are becoming endangered and extinct. Icebergs are melting every second and we lose about 1.2 trillion tons of ice each year, endangering the species who live in the Arctic habitat.

Regarding hurricanes we have many cases where the hurricanes had the strength of category 5. The destructive powers of such catastrophic storms were felt by the islands in the Caribbean, like St. Martin, which is situated within the hurricane belt. St. Martin was hit in a short span of time by two category 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria, in September of 2017. The devastation was staggering. In the German states of North Rhine-Westphalia and Rhine land-Palatinate there was heavy rainfall from the 12th to the 15th of July 2021 and it resulted in 184 fatalities. Scientists agreed that climate change was the cause of the heavy rainfall, causing the severe flooding in Germany, as well as of the devastating storms in the Atlantic.



[Hurricane Isabel from ISS.jpg](#)

Solutions:

Scientists are finding solutions to the excessive release of greenhouse gases with technological innovations, but it will take time to make this technology work optimally. The transition to renewable energy will also take time.

It is also true that to change the way we live we must invest in something new. Such investments many people cannot afford, like electric car which is more expensive than a car which runs on fossil fuel, but we still can contribute on stopping climate change with easier tasks. We can ride a bike or walk if the destination you are headed to is close. Per year we create 4.6 tons of carbon emission when a person uses a car on average. Send a message to the world that you care about the planet. Reduce water waste. Reducing water waste also reduces carbon pollution as well, due to having a lot of time to treat and heat your water. Eat less meat. Agriculture creates a significant amount of greenhouse gas emission which is about 17%. Plant more vegetations if you have a garden, it will help slow down climate change. Donate to charities, climate change also affects countries in development. Wear recycled or second hand clothes, the fashion industry is responsible for 10% of annual carbon emission.



[ModaLAC780.jpg](#)

In Sri Lanka, a person made a small business where they create papers from elephant poop. Elephants are vegetarian and their poop is full of fibre. The small business dries the poop, cleans it, dyes it, spreads it, compresses it, smooths it, cuts it, combines it, and then is made into a real paper product. This business prevents trees from being cut down, gives unemployed people jobs and so much more.

There is also the Paris agreement which happened in 2016. The Paris agreement is about limiting global warming to well below 2 Celsius and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5 Celsius. Plants and trees prevent from all those problems happening, but we keep destroying natural habitats. One person will not be able to save the planet, but people working together will and doing so with small tasks by each and everyone will contribute to helping the planet and maybe save it.

To save lives and property from new weather pattern, which are catastrophic by their nature, people and governments need to plan and build better infrastructure to make it more resilient. We also need to start thinking on how we consume, we must check products if they are grown sustainably and in areas where deforestation did not occur. Digital technology enables the consumer to check where and how the product was grown or made. To stop the wildfires, we need to learn from Indigenous people, who lived in the forests for thousands of years, how to live sustainably and take care of the forest in such way that it does not burn extensively, that is by using their practice of controlled burning.

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