



**Prize Winner**

# **Science Writing Year 5-6**

**Jasmine Tiplady**

**Salisbury Park Primary School**



## Global Warming, What's New in the Field?

The world is heating up, and what can we do to stop it? It is very obvious that humans are the reason for global warming. In the past 100 years, we, as humans, have released greenhouse gases, and those levels are higher than ever before in the past 800,000 years. According to National Geographic, *"climate change encompasses not only rising temperatures but also extreme weather events, shifting wildlife populations and habitats, rising seas, and a range of other impacts."* They continue to say, *"All of those changes are emerging as humans continue to add heat trapping greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, changing the rhythms of climate that all living things have come to rely on."* We have known that humans are the cause of global warming, and that global warming exists for a long time now, but what has been discovered in recent years?

In the past two years, COVID-19 has dominated the news, and global warming has not been spoken about as much. COVID-19 has really influenced the way we live, but how does that affect global warming? What does it do for the environment? Well, as you may know, the COVID-19 pandemic has kept everyone inside, and everyone's jobs have been stopped. While that may be bad for the individuals, themselves, it was good for the environment, as emission levels decreased by a lot. In fact, according to NASA, *"nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) decreased significantly over urban areas during the pandemic."* That improves air quality, and encourages animals to come out and explore. But when everyone got their jobs back as the pandemic slowly washed away, the emission levels were back on the rise. According to [iea.org](http://iea.org), *"global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions are on course to rise by 1.5 billion tonnes in 2021"*. That would be the exact opposite of what happened when COVID-19 hit. This shows how humans have been impacting the earth, and that changes to our lifestyle can make positive environmental impacts.

Climate change is not only affecting the air, it has also affected the seas. In Alaska, the ocean is warming up, causing all the ice caps to melt. Ice sheets are rapidly melting. The ocean is heating up. What exactly happened? Well, because Alaska is a massive place, it would take a long time for all the ocean around it to heat up. However, over the past 5 years, the seas of Alaska have really warmed up. Alaska's temperature has increased a lot thanks to human-caused global warming, and some of the effects of that could be dangerous. The ice in Alaska is so low that the situation has been endangering some residents' food and jobs. According to Rick Thoman, a climate specialist from the University of Alaska, *"The seas are extraordinarily warm. It is impacting the ability for Americans in the region to put food on the table right now"*. In past years, Alaskans haven't had this problem. The heating up of the Alaskan oceans and ice caps are a signal of global warming, and it is definitely part of the global warming trend around the world.

Of course, the present matters, but so does the future. Guess what? By 2050, experts say that London's climate will be as hot as Barcelona's. According to recent studies by CNN.com, not only will London's climate be changing, but, *"an estimated 77% of cities around the world will see their climate conditions drastically change, indicating 'the*

*global scale of this climate change threat and associated risks for human health'.*" The heat change in the world will not only affect the environment, but it will affect our daily lives. Global warming will be affecting people's jobs, the amount of time they are allowed out, and most importantly, food supplies. Different countries will be affected by it in different ways and at different times, for example, Europe and America will be affected at different times to Asia and Australia. In London, England, for example, stated by CNN.com, *"the warmest month will rise by 5.9 degrees celsius (10.6 fahrenheit), leading to an average annual temperature rise of 2.1 degrees celsius."*

So what can we do about global warming? Alaska's oceans are heating up, COVID-19 has really affected climate change, and our world is slowly warming. There are many ways we can reduce global warming, for example, trying to reduce the amount of emissions we release into the atmosphere around us. But that would take a huge amount of time. The government would have to take huge steps to drastically reduce climate change, but it sure would be worth it compared to doing nothing.

#### Bibliography:

Introduction: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/>

Paragraph one: <https://www.iea.org/> and <https://www.nasa.gov/>

Paragraph two: <https://edition.cnn.com/> and information from Rick Thoman, accessed from <https://edition.cnn.com/>

Paragraph three: <https://edition.cnn.com/>