

# CLIMATE CHANGE

## What is it?

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun's activity or large volcanic eruptions, but human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

## Is it dangerous?

Climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity.

Climate impacts are already harming health, through air pollution, disease, extreme weather events, forced displacement, pressures on mental health, and increased hunger and poor nutrition in places where people cannot grow or find sufficient food.

## Who causes it?

The emissions that cause climate change come from every part of the world and affect everyone, but some countries produce much more than others.

The three biggest emitters are China, the United States and India.

Everyone must take climate action, but people and countries creating more of the problem have a greater responsibility to act first.



## How does it work?

Burning fossil fuels generates greenhouse gas emissions that act like a blanket wrapped around the Earth, trapping the sun's heat and raising temperatures.

The more of these pollutants, such as CO<sub>2</sub>, accumulate in the atmosphere, the more of the sun's heat gets trapped, the warmer it gets on Earth.

## How can we stop it?

Switching energy systems from fossil fuels to renewables like solar or wind will reduce the emissions driving climate change. But we have to act now.

Renewable energy sources are available in every country, and their potential is yet to be fully harnessed. Almost 30% of global electricity comes from renewables today.

## Here are ways you can help reduce climate change:

- Reduce your heating and cooling use
- Switch to LED light bulbs and energy-efficient electric appliances
- Wash your laundry with cold water
- Hang things to dry instead of using a dryer
- Walk, bike or take public transport or switch to an electric car
- Reduce, reuse, repair and recycle
- Eat more vegetables
- Throw away less food
- Clean up your environment

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