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# CLIMATE ACTION: WHY IT MATTERS

## What's the goal here?

Taking urgent action to tackle climate change and its impacts.

## Why?

Climate change is caused by human activities and is threatening the way we live and the future of our planet. By addressing climate change, we can build a sustainable world for everyone. But we need to act now.

## Are people's lives really being affected by climate change?

Yes. Severe weather and rising sea levels are affecting people and their property in developed and developing countries. From a small farmer in the Philippines to a businessman in London, climate change is affecting everyone, especially the poor and vulnerable, as well as marginalized groups like women, children, and the elderly.

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**\$6 billion**  
USD investment  
in disaster risk  
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**billion USD**

## What happens if we don't take action?

If left unchecked, climate change will undo a lot of the progress made over the past years in development. It can also exacerbate, as we are already seeing, current threats such as food and water scarcity, which can lead to conflict.

Doing nothing will end up costing us a lot more than if we take actions now that will lead to more jobs, greater prosperity, and better lives for all while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building climate resilience.

## Can we solve this problem or is it too late to act?

We can definitely address climate change, but we have to vastly increase our efforts. The world must transform its energy, industry, transport, food, agriculture and forestry systems to ensure that we can limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees, maybe even 1.5. We also need to anticipate, adapt and become resilient to the current and future impacts of climate change.

In December 2015, the world took a significant first step by adopting the Paris Agreement, in which all countries committed to take action to address climate change. Many businesses and investors are also committing themselves to lower their emissions through the Climate Action Agenda—an effort born at the 2014 Climate Summit in New York to bring governments, businesses and civil society together to embark on new initiatives that promote climate action.

## How much would it cost to solve this problem?

The way to think about it is not in terms of how expensive it will be, but how much we need to invest and what investment opportunities there are to address climate change. In total, public- and private-sector investment in clean energy needs to reach at least US\$1 trillion per year by 2030, and more to build climate resilience.

This sounds like a lot, but consider that of the US\$1.6 trillion invested in the global energy supply in 2013, nearly 70% was related to fossil fuels. What's more is that the estimated costs of mitigation do not account for the benefits of reduced climate change. Investments of only \$6 billion disaster risk reduction over the next 15 years would result in total benefits of the \$360 billion in terms of avoided losses over the lifetime of the investment.

By acting now, we save lives, money, and avoid setbacks in the progress we have achieved to date.

## What can I do to help achieve this goal?

There are many things that each of us can do as individuals. To find out what you can do, go to:

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/takeaction/>



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD**