

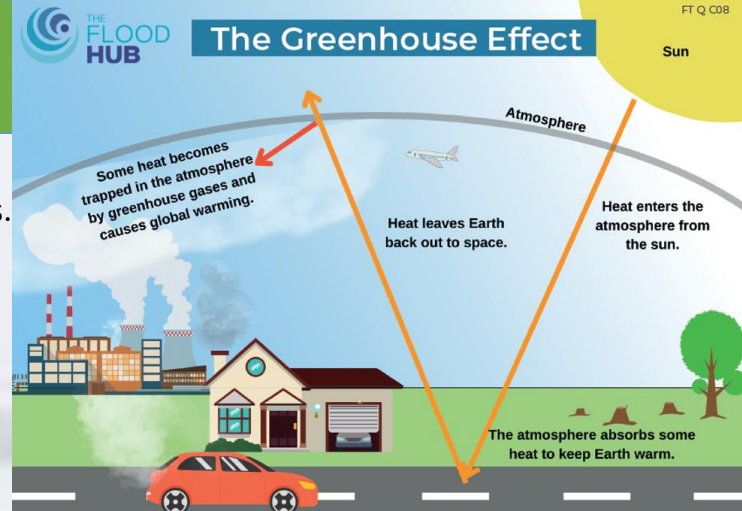
Climate change: not our problem?

Climate is a description of the weather conditions in an area over the last 30 years. **Climate change** is a change in the Earth's usual weather conditions over many years.

This is due to **global warming**, an increase in the Earth's average temperature.

Since the Industrial Revolution, there has been a sharp increase in global temperature as more **Greenhouse gases** (gases such as carbon dioxide, water vapour and methane) have been released into the Earth's atmosphere which trap heat.

This has caused the **Greenhouse effect**.



What is Causing Climate Change?

Deforestation

is the cutting down of trees, which destroys forests. The wood can be used for buildings, paper and agriculture. Trees store carbon dioxide and when trees are cut down, the carbon dioxide is released.



Intensive farming

for us to keep eating meat and dairy, humans have been farming more livestock such as cows and sheep and they release methane. They have to cut down trees to clear space for farmland.



Burning fossil fuels

We use them for many things such as to heat our homes, drive vehicles, fly planes, run factories and power technology. They are harmful as they release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.



What are the effects of Climate Change?

Extreme weather - is when the weather is very different from normal. Eg heavy flooding, heatwaves, droughts and strong storms

Sea level rise - Due to the Earth heating up, the glaciers and ice caps melt and add more water to our oceans.

Erosion - the wearing away of rocks due to water, wind and ice.

Negative impact on ecosystems – habitats and food sources for animals and plants being destroyed.

How can we reduce the effects of Climate Change?

Transport

Travel using public transport or cycle/walk when we can, reduce the amount of fossil fuels realised by our cars.



Eat locally

Buying food which is grown and produced in the UK can reduce the impact of the food industry on the environment as it reduces food miles.

Reduce, reuse and recycle

With less waste being sent to landfill, there will be less methane released from waste.



Plant more trees

To absorb the extra carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in their leaves and trunks.



Reduce energy use

Turn off lights, have showers instead of baths, unplug electrical devices, wear extra layers instead of putting the heating on.

Use more renewable energy

A natural source of energy that can be used to create electricity like: Water (hydropower), sun (solar) and wind. They don't produce greenhouse gases.

