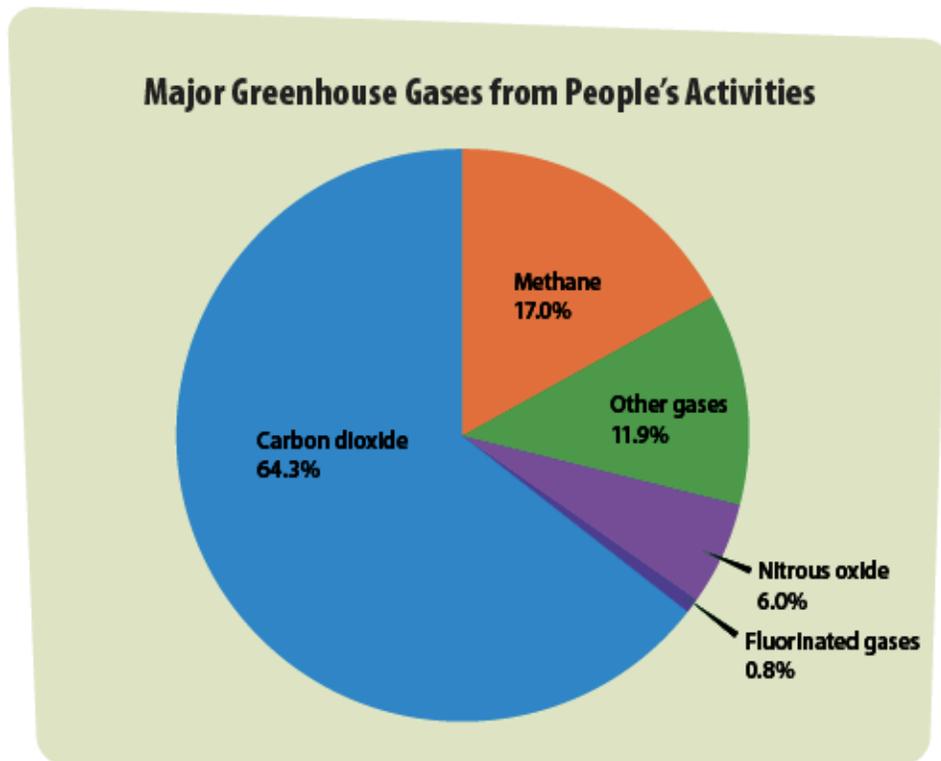


Article Climate Change

Have you ever wondered why people are so concerned about Climate Change? The temperature increases a little, there might be a little more rain, or in some places, less rain. Not that serious, right? Well, it might not be too critical today, but it will impact our future greatly if we do not act now. Some say that by 2030 it will be irreversible and the temperature will keep rising forever (until the next ice age). If Antarctica melts, the sea level globally will rise 61 meters. Food prices may rise by 50-60% by 2030. Polar bears may become extinct by 2050. We need to stop these things from happening, but how? In this article, I will talk about Climate Change, but I will mostly focus on endangered animals due to Climate Change.

Climate Change is the change of global or regional climate patterns. It causes Global Warming, which makes the Earth hotter. It has risen 0.8 degrees Celsius in the last century, and is projected to rise another 0.2-4.7 in the next one. Climate Change has a big effect on our lives, and the lives of all living things. Ice caps are melting, destroying Arctic animal habitats and rising the sea levels, which flood cities and lands. There are more natural disasters recorded, such as hurricanes and tsunamis. These have a terrible impact on our lives and homes. More insects appear with the rising temperatures, and many of these carry deadly diseases like malaria. Why is all of this happening?

The main reason is because of Greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases consist of 64% Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), 17% Methane (a mix of carbon and hydrogen, CH₄), 6% Nitrous Oxide (N₂O), 1% fluorinated gases, and 12% other gases. They can be imagined as a blanket over the Earth, trapping the sun's heat inside.



They are emitted into the air in many ways. One is through transportation like cars, some boats, planes, and more. Other ways they can be emitted is through electricity, like heating, lights, and everyday machines like a blender, for example.

So, how can we stop this climate disaster? Since a lot of it is based off Carbon emissions, you can use your car less, and ride a bicycle to nearby places, or walk or take the bus. You can also buy food from a local farmer's market so the food does not have to be transported a long way and create emissions. The most important thing is to spread awareness. This will get lots of people to work together and make a bigger change.

My subtopic is about animals.

There are many endangered animals because of Climate Change. I will talk about two that live in some parts of Slovenia, and two that are endangered but are not in Slovenia.

Mediterranean Horseshoe Bat



The Mediterranean Horseshoe bat is just one of over 10,000 endangered species because of Climate Change. It lives in Southern Europe, North Africa, and parts of the Middle East. It is endangered because more insects are coming out because of the elevated temperatures, and farmers must use more insecticide to keep them away. Insects are cold blooded, so their body temperature changes based on their surrounding temperature. In warmer weather, they are more active. Insecticide contains many chemicals poisonous to these bats such as Nicotine, Naphthalene, and Methyl Bromide.

Eurasian Otter

The Eurasian otter lives all over Europe, North Africa, in southern Russia and China, and other parts of Asia. It is endangered because of poaching for their pelts (it is prized for its softness and warmth) and acidification of their rivers, which threatens their prey (mostly fish, shellfish, and crabs). People are also cutting down trees and vegetation of their river banks that decrease their living space.



Here are some animals living all over the world:

Polar Bears

Polar Bears are one of the most endangered species. They may go extinct at the year 2050. Their ice caps are melting, which causes them to lose their habitat. They are also losing their most common prey: the ringed seal. It is the next most endangered animal. They also eat berries, reindeer, fish, shellfish, and even human garbage. Their biggest threat is humans. We need to act for them soon.



These animals live in the Arctic: Northern Russia, Canada, Alaska, and Greenland. They do not live in Antarctica.

Solving Climate Change in general is the best we can do for Polar Bears. They need our help.

Monarch Butterfly

Monarch butterflies are extremely sensitive to changes in temperature, which is why they are endangered because of Climate Change. They live across the United States, Mexico, Northern South America, and Eastern Australia and New Zealand. They are endangered because of the endangered plant: Milkweed. Milkweed is the plant they depend on most. Planting milkweed can help them.



Monarch butterfly on a milkweed plant

In conclusion, it is crucial that we all work together to stop Climate Change, for our own sake and for the sake of animals and plants. I hope for a better future of our planet with more life and less pollution. I also hope you learned from my article and you have a better understanding of what Climate Change is and its importance to stop it.

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