



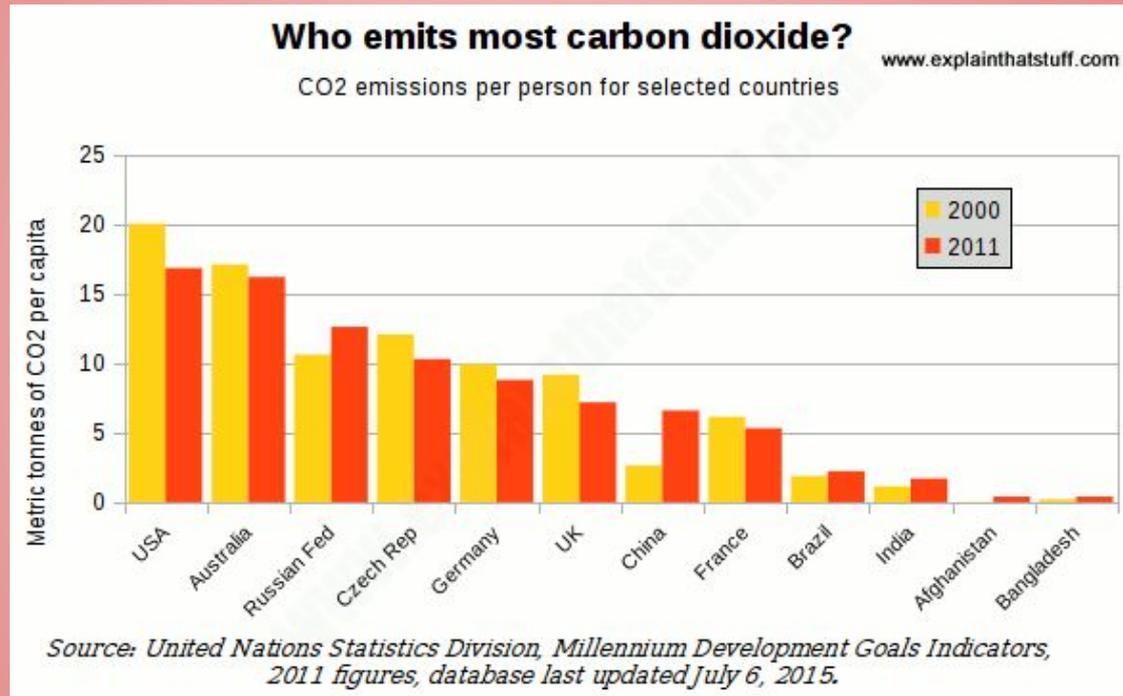
Global Warming

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What is global warming?

Global warming is the rising of the Earth's average temperature. Global warming is caused by the greenhouse effect. The greenhouse effect is best described as the sun's heat trapped in the Earth's atmosphere due to the increased quantities of gases like carbon dioxide. Once the process of a heating planet starts, it is extremely hard to stop it.

The United States is the leading country in the production of carbon dioxide.



80% of our energy comes from fossil fuels

The changing of the climate does not just mean everywhere in the world will become hot. It means that weather will become erratic and we will experience extreme weather conditions. These conditions for example, could be droughts, floods, more hurricanes and storms, more snow, and heatwaves.



Impacts of Global Warming

- **As the water is heated, it expands, causing sea levels to rise**
- **Ice is melting at the Poles contributing to sea levels rising**
- **Certain species of animals are becoming extinct**
- **Precipitation is increasing**
- **Temperatures are allowing invasive species to thrive**
- **Ocean acidification is increasing at a rapid rate**
- **Animals are migrating to cooler environments and are unable to adapt quick enough to survive**

Future Impacts of Global Warming

- **Hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and other storms will increase in strength**
 - **Less fresh water will be available**
 - **Diseases like malaria will spread**
 - **Ecosystems will change**
- **Species such as those who live in the arctic will become extinct**
- **Agricultural systems will fail which will result in famine**
 - **Higher death rates**
 - **Increase of polluted air**

Global warming will cause extreme weather phenomenon, that we are not used to, occur. Extreme weather will occur because the boundary of the polar jet stream will fluctuate. For example, hurricanes will become stronger and more destructive because they get their energy from the temperature difference between the warm tropical oceans and the colder upper atmosphere. Lightning storms will also become more frequent.

There will be less fresh water for our consumption due to ocean acidification. The oceans are become more acidic because they are absorbing our excess fossil fuels. Not only will our supply of water decrease, marine life and the consumption of marine life will be at risk.

Diseases will spread at a faster rate. The American Medical Association has reported an increase in mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever, as well as a rise in chronic asthma, a direct result in global warming.

Ecosystems will change due to global warming. This is because animals are beginning to migrate towards hotter or colder climates and once they get there, they cannot adapt quick enough to survive. If left like this, global warming will contribute to the extinction of one half of the plant population and one third of the animal population. Arctic animals are also in danger because the ice caps and glaciers are melting and they are losing their homes and food supply at a rapid rate.

Death tolls will rise each year due to the extreme heat. Areas that are not exposed to heat are not prepared and the heat leads to many health consequences. These illnesses include heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and cardiovascular and kidney diseases. Today, extreme heat kills more people than hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods each year. Global warming is also producing dirtier air. Air pollution caused by cars and factories react with the sunlight and heat. As the air continues to get polluted, more people are suffering from asthma, cardiac disease, pulmonary disease, hay fever, and allergies.

How can we stop Global Warming?

- **Reduce the use of fossil fuels (replace incandescent light bulbs with energy saving fluorescent light bulbs, carpool, use heaters and air conditioners less, use renewable energy in your house)**
 - **Reduce water waste**
 - **Eat the food you buy, don't let it go to waste**
 - **Unplug outlets that are not being used**
 - **Recycle**
- **Turn off your lights when you do not need them on**
 - **Spread the awareness of global warming**

Everyone is responsible for global warming. Step up and take action, spread awareness, and help save our planet!



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