

## Global Warming Project

Global warming is the increase in the average temperature of the earth's surface, in the air or in the oceans. Global warming is mostly caused by carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossils for electricity generation purposes. This is from powerplants and there are also from cars, carbon dioxide emissions come from the burning of gasoline in internal combustion engines of cars. Cars or powerplants are not the only problem, also airplanes and buildings. Deforestation is one of the major causes of global warming because it affects the ecosystem. There are many causes of global warming but we can not do anything about it because that is the only way how we get pleasure. (WC: 1)

Since 1970, much of the protective layer of stratospheric ozone above Antarctica has disappeared, creating what is known as the ozone hole. The Antarctic hole now measures about 9 million square miles, nearly the size of North America. Depletion of ozone levels has been recorded around the globe. With less ozone in the atmosphere, more ultraviolet radiation strikes the Earth, causing more skin cancer, eye damage, and harm to nature. Ozone is a simple molecule, consisting of three oxygen atoms bonded together. It has different effects depending on its location. Near Earth's surface, where ozone comes into direct contact with life forms, it primarily displays a destructive side. Because it reacts strongly with other molecules, large concentrations of ozone near the ground produce toxic compounds to living things. It is not a major part of global warming, because it doesn't have anything to do with it, it is just an effect that leads to a cause. (WC:4)

A huge change is underway across the globe and in its atmosphere, they report, that is affecting not only nature, but the lives and homes of millions of

people. Changes can be measured from the highest mountains to deep in the oceans and are leading to extinction for parts of earth's rich biodiversity. For humans, the changes in climate are particularly dangerous to people who live near the ocean shore and who already suffer from drought, flooding and poverty. Many of these effects have been known previously. Some of the major problems are that glaciers in Antarctica are melting and polar bears are drowning and dying, also mountains are cracking and are creaking down.

Increasing global temperatures are causing a range of changes. Sea levels are rising due to thermal expansion of the ocean, in addition to melting of land ice. Amounts and patterns of precipitation are changing. The total annual power of hurricanes has already increased markedly since 1975 because their average intensity and average duration have increased. Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns increase the frequency, duration, and intensity of other extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, heat waves, and tornadoes. Other effects of global warming include higher or lower agricultural yields, further glacial retreat, reduced summer stream flows, species extinctions. As a further effect of global warming, diseases like malaria are returning into areas where they have been extinguished earlier. No one knows what can happen in the future but we are living the consequences and the only thing that we know is that it will affect all of us. (WC: 3-4)

The greenhouse effect is when sunlight reaches Earth's surface some is absorbed and warms the earth and most of the rest is radiated back to the atmosphere at a longer wavelength than the sun light. Some of these longer wavelengths are absorbed by greenhouse gases in the atmosphere before they are lost to space. The absorption of this longwave radiant energy warms the atmosphere. These greenhouse gases act like a mirror and reflect back to the Earth some of the heat energy which would otherwise be lost to space. The reflecting back of heat energy by the atmosphere is called the greenhouse effect. (WC: 5)

The Kyoto protocol is for reversing the trend of the greenhouse effect, meaning to stop all the gases that damage the earth and produce global warming. This is a convention for all of the countries to talk about man and interference with the climate system.

They propose that the emission of these gases should reduce from 2008 to 2012, they want to reduce the usage of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. Another proposal is to achieve a wide-world congregation with all the countries, developed and undeveloped. What they are doing now is recording and gathering data to know how to overcome the climate.

The developed countries were proposed to reduce the six greenhouse gases by at least 5%, some countries accepted this term and are improving, also there is a way to make developing countries concerned about this, the climate change. Also for developing countries there is a degree of flexibility concerning their information and necessities. (WC: 4)

Global warming led to this protocol, in 1997 representatives from all over the world, came to talk about this problem of climate change, 141 countries accepted the agreement for one condition, that they reduced the gases and pollution for 5.2%, this would lead to an investigation for knowing how much was done and how could they improve it. Protocol states that by the years 2008-2012 there would be a reduction of these greenhouse gases that affect the world and lead to all the major problems, like global warming, greenhouse effects, and ozone depletion. This protocol wants to "tackle" global warming or climate change for the good of mankind, this is a near future problem that may affect all of us. (WC: 5)

Many companies don't accept this climate control policy because their production rate can slow down or stop, this would make them lose money. Another reason is that by accepting this factor the energy sector will raise up

creating high prices and creating a whole transportation and living problem for all of the people. Because the price of carbon would increase for the reduction of its usage, heat and electricity prices would raise up, the problem would be so big that carbon would become more expensive than petroleum. The effects in factories are that the price of energy and other goods and services would rise and consumption and employment would decline. Biggest problem of this all is the use of electricity because it is generated in power plants that uses fuel and emits carbon dioxide gases, stating the major concern of the Kyoto protocol. (WC: 6-2)

The Kyoto protocol was signed by Colombia and ratified in December 27, of the year 2000. In 2000 Colombia consolidated its national strategy for the clean development mechanism. This is based on the fact that the national economy could reduce up to 22.9 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year. It is also hoped that the conversion of industrial and energy processes to cleaner technologies will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and generate environmental benefits. Conversion of industrial boilers and changes in the generation of electricity should reduce the current emissions of particulates, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides that are causing severe problems of pollution in the cities. There is also considerable room for improvement in the transport sector which could adopt natural gas as fuel, and in programmes to reduce energy consumption at industrial and municipal level. The risk for this program is that Colombia is viewed internationally as a country of high risk investment, also there is a lack of general studies, project costs and feasibility studies. (WC: 7)

Business opportunities are not very much, because it depends on the business and its economy. For having a carbon fund, is a good company and business because if you invest on it you have some special rights and the price is raising. After this some anti fuel projects could work and become a cheaper product, for consumers the rise of electricity is very bad because it is what

people need, in developing countries electricity is a major problem for some and if it rises up, it would become a problem for all. I think that by having a "clean world" it would help us realize how much we need to take care of our planet, this is not a problem for some countries, it is a problem for all and if it gives business opportunities like trade it is a good project. (WC:6)

About this topic of global warming I would just like to add that it is a problem that we are living right now and it can affect us later, now it is affecting the climate and the ecosystem, then it would affect us. The Kyoto protocol is just an organization to protect the risks of global warming by telling other countries to agree on the reduction of greenhouse gases that affect the ozone layer.

# Global Warming Citation:

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