



YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN CHARGE
FOUNDATION, INC.

Junior Editor's Report

Climate Change

By Dayanis Morales-Salgado – Norristown Chapter



Climate change, who is most affected? Well, to begin with, everything and everyone is connected in a way; so if something is affected, something else will be, too. It's a never ending cycle that can only be changed with great effort. Throughout history, climate change has become a serious problem that affects our planet; and in return, affects the way we live. Even if one person decides to speak up or start a movement, it will be challenging because many people don't see the importance of decreasing climate change for a better future. In conclusion, climate change affects everything because it's a universal issue.

Let's say, however, that someone does get the support to raise awareness on climate change; it will still take time for climate change to end because it takes time for a planet to react. Thus, we will need to be patient and persistent. Data shows that since 1993 the rate of the rising of sea levels has doubled. According to the World Meteorological Organization (public.wmo.int) it rained in the Greenland ice sheet rather than snow for the first time ever in September, 2021, and it lost mass for the 26th consecutive year. They also state that the estimated average global temperature of 2022 was to be about 1.15 (1.02-1.28) °C which is above the average temperatures of the 1850-1900. Since November of 1999, Oceania, which is comprised of thousands of islands in Central and Southern Pacific Ocean, has had cooler-than-average temperatures at 0.65 °C. For South Americans, it was the fourth warmest July on record; and for Asia, it was the third warmest July. With everything that happened in 2022, it is predicted that 2023 will have the hottest temperatures on record.

In addition, the atmospheric levels of nitrogen, oxygen, and argon continued to increase in 2022 and are predicted to continue in 2023. It is estimated that for the year 2023, dumpsites will be accountable for 5-10% of global anthropogenic emissions by 2025 because the decomposition of organic waste produces methane gas. Methane gas is considered to be one of the largest contributors to global warming.

There are so many effects occurring on our planet as a result of climate change, such as: wildfires, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, high temperatures, just to name a few. Undoubtedly, if we don't do something about it now while we have time, then it will be too late. The world we have now should be treasured for future generations and appreciated because it provides us with everything we need to survive. We humans make living on the Earth difficult. We should learn from past mistakes and acknowledge we are part of the problem, and we need to change. Something can only change when more than one mind changes.