

Climate Change Glossary

1. **Adaptation:** Climate change adaptation refers to altering the way we live and how we behave in order to lessen the impact of **climate change** on our families, communities, and environment.
2. **Anthropocene:** The anthropocene is the current geological period in which humans have the largest impact on the environment and **climate** of our world.
3. **Carbon dioxide:** Carbon dioxide is a **greenhouse gas** which traps heat within Earth's atmosphere, increasing the **average global temperature**. It is produced through the burning of **fossil fuels**.
4. **Carbon footprint:** A carbon footprint is the total amount of **greenhouse gasses** that one produces through their actions.
5. **Climate:** Climate is the prevailing temperatures and **weather** conditions in a place over a long period of time.
6. **Climate change:** Climate change is a change in **climate** patterns on a regional or global level. This includes changes in the measures of **climate** over a long period of time including precipitation, temperature, and wind patterns.
7. **Emissions:** Emissions in terms of **climate change** refers to **greenhouse gasses** that are released into the air through a variety of activities.
8. **Fossil fuels:** Fossil fuels are naturally occurring fuels that were formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms. Examples include oil, coal, and petroleum.
9. **Global average temperature:** Global average temperature is an estimate of the average air temperature over the entire planet.
10. **Global warming:** Global warming is the rise of global **temperatures** and is mainly due to an increasing amount of **greenhouse gasses** in the atmosphere.
11. **Greenhouse gas:** Greenhouse gas is released into the atmosphere when **fossil fuels** are burned. They trap heat in the atmosphere and cause **global temperature** to increase. Examples of greenhouse gasses include **carbon dioxide**, **methane**, and nitrous oxide.
12. **Methane:** Methane is an example of a **greenhouse gas**. Methane is released into the atmosphere through the burning of **fossil fuels** and contributes to **climate change** by getting trapped in the atmosphere and keeping heat from escaping.

13. **Mitigation:** Mitigation refers to efforts in reducing or preventing **greenhouse gasses** from being released and **climate change** from occurring. Mitigation efforts include using **renewable energy**, conserving energy and water, conserving and restoring forests, and more!
14. **Renewable energy:** Renewable energy is energy that comes from a source that is not depleted when it is used. Renewable energy includes wind and solar power.
15. **Rising sea levels:** Global sea levels are rising due to the effects of **global warming**. **Global warming** and rising **global average temperature** causes ice and glaciers to melt, resulting in rising sea levels.
16. **Urbanization:** Urbanization refers to the shift of the human population from rural areas to more urban areas such as cities. Urbanization and urban growth necessitates commercialization and industrialization which increases the use of **fossil fuels**.
17. **Weather:** Weather is used to describe the state of the atmosphere in a particular place at a particular time. Examples of weather include clear or clouds, hot or cold, dry or wet, and storming or calm.