

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Numerous environmental changes have been identified as issues of global concern: desertification; the depletion of fuelwood; the destruction of tropical rainforest and rapid declines in forest cover; the modification of coastal ecosystems; the reduced availability and quality of drinking water; the depletion of soil resources; the over-exploitation of fisheries; food shortages; species extinction and the loss of biodiversity; stratospheric ozone depletion; rapidly rising levels of fossil fuel and demand for energy supplies; and climate change. The sheer number, magnitude and complexity of these issues can seem overwhelming and some commentators have argued that they amount to a cumulative, sustained human impact on the environment that has profoundly transformed the surface of the Earth.

Our environment is constantly changing. There is no denying that fact. However, as our environment changes, so does the need to become increasingly aware of the problems that surround it. With a massive influx of natural disasters, warming and cooling periods, different types of weather patterns and much more, people need to be aware of what types of environmental problems our planet is facing.

Global warming has become an undisputed fact about our current livelihoods; our planet is warming up and we are definitely part of the problem. However, this isn't the only environmental problem that we should be concerned about. All across the world, people are facing a wealth of new and challenging environmental problems every day. Some of them are small and only affect a few ecosystems, but others are drastically changing the landscape of what we already know.

“Environmental issues are defined as problems with the planet's systems (air, water, soil, etc.) that have developed as a result of human interference or mistreatment of the planet.