

## ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

Ecology is a very popular word today. It is a science which studies the relationship between all forms of life on our planet and the environment. For thousands of years people exploited the nature thoughtlessly thinking that its resources had no end or limit. With the industrial revolution our negative influence on nature increased. Modern ecology has to deal with environmental problems caused by human activities. People have always affected the natural environment. But the population growth along with the industrial world economy during the last two centuries has increased the magnitude, complexity and rate of these modifications. Today environment is not just modified by human action: it is radically transformed. Humankind is entering a new era in its evolution characterized by a new relationship with nature. The protection of our environment is a matter of survival of mankind of Earth. Pollution is generally connected with air, water and soil.

Air pollution is firstly connected with energy production. The biggest pollutions on our planet are the result of fossil fuels use. Modern society is simply unthinkable without gasoline, oil, and coal, as they are dominating industrial world. About 90 percent of the energy we use today comes from fossil fuel a few percent from nuclear fuel and about five percent from hydro resources. At the same time, the energy problem may still create serious difficulties and may even set limits to the development of mankind. It's not a shortage of energy but its excessive consumption that might lead to such a situation. The widespread use of cars has also led to environmental problems. Vehicles are major sources of air pollution. They make our towns and cities dirtier, noisier and more dangerous places to live. Gasoline and diesel fuels are distilled at huge refineries, which produce both toxic waste and toxic air emissions.

Everything that finds its way into stream finds its way sooner or later into rivers. Everything found in river water ultimately reaches the oceans. Into their waters we dump rubbish and pour polluted water. With complete indifference to the damage done, perhaps because it cannot be seen, we disturb the sea with our mining activities and discharge of the materials too dangerous for us to keep on land. But there are some waste products of man's activity, which influence the balance of the ocean. With the growing population we overfish the oceans and that leads to endangering of some species.

No doubt that current condition of our planet definitely belongs under "global ecological crisis" category. We made tremendous environmental mess over the years, and as always things need to become critical before we start fixing them. By helping our planet we are helping ourselves because the Earth is still our only home. Here are the few actions that can help us to protect nature environment:

1. to reduce world consumption of fossil fuels

2. to reduce and clean up all sorts of pollution (air, sea, river...) with future goal of zero pollution
3. emphasis on clean, alternative energy sources that have low carbon emissions
4. sustainable use of water, land, and other scarce resources
5. preservation of existing endangered species.