"Greenhouse Gas Management Actions: What Can Students Do?" What is Our Solution?

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Abstract

Greenhouses gases have a very negative effect on our environment. They are blamed to be the main cause of global warming. Just a couple problems from global warming are higher sea levels and changes in weather which can be disastrous in themselves. Fortunately there are things that can be done at home to conserve energy which is one of the best ways to fight greenhouse gas emissions. Also things can be done on a large-scale level. Global warming related to greenhouse gases is a very serious problem and one that needs to be solved as soon as possible.

What is Our Solution?

Greenhouse gases can have a devastating effect on the environment. Greenhouse gases lower the amount of the heat that is lost in the air, so they actually increase the temperature of the atmosphere. They allow light from the sun, which turns into heat, to penetrate the area above the earth, but then they block the heat from escaping as it reflects back. Global warming has been blamed by many people for the cause of the melting glaciers which would cause the sea levels to rise. A rise in sea level would be responsible for much flooding in many parts of the world. Also because greenhouse gases can change the temperatures, weather patterns can be disrupted. Since climate is the average weather over a long period of time, a change in weather would cause a change in climate. Greenhouse gases can change what land is used for. If there was an area with a cool climate and greenhouse gases made the temperatures rise, then that area may warm up and become suitable for farming. This may seem good but think about the areas that are suitable for farming now. Those areas could heat up and it could become too hot to grow crops.

Greenhouse gases are so large a problem that they have caused social difficulties. Gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and ground level ozone are really causing problems for us and the environment. They can cause an increase in

health problems by heating up the areas closer to the poles. This allows disease carrying insects to spread and ultimately spread their disease. Then there is the problem of the earth being over all hotter. Higher temperatures could lead to an increase in heat stroke and health problems with asthma. The rising sea levels would drive people from their homes and crowd already overpopulated areas.

The solution to this major problem can be difficult in some aspects and simple in others. The best way to solve it, or at least slow down this problem, is to converse energy. By doing this we reduce the demand for energy from power plants which produce 40% of the United States total carbon dioxide emissions. 59% of the total U.S. sulfur dioxide pollution and 18% of the total U.S. nitrogen oxide pollution comes from coal-fired plants alone. Being energy efficient can be easily achieved at home. The easiest way to start is to turn off the lights when you leave a room and by using fluorescent bulbs which use a small portion of what incandescent bulbs use.

Also you can recycle your trash which is almost 100% recyclable. When you recycle it only takes a fraction of the energy to produce new products compared to taking it from natural substance. For aluminum it's only 5%, for

steel only 25%, and for paper only 30%. That's a lot of energy saved plus recycling is not that hard to do. All you have to do is collect the items and take them to a collection center. In addition to recycling aluminum, steel, and paper, you can actually recycle oil. Recycling oil not only protects the environment from pollution, but it saves our precious nonrenewable resources too.

Other things that can be done at home to conserve energy relate to the thermostat. By turning up the temperature a few degrees in the summer and by turning it down in the winter, you save a bunch of energy. This will also help you by reducing your electric bill which is a great advantage. That extra money could actually be used to insulate your house to reduce heat loss, to install storm doors and windows which keep cool air from escaping, or to buy recycled products. By increasing the demand for recycled products the factories may produce more off them. If you want to take being energy efficient to the next level you can invest in a hybrid car. They are a great decrease in greenhouse gas emissions compared to conventional cars. Hybrid cars will also save you a good deal of money because you won't be buying as much gas to run the car.

Then there's being energy efficient on a large scale level such as factories. If we don't fulfill our part of conservation, it is important that factories do. They could find alternative fuel to use such as ethanol and hydrogen. These fuel sources don't pollute the environment like our current oil-based fuel does. Also we have to make sure that factories are as modern and clean as they can be. Modern factories are more efficient and produce less greenhouse gases. The newer factories have many regulations on them concerning emissions which come from the government.

So as you can see there are a lot of parts in conservation which I believe is the most effective way to combat global warming caused by greenhouse gases. Conservation can usually be simple and cheap, and sometimes it can even be beneficial financially. If everyone took the steps to become energy efficient then the warming of the Earth may not be as big of a problem as it is now. There would be less of a chance of disease and other struggles plaguing the population for generations to come. Life would be all around better for everyone.

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