

A Sustainable Environment: Our Obligation to Protect God's Gift

by
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Why Don't We Care Enough for the Environment?

Every year we are experiencing more and more situations that confirm the continuous degradation of the environment. The atmosphere has definitely warmed as the carbon dioxide concentration has increased from a normal of 280 ppm to currently being over 400 ppm. The warmer atmosphere allows for a higher moisture concentration so a cold front will cause a larger deluge of water – thus, bigger storms.

The improving economy of the developing nations, along with an ever increasing world population, is contributing to a greater consumption of our natural resources. That is why Earth Overshoot Day was the earliest ever on August 1, 2018, and it results in the current use of the equivalent of 1.7 earths.

Another critical environmental issue is the lack of water both in quantity and quality. Although the earth is covered with plenty of water, about 97% of it is salt water and of the remaining fresh water, a very small percentage is accessible and is used mostly for agricultural and industrial uses.

While we have been aware of these environmental issues for decades, we are not doing enough to mitigate and correct the problems. One of the reasons seems to be that not enough people, companies, or nations care enough to do something about it. People that don't do enough can be placed in one of four categories:

1. They don't believe that there is a problem.
2. They believe we have environmental problems but the markets and technologies will take care of them.
3. They believe we have environmental problems but they would have to change their life-style to help mitigate the problem and why should they as it won't contribute much to the solution.
4. They believe we have a problem but they don't care as they won't be here when any destruction occurs.

A few years ago, a friend of mine gave me an expression that can summarize why we are not doing enough about this issue and many more. Basically, it is as follows:

***“There is an important job to be done,
and Everybody expects that Somebody would do it.
Anybody could do it, but Nobody did it.
Somebody gets angry about that because it is Everybody's job.
Everybody thinks that Anybody should do it,***

***but Nobody realizes that Everybody would not do it.
It ends up that Everybody blames Somebody
when Nobody does what Anybody has to do.”***

Governments around the world, particularly the United States of America, must take the lead and develop systems to mitigate the declining environment. In addition, I truly believe that something that will help us solve the environmental issues that we are experiencing is education and awareness. If the environmental issues and their solutions can be brought to the attention of as many people as possible, everyone can start making a contribution by doing their share of the solution. So let's get moving.