

Climate Change: Causes and Solutions

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Assignment Due Date

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Global heating is increasingly raising concerns worldwide, especially with its devastating impacts on the political, social, and economic fronts. According to the United Nations (n.d.), climate change is the extreme variations in temperature and overall weather trends occasioned by natural events or human factors. These variations are often recorded over long periods to gauge their persistence and longevity. Climate change affects all aspects of humanity and must be confronted from all corners. However, it is imperative to note that establishing effective solutions to the menace is contingent upon the discernment of its causes. Human activities, such as deforestation and the burning of fossil fuels, drive the need to integrate sustainable solutions like adopting clean and renewable energy to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

The genesis of climate change is the greenhouse effect occasioned by atmospheric gases, which confine the heat from the sun closest to the earth's surface. The European Commission (n.d.) explains that greenhouse gases like methane, fluorinated gases, nitrous oxide, and carbon dioxide are key climate change risk factors. The human aspects of climate change, which also occasion the emission of greenhouse gases, include charcoal burning, deforestation, extensive livestock agriculture, and the rising application of fertilizers during farming. Further, climate change is also caused by natural changes in the atmosphere. Here, Met Office (n.d.) identifies solar irradiance, which denotes the changing energy from the sun that affects temperature and volcanic eruptions, which produces carbon dioxide that warms the earth.

Noteworthy, human activities are the major contributors of climate change either independently or through their contributions to the greenhouse effect. The natural causes, although significant, have minimal effects on climate change since they rarely occur. Comparatively, greenhouse gases have consequences that are more drastic on climate than

natural factors. Solutions towards climate change are premised on mitigation, which focuses on reducing the emission of heat-confining gases into the atmosphere, and adaptation, which prescribes habituation measures to the current or future climatic conditions. According to NASA (2021), mitigation centers on avoiding human interference and stabilizing greenhouse gases. Adaptation entails the reduction of human vulnerability to the dangerous impacts of climate change.

Particularly, nature occupies the epicenter in the fight against climate change. The Nature Conservancy (n.d.) opines that conserving forests, wetlands, planting trees, and adding regenerative practices to agriculture formidably combats climate change. Similarly, clean and renewable energy significantly eradicates the emission of harmful gases into the atmosphere. Further, the Nature Conservancy (n.d.) asserts the significance of building resilience by supporting the vulnerable communities to adjust to climate change by restoring mangroves, among other irreplaceable habitats. Humankind across the globe must rethink the concept of carbon profile. Humans must resolve to shrink it in a bid to reduce climate change.

In light of the above, climate change is a serious global issue, which requires consolidated efforts from all sectors of humanity. Carbon, alongside other greenhouse gases, contributes most to the menace. In this regard, the adoption of renewable energy such as biomass, hydropower, geothermal, wind, and solar should be prioritized across nations to reduce harmful emissions. In addition, governments and international organizations should increase climate sensitization, which includes the means and importance of conserving nature and protecting the environment. Most significantly, actions should be encouraged, especially in implementing resolutions of global summits such as the Conference of the Parties (COP26).

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