

The Wicked Problem of Climate Change

by Mitchell Beckner

Government Entities

Political Agendas

Politicians and government organizations must satisfy their supporters

Political groups want action taken based on their specific needs

Long-term goals based on sustainability may increase costs and/or cause discomfort in the short term

Desire for Economic Growth

Nations must protect national economy

Developed nations do not want to lose the advantages they have achieved

The United Nations and other international bodies have no true ability to enforce global policies

Regulations tend to be reactive and be designed to encourage economic growth

Current vs Long-Term Interests

Short term objectives often take precedence over long term sustainability

Developing nations desire to catch up to the rest of the world using proven methods

Individual Citizens

Changes in weather patterns can affect crop production

Long-term goals based on sustainability may increase costs and/or cause discomfort in the short term

Citizens want political action taken based on their specific needs

Exposure to the elements due to poor housing and/or geographic location

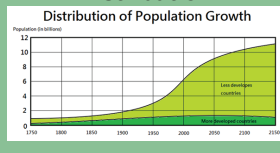
Health vulnerabilities arising from any number of causes

Reduced ability to mitigate risks due to poverty

Climate Change Vulnerability

Climate change can affect availability of food & housing

Global Population Distribution

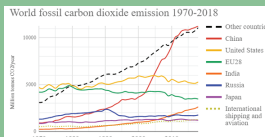


Global Community

Limited Timeframe

There may be a limited window of time within which action can be effective

Global CO₂ Emissions



There may be a tipping point beyond which remediation is much more difficult if not impossible

Lack of Authority

No governing body with authority to organize or enforce on a global scale

Misinformation

Intentional "fake news" and other rumors and incorrect information

Business & Industry

Business Focus

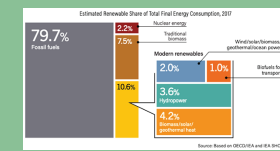
Many industries revolve around non-sustainable products and/or practices

Business was created as a fossil fuel industry or designed to support those industries, ex. automotive

Outcomes are unknown if business is shifted to more sustainable products and services

Business decisions based on sustainability may increase costs and reduce profit in the short term

Global Energy Production



Need to Maintain Market Share

Businesses will attempt to gain or maintain an advantage over their competitors

Government Regulations Not Aligned to Sustainability

Current laws, practices and incentives do not encourage sustainable practices

Businesses want political action taken based on their specific needs

Strong business competition / small profit margins

Non-Profits & NGO's

Non-profit organizations want political action taken based on their specific needs

Government funding is subject to change based on current policy

Donations from the public are subject to change based on the economy, public opinion, etc.

Insufficient Funding

Available resources are inconsistent and subject to change