

## 3.3 The environment

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### TRANSPORT & CLIMATE

- increased burning of fossil fuels through cheap flights and extensive use of cars
- **solutions:** improved train infrastructure to discourage short flights; more use of video for business; improvement of public transport; increase in hybrid vehicles

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### GLOBAL WARMING

- burning of fossil fuels → rising temperatures → heatwaves + wildfires  
→ rising sea levels + flooding
- reduction in clean water availability
- destruction of delicate ecosystems; famine when less crops can be grown

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### OFFICIAL SOLUTIONS

- international agreements: essential for tackling climate change → wealthy countries must support poor nations
- 2005 Kyoto Protocol: emissions targets were not reached → in rich countries, profits come first
- 2023 COP28: agreement to phase out fossil fuels

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### RENEWABLE ENERGY

- wind farms; solar power = sun;  
hydropower = water;  
biomass = burning of organic matter;  
biofuel = product of biomass → solid, liquid or gas, e.g. sugarcane alcohol  
geothermal energy = heat from beneath the Earth's surface

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### FOOD MILES

- wide range of food travels long distances to reach end consumers  
→ negative impact on environment
- benefits of buying local produce: seasonal fruit & vegetables; animals kept in healthy conditions

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### CLIMATE ACTIVISM

- **Fridays for Future:** strikes by schoolchildren demanding government action
- **Extinction Rebellion:** occupation of well-known places
- **Last Generation:** blockades and vandalism  
→ "climate terrorism"
- **Just Stop Oil:** campaign to end use of fossil fuels

### IMPORTANT VOCABULARY

carbon footprint  
fertiliser  
fossil fuels

CO<sub>2</sub>-Fußabdruck  
Düngemittel  
fossile Brennstoffe

freight  
greenhouse gases  
to offset

Fracht  
Treibhausgase  
etwas ausgleichen

sustainable  
tipping point

nachhaltig  
Wendepunkt