



# Climate Change: What can you do?

by Pedro Brace, [simplerevolution.org](http://simplerevolution.org)

**We need to act fast to prevent runaway climate change**

We have very little time to prevent uncontrollable global warming.

We need to do **everything** we can to limit warming.

Our children and grandchildren will be asking "**What did you do to try to prevent this?**"

**Education** Most people are still in denial about how catastrophic and imminent climate change is.  
**Educate yourself on climate change and educate others.**  
It may feel as though you are talking to a brick wall, but often the influence you have is subtle; planting a seed.

**Lobbying Leaders** No government is going to impose the necessary changes to prevent climate change until its voters are ready.  
We can still **encourage them to do more** and vote for the candidates who promise to do the most to prevent climate change.

**Any government ignoring climate change and peak oil is leading us deeper into economic crisis.**

## The Simple Revolution: Personal responsibility

**It's simple: we just need to stop consuming excessively.** Most people make excuses, because they fear the required changes to their lives, even though a simple life is often a happier one - it certainly is in my case.

Here are some of the **most common excuses** people make to themselves to avoid change:

Denial	"It's sunspots..."	97% of climate scientists accept that <b>human caused climate change is taking place.</b>
	"It won't be that bad..."	At the rate we are going, we will have famine within 30 years and could see <b>widespread extinction by the end of the century</b> - perhaps including humans.
Bargaining	"I do my bit: I recycle..."	We need to cut our emissions from 15 tonnes to below 2 tonnes. This requires much <b>more significant changes than recycling and lightbulbs.</b>
	"Technology will save us..."	<b>It is too late for technology.</b> Despite ten years of growth in renewables, they are still a small minority. We don't have time to wait for technology - it can help, but it is not the solution.
	"We need legislation..."	<b>Legislation is ineffective</b> if people are unwilling to change
	"It's not fair: I won't be the only one to change..."	Some of us <i>have</i> changed already. <b>It is unfair that you have not changed</b> - unfair on us and unfair on your children.
Depression	"It's too late. Let's not bother..."	Maybe it is too late to avoid uncontrollable global warming, but we can at least try to slow it down and <b>give our children a chance.</b>
	"China..."	Much of China's emissions are caused by our consumption. <b>People in the "developing" world look to consumerist nations as an example.</b> China shows more hope of curbing emissions than we do.
	"One person can't make a difference..."	We can have far more influence than most people believe.

You **can** make a difference

**Acceptance** By changing ourselves, we create examples to others of how **we can consume less, yet have happier lives.** Through our actions, we can influence millions of people. Take-up of new ideas tends to be slow to start with, but once a relatively small group does change (~10%), take-up becomes far more rapid. Whilst guilt is a poor motivational tool, shame is very effective - as more and more people change, those who haven't changed will feel ashamed of their emissions and will change. Whether you can make a difference or not, you have a moral responsibility to not contribute to climate change

**Are you part of the problem, or part of the solution?**