



Highly Commended

Science Writing

Year 5-6

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Global Warming Is Still So Important- What Is New In The Field?

Ice caps are **still** melting.

The world is **still** getting hotter.

Global warming is **still** so important.

Global warming is **still** everyone's problem!

It's hard to fathom that we lost sight of the

ongoing Global warming issue with the 2020

Covid pandemic, but the truth is, this problem is

still so evident in our everyday lives and

threatens our life-support systems here on Earth.

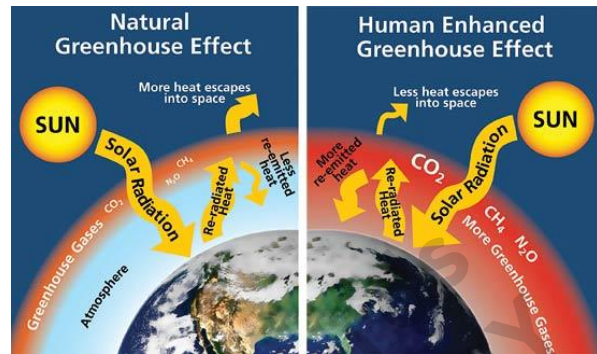
According to NASA, Earth's global average surface

temperature in 2020 was tied with 2016 as the warmest year on record! Climate change affects

everything! Since the Industrial revolution, humans have been putting pressure on the

environment, our resources and the overall biosphere and atmosphere to cause, potentially

irreversible damage to the Earth's systems.



<https://kidsagainstclimatechange.co/the-greenhouse-effect-game/>

So what is Global warming? Global warming is the increase of the Earth's surface temperature when excess Carbon dioxide and other gases released from burning fossil fuels collect, and become trapped in the atmosphere, absorbing sunlight and solar radiation which has bounced off of the Earth's surfaces. These trapped gases cause an increase in temperature within our atmosphere, causing a flow on effect to our environment; Heatwaves are becoming more frequent, longer droughts, snow and polar ice caps melt, rising sea levels and flooding occurs throughout different parts of the world. These problems then cause tremendous impacts to our wildlife, with many animals at risk or close to extinction.

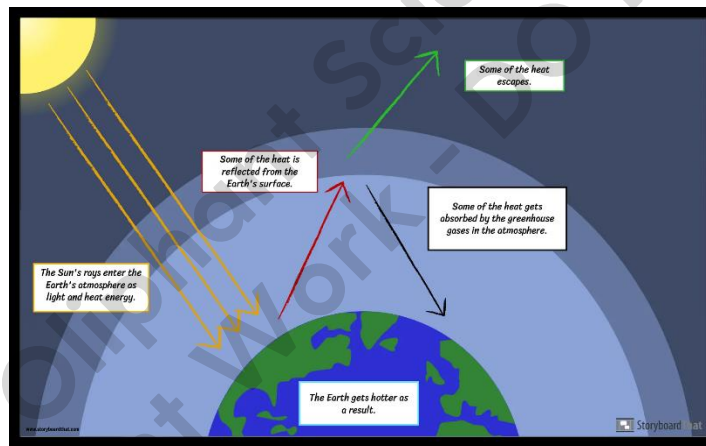
Have you ever heard of something called the Paris Agreement? On the 12th of December 2015, 195 countries gathered together and discussed global warming. The goal is to drop global warming by 1.5 degrees celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. In 2024 counties will report on their actions taken and their progress towards stopping global warming.

Under the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol Australia has 2 targets to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions: 5% below 2000 levels by 2020 (Under the Kyoto Protocol) and 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2030 (Under the Paris Agreement). Because of this Australia uses some alternative sources of energy. Some of those are: wind power, hydroelectricity, solar panels, heat pumps and wave and solar thermal energy. Did you know that by the end of 2018, there were 94 wind farms in Australia? Wind turbines use wind to create electricity. They use the wind to spin propeller-like blades around a rotor which spins to a generator and creates electricity. These machines reduce the amount of fossil fuels we use in our everyday lives.

Humans have created some new and cool inventions to help put a stop to global warming. Did you know that plastic containers can become playgrounds and outdoor furniture? What about how plastic bags can become benches? Or that plastic bottle caps can become batteries for your car? Did you know that plastic in the ocean can become (fashionable) thongs?

In 2009 South Australia banned lightweight plastic bags less than 35 microns thick. Did you know that globally, 40% of plastics are used as packaging? Usually packaging is single use, so it is quick to dispose of. Plastic is one of the main things causing global warming. Because it takes oil to make plastic, humans have been digging up more oil so that we can produce more plastic. When we throw away single use plastic it either gets disintegrated or put into a giant hole. Some recent activities have been created to help put a stop to global warming like... Straw No More. Straw no more is a campaign that encourages people to not use single use plastic straws. Since March the 1st 2021, South Australia was the first state in Australia to ban all single use plastics (like straws, bowls and cups.) Did you know that only 20% of the world's plastic waste is recycled? The waste that is not recycled goes to landfill where it can take hundreds of years to decompose, creating methane and contributing to global warming. If waste doesn't go to landfill then it is burnt, and gives off carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide goes up into the atmosphere and helps to create global warming.

So, now that you know all about global warming, why don't you do something about it? We all should be taking responsibility for what we have created and we should all be helping trying to find an answer. Next time you think about dropping a piece of plastic, think about all the damage you will be creating for future generations. As I said before, global warming is everyone's problem, so we need all hands on deck trying to solve it.



Websites:

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Books:

Global warming- By Ellen Lawrence

Climate change and how we'll fix it- by Alice Heartman