

Listening for detail

You are going to listen to a conversation about the biggest causes of climate change and some possible solutions.

Part A: Match the words to the definitions

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|----------------------------|---|
| 1. strain (n) | a. be the explanation or cause of something |
| 2. livestock (n) | b. money that is paid by a government to reduce the costs of services or of producing goods |
| 3. insulate (v) | c. pressure on a system because great demands are being placed on it |
| 4. consumption (n) | d. protect something with a material that prevents heat from passing through |
| 5. subsidy (n) | e. the amount of something used, eaten or drunk |
| 6. account for (phr. verb) | f. the animals kept on a farm, for example cows or sheep |

Part B: Choose a word from part A to fill in the gaps.

1. If we _____¹ our homes more effectively, we can significantly reduce our energy _____².
2. Petrol cars _____³ a substantial amount of CO2 emissions; some governments provide a _____⁴ to encourage people to buy more environmentally friendly vehicles.
3. The _____⁵ farmer's business was under _____⁶ due to rising costs and a shortage of workers.

John : We're speaking to three activists about the causes of climate change and what we can do about it. Angus, what's causing climate change?

Angus : Lots of things, but burning fossil fuels to provide electricity and heat is by far the biggest cause, accounting for almost a third of global greenhouse gas emissions. All countries need to move their economies away from fossil fuels by investing in renewable energy sources. By providing subsidies, governments can help households insulate walls and roofs better and switch their heating source to a heat pump. These work by taking natural warmth out of the surrounding environment to heat homes and are greener than oil or gas boilers.

John: Thank you, Angus. And Kelly, do you have anything to add?

Kelly : Yes. I'd like to point out that the natural world does very well with cleaning up our emissions; at least it would if we preserved it properly. The industrial-scale deforestation currently happening destroys giant trees which could, and should, be absorbing huge amounts of carbon. Reforestation and 'rewilding' schemes, which allow areas of land to return to their

natural state, are essential in the fight against climate change. One leading cause of deforestation is clearing land to accommodate, and grow food for, livestock. Cows are a particular issue, as they also produce a large amount of methane, which is a strong greenhouse gas. Many people believe in giving up, or at least reducing, meat and dairy consumption.

John : Thank you, Kelly. Good points. And finally, let's hear from George.

George : Reducing overall consumption in more wealthy countries can help put less strain on the planet. Lots of companies produce far more products than are realistically needed, so many things end up in landfill, which, like cows, produce methane. And I can't leave without mentioning plastic. Despite having acknowledged that our use of plastic is unsustainable, demand for it continues to rise. Creating and getting rid of plastic accounts for a significant amount of carbon emissions, not to mention pollution, so continuing to develop more sustainable alternatives is essential.

Complete the chart using information from the interview.

CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSE	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
- greenhouse gas emissions	1. 2. providing subsidies by government 3. 4. switch their heating source to a heat pump
-	Reforestation
- Livestock	
-	Creating and getting rid of plastic accounts

Listen again and fill in the gaps with words from the listening.

1. Angus describes how instead of _____¹ fossil fuels, governments must put money into _____² energy and provide subsidies to help people insulate homes and _____³ to a greener heating source.
2. Kelly explains the role the natural world can play in absorbing carbon if _____⁴ correctly. Deforested land is often used to _____⁵ farm animals, causing some to advocate eating less or even _____⁶ animal products.
3. George explains how overproduction and consumption causes lots of products to _____⁷ in landfill. Even though the rate of plastic use is considered _____⁸, demand still rises, so it's very important to _____⁹ sustainable alternatives.