

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed judges, and fellow debaters,
Today, we gather to discuss the pressing issue of environmental sustainability, a topic that can no longer be ignored. Let us examine the facts and analyze the impact of our current practices on the environment. First, consider the data on carbon emissions. According to the Global Carbon Project, in 2022, global carbon dioxide emissions reached a record high of 36.8 billion metric tons. This increase contributes significantly to the greenhouse effect, raising global temperatures and resulting in severe climate disruptions.

Now, let's turn our attention to deforestation. The World Resources Institute reports that in 2021 alone, the world lost 4.2 million hectares of tropical primary rainforests, equivalent to losing ten football fields per minute. This deforestation not only accelerates climate change but also threatens biodiversity, with countless species facing extinction. Furthermore, oceans are not spared. The United Nations estimates that over 8 million metric tons of plastic waste end up in oceans annually. This pollution disrupts marine ecosystems, affecting the food chain and the livelihood of communities dependent on fishing.

In conclusion, these facts highlight a clear and urgent need for change. It is essential for us to transition to renewable energy sources, adopt sustainable agriculture practices, and enforce stricter regulations on deforestation and waste management. By collectively addressing these issues, we can pave the way for a more sustainable and healthier planet. Thank you.