Climate changes – Causes and effects

In recent years, global warming has become a cause for great concern. The reason is that the average global temperature has increased faster over the past fifty years than at any time in recorded history. To make matters worse, there is growing evidence that this increase is speeding up. To better understand this phenomenon and the impact that it is having, we need to examine the underlying ……. and consequences.

The main ……. of global warming is the increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases, for instance, carbon dioxide (CO_2) and methane (CH_4), are actually produced naturally, and they play a crucial role in making the Earth's climate liveable by trapping heat. However, human activities are significantly increasing the amount of these gases in our atmosphere. One such activity is the burning of fossil fuels to create electricity and power our cars. Other activities include farming, mining, the production of goods and services and the burning or clearing of forests.

The ……... of global warming are devastating. ……. , it ……. to extreme weather conditions such as severe storms, floods, droughts and wildfires. These ……. not only a loss of human life but also damage to the environment and man-made structures. ……. , global warming ……. habitat destruction by changing the conditions in different ecosystems. This ……. to higher wildlife extinction rates because local species are finding it hard to adjust to the new conditions. ……. , higher temperatures are beginning to melt arctic sea ice, glaciers and ice sheets. As a ……. , sea levels are beginning to rise, which ……. to the flooding and destruction of coastal regions and low-lying areas.

To ……. up, global warming clearly poses a significant threat both to humankind and the natural environment. It is evident that we need to take effective measures to reduce the greenhouse gases we produce. If we do not, the extreme conditions we are experiencing now will become even worse in the future. The question is, how much worse do things need to get before we decide to take action?

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