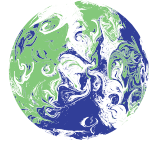


Our Climate, Our Future

Fact and Discussion Cards



TOGETHER
FOR OUR
PLANET



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Our Climate, Our Future

The global population is growing at a rate of approximately 1.05% per year. More people on the planet means more fuel and energy is needed, with fossil fuels still being used to produce most of these.

Money could be spent on addressing this through funding for:

- new technologies to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy sources;
- more environmentally friendly transport that uses cleaner fuels;
- building more energy efficient homes so less energy is needed;
- supporting people, wildlife and places to adapt to climate change.

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The growing global population means that demand for food is increasing; enough food is produced to feed everyone on the planet but it doesn't reach everyone who needs it. Producing meat and crops through farming, as well as processing, packaging and transporting food to get it to the people who consume it, is all contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, pollution and energy use. This means that the food system is contributing to climate change.

What needs to change to lower the impact of food production on the planet?

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Although they make up only 10 per cent of the ocean, the shallow coastal waters (within 230km of land) are home to 90 per cent of all marine species. Fishing provides the main income for over 200 million people worldwide, so it's really important to humans that these coastal seas in which fish can live and breed are sustained.



© Christian Zelaya / WWF-Peru

How can we balance the needs of the species living in coastal waters with the needs of the humans who fish there to ensure both can survive and thrive?

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Deforestation can harm many living things:

- people lose their homes, security and income;
- animal species face extinction;
- plant species can be wiped out;
- the planet becomes more vulnerable to climate change.



What are the alternatives to clearing land for farming, timber extraction, mining and infrastructure?

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Our Climate, Our Future

Right now, enough food is produced to feed everyone on the planet, but it doesn't reach everyone who needs it. Shockingly, about 1.3 billion tons of food are wasted each year, which is four times the amount needed to feed the 800+ million people who do not have enough to eat.



What can be done to make sure that there is enough food for the future to feed everyone on the planet?

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Poverty-level wages that fail to cover the costs of basic needs are detrimental to both social justice and climate justice. If affected farming communities are trapped in poverty, they cannot afford to invest in sustainable farming practices to improve their income and protect the environment.



What actions can governments and individuals take to enable farmers to receive a fair income and invest in sustainable farming?

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Transport is responsible for more than half of all greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. Private vehicle use, especially car use, make up the bulk of these.



Who should take responsibility for reducing these emissions and what actions should be taken?

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People need clean air, clean water and enough food of different kinds to be healthy. They also need places to live that are not too warm or cold and a lifestyle that involves enough exercise and time with other people.



© Edward Parker / WWF

What is the biggest issue when it comes to ensuring that everyone has these things?

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There are known to be more than 260,000 different species living in the seas and we know that there are many yet to be discovered. Some scientists believe there are more than a million species in the seas, though human activity is driving some to extinction before we have had a chance to study them.



© Magnus Lundgren / Wild Wonders of China / WWF

Discuss ways that species in the ocean could be protected.

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Climate change is a huge challenge that is threatening the future of many species on our planet and making life very difficult for many people around the world. If we continue with human actions that are speeding up climate change, we make it harder to solve the problems facing people and wildlife around the world.



© Lauren Simmonds / WWF-UK

What actions must be taken to support people, wildlife and areas that are affected by climate change? Can any of these effects be reversed?

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Our Climate, Our Future

In past decades, human activities have destroyed and degraded forests, grasslands, wetlands and other important ecosystems, threatening animal and plant wellbeing. This destruction has led to over a million species being under threat of extinction within the next hundred years. Many of these extinctions are preventable if we conserve and restore nature.



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In which ways can nature be conserved and restored to save these species?

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