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English 302

Introduction to Research

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Sustainable Development: An Introduction

The need for sustainable development is needed to protect our planet and minimize further damage caused by human activity. Due to human activity damages to our planet have triggered extreme weather conditions, wildfires, water scarcity, famine, floods and drought.

The purpose of this research if to inform you of the need for environmentally friendly developments and its benefits. Focusing on the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental will help guide us into a future of better living.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to end poverty, protect the planet and to improve the lives of everyone everywhere. The temperature of the planet is getting hotter leading to more wildfire, drier conditions leading to drought. Temperatures rose by 1.0-3.5 degrees in this century alone (Ullah, 2021). Extreme weather patterns, earthquakes, flash flood, and hurricanes are seen around the world. Some of the effect of these phenomenon can be attributed to global warming from greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases from Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emission make up 72% of greenhouse gas emission. Burning fossil fuel such as coal, crude oil and natural gas, deforestation, land clearing and degradation of soil creates CO2. The three other main components are Methane, Nitrous Oxide, and Fluorinated gases. Methane is produced by waste management, energy use, biomass burning and other activities. Nitrous Oxide is created by fossil fuel and use of fertilizer. Fluorinated gases are generated by certain industrial processes, refrigeration and other consumer products (McManus). Electricity and head production count for 25% of global greenhouse emission (Ullah, 2021).

The United Nations (UN), an international organization of 51 countries committed to improving the lives of everyone has adopted a 17-goal agenda that would take place over 15 years (Freedman, 2021). This 2030 agenda calls for alternative energy sources, sustainable management of water and sanitation for all as well as protection of marine life. This agenda also calls for protection of terrestrial ecosystem, sustainable manage forest and to halt biodiversity loss. Reducing our carbon footprint will take a worldwide effort but must start in our homes. Globally UN member from around the world have pledge to create sustainable developments by reducing deforestations, decreasing greenhouse gases, protecting threatened species, protecting water resources and preserving marine habitats (Ullah, 2021). We must modify our behavior to think reduce, reuse, and recycle, if we are to ensure future generation survivability. Limiting damages to our ecosystems is vital for all living things.

Sustainable Consumption is the use of goods and related products which respond to basic need and bring a better quality of life, while minimizing the harm economically, environmentally and socially. As consumers we can start in our home by taking small steps. Carry your own bags to the store, limit the use of single use items like straws and plastic cups and bags. If you are in the corporate world, think green when building or renovating office space. Build spaces from reusable products, be energy efficient, shop local, recycle electronics, and use cloud computing instead of servers. Taking small steps can lead to a big impact protecting future generations.

This research was done using the Kansas State University Databases. The databases used were, Proquest Central and The Gale Directory Library. Outside sources were the Witpress.com Journal of International Journal of Environmental Impacts as well as the United Nations website UN.org. The keywords used in my search included sustainable Development, sustainability, Sustainable earth, and Sustainable Development Goals. For my selection process I opted for peer reviewed material as well as current journals.

My most significant finding were the many ways we contribute to the destruction of our planet. The natural gas that we us to heat our home to the plastic that ends up in our oceans. Contaminated water supplies due to our waste management and pollution problems seem to be a world-wide problem. With a few simple steps we can elevate some of the stressor we humans are contributing to the problems.

References

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