

# Top 10 facts about CLIMATE CHANGE

## 1. Our planet is getting warmer...

19 of the warmest 20 years recorded have occurred since 1980

## 2. ...at a time when it should have been cooling

Due to other influences such as solar cycles and volcanic activity

## 3. Greenhouse gas emissions are to blame

They trap solar radiation in the atmosphere

## 4. Human activity is increasing these gases...

e.g. Burning fossil fuels, deforestation, landfill gases, etc

## 5. ...which cannot be absorbed naturally

Natural "sinks" like peat bogs and rainforests can no longer cope and are starting to release greenhouse gases

## 6. This is having a significant effect

Enough to raise global temperatures by 2°C – 5°C from pre-Industrial levels by the end of this century.

## 7. The consequences are already being felt

e.g. Loss of Arctic sea ice, heat waves, drought, famine

## 8. We need to make big cuts to emissions

We need to cut emissions by 70% to 80% simply to stabilise atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations - and thus temperatures.

## 9. There is no "magic bullet" / "techno fix"

Clean technologies will undoubtedly play an important part, but they can only get us part of the way there

## 10. We need to change the way we live

What will a low-energy, low-carbon future be like? Help us decide!

For further information, check out: [www.transitionwestberks.org](http://www.transitionwestberks.org)  
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