

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Many scientists agree that the world's weather is, in general terms, becoming wilder. Extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts and tornadoes have risen. On the other hand, the increase of the world's temperatures has been greater in the last century than it had been for any other century in the past. However, the most worrying matter concerning the temperatures is that in the last years they rose at a faster rate than in the previous ones.

Looked at separately, none of these events is particularly remarkable, but put together they represent a clear and worrying change to the world's climate. Consequently, global warming is taking place. The question is 'Is global warming a natural phenomenon or are human beings directly responsible for it? Without a shadow of a doubt, human beings are directly responsible for global warming. Pollution is increasing due to fossil fuels, which produce harmful emissions, which cause the greenhouse effect.

All of us have a carbon footprint, which is the amount of carbon dioxide that each person produces in their day-to-day activities. No one wants to destroy the planet, but there is very clear evidence that modern lifestyles are affecting the climate. Flying, driving and heating our homes produce carbon dioxide emissions. Everyone has a carbon footprint and the impact it has on the climate can increase or decrease depending on lifestyle factors. For example, people who drive to work every day will have a higher carbon footprint than people who walk. The average European citizen emits over ten metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, whereas the worldwide average is less than half that amount.

So, what can we do about our carbon footprint? Firstly, at home we can switch off the lights in the rooms that we are not using, we can use energy-saving light bulbs. Secondly, we can give up driving to work and start cycling instead.

Finally, we can rethink the way we travel, because flying is the most polluting way of travelling. One single passenger on a return flight from London to New York generates the same amount of carbon dioxide as running a car twenty-four hours a day for four weeks.

In conclusion, we can do something against the climate change. If everyone follows one of these suggestions the environment will improve.