

Environment Climate Change



Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges facing the world today. In 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the issue of climate change continued to be at the forefront of the global agenda. The year saw a number of significant developments in the area of climate policy, as well as the ongoing impacts of climate change on the environment and human societies. This report will provide an overview of the key events and trends related to climate change in 2020.

Climate Change Science

In 2020, the scientific consensus on climate change continued to strengthen. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report on the state of the climate in 2020, which confirmed that the world is on track to exceed the 1.5°C warming

limit set out in the Paris Agreement. The report found that 2020 was one of the three warmest years on record, and that the trend of rising temperatures is likely to continue.

The report also highlighted the impacts of climate change on the environment, including sea level rise, ocean acidification, and extreme weather events. These impacts have significant consequences for ecosystems, food security, and human health and well-being.

Climate Policy

Despite the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 saw a number of significant developments in climate policy. In January, the European Union (EU) announced its Green Deal, a comprehensive plan to make the EU carbon-neutral by 2050. The plan includes a range of measures, such as increasing renewable energy production, improving energy efficiency, and promoting sustainable transport.

In September, China announced that it would aim to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. This is a significant development, given that China is the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gasses. The announcement was followed by similar commitments from other countries, including Japan and South Korea.

The United States, under the new administration of President Joe Biden, also took significant steps to re-engage with the international community on climate change. In February, the US re-joined the Paris Agreement, which it had withdrawn from under the previous administration. The US also announced its own ambitious climate targets, including a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

Renewable Energy

2020 saw continued growth in renewable energy production, despite the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), renewable energy sources accounted for almost 90% of new power capacity installed globally in 2020. This is a significant increase from previous years, and reflects the growing competitiveness of renewable energy technologies.

Solar and wind power were the main drivers of growth in renewable energy production. The cost of these technologies continued to fall, making them increasingly attractive to investors and governments. The IEA also noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had

highlighted the resilience of renewable energy systems, as they were less affected by supply chain disruptions and market volatility than traditional energy sources.

Natural Disasters

2020 saw a number of natural disasters that were linked to climate change. These included record-breaking wildfires in Australia and the western United States, as well as severe flooding in many parts of the world. These events highlighted the need for greater investment in climate adaptation and resilience measures.

The COVID-19 pandemic also had an impact on disaster response efforts. Many countries were forced to divert resources away from climate-related disasters to deal with the pandemic. This highlights the need for better integration of climate and disaster response planning.

In conclusion, 2020 was a significant year for climate change. Despite the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, there were a number of positive developments in climate policy and renewable energy production. However, the ongoing impacts of climate change on the environment and human societies highlight the urgency of taking action to address this global challenge.

Looking ahead, the next few years will be critical in determining whether the world can successfully transition to a low-carbon economy and limit the worst impacts of climate change. It will be important for countries to not only set ambitious climate targets, but also to take concrete actions to achieve them. This will require significant investments in renewable energy, as well as efforts to promote energy efficiency and sustainable transportation.

In addition to mitigation efforts, it will also be important to invest in climate adaptation and resilience measures, particularly in vulnerable communities. This will require a shift towards more holistic and integrated approaches to climate and disaster risk management.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that the world is capable of taking rapid and decisive action in response to a crisis. It is now time to apply this same sense of urgency and determination to the challenge of climate change. By working together, we can create a more sustainable and resilient future for all.