

“CLIMATE CRISIS...WHAT CRISIS?”

In 18th Century England, people did not listen to ‘natural philosophers’, who warned us about the effects of the Industrial Revolution. The citizens of industrialisation were distracted by its glamour and the exhilarating pace of it all didn’t give people a single second to think about possible environmental repercussions.

Now, from the perspective of a 21st Century Environmentalist, it is evident that people are still not listening, putting us all in a detrimental position. The list of our contributions to the climate crisis is endless, and will inevitably affect everyone. However, people only tend to focus on the long-term effects of the crisis, which seems so far away that the people who want to act are put off taking serious steps towards environmental justice. Take the example of a Welsh sheep farmer, who, due to the last couple of boiling summers, had nothing growing in their fields, and thus, nothing for their sheep to eat. The farmer has had to use their winter feed, causing them to spend more on winter sheep feed and therefore increase the price of their lamb to her customers.

So...what does our future look like? Is there a future? And what repercussions will today's youth face in their adulthood?

In the midst of COP26 in Glasgow, World Leaders, business leaders and prominent scientific authorities promised steps in the right direction, over 100 countries signed up, pledging major steps towards reducing our pollution and carbon footprint. However, two years later at COP27 in Cairo, it was found that very few countries had made any progress.

In the UK, we spend billions of pounds on building new power stations, but reports show that as a nation we waste approximately 40% of the energy we are producing. There are lots of things we can do as individuals at home and here at Pipers.

The list of simple, yet beneficial means of fighting the crisis is endless. Here are just a few of the things you can proactively do to conserve energy:

- 1) Turn off **all** non-essential electrical appliances including lights when not in use.
- 2) Do not leave appliances on standby, including at the end of the day. Computers left on standby for one hour use as much electricity as it takes to photocopy 100 A4 sheets of paper.
- 3) Keep the heating on a lower setting - just turning it down by one degree makes an environmental and financial difference.
- 4) Change to energy saving LED light bulbs which last up to 12 times longer than traditional light bulbs and often use less energy. Make the changes when the conventional bulbs need replacing.
- 5) Please make sure dishwashers are full before switching on.
- 6) Understand that REDUCE and REUSE come before RECYCLE.
- 7) Do not buy furniture made from tropical hardwood.
- 8) Give unwanted goods and items to community groups and charities rather than let them go to landfill.
- 9) Reduce your carbon footprint by buying British grown and produced food.
- 10) Block and fix draughts around doors and windows.
- 11) Set your printers to double sided printing.
- 12) Inform and encourage family and friends.

If we all take these little steps in the right direction together, it becomes a big step in creating a sustainable future.

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