

READING EAGLE

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GLOBAL WARMING: Serious problem or minor concern?

By Chris Bucks
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In the State of Our Nation's Youth survey, the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans Inc. surveyed the youth of America about several important issues including global warming.

Global warming is an increase in temperature by a few degrees throughout the world. It is caused by an increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere which absorb more of the sun's rays and causes the earth to warm up. Many believe the slight change in the temperature worldwide causes catastrophic change. Icecaps melt, which causes the sea level to rise and currents to change. The ocean current fluctuations cause the weather pattern to change for the worse. Although some people discard global warming as a minor problem, a majority of people insist that it is real and needs to be taken care of.

Seventy-two percent of the teens surveyed say that global warming is an urgent or serious problem. Only five percent of teens surveyed felt that global warming is not a serious problem. It's also interesting to note that more high school girls see global warming as an urgent or serious problem than do high school boys. Recent changes worldwide have startled many people. The icecaps have melted dramatically and weather patterns have changed.

Sean Moran, a sophomore at Tulpehocken High School said, "In my opinion, although global warming may be a natural process, humankind has definitely affected global temperature levels through the burning of fossil fuels."

Sage Bowman, a sophomore at

Tulpehocken High School, shared a similar opinion with Sean on the topic of global warming.

When asked what needs to be done in order to stop and reverse global warming, Sean said, "The burning of fossil fuels must be reduced. Also, we must invest in not only alternative energy production methods such as wind and solar power, but also in technologies like vanadium redox flow batteries, which would help to make alternative energy a usable source of power on a large scale."

Many people argue that global warming is a natural cycle of the earth. They feel that the earth's temperature fluctuates from cold to warm periods on its own and human interference has very little to no effect on it.

A student who wished to stay anonymous said, "Global warming is just part of a natural cycle and any efforts made to change it are useless."

Although no one knows for sure if global warming is a serious problem caused by humans or a natural cycle, a majority of students feel it is a serious problem that needs to be taken care of. Whether it's for us or for future generations, actions need to be taken to stop global warming before it becomes serious and irreversible.

(Chris Bucks is a sophomore at Tulpehocken High School.)

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