Climate Change:
Why it Matters and What you can Do!

Citizens for our Children's Future

What is Climate Change?

Climate Change: A significant change in one or many of the measures of climate (temperature, rainfall, or wind), lasting for an extended period of time. (Source: US EPA)

Human activities that contribute to climate change:
→ Co2 emissions through burning of Fossil Fuels (coal, oil, gas).
→ Methane and nitrous oxide emissions from agriculture.
→ Emissions from land use changes including deforestation and urbanization. (Source: US EPA)

Long Term Impact of Climate Change
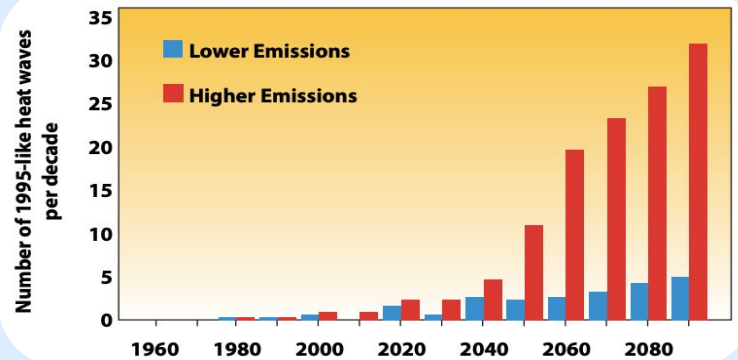
Figure 1: Average number of summers per decade with a Chicago heat wave resembling the 1995 heat wave comparing predictive increased or reduced emissions (Source: City of Chicago, Climate Action Plan)

How Will Climate Change Impact My Health?

Increasing Temperatures

- Extreme heat exposure can increase risk of illness and death among older adults, young children, and individuals with chronic health conditions.
- Increase prevalence of certain disease and their carriers:
   → Lymes Disease (Ticks)

Example: Chicago Heat Wave (1995) of the 739 deaths, majority were elderly individuals

Increasing Severe Weather: Hurricanes & Flooding

- Storm related injuries & fatalities.
- Increase temperatures and standing water lead to vector changes and disease risk.
   → Malaria / West Nile Virus(Mosquitos)
- Reduced water quality
   → May contribute to intestinal issues
(Source: US Global Change Research Program & NASA)

Example: Almost half of deaths from Hurricane Katrina were people over 75.

Increasing Air Pollution

-Increased pollution, dust, and smoke degrades air quality and worsens respiratory conditions that are common in older adults:
   → Asthma
   → Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder

Example: Chicago's low air quality score for ambient air particles.

What Can You Do To Help Reduce the Effects of Climate Change?

Help Inform Others
Share your knowledge with friends and family to increase awareness of climate change.

Vote
Vote to support candidates with green initiatives.

Easy Ways to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

-Turn off lights/unplug appliances that aren't in use.
-Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Walk or bike instead of driving.
- If you have to drive, carpool or use public transportation.
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle   (Source: US EPA)

Visit Our Website for more suggestions!

https://mmozack.github.io/ClimateChange/