

# Environmental Studies/Geography/Environmental Science

## Assignment 2, What to do about the climate crisis?

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The issue of global warming remains the most important problem facing the biosphere eclipsing all others and requiring a broad range of responses by humans that challenge the very way we define economics and progress.

Environmental scientists generally agree on the scale, pace and intensity of the problem but not on the solutions. Policy makers must devise an international system that will reduce the most prevalent greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide in a short period of time. Six of these are

- a) the "cap and trade" system whereby carbon emissions can be traded in a free market and gradually reduce the production of the gas, and
- b) a carbon tax that would use the market to accelerate carbon gas reductions in an environment where the costs of emissions would be graduated upward to affect the largest producers.
- c) The Green New Deal including a "Marshall Plan" for global action in investment and regulatory frameworks. Using government expenditure to reduce the fossil fuel economy.
- d) Divestment and finance sector withdrawal from fossil fuels and toward sustainable investment, from investment banks and mutual funds to pension funds and stock portfolios.
- e) Geo-engineering: Using myriad technological innovations as well as biological ones to remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, including seeding the stratosphere with sulphates to reduce solar incoming radiation.
- f) Command and Control: This is a more drastic set of measures taken by government to quickly phase in renewable energy and shut down fossil fuels entirely. It does not rely on the market.

In the articles provided here the many perspectives are given an examination that advocate for one or the other or even several. **Eight of the articles are general global warming pieces. Seven of the articles are on the impacts of global warming. Over 50 that follow are on the six approaches.** Start with at least two from the first batch (General), and at least two from the second batch (Impacts), Cite the ones you select in your last page: References. Pick six from the third batch. Select one from each approach to cite from the six approaches above. Have a look at each and then download the articles you want. Make up your own mind which system or combination of approaches you think is better. Show you understand each option then defend your choice from those. Central to your criteria should be "what will bring about the desired change the soonest?"

Write a short paper (less than six pages, double spaced) on your arguments based on the papers provided. (Yes, you can research this further if you would like and add to the list of papers.) Write in your own words a paper that a) shows you understand the arguments given regarding global warming or human caused climate change and b) some discussion of likely impacts and c) the policy options represented in the various arguments.

The paper must be original. You will get no points for plagiarism. **DO NOT PASTE TEXT FROM INTERNET SOURCES. Make sure you reference your new sources as well as the ones provided.** Use college standards for citing of work. In the body of the text, authors should appear in parenthesis with the year of the publication. **DO NOT USE FILENAMES or URLs AS CITATIONS!** It should be author, title, publication and date. Consult the library for proper "APA" citation style. These can be footnotes or endnotes. You should provide a bibliographic list at the end.

Here is the online resource: <https://www.agricanto.org/assignment-2.html>