

WHAT HAPPENS AROUND THE WORLD HAS AN IMPACT ON YOU

Currently 4,000,000,000,000 (four billion) people are vulnerable to the effects of climate change, such as:

- drought and water shortages
- floods and other extreme weather
- crop failures and food insecurity
- reduced agricultural productivity
- loss of low-lying lands and islands
- desertification (the gradual transformation of habitable land into desert)
- loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- spread of diseases, such as malaria



These effects on people and environments around the world mean that everyday products you enjoy could be in short supply, or increase dramatically in cost.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO ACHIEVE?

In order to protect people, our world and its natural resources to sustain life on Earth, we need:

- increased availability and use of renewable energy resources
- reduced waste and pollution
- responsible and sustainable consumption
- integrated water resource management
- sustainable fisheries
- restoration of degraded land
- sustainable forest management
- sustainable agricultural development





WHO'S IN CHARGE?

INDIVIDUALS

Every single person on this planet has a carbon footprint. This means that every individual has a responsibility to reduce their own impact on our climate. In democratic countries, people also choose their governments.

BUSINESSES

Business activity is a major cause of greenhouse gas emissions. Every business needs to reduce their emissions.

COUNCILS

Local councils are responsible for providing local services and facilities that could affect the environment. Your elected representatives or councillors represent you at a local level.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (MP) / ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE

Individual elected to represent your interests and concerns at a national and UK level eg at the House of Commons in Westminster, in the Scottish Parliament or the National Assembly for Wales. MPs/elected representatives consider and can propose new laws as well as raising issues that matter to you in Parliament.

In Wales, there are also Members of the National Assembly for Wales, which sits in Cardiff.

In Scotland, there are also Members of the Scottish Parliament, which sits in Edinburgh.

DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

The UK Government department responsible for tackling climate change.

In Scotland, the Scottish Government Department for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform is responsible.

In Wales, the Welsh Government Department for Environment and Rural Affairs is also responsible.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

This person is responsible for making a plan for the UK to meet its emissions reduction targets.

In Scotland, the person responsible is the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform.

In Wales, the person responsible is the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs.

UK GOVERNMENT

Responsible for cutting emissions in line with UN agreements and according to the Climate Change Act which is part of UK law.

In Scotland, the Scottish Government is responsible and there is a separate Climate Change (Scotland) Act.

In Wales, the Welsh Government is also responsible and there is separate climate change legislation.

UK PRIME MINISTER

Head of the government, ultimately responsible for making sure the UK meets emissions reduction targets.

In Scotland, the First Minister is the head of the Scottish Government, responsible for meeting Scottish targets.

In Wales, the First Minister is the head of the Welsh Government, responsible for meeting Welsh targets.

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

Responsible for convening all the countries of the world to coordinate the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Responsible for delivering successful negotiations on climate change action between all countries at the UN.