

## Reading Task 1: The Great Environmental Responsibility Debate

### Reading Passage: The Weight of Responsibility

The climate crisis is one of the most significant **challenges** facing humanity, and a constant debate revolves around who should take the lead in solving it. While many people believe that individual actions—such as recycling and using reusable bags—are essential, others argue that this fixation distracts from the need for **systemic change**.

Large institutions and wealthy nations are responsible for the vast majority of historical and current greenhouse gas **emissions**. Critics point to **Big Oil** companies and rich industrialized countries, which they call the "wealthy polluters," as bearing the greatest **responsibility**. They argue that individual **sacrifice** alone will not be enough to reach **net zero emissions**. Instead, what is needed is a new industrial revolution driven by strong government **legislation** and massive financial investment. For example, governments must compel a huge shift in energy systems from fossil fuels to renewables like solar or wind power.

However, the perspective of individual responsibility remains crucial. The collective impact of nearly 8 billion people making small, conscious choices can dramatically reduce the total global **carbon footprint**. **Individual actions** like paying attention to personal resource use, minimizing waste, and choosing sustainable products increase public awareness and put pressure on governments and corporations to change their practices. Ultimately, experts suggest that individual and collective system-level change are **interconnected**; there is no trade-off between the two—both are urgently required.

### Task 1: Main Idea Comprehension (Multiple Choice): Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for each question.

1. What is the main topic of the reading passage?
  - A. The history of Big Oil and its negative impact on the environment.
  - B. The debate over whether individuals or large institutions should lead environmental action.
  - C. A detailed explanation of how to reduce your personal carbon footprint.
2. What does the phrase "systemic change" primarily refer to in the text?
  - A. An individual's daily choice to recycle and reuse.
  - B. Major, fundamental changes in government policy and industrial practice.

- C. The idea that individual actions are not important.
3. The author implies that focusing only on individual actions could be a "distraction" because:
- A. Large corporations produce too little pollution to matter.
- B. Structural change (like new laws) is required for deep, lasting change.
- C. Most people are unwilling to make any sacrifices.

**Task 2: Matching Stakeholder and Role: Match each group to the action that the text attributes to them.**

Stakeholder	Primary Role/Action
1. Large Institutions/Big Oil	A. Must compel a huge shift in energy systems.
2. Governments	B. Are responsible for the vast majority of historical greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Individuals	C. Must make conscious choices to reduce their carbon footprint.

**Task 3: Short Answer and Inference: Answer the following questions using complete sentences. Avoid copying entire sentences from the text.**

1. According to the passage, what is the connection between individual action and government/corporate action?
2. What financial action is mentioned as a required part of the "new industrial revolution" for the environment?
3. *Infer.* Why do critics of large institutions suggest that individual "sacrifice" is not enough to solve the crisis?

OpenAI. (2025). *ChatGPT* (Dec 30 version) [Large language model].  
<https://chat.openai.com>