

Science, Medicine and technology

Discuss the effects of global warming with special reference to the Caribbean. What can be done to reduce the negative effects?

Global warming can be defined as the rise in the earth's temperature due to the increase in gases in the atmosphere. Global warming has various effects, ranging from the effects in the atmosphere to the economical, environmental as well as the health life of human beings.

One of the most serious effects of climate change that humans have to think about is the effects on the health of individuals, nations and therefore civilizations. The rise in temperature due to global warming is known to be supportive to various viral diseases like the West-Nile virus and malaria. This will result in economic as well as health effects on human beings. For example, global warming will increase the incidence of such diseases in poorer countries where these diseases exist. Global warming will also cause countries that have gotten rid of these diseases to spend more on vaccinations and other ways of eradication like pesticides, etc. Other than these effects, global warming has other outcomes on the health of human beings. It may result in a drastic rise in temperature. Moreover, this rise in temperature can result in an increase in the mortality rate of people. A higher temperature causes problems to people with cardiovascular problems. High temperature also causes the concentration of the ozone in the lower atmosphere. Ozone is a harmful pollutant and causes respiratory problems. Ozone is also known to damage lung tissues and therefore cause more complications for people with asthma. These are some of the health effects of Global Warming.

Global Warming has many other consequences other than the health of

individuals. Global warming may also cause a decline in agriculture due to the rise in temperature. The agriculture will also decline due to the role of carbon dioxide in photosynthesis. Carbon dioxide prevents photorespiration and therefore is the cause of the damage of many crops.

Global warming may also result in the increased number as well as longer droughts and hence, increase in the ozone gas at the ground level. The increase of the ozone at the ground level will result in a substantial depletion of crops. The increase in temperature will also cause various transport infrastructures like roads, bridges, ships to face greater temperature changes. Due to this, the maintainable costs of the transport infrastructure will increase. This may cause broken runways, malformed roads and sunken foundations.

Climate change can also result in a rise in the sea levels. Therefore, this will cause an increase in the costs of the coastal defense. This is also dangerous, because the most important trade ports are always at the coast of any area for trade reasons.

Moreover, it may also have an effect on the daily weather. One of the most important effects is the increase in extreme temperatures. The levels of evaporation will also increase due to Global Warming.

Additionally, the ecosystems may be affected. The effects of Global Warming have already been seen in birds. Other effects of global warming, like a decreased snow level, increased temperature and other weather changes will have an effect not only on humans but also entire ecosystems. These ecosystems will change and cause many traditional inhabitants to leave their inhabitants and can initiate the extinction of species.

Hence, it may result in the decline of the ecosystem's productivity, as well as glaciers which results in flash floods, landslides and glacial lake overflow.

However, there are several things that may be done to reduce these negative effects. These are:-

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Reduce emissions from cars and trucks. Less driving means fewer emissions. Besides saving gasoline, walking and biking are great forms of exercise. Using energy more efficiently and moving to renewable energy (wind, solar, geothermal, and bioenergy) would significantly reduce our emissions of heat-trapping gases. Reduce waste by choosing reusable products instead of disposables. Buying products with minimal will help to reduce waste. And whenever you can, recycle paper, plastic, newspaper, glass and aluminum cans.

Use Less Heat and Air Conditioning

Replace regular light bulbs with compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs

Buy Energy-Efficient Products

Cut down demand for electricity

Save electricity and reduce global warming by turning off lights when you leave a room, and using only as much light as you need. By turning off your television, video player, stereo and computer help save electricity as well as money.