

Text A Global warming Unit 4 GLOBAL WARMING

Climate change and especially global warming has become the overriding environmental concern since the 1990s. Most discussions about the environment end up pointing out that, despite all other indicators that may show us doing better and better, we still have to change our current lifestyle dramatically because our way of life is now changing the climate and causing global warming.

The consequence is that we must change our industrial ways. Worldwatch Institute tells us that “the only feasible alternative is a solar/hydrogen-based economy.” Greenpeace equivalently tells us that although we may have lost of oil, global warming prevents us from using it – “we are in a second world oil crisis. But in the 1970s the problem was a shortage of oil. This time round the problem is that we have too much.” The only solution is choosing “a fundamentally new energy direction based on clean renewable energy, like wind or solar power.”

In this way, climate change has become the environmental trump card - possibly we are not running out of raw materials, possibly we are actually doing better and better on almost any objective indicator, but if global warming demands a change, all other arguments will be of lesser import. Worldwatch Institute actually envisions how in the twenty-first century “the climate battle may assume the kind of strategic importance that wars - both hot and cold - have had during” the twentieth century. Backed up by a number of leading scientists writing in *Nature*, Worldwach Institute asserts that to develop the necessary technologies to combat climate change will require a monumental research effort, conducted with the urgency of the Manhattan Project or the Apollo space program.

These drastic efforts are justified by a general understanding of the severe consequences of global warming. In many people’s view, climate change is linked to drastic increases in temperature and catastrophic climatic shifts. We fear that global warming could result in the destruction of our ecosystems, widespread famine, more and more powerful hurricanes, the melting of the ice caps and the oceans flooding the Maldives, Bangladesh and other low-lying areas on Earth.

This is no wonder, given the constant media barrage of possible greenhouse related catastrophes. Almost any weather event is now linked to climate change. In Leonardo DiCaprio’s March 2000 interview of the President, Clinton told that if we do not change our ways, what will happen is,

“ the polar ice caps will melt more rapidly; sea levels will rise; you will have the danger of flooding the sugarcane fields of Louisiana ; island nations could literally be buried. The whole climate of the United States, for example, could be

changed where you would have more flooding, more heat waves, more storms, more extreme weather events generally”.

VOCABULARY:

Overriding	Важнейший	To assert	Утверждать
Concern	Забота	To conduct	Проводить
Feasible	Реальный	Urgency	Безотлагательность
Equivalently	То же самое	Drastic	Решительный
Shortage	Недостаток, дефицит	Widespread	Широко распространенный
Trump card	Козырная карта	Shift	Изменения
Objective	Цель	Famine	Голод
Indicator	Индикатор	Hurricane	Ураган
To envision	Предвидеть	To assume	Принимать форму
Barrage	Заграждение, плотина	Sugarcane	Сахарный тростник
Literally	Без преувеличения	To bury	Хоронить

EXERCISE 1

Ответьте на вопросы: 1. When has the climate change become the environmental concern? 2. What do we have to change in order to avoid global warming? 3. What must future energy direction be based on? 4. Is the problem of global warming explained by shortage of oil? 5. Does the climate battle assume the kind of war? 6. What is important to develop the necessary technologies to combat climate? 7. What is climate change linked to from the point of many people's view? 8. What are the real consequences of global warming?

EXERCISE 2

Найдите эквиваленты: важнейшая проблема экологии, приводить к указанию, жить все лучше и лучше, стиль жизни, пути развития производства, основанная на гидроисточниках энергии экономика, иметь расход энергии, находиться в условиях второго мирового кризиса потребления нефти, дефицит нефти, основное направление энергетики, израсходовать, практически по любому объективному показателю, иметь

меньшее значение, обрести стратегическое значение, всеобъемлющие усилия по исследованию, жестокие последствия, с точки зрения многих людей.

EXERCISE 3

Расставьте в правильном порядке названия абзацев:

- Our fears about global warming
- A new energy direction
- Our lifestyle threatens the climate
- Third world war

EXERCISE 4

Выделите в каждом абзаце предложение, наиболее полно отражающее основное содержание абзаца.

EXERCISE 5

Составьте фразы, соответствующие содержанию текста:

1. Climate change and especially global warming has become the overriding environmental concern since	the 1990s.
	the 1980s.
	the 1960s.

2. The only solution of avoiding climate change is choosing	a fundamentally new energy direction.
	a new life style.
	a new methods of oil combustion.

3. To develop the necessary technologies to combat climate change will require	a monumental research effort.
	a new way of life.
	a new technologies.

4. In many people's view, climate change is linked to	drastic increases in temperature.
	to new technologies.
	to new climate.