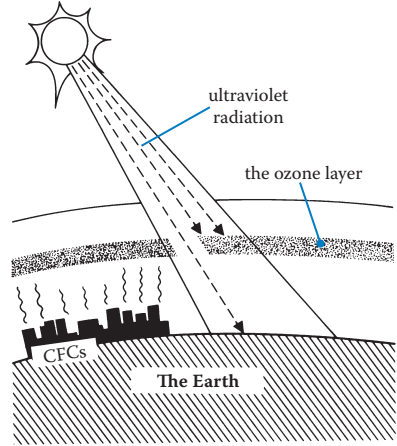
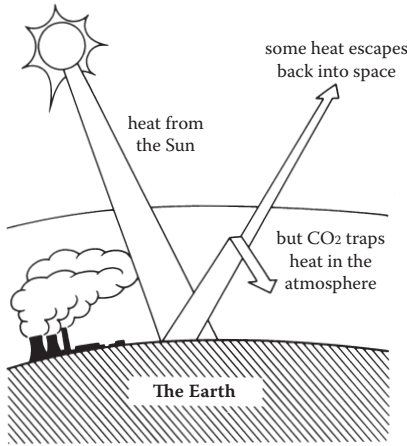


The Environment

(çevre)



Global Warming

(global ısınma)

Scientists say the earth is getting warmer. The amount varies, but it depends on what we do in the future to reduce the causes of **global warming**.

Global warming is caused by the **greenhouse effect**. Normally, heat from the sun warms the earth and then escapes back into space. However, **carbon dioxide** and other gases in the atmosphere trap the sun's heat, and this is slowly making the earth warmer.

Climate change is a serious problem. There will be **droughts** in some parts of the world.

Other parts of the world will **flood** as the **ice caps** in the Arctic and the Antarctic melt and sea levels rise.

Cars, planes and factories burn **fossil fuels**, which creates carbon dioxide and causes **pollution**. This damages the **ozone layer**. The ozone layer protects the earth from the sun's **ultraviolet radiation**, which can damage our skins and cause cancer. Holes in the ozone layer are also caused by substances called **CFCs** (chlorofluorocarbons).

Deforestation

(ormanların yok olması)

Rainforests help to control global warming because they absorb carbon dioxide. In recent years, large areas have been destroyed as the trees are cut down for wood or burned to clear the land for farming. This is called **deforestation**. The burning releases large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Many rainforests grow on poor soils. When they are cut down or burned, the soil is washed away in the tropical rains, so that the area may turn to **desert**. Many plant and animal species that live there could become **extinct**.

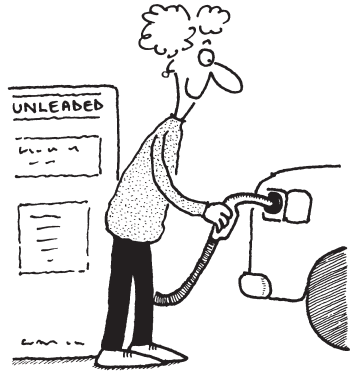
Pollution

(kirlilik)

Factories, power stations and motor vehicles pump large quantities of carbon dioxide and other waste gases into the air. This is a major cause of the greenhouse effect. Some petrol contains **lead**, which is very poisonous and can cause brain damage in children. Many people now prefer to use **unleaded petrol**.

Some poisonous gases dissolve in water in the atmosphere and then fall to the earth as **acid rain**. Acid rain damages trees and buildings, and can kill fish in lakes and rivers. Rivers can also be polluted by industrial waste from factories and chemical **fertilizers** and **pesticides** used by farmers.

In recent years there has been an increase in **organic farming**, which does not use **chemical fertilizers**.



Governments are trying to introduce a system of **carbon trading** so that countries are responsible for the carbon **emissions** that they cause. People are being encouraged to reduce their **carbon footprint**.

Recycling

(geri dönüşüm)

Recycling is the processing of used objects and materials so that they can be used again. About 70% of rubbish from homes and factories contains materials that could be **recycled**. Recycling saves energy and raw materials, and also reduces damage to the countryside.

Glass, paper and aluminium cans can all be recycled very easily. Rubbish can be sorted for recycling in separate bins, and many towns have **bottle banks** where people can leave their empty bottles for recycling. A lot of paper bags, writing paper and greetings cards are now produced on **recycled paper**. **Biodegradable** products are also environmentally friendly.



Alternative Forms of Energy

(alternatif enerji kaynakları)

Most of the energy we use today comes from coal, oil and gas. However, these will not last for ever, and burning them is slowly harming the atmosphere. We need to look for **renewable** sources of energy that do not pollute the environment.

There are alternatives to fossil fuels, such as **wind energy** and **solar power**. There are several types of **water power**: river water that flows down from mountains can be used to generate **hydroelectric power**. We can also create electricity from sea water that flows in and out with the tides.

Some people think that **nuclear energy** is a relatively clean form of energy. Others are against it because they do not believe it is possible to dispose of the **nuclear waste** safely or to protect **nuclear power stations** from accidents and attacks.

Here are some more words we use to talk about the environment. Look them up in your *Oxford Wordpower Dictionary*:

biodiverse
biofuel
carbon credit
ecotourism
food mile

genetically modified
landfill
smog
sustainable
wind farm