

The Fight to Save Our Planet

The world we live in is constantly changing. We have experienced pandemics, political turmoil, and we continue to see changes in our environment as we face the issues brought by global warming and climate change.

Global warming is an issue people have been experiencing for years. Rising temperatures are warming the ocean waters which has led to a variety of environmental issues including an increase of harmful algal blooms, or red tide.

“Harmful algal blooms can release toxins that are dangerous for marine life and humans,” marine biologist, [REDACTED], said. “This impacts tourism in coastal communities and local fish markets. Fishermen and businesses that catch fish in the affected waters during harmful algal blooms cannot sell their catch, as ingesting contaminated marine life can cause sickness.”

[REDACTED], a former marine biologist and scientific diver for the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration’s fish ecology research lab, explains how coral bleaching continues to affect marine wildlife.

“With disease wiping out what little healthy coral colonies we had left, with 80 percent of corals at any given site being infected by these pathogens,” [REDACTED], said. “Fish species I was used to diving with are hard to find. It sucked. And it hurts a lot.”

Living in South Florida gives us a front row seat to the negative impacts of global warming. However, these issues affect everyone in any geographic location. These signs can be seen in flooding and changes in weather patterns across the globe.

“More moisture in our atmosphere creates more hurricanes lingering and being carried up north,” [REDACTED], said.

A solution is possible if we work together.

“We need to keep the global temperature from increasing to 1.5C if we’re going to be able to flip the canoe and cut our emissions by 50 percent in the next 10 years,” [REDACTED], said.

Graduate student in marine science and oceanography, [REDACTED] explains that education is part of the solution.

“I would suggest people who don't know much about the topic of climate change to look into it on their own time and educate themselves with reliable resources and not just through word of mouth or televised material,” [REDACTED] said.

Everyone is part of the solution. Being conscious of the companies you purchase from is important as these corporations are a main part of the problem.

“If you do not pay into these huge large manufacturers wasting millions of tons of water to create plastic products, they will be forced to make less,” [REDACTED] said. “Use your choices wisely and you can literally change the world!”

“We still have time, and we can bounce back if we are all in this together,” [REDACTED] said.

Just like we were able to overcome the pandemic, educating yourself and others about ways to help our environment can save our planet.