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**GLOBAL WARMING**

The world’s biggest problem: Ways to solving it.

One of the challenges faced in the world today are the recurring cases of various environmental problems which brings sorrow to the heart and tears the eyes of men. Days after days, years after years news of environmental problems causing heartbreak to the people of the world are heard and recorded. The records taken are been used to proffer solutions, but instead of reduction in the rate of these problems, the problems keep increasing because the solutions provided are not taken to heart. This continuous circle increases the harmful effects and death in the world today. Sadly, all these problems are caused by human-induced activities and to worsen the situation, people keep involving in the same activities that cause these problems, thereby creating a narrow pathway for these problems to be solved. Plainly speaking, the world is faced with many environmental problems but one of these great problems that has posed a great threat to the lives of people in the world today and is still capable of destroying more lives in the future is Global Warming. The Encyclopaedia Britannica defines Global Warming as the phenomenon of increasing average air temperature near the surface of the earth over the past on to two centuries. This is caused by the depletion of the ozone layer. The ozone layer has been affected so badly that it has now become very weak to perform its only duty of preventing the ultra-violet rays of the sun from reaching the surface of the earth thereby causing green-house effects which is the global warming.

Talking on the problem of the depletion of the ozone layer, what is meant by the ozone layer? To understand this concept, the knowledge on ozone layer must be gained. Ozone was discovered by Charles Fabury, a French physicist and Henri Buisson in 1913. The ozone layer protects life from harmful and strong ultraviolet rays from the sun which can destroy the ecosystem and the world of the living. The ozone layer is in the lower region of the stratosphere which is fifteen to sixty kilometres after the troposphere and twenty to thirty kilometres from the earth’s surface. Ozone is a pale blue toxic gas with pungent odour formed from oxygen by ultraviolet light. The ozone layer can absorb almost ninety-seven to ninety-nine percent of the harmful ultraviolet radiation of wavelengths less than two hundred and ninety nanometres. Every one percent decrease in the ozone layer results to two to five increases in the occurrence of skin cancer, cataracts, incidence, sunburns and suppressions of the immune system. Giving voice to a growing conviction of most of the scientific community, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change(IPCC) reported that by the end of the 21st century, the average surface temperature would increase by another one depending on the range of possible sceneries, this is the more reason why solutions must be proffered and should be taken seriously to prevent the oncoming disaster.

These problems don’t just come without a source. An adage says ‘’a cube has many faces’’ so do the causes of ozone depletion. The major cause of ozone depletion is Air pollution which leads to greenhouse effects. The result of the penetration of the atmosphere layer by comparatively short-wavelength, solar radiation which is largely absorbed by water vapour, carbon dioxide and dust in the atmosphere, thus warning the atmosphere. The main greenhouse gases are Chlorofluorocarbon(CFCs). Records has it that for the past ninety years, human-induced events have allowed a lot of ozone-depleting substances to escape into the atmosphere and these substances will continue to reside there for many years. This is because they are not washed back in form of rain to the earth as ninety percent are transported into the stratosphere. Everyday more products are produced that contain Chlorofluorocarbons such as air conditioner, refrigerators, cars. In hospitals also, sterilant, industrial solvents contribute to the release of these substances. Not only in industries, mattresses and cushions and home insulators at home also add to these problems. Each year, scientists learn more about the consequences of global warming, and many agree that environmental, economic, and health consequences are likely to occur if current trends continue. Such as Melting glaciers, early snowmelt, and severe droughts will cause more dramatic water shortages and increase the risk of wildfires in the American West, Rising sea levels will lead to coastal flooding on the Eastern Seaboard, especially in Florida, and in other areas such as the Gulf of Mexico, Forests, farms, and cities will face troublesome new pests, heat waves, heavy downpours, and increased flooding. All those factors will damage or destroy agriculture and fisheries. Disruption of habitats such as coral reefs and Alpine meadows could drive many plant and animal species to extinction. Also, allergies, asthma, and infectious disease outbreaks will become more common due to increased growth of pollen-producing ragweed, higher levels of air pollution, and the spread of conditions favourable to pathogens and mosquitoes.

Certainly, there are ways to solve this problem of global warming. These measures will only work out if they are taken seriously by everyone. One of these ways to which global warming can be solved is to place a ban on the use of nitrous oxides and substances which contain chlorofluorocarbons and hydrogen chlorofluorocarbons. The energy you use at home and work contributes to increased levels of carbon dioxide; usually, fossil fuels are burned to produce and transport the energy, releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. By reducing your energy use, you can reduce your personal carbon footprint. You can also upgrade heating and cooling systems and insulate your home properly to make sure your home is not wasting energy. To reduce dependence on fossil fuels, buy green power, which is produced from renewable sources like solar or wind. Another measure to be taken is the utilization of environmentally friendly products. Household cleaning products are loaded with harsh chemicals that are harmful to the environment. The use of natural and environmentally cleaning products should be encouraged to arrest the situation. Furthermore, people should be discouraged from driving private vehicles. These vehicles emit a load of greenhouse which form smog, a combination of ozone with oxides of nitrogen which contributes to the depletion of ozone layer. Therefore, there should be a limit in the number of vehicle on the road to reduce the emission of smog from vehicles. Farmers should also be desisted from using pesticides. It is great to get rid of pests and weeds from your farm but not with pesticides and other harmful chemicals as they contribute to the ozone layer depletion. Sure fire solution should be used instead of pesticides, other natural methods should be introduced such as setting traps to catch rodents, shooting rodents with gun, weeding manually and the use of eco-friendly chemicals to alleviate pests and kill weeds.

In conclusion, global warming being one of the world’s greatest challenge today can be properly cubed with all the possible solutions listed above but these proffered solutions must be taken seriously to put an end to these harmful effects which is a threat to lives.