Air Pollution

Students Name:

MISIS Number:

Section:

Air pollution can be described as the introduction of toxic and harmful elements and compounds into the air, therefore, posing a health risk to living organisms. These harmful components interfere with the quality of air and also have other adverse effects on the environment such as the depletion of the ozone layer which in turn leads to global warming. (Billy, 2017) the leading cause of air pollution is human activities. These human activities include deforestation, transportation, industrial work, agriculture, mining, and energy production. Natural occurrences such as volcanic eruptions and forest fires also contribute to air pollution. All these activities emit gases and chemicals into the air which degrade the air quality. The most common air pollutants are Carbon Monoxide, lead, sulphur dioxide, and Nitrogen Dioxide. (Anon., 2013)the effects of air pollution include; health effects on living organisms, acid rain, eutrophication and depletion of the ozone layer which leads to global warming. The effects of air pollution have raised concerns across the board and different bodies have moved in to try and salvage the situation before it gets out of hand

Governments of different countries have bee at the forefront in the fight against this environmental hazard. Different governments have had very different approached but all are aimed at the same goal; the goal of having clean air. For example, in the UAE air quality is one key agenda in the country’s 2021 National Vision. To achieve this goal, the Ministry of Environment and climate change has worked so hard with stakeholders in both the public and private sectors all in a bid to promote the national standards of air pollution and compliance control.Another group that has worked hard in the fight against air pollution is nongovernmental organizations in different countries. An example of these organizations is Client Earth in London, Earth Justice in San Francisco, and the Emirates Environmental Group in Dubai alongside many others. Activists have also taken to the frontline to fight against air pollution all over the world (Ford, 2020). Start-ups have also stepped in to assist in the fight against air pollution. Start-ups have come up with innovative inventions and methods to assist in championing for clean air through monitoring and purification. An example of these start-ups is Graviky Labs and Oizom (Khan, 2019). The big companies have also not been left out in this fact and some are the biggest champions in the fight. Some companies have even gone ahead to form the institute of clean air companies.

To curb air pollution several policies have been formulated. One of the policies is the carbo tax. Some countries in the world have introduced this type of penalties where one is charged a fee depending on how much carbon is emitted due to combustion. Different governments have set different rates for a unit of carbon. This tax aims to make the use of dirty fuels very expensive such that companies and individuals will opt to use clean forms of energy. This in the long run lowers the carbon emissions into the air (Anon., n.d.) .Another policy that governments all over the world use are subsidies for pollution control. Subsidies are forms of financial policy funding for eco - friendly practices. Rather than paying carbon to a polluter, a subsidy awards a polluter for pollution reductions. Examples of subsidies include low - cost loans, preferential tax advantages, grants, and mandates for procurement. Subsidies do encourage players in the market to qualify for the subsidies by reducing emissions and therefore in the long run achieving a reduction in pollution rate. (Anon., n.d.)Another policy that has been adopted by several governments is having pollution penalties. For example, in 2019, Severn Trent Water was fined £500,000 for spilling raw sewerage in a park in Birmingham, England. Several cases of heavy fines for individuals convicted of environmental pollution have been witnessed in England (Pedersen, 2019). These heavy fines deter individuals and organizations from performing any acts that may lead to environmental degradation. This creates a sense of responsibility among everyone since the fight against pollution is about teamwork where everyone is a participant.

Pollution permits are schemes when firms are permitted to pollute the environment but have a limit that cannot be exceeded. The permits can be traded with other firms that also have carbon emissions at an agreed price. This policy is however very slippery in management since measuring the extent of pollution is not an easy task. The balance between harming the economy and harming the environment is the real challenge here because if the government is very strict on the permits, then the economy will suffer and also if too lenient, then the environment suffers. Changing consumer behaviour is another strategy that works to curb air pollution. This sensitization aims to turn consumers away from habits and products that support air pollution and environmental pollution in general. Sensitization can range from printed messages that are anti-pollution or to creating a conducive environment such as creating good cycling lanes such that many people opt to cycle instead of driving to work hence reducing the volume of exhaust fumes released into the environment

Air pollution is therefore a huge threat to the wellbeing of the environment and all living organisms and therefore needs to be curbed at all costs. One recommendation that would go along way in this fight is switching to clean fuel. This means that we stop using dirty fuel such as coal and any forms of carbon. Wind, solar, and water should fully be exploited to give clean energy to power industries and engines. Vehicle emissions are among the top five highest causes of air pollution (Billy, 2017).The world should, therefore, shift to electric cars that have no emissions at all. This will be a great percentage cut down on air pollution and will be a step in the right direction. Heavy taxes and penalties should be imposed on firms and individuals who pollute the environment. The penalties should be high to discourage such behaviour. Sensitization should also be done to bring everyone on board in the fight against pollution so that the fight is not left to a few organizations and individuals.

# References

Anon., 2013. *Common air pollutants and their health effects.* [Online]   
Available at: https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/air/Pages/common-air-pollutants.aspx  
[Accessed 1 July 2020].

Anon., 2017. *Environmental Pollution Centers.* [Online]   
Available at: https://www.environmentalpollutioncenters.org/air/  
[Accessed 1 June 2020].

Anon., n.d. *Economic Incentives.* [Online]   
Available at: https://www.epa.gov/environmental-economics/economic-incentives  
[Accessed 1 July 2020].

Anon., n.d. *What’s a carbon tax?.* [Online]   
Available at: https://www.carbontax.org/whats-a-carbon-tax/  
[Accessed 1 July 2020].

Billy, 2017. *5 Major Causes of Air Pollution.* [Online]   
Available at: https://medium.com/@billcollin3002/5-major-causes-of-air-pollution-5ea5be5f1286  
[Accessed 1 July 2020].

Ford, K., 2020. *Our global movement against air pollution.* [Online]   
Available at: https://www.greenpeace.org/international/story/28744/our-global-movement-against-air-pollution/  
[Accessed 1 July 2020].

Khan, T. N., 2019. *These Start-ups Are Putting Up a Fight Against Air Pollution.* [Online]   
Available at: https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/342768  
[Accessed 1 July 2020].

Pedersen, O., 2019. *Punishing the polluters:why large fines are an important step towards cleaner coorporations.* [Online]   
Available at: https://theconversation.com/punishing-the-polluters-why-large-fines-are-an-important-step-towards-cleaner-corporations-115727  
[Accessed 1 July 2020].