**Global Environmental Issues**

One critical issue is **preserving** and **protecting the environment.** The burning of **fossil fuels** *(oil, coal, and natural gas)* produces **greenhouse gases** *(gases that heat up the atmosphere)* that **deplete the ozone layer** and result in **global warming** and **climate change** *(changes in the earth’s temperature and weather patterns)***.**

Some scientists believe that we have already **done irreparable damage** to the planet, and now we are suffering the consequences of **rising sea levels** and increasingly frequent **natural disasters** such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornados**.** A number of **animal species have gone extinct,** and many more are **endangered.**

To reverse this trend, we must invest in **clean energy** *(energy sources that do not pollute the environment)* with **renewable resources** *(elements like water and air, which can be re-used)* and utilize manufacturing methods that are not **harmful to the environment.**

There are still many regions of the world where children **die of hunger/starvation** *(die from not having enough food)*. Unfortunately, **extreme poverty** is common in the rural areas of **developing countries,** where the population often suffers from **food shortages** *(not enough food)* and **lack of access to clean water.**

**United nations of conference on climate change. Paris, December 11.**

Global warming is the biggest problem in the world today. Everyone knows about it but not everyone is trying to stop it. Many world leaders are more interested in blaming other countries for the crisis. Countries like China, India and Russia say they will not act unless America takes more action. America says it will not act until other countries take more action. It seems a little childish that leaders are acting in this way. The future of our world is at risk and governments can only argue with each other. Many presidents and prime ministers tell us that technology is the answer. They say future scientists will find solutions to save the planet. This is a big gamble. I hope they are right. I don’t believe them, so I’ll continue switching off lights and recycling.



We must lead to a universal agreement in order to combat climate change. 195 countries must reach an agreement on how to lower greenhouse gas emissions which are responsible for global warming.

The notion of “differentiated responsibilities” between developed and developing countries in terms of responsibility for climate change is the main difficulty about the distribution of efforts to reduce emissions and financing.

The target set by the countries of limiting the rise in temperature to 1,5°C compared to pre-industrial levels is compulsory but without punistments.

**Many problems with the environment**

* Global warming means that the weather is becoming hotter and drier.
* Heavy traffic pollutes the air in most cities.
* The emissions produced by factories create acid rain which destroys cops.
* The pesticides used on crops in the countryside are dangerous to birds and other wildlife.
* Heavy rain and rising water levels in rivers have caused serious flooding. *Floods* are *caused by* heavy rainfall

**How green are you?**

* I recycle as much of my rubbish as I can
* I switch off electrical equipment once I’ve used it to avoid wasting power.
* I never sleep with the air conditioning on
* I buy organic food which is produced in my local area
* I put an extra sweater on rather than turn up the heating.
* I walk o use public transport rather than drive.

**The story**

1. Three types of extreme weather: droughts, storms and floods.
2. People rely on fossil fuels
3. Two resources that may be in short supply in 30 years’ time: oil and coal.
4. Natural resources are nearly used up.
5. We need to cut carbon emissions
6. This situation pollute the atmosphere and oceans
7. Disposing of nuclear waste is another problema.
8. Three ways that power is used to make a building more comfortable: heat, light, ventilate.
9. Two alternative forms of energy for sustainable development: wind turbine and solar panels.
10. It is a good idea to invest in renewable energy
11. The main solution is to install wind turbines and solar panels and reduce your carbon footprint
12. Our old cars and buildings have an impact on the *environment* in terms of air quality. We are also throwing away money
13. People who buy *energy efficient buildings* (or pull down old ones) and use eco-friendly cars are green

**Vocabulary**

* **Carbon dioxide:** the gas formed when carbon is burned, or when people or animals breathe out.
* **Greenhouse effect:** an increase in the amount of carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere which is believed to be the cause of a warming of the surface of the Earth.
* **Ozone layer:** a layer of air high above the Earth, which contains a lot of ozone, and which prevents harmful ultraviolet light from the sun.*Scientists believe that there is a hole in the ozone layer.*
* **Biodiversity**: [Biodiversity](http://www.greenfacts.org/glossary/abc/biodiversity.htm) loss has negative effects on several aspects of human [well-being](http://www.greenfacts.org/glossary/wxyz/well-being.htm), such as food security. When humans modify an [ecosystem](http://www.greenfacts.org/glossary/def/ecosystem.htm) to improve a service it provides, this generally also results in changes to other [ecosystem services](http://www.greenfacts.org/glossary/def/ecosystem-services.htm).
* **Green peace:** an organization that fights for the protection of the environment.