

# Global Warming

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We have all heard of the tsunami that devastated the Asian coastline in 2004. We have all seen pictures of the devastation that was caused by hurricane Katrina in 2005. The recent cyclone in Myanmar has left almost thirty thousand dead, while another thirty thousand are missing and even more are without a home. The number of tropical storms each year has been increasing due to the rise in global sea temperature. Experts say that this increase is due to human impact on the environment through global warming. Global warming is the increase of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere. These gasses act as another layer between outer space and the earth and trap the sun's energy in the atmosphere, increasing temperature. These greenhouse gasses are caused by basic emissions such as the driving of your car or the heating of your house.

Many people are not as familiar with all the different consequences of global warming though. There has been an increase of extreme weather and precipitation changes, due to global warming. The sea level has also begun to rise as ice caps have begun to melt, destroying rare habitat for many animals. For instance, an ice cap the area of Greenland melted in the space of one month. Can you imagine the global impact there has been on polar ice caps and its habitats? Predictable natural weather, like agricultural yields are no longer reliable due to the changes in climate because of global warming.

All the problems that global warming has caused are reversible, or at least avoidable if we work for it. We can use renewable, environmentally safe energy sources like solar power or wind power to run our houses and cars. It is very important to save our environment because the United States has the world's highest greenhouse gas emissions. Not only that, but the United States is one of the only countries that did not ratify the Kyoto project, an agreement to reduce greenhouse gasses. That leaves the problem to the citizens of the country to reduce our greenhouse emissions.

I encourage you to help our environment and country to become a better place by joining in the fight against global warming. I'm not saying that you have to go out and buy a hybrid car and put solar panels on your house, but I am encouraging you to make smart choices like turning lights off when you leave the room and perhaps biking somewhere instead of driving. Hopefully in the future, our strides for the environment will help make the world a better place to be.