

Impacts of Global Warming in 100 Years - A Reflection Paper

Throughout this reflection paper, I will present the main topics discussed with fellow students 1 (economics student), student 2 (engineering student), and student 3 (politics student) about the possible impacts of global warming over the coming 100 years. To get this information I discussed the topic of climate change and global warming to further get an understanding of how much and what these students know and what they believe will be the outcome of the current situation of global warming today. In the remainder of this reflection paper, I will present the most interesting topics that we discussed and then I will present my view in regards to the topic as well.

First of all, one main theme when interviewing the other students was that all of them talked about rising sea levels. Their argument when asked why they think global warming will lead to higher sea levels is that glaciers and icebergs will continue to melt which will create a higher sea level. When I asked for underlying facts about why rising sea levels can be a problematic impact of global warming the majority of them answered that populations will need to relocate their habitats. I believe this is the most common answer to the question, but there is more to the subject of rising sea levels than only relocation. One example that I was surprised that no one brought up was the fact that ecosystems are also very vulnerable to rising sea levels. My initial feeling is that these students only thought about impacts on humans but the threat is equally dangerous for animals. Furthermore, destroyed ecosystems will impact human society as well, as humanity and nature are interconnected to be able to live on this planet.

Second of all, the students I talked to mentioned that the impact of global warming will probably cause increasing amounts of diseases in the future. They all talked about the fact that Covid-19 could be the beginning of a trend going forward with more diseases appearing more consistently. The reason for this is not only the heat that global warming entails but also the air pollution which will largely increase if global warming increases in the next 100 years. This was talked about, especially with student 2 who emphasized that it is important to transition our vehicles into electric substitutes so that air pollution can be decreased and to extent decrease diseases from polluted air. When discussing the topic of further diseases, we all acknowledge that we do not know much about the subject but it is of course a topic that has been discussed a lot during the recent years as Covid-19 made us all more aware of pandemics. We all believe that this is a topic that needs further investigation in regards to global warming and we agreed on the fact that in the next 100 years, we will experience larger amounts of pandemics if global warming is not taken care of.

Third of all, we also talked about the impact of natural disasters as an effect of global warming. This was also mentioned by all of the students as an effect of global warming. The discussion was centered around the fact that it will probably be more common in the future with heat waves and extreme weather conditions that will be harmful to humanity. We then discussed the possible impacts of extreme weather conditions and how they can affect us. As

we are no experts on the subjects, the discussion was mainly based on the most simple assumptions like increased heat waves, more hurricanes, and more heavy rainfalls. Furthermore, this led to assumptions that there will be more draughts which could lead to the production of food being more problematic and the availability of freshwater could be reduced. Additionally, we talked about the fact that worsening weather conditions will be more harmful to the more undeveloped part of society. Places, where infrastructure and institutions are underdeveloped, will probably be more affected than the more developed and rich parts of the world.

From my perspective, I feel that climate change and global warming is a topic that is heavily discussed and thought about in society. However, from talking with my participants I can feel that most people only know the basics of it. To get to the target of 1,5 degrees Celsius in global warming which could relieve some of the biggest threats about climate change, society needs to be more educated about how to reach the targets that have been made. This could take the form of educating people more about the SDGs and the targets that have been set up regarding global warming. As I am now taking this course in Global Sustainability, I feel that I am learning things that should be common knowledge to everyone to reduce the impacts of global warming in the coming 100 years. However, my view is that climate change and global warming will leave big impacts on humanity unless we incorporate well-developed action plans on how to decrease global warming and prevent climate change.

To make a short conclusion, the most commonly known impacts of global warming such as sea level rise, increased amount of diseases, and more natural disasters were brought up during our discussions. There is a difference between my perspective and the students that I interviewed. The fact that they only touch upon the most obvious topics of climate change while my attendance in the Global Sustainability course has provided me to think a step further and critically think about how climate change and global warming can be prevented shows the importance of knowledge in this subject. Of course, I am no expert, but my feeling is that the SDGs and the targets set up would be more achievable and the potential impacts of global warming decreased if the knowledge about the subject around the world increased.