

What is Climate Change?

- Carbon dioxide and methane levels have doubled due to human input over the last 200 years (from 1750).
- Burning of fossil fuels, increased number of animals (60%), and loss of land are causing more methane to be released.
- Ice caps and tundra are being lost due to the increased heat in the earth.
- The earth can only absorb half of the CO₂ that is being put into our atmosphere.
- The natural greenhouse gas effect keeps the earth warm enough for us to survive on earth. Currently we are at 250 parts per million levels of CO₂, levels above 350 are going to be uncomfortable. It is predicted that by 2040 the level will be 450 parts per million.
- The UK are the 14th highest producers of CO₂.

What are the consequences?

- Bush-fires (dry weather and hot winds) causing homelessness, habitat destruction
- melting ice caps - affects flooding - from intense rainfall due to melting ice
- dry weather spreads disease, affects crop growth
- Increased temperatures affect coral reefs (sea is more acidic- also affects food chains), farming conditions and sea level rise will mean major cities in the world will be underwater by 2030.

What can we do?

- stop funding fossil fuels- fund use of renewable energy- fund solar panels to promote their use, develop more wind farms and tidal energy farms.

FACTS AND STATS EXAMPLE

- change diet to eat less meat- less loss of land, less animals on the planet
- be sustainable- don't travel by using large amounts of fuel to create a large carbon footprint