

# 25. Pollution

## A Simple Guide to Climate Change 93

The following article outlines important steps in the fight against climate change since 2015.

### How will climate change affect the world?

Climate change will have different effects across the world. According to the UN climate body, the IPCC, if global temperature rise cannot be kept within 1.5 °C:

- the UK and Europe will be vulnerable to flooding caused by extreme rainfall;
- 5 • countries in the Middle East will experience extreme heat waves and widespread drought;
- island nations in the Pacific region could disappear under rising seas;
- many African nations are likely to suffer droughts and food shortages;
- drought conditions are likely in the western US, while other areas will see more intense storms;
- 10 • Australia is likely to suffer extremes of heat and increases in deaths from wildfires.

### What are governments doing?

Countries agree climate change can only be tackled by working together, and in a landmark agreement in Paris in 2015, they pledged to try to keep global warming to 1.5 °C.

- 15 Many countries have pledged to get to “net zero” by 2050. This means reducing greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible, and balancing out remaining emissions by absorbing an equivalent amount from the atmosphere. Experts agree that this is still achievable, but requires governments, businesses and individuals to make substantial changes now.

### What can individuals do?

- 20 Major changes need to come from governments and businesses, but scientists say some small changes in our lives can limit our impact on the climate:
  - take fewer flights;
  - live car-free or use an electric car;
  - reduce consumption of meat and dairy products;
- 25 • consumption of meat and dairy products;
- reduce your energy use;
- buy energy efficient products, such as washing machines, when they need replacing;
- improve your home insulation;
- switch from a gas heating system to an electric heat pump.

(Adapted from <https://www.bbc.com>)

# Pollution Vocabulary

