

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Quinn [REDACTED]; I am eleven years old and I live in Vermont. I am writing this today because climate change is out there, and nowhere near enough people are acting against it. So I figured I should do my part in acting against climate change by raising awareness. So here goes. . . .

These are some of the main effects climate change has on our earth: there will be increased probability of droughts, storms and heat waves. Rising sea levels, melting glaciers, and warming oceans all hurt animals in many, many different ways. Warming oceans cause coral bleaching, and the loss of breeding grounds for marine fish and mammals. According to the IUCN, this is because the ocean absorbs most of the excess heat that comes from greenhouse gas emissions – which, to quote the US EPA, “Human activities are responsible for almost all of the increase in greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere over the last 150 years.”

Now, I want you to imagine you are an innocent little sea turtle living your life in the ocean and on the beach. Now that you have that idea in your head imagine this: according to NASA, global climate change is exposing you to greater risks than you’ve ever faced before. Sea levels are rising, as well as stronger storms that are eroding away your beach habitat. As oceans warm currents change, possibly bringing in new predators to you and the coral reef habitat you might need to survive. These types of things are happening to sea creatures all over the world.

Droughts, and heat waves are threats just like rising sea levels and warming oceans. Warmer temperatures speed up evaporation of surface water, and soil and vegetation dry up. Warmer temps also mean less snow and snow is a reflective surface. When there is less snow, the surface of the Earth absorbs more heat which adds to the problem. When places experience droughts it threatens people’s water supply and our ability to grow food and other plants. Without plants, more carbon dioxide goes into the atmosphere and climate change gets worse rather than better.

In this coming paragraph I am going to inform you about how, like it or not, we are all polluting this earth. According to the United Nations, humans contribute to climate change by: “Generating electricity and heat by burning fossil fuels.” Using transportation is also a problem. “Most cars, trucks, ships and planes run on fossil fuels. That makes transportation a major contributor to greenhouse gasses, especially carbon dioxide.” Consuming too much also contributes. “Your home and use of power, how you move around, what you eat, and how much you throw away all contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.” These are only a couple of the many, many ways humans contribute to climate change.

From the UN Act Now, you can do so many little things to help with the problem. You can try to save energy at home by switching to energy efficient electrical appliances, washing your laundry with cold water, or even just telling your parents about it! Walk, bike, and take public

transportation whenever you can, because the world's roadways are continuously clogged with vehicles, most of them burning diesel or gasoline. This is sometimes impossible to do, but when you can, every little step counts. And even just eating more vegetables helps...not kidding, eating more vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and eating less meat and dairy can significantly lower your environmental impact.

We humans can choose to make or break this great earth  
Humans can choose to help or hurt this earth

We can value and cherish our earth  
We can hold it above our heads  
We can come together over this great world

This earth gives us life  
Earth provides us with ground to put our feet on  
Earth has done nothing but give

It is time we do something other than take  
It is time we hold this world up like it has done so many times for us  
It is time we build up our earth  
Time to cherish and value earth because that is what this world has done for us time after

time

So raise awareness, tell people, do every little thing you can

Sincerely,

Quinn 