

Are you ready to bust some of the biggest climate change myths? These myths are believed by so many people that you might surprise your friends and family when you share your newfound knowledge!



1

**Myth:** Climate change is natural. The weather is always changing!

**Fact:** Did you know that the Earth is over 4.5 billion years old? It's true! And the climate has changed a lot during that time. The big changes we're seeing now (like more heat waves, heavy rainfall, and other wacky weather) are unusual because they can't be explained by Earth's natural warming and cooling cycles. The increases in temperature that our parents and grandparents have seen during their lives would usually happen over thousands of years.



2

**Myth:** Scientists can't agree on what causes climate change.

**Fact:** Actually, between 90%-100% of scientists agree about what causes climate change: humans. The good news is that if humans have caused climate change, we can help stop it, too!



3

**Myth:** If the world warms up a couple of degrees it's no big deal.

**Fact:** If the temperature goes up one degree, it might seem like a tiny change, but it can affect ecosystems in a BIG way. You might already know that climate change is making floods worse in some areas and causing droughts and wildfires in others. But did you know that in North America, it's also affecting forests with trees like the sugar maple? Sugar maples make sap that we use for maple syrup. To do this, the trees need to go through freeze-thaw cycles. If the temperature is too warm, the sugar maple won't go through enough cycles and will make less sap. Higher temperatures can also make the trees feel stressed. A stressed-out tree is more likely to get a disease or be invaded by pests. These problems don't just affect the trees, but also the wildlife and people who rely on them.



4

**Myth:** It still gets freezing cold, so climate change can't be that serious!

**Fact:** We know that Earth's overall temperature is going up. That doesn't mean we won't have cold weather. Climate change means that Earth's natural climate systems are not in balance. This can cause extreme weather events – even extreme cold.



5

**Myth:** Wildfires and climate change are not connected.

**Fact:** Climate change leads to more extreme weather events, including heat waves and droughts. When there is a heat wave or drought, the land and forests get very dry, increasing the chance of forest fires and allowing them to spread further and faster. So, fighting climate change means helping to fight forest fires!

**6**


**Myth:** If we just plant more trees we can solve climate change.

**Fact:** Trees do a lot of good. In fact, did you know that they can store greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change? The thing is, trees have a limit - they can only store so much. Planting new trees can help suck up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere but this won't fix our climate, so let's focus on reducing emissions too!

**7**


**Myth:** Using green energy is just as bad for the environment as burning fossil fuels.

**Fact:** Things like wind turbines, solar panels, electric vehicles, or battery storage are known as green sources of energy. They need certain minerals and metals to work. Getting these metals and minerals produces air pollution called emissions. The good thing is that these emissions are lower than fossil fuel emissions. Over an electric vehicle's lifetime, it makes about half the carbon emissions of an average car!

**8**


**Myth:** Solar panels only work when it's sunny so they aren't practical.

**Fact:** Clever scientists and engineers have figured out how to store electricity from solar panels and wind turbines. That means electronics and lights stay on, even if it's a cloudy day! Places like Scotland and South Australia get ALL their electricity from solar and wind energy. Renewable energy is awesome – and reliable!

**9**


**Myth:** Only big cities with lots of people are affected by climate change because they have the highest pollution and emissions.

**Fact:** Everywhere on Earth is affected by climate change. It doesn't matter if you live in the country, in the city or even the Arctic! The weather systems of the world are all connected. That means that the effects of greenhouse gases are felt around the globe. Climate change might not look the same everywhere, but no matter where you live, you can be part of the solution!

**10**


**Myth:** My small actions won't make a difference.

**Fact:** Everyone's actions are important. If millions of people make small changes, the impact could be huge! When you switch to more climate-friendly habits, like turning off lights and composting, you're setting a great example for those around you. When we all work together, we can limit the effects of climate change. Remember: your actions matter!

**Sources:**

<sup>1</sup> [Here are 10 myths about climate change](#), WWF

<sup>2</sup> [Myth Busters](#), United Nations

<sup>3</sup> [Debunking eight common myths about climate change](#), UNEP

<sup>4</sup> [Climate Change Impacts on Agriculture and Food Supply](#), US EPA