

### **Global Trends: Warming of the globe**

The global trend I find most important is global warming. The current warming trend is proceeding at an unprecedented rate as we continue to burn through a shameful amount of fossil fuels. The warmest years recorded in history have all occurred in the past decade, sea levels are continuing to rise, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, and forests and species are beginning to die at alarming rates.

I chose this as the greatest importance because the globe's warming poses an extremely dangerous risk on the lives of humans and animals as weather patterns continue to change and earth's balance of nature is disturbed. It takes a tremendous amount of accumulated heat to raise Earth's average surface temperature, if we do not control how much CO<sub>2</sub> and greenhouse gases are emitted going forward, the warming we will see in the future will be catastrophic. There are many steps we need to take, as individuals and as nations to slow warming. As individuals, some steps we can take to reduce our carbon footprint is choosing energy-efficient appliances, walking/biking more and driving less, being mindful of one's consumption and contribution to landfills, reusing and recycling more. As a nation, first and foremost we need to stop extracting fossil fuels, immediately- what's left of our oil, coal, and natural gas simply needs to remain in place. We need more non-polluting transportation methods, immediate reforestation, and committed action for renewable energy, instead of just discussing it.

We've procrastinated this need to change for too long, and current climate plans are proving to be insufficient. We've reached a critical point where the only way warming will slow is by rapid and urgent action.

### References

Lindsey, R., & Dahlman, L. (2023, January 18). Climate change: Global temperature. NOAA . Retrieved from <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-temperature>

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