

A 60 Second Guide To: Sustainable Development

Goal 13

Climate Action

Introduction

Climate change is now having an impact on every country across every continent, from changing weather patterns, rising sea levels to the likelihood of more extreme weather events. Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities continue to rise and drive climate change. Without the action of the global community the world's average surface temperature is projected to rise over the 21st century. The poorest people in the world are being affected the most.

The 5 aims of this goal are to:

- 1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive abilities to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
- 2 Integrate climate change steps into national policies, strategies and planning.
- 3 Improve education and awareness on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.
- 4 Implement the commitment made by developed countries to mobilize \$100 billion annually to address the needs of developing countries in mitigating climate change.
- 5 Promote measures for raising effective climate change related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing states.

Background information

Figures from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change tell us that between 1880 and 2012 average global temperature increased by 0.85 degrees Celsius. It is known that grain yields decrease by around 5% for every 1 degree of temperature increase. Figures indicate that the yield of maize, wheat and other staple crops has decreased between 1981 and 2002 due to a warmer climate. It is predicted that sea levels may rise between 24 - 30cm by 2065.

Climate change is a global challenge that transgresses borders. Solutions must be coordinated at the international level and require international cooperation to aid developing countries in moving towards low carbon economies.

Further Reading/Linked Resources

- UN & Climate Change site
- UN Climate Change Newsroom



For more information and to take part in the Global Learning Programme please see: www.glp-e.org.uk and @glp_e

For more information on the support provided by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) please see www.rgs.org and @RGS_IBGSchools

All information and statistics taken from www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment

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