# Polar Bears and Climate Change

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It's Time To Make A Difference

#### The Problem

- -Polar bears are currently listed as "vulnerable to extinction" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, with climate change a key factor in their decline
- -Climate change and global warming has been most pronounced in the Arctic, where polar bears reside
- -Sea ice is melting in the Arctic, and polar bears rely on that sea ice for traveling, mating, resting, and most importantly, hunting seals for food
- -In the last decade, because of greenhouse gas emissions, the region warmed 0.75 degrees Celsius (it took over 100 years for the earth to warm that much); the rapid heating is causing sea ice to shrink over 13% per decade
- -Because polar bears are considered a top species any changes to their habitat will have impacts throughout the

entire arctic ecosystem







### How This Impacts All of Us



- -"The idea that no species, including humans, lives without depending on others might be the most vital human reason to save this species" (Tricia Christensen. Feb 18th, 2021. www.allthingsinnature.org)
- -Polar bears are apex predators of the arctic ecosystem. They primarily prey upon seals but also hunt walruses, sea birds and small mammals. Because polar bears have such a strong sense of smell, they are also excellent scavengers, consuming significant amounts of human refuse. The failure to save polar bears could result in loss of other species. Polar bears need to stick around to balance out the animal group population in the Arctic
- -The loss of polar bears would have a direct impact on humans who would have to now compete with Arctic seals for fish. The lack of polar bears would affect human food supply and commercial fishing industries
- -High greenhouse gas emissions into the environment is what is causing severe climate change, and in this case literally melting the sea ice in the Arctic

#### What Can We Do?

#### The science is clear. By reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we can help save this species!

Here are some simple ways to reduce our carbon footprint, which we can all do every day to collectively make an enormous difference:

- Using energy efficient light bulbs
- Recycling and avoiding products with lots of packaging to avoid excess waste
- Turning off electric devices when we are not using them
- Taking public transportation, bike or walk, rather than driving cars that use gasoline
- Purchasing food and produce from small, locally grown farms
- Buy products locally in the US, to avoid long shipping and transportation for import
- Washing clothes in cold water and then air drying them rather than using an electric dryer
- Get a reusable water bottle







#### Join Me in Saving The Polar Bears: A Public Service Announcement

To view, please click on the link below

Polar Bear Video.mp4







## True or False Have you been paying attention?



Polar bears are listed as "vulnerable to extinction" because they are fighting and killing each other off to hunt seals for food.

**FALSE** 

2. There are ways we can help slow down the effects of climate change by making small shifts in our everyday life to reduce our carbon footprint.

**TRUE** 

3. Losing polar bears would have no direct impact on human beings.

**FALSE** 

4. Sea ice is melting in the Arctic because fishermen have been reckless over the last decade.

**FALSE** 

5. It is a huge waste of money to buy a reusable water bottle.

**FALSE** 

6. Making the change to energy efficient light bulbs is one way to help conserve electricity, and therefore reduce our carbon footprint.

**TRUE** 

#### **Kids For Positive Change**



- Camille Licate created Kids For Positive Change so children of all ages, and even adults too, could have a place to come together and take action in helping our planet
- All ideas are encouraged and cultivated together with Camille's expertise, help and guidance
- Empowering the young activists in all of us, proving there is no age limit on helping
- to make great changes in this world: WE ARE THE FUTURE
- Thank you Camille, for everything you do!
- You are an inspiration and a real life Super Hero!

#### For More Information: Links to Articles and Videos

https://gifts.worldwildlife.org/gift-center/gifts/species-adoptions/polar-bear.aspx

https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/polar-bears-and-climate-change

https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-53474445



https://missoulacurrent.com/outdoors/2021/02/climate-change-polar-bears/

https://www.amnh.org/explore/ology/earth/ask-a-scientist-about-our-environment/how-can-we-save-polar-bears-from-extiction

https://www.allthingsnature.org/why-should-we-save-polar-bears.htm

https://polarbearsinternational.org/get-involved/actions-with-impact/

https://www.businessinsider.com/easy-ways-to-mitigate-climate-change-lower-your-carbon-footprint#29-vote-for-people-and-laws-that-support-efforts-to-mitigate-climate-change-29

http://pbsg.npolar.no/en/issues/threats/clim



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Missoula Current. "Scientists: Polar Bears, Narwhals Can't Adapt Quickly Enough to Climate Change." Missoula Current, March 1, 2021. <a href="https://missoulacurrent.com/outdoors/2021/02/climate-change-polar-bears/">https://missoulacurrent.com/outdoors/2021/02/climate-change-polar-bears/</a>

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