

THE FACTS TO ACT: AIR AND HABITAT



- Pre-industrial CO2 levels were around 280 parts per million (ppm). Today, we stand close to 420 ppm. CO2 Is At Its Highest in 2 Million Years (NOAA, 2023).



- Global temperature is projected to warm by about 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7° degrees Fahrenheit) by 2050 and 2-4 degrees Celsius (3.6-7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2100 (Wisconsin DNR, n.d).



- Climate change could wipe out 60% of all fish species. If average global temperatures rise by five degrees Celsius, that could mean almost two-thirds of global fish species could be eradicated by 2100 (World Economic Forum, 2017).

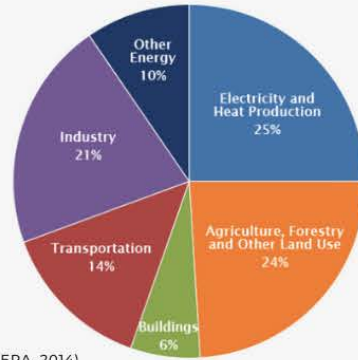


- Due to human pressures, nearly 1 million species are on track for extinction in the coming decades (Center for Biological Diversity, 2022).



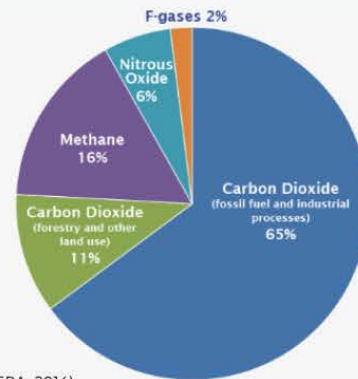
REDUCING CO2 FOOTPRINT

Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector



(EPA, 2014)

Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Gas





(EPA, 2014)


- Energy is at the heart of the climate challenge – and is the key to the solution (UN, n.d).
- As greenhouse gas emissions blanket the Earth, they trap the sun's heat. This leads to global warming and climate change. The world is now warming faster than at any point in recorded history (UN, n.d).





LIVE MORE SUSTAINABLY AT HOME


- Adjusting thermostat 3 degrees higher in the summer and 3 degrees lower in the winter. 

- Utilize renewable energy sources such as solar panels. If you live in a state with a Net Metering law, you could eliminate your electricity bill or even earn money by selling electricity back to the grid. 


- Replace appliances with Energy Star labels on new appliances (refrigerators, freezers, furnaces, air conditioners, and water heaters use the most energy). 

- Making water-efficient choices when purchasing shower heads, faucet heads, toilets, dishwashers and washing machines. 

- Washing clothes with cold water washing. Line dry clothing utilizes no electricity or natural gas. 

- Reduce the use of energy-reliant products such as televisions and computers. 

- Switch to LED energy-saving lightbulbs. 

- Turn off lights or energy-using devices when not in use. 

- Eliminating petroleum based-household cleaners. 

THE FACTS TO ACT: LAND AND WATER



- Sea level along the U.S. coastline is projected to rise, on average, 10 - 12 inches in the next 30 years (2020 - 2050), which will be as much as the rise measured over the last 100 years (1920 - 2020) (NOAA, 2022).



- By 2100, a "100-year" flood will occur every year in many coastal regions. Annual coastal flood damages are projected to increase by 100-1,000 fold by the end of this century (National Academics, 2020).



- By 2100 the number of wildfires is set to rise by 50% (UN Environment Programme, n.d).



- Generating three centimeters of topsoil takes 1,000 years, and if current rates of degradation continue, all of the world's topsoil could be gone within 60 years (Society of Environmental Journalists, 2017).

SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND TRANSPORT

- Eliminate or reduce meat and dairy products purchased. Search for plant-based protein alternatives. 
- Eat locally-produced foods, organic foods, and foods in season. 
- Utilize reusable products such as plates, silverware, ziplock bags, and Tupperware. 
- Use recycling bins, resell goods or donate used items. 
- Compost food wastes to reduce landfill build-up. 
- Plant trees, plants, or garden to reduce atmospheric carbon. 
- Utilize biking, walking, carpooling, or public transportation. 
- Drive a low-carbon vehicle, and reduce driving speeds. 
- Reduce air travel time, book fewer vacations and vacations closer to home. 

GET INVOLVED

- Follow @msustain for more sustainability tips and involvement opportunities on campus.
- Visit <https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice> to review eco-friendly products when purchasing goods.
- Learn more about climate change by visiting <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/causes-effects-climate-change>










PLEASE RECYCLE ME



SUSTAINABILITY

SUSTAINABILITY: Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

-  1.No Poverty
-  2.Zero Hunger
-  3.Good Health and Well-Being
-  4.Quality Education
-  5.Gender Equality
-  6.Clean Water and Sanitation
-  7.Affordable and Clean Energy
-  8.Decent Work and Economic Growth
-  9.Industrial, Innovation, and Infrastructure
-  10.Reduced Inequalities
-  11.Sustainable Cities and Communities
-  12.Responsible Consumption and Production
-  13.Climate Action
-  14.Life Below Water
-  15.Life on Land
-  16.Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
-  17.Partnerships for Goals