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Assignment 2: Reflection paper

Introduction

Climate change is one of the great environmental challenges of our time, and its effects are being felt across the globe. Many human activities, such as burning fossil fuels and cutting down forests, have caused a series of environmental changes such as global temperature rise. The change of the environment will disturb the balance of the original ecosystem and bring about many extreme weather phenomena. Beyond that, the effects of climate change are not limited to the environment, but also have significant economic and social consequences. So, to learn more about climate change, we've chosen a question to discuss: What has been done to solve climate change as an existential threat?

Discussion

We have discussed this problem. At both the international and national levels, the world has recognized climate change as an existential threat and has taken some action.

- 1. Use of renewable energy. The use of renewable energy has increased significantly in recent years. Renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro, geothermal and biomass are considered key solutions to mitigating climate change. Using renewable energy has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which are the main cause of climate change. When renewable energy sources are used to generate electricity, they do not produce emissions such as carbon dioxide (CO2) and other harmful pollutants released from the burning of fossil fuels. Therefore, using renewable energy instead of fossil fuels can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help mitigate climate change. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the use of renewable energy helps improve air and water quality, reduces water use, and creates local jobs and economic benefits. Governments and businesses have invested in wind, solar, hydro and geothermal energy, and technological advances have made these energy sources more efficient and affordable.
- 2. Plant trees. Afforestation is an effective strategy to mitigate climate change. Trees can absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen through photosynthesis. In addition, reforestation can also help mitigate climate change in many ways. By planting new trees in areas that were previously cut down or without trees, it can help increase oxygen emissions in the ecosystem. In addition, reforestation helps prevent soil erosion and restore degraded ecosystems. Already, many countries have implemented afforestation and reforestation programs to reduce carbon emissions.
- 3. Implementation of the Paris Agreement. In 2015, world leaders adopted the Paris Agreement. It's an international treaty designed to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to strive to limit the

temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Under the Paris agreement, each country submits its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) outlining its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. The agreement also establishes financial, technological and capacity-building support frameworks to help developing countries transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient economies. The agreement aims to strengthen countries' ability to cope with the effects of climate change and calls on them to submit plans to cut emissions. As of April 2023, the Paris Agreement has been ratified by 190 parties (189 countries plus the European Union).

4. Education and awareness of climate change are critical components in the fight against climate change. Climate change is a complex issue that requires a multifaceted approach to address. Education and awareness can help individuals, communities, and governments understand the causes and effects of climate change and take action to mitigate its impacts. Already, many countries are incorporating climate change into school curricula to teach students about the science behind climate change and the ways it affects the planet. Non-governmental organizations and government agencies have also organized public events, such as seminars and workshops, to inform people about the effects of climate change and encourage them to take action. In addition, the news media are reporting more stories about climate change, highlighting its effects and the actions being taken to address the problem. The ultimate goal of education and climate change awareness is to motivate individuals and governments to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Conclusion

Despite these efforts, much remains to be done to address climate change as an existential threat. The world needs to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency, and raise public awareness and education about the urgent need for action.