

Environment

The Impact of Global Warming

Q1. How should we balance economic growth and environmental protection?

A1. In the short run, neglecting environmental protection may allow for rapid economic development. In the long run, however, the consequences of abusing the environment will come back to haunt us. For example, Japan dealt poorly with environmental issues in the 50s and 60s. Consequently, Japan still faces lawsuits from the victims of environmental tragedies. Therefore, for our future generations, we must put a greater emphasis on environmental protection.

Q2. What can individuals do to help prevent the further spread of global warming?

A2. In everyday life we should make efforts to save energy. For example, changing incandescent light bulbs to fluorescent ones can save a great deal of energy. In addition, using public transportation instead of a car is an effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These are simple things, but if everyone acts, we can stop global warming.

What are the main environmental concerns facing the world today?

Q1. What can we do to prevent air pollution?

A1. Most cars and factories in developed countries are environmentally friendly. The demand for hybrid cars in Japan is sky-rocketing, but the majority of cars and factories in developing countries are not green. We must deal with air pollution not only on a domestic level but also on a global level. Companies in developed countries must strive to create an affordable, yet environmentally friendly product.

Q2. What is Japan's international role in environmental protection?

A2. Japan, with its technology and knowledge, should provide training to other countries that are struggling with environmental issues. Financial aid is useless after it runs out, but practical training will have a permanent effect. For example, Japan has taught people struggling with famine how to grow crops effectively. Instead of providing direct food aid, this method will allow for sustainable growth.