

A The problem

WHAT IS THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT?

Many **greenhouse gases**, e.g. carbon dioxide, methane and ozone, **exist**¹ naturally and are needed to **create**² the **greenhouse effect** that keeps the Earth warm enough to **support**³ human life. However, the use of **fossil fuels**, e.g. oil, natural gas and coal, has produced **excessive**⁴ amounts of greenhouse gases, and the **result**⁵ is **global warming**: an increase in the average temperature on Earth. Of the 15 warmest years **on record**⁶, 14 have **occurred**⁷ since 2000.

The **effects**⁸ of **climate change** can already be seen in our everyday lives. Summers are getting hotter and winters are getting wetter, so **drought**⁹ and **floods**¹⁰ are becoming more common. With it, animal and plant life is **suffering**¹¹ – some species will disappear altogether – and certain illnesses, e.g. hay fever, asthma and skin cancer, are becoming more common.

To stop global warming from destroying¹² our environment¹³, we need to act now.

¹ are real or present

² make something happen or exist

³ help (human life) to continue

⁴ more than you want or need

⁵ something that happens because of something else that has happened

⁶ If information is *on record*, it has been written down or kept on a computer.

⁷ happened; *fm*

⁸ a change or result that is caused by something

⁹ a long time without rain when people do not have enough water

¹⁰ when water covers an area that is usually dry, often from too much rain

¹¹ experiencing something which is unpleasant

¹² damaging something so badly that it does not exist or cannot be used

¹³ the air, land and water around us

B The solution* – or part of it

To **reduce** global warming [make it less], the nations of the world will have to **act** together [do something to solve a problem; *syn take action*]. In the meantime, individuals can also help.

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SIX WAYS TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING:

- 1 Don't throw things away - recycle paper, glass, plastic, etc. so that it can be used again.
- 2 Save¹ energy² e.g. switch off lights when you leave a room.
- 3 Don't waste³ water, e.g. turn off the tap when you are brushing your teeth.
- 4 Change light bulbs for more energy-efficient⁴ ones.
- 5 Drive less and walk more.
- 6 Plant trees⁵ because trees reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and so reduce greenhouse gases.

* the answer to a problem

¹ don't waste

² gas and electricity

³ use it badly

⁴ working well and not wasting energy

⁵ put a new tree in the ground

58.1 How do you pronounce the underlined letters? Use the index to help you.

- 1 global Is it like go or got? *ge*
- 2 flood Is it like foot or fun? *fu*
- 3 fuel Is it like food or few? *fu*

- 4 drought Is it like no or now? *no*
- 5 suffer Is it like son or soon? *so*
- 6 climate Is it like educate or comfortable? *cl*

58.2 Match the words on the left with the words on the right.

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1 the greenhouse | <input type="checkbox"/> | a warming |
| 2 global | <input type="checkbox"/> | b change |
| 3 fossil | <input type="checkbox"/> | c effect |
| 4 greenhouse | <input type="checkbox"/> | d fuels |
| 5 climate | <input type="checkbox"/> | e gases |

58.3 How can we help with global warming? Cover the opposite page and complete the text.

- Don't ¹ *throw away* paper, glass and plastic; ² *recycle* it.
- Don't ³ *waste* water: turn off the ⁴ *tap* when you brush your teeth.
- ⁵ *Save* energy by ⁶ *switching off* lights when you leave a room.
- ⁷ *Plant* trees in order to ⁸ *reduce* the amount of carbon dioxide.
- ⁹ *Take* action now, before it's too late.

58.4 Complete the explanations.

- 1 We don't have to create greenhouse gases; they *exist* naturally.
- 2 Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere *create* the greenhouse effect.
- 3 Global warming is the *result* of an increase in the amount of greenhouse gases.
- 4 Two *effects* of climate change have been hotter summers and wetter winters.
- 5 A *drought* is often the result of too much rain when the rivers are full.
- 6 A *drought* is a long period without rain, and they are *experiencing* more frequently now.
- 7 The *climate* is the air, land and water around us.
- 8 If you *damage* something, it is so badly damaged, it cannot be used again.
- 9 If something is *working well*, it works well and doesn't waste energy.
- 10 *Energy* is the power that comes from gas, electricity, etc.

58.5 Complete the tables. Use a dictionary to help you.

verb	noun	verb	noun
recycle	<i>recycling</i>		solution
waste		reduce	
destroy		support	
exist		suffer	

58.6 Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, talk to someone else about the problems.

- 1 Can you see the effects of global warming and climate change in your country? What do you see?
- 2 What things do people recycle every week?
- 3 Do you think you often waste water and energy? How?
- 4 What more could you do to solve the problem? Does it worry you?