

CLIMATE CHANGE 101

Panda Ambassador Challenge

November 2019



THE CAUSE: GREENHOUSE GASES

Greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, and chlorofluorocarbons, among others) are currently emitted at unprecedented levels by human activity such as burning fossil fuels. These gases get trapped in Earth's atmosphere and cause warming, otherwise known as the greenhouse gas effect. In 2017, the global carbon dioxide concentration was 146% that of the pre-industrial era (before 1750).

THE EFFECT: A CHANGING CLIMATE

There is resounding scientific consensus that human-induced increases in greenhouse gases are changing our climate. Global average temperatures are rising, extreme weather events including hurricanes and floods are happening more frequently and fervently, arctic ice is melting, and droughts and extreme heat occurrences are becoming more numerous.



CONTRIBUTING SECTORS

Globally, the sectors contributing to greenhouse gas emissions are electricity and heat production, transportation, manufacturing industries and construction, and residential buildings and commercial services. As of 2017, transportation became the primary contributing sector to U.S. greenhouse gas emissions at 29% of total emissions.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Climate change is complicated, cross-sectional, and has scientific, social, political, and economic ties. I encourage you to check out the following resources to learn more about climate change. Then, you can make your voice heard to do your part in creating a world with fewer greenhouse gas emissions!



Questions, comments, or concerns? Reach out to **Jenn Tribble** (either on facebook or by email, jennifertribble@gmail.com)!

CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE *NOVEMBER, WEEK 1*

READ UP

Check out some of the resources provided on the "Climate Change 101" infographic, make an effort to follow climate news, or find the answers to any climate change questions you might have. Find something interesting, scary, or inspiring? Share it with the Panda Ambassadors group!

WATCH A DOCUMENTARY

Grab a blanket, make a cup of tea, and turn on one of the many documentaries focused on climate change. Some recommendations: An Inconvenient Truth, Chasing Coral, Before the Flood, and Ice on Fire. Bonus points if you host a movie night with family or friends!

CALCULATE YOUR FOOTPRINT

If you're curious how your own lifestyle contributes to climate change, take the carbon footprint quiz at carbotax.org. By seeing what parts of your lifestyle contribute the most to greenhouse gas emissions, you can start to make meaningful behavioral changes to lower your carbon footprint.