

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE PODCAST “ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE”

Female: “Have you ever wondered how many times a day you use energy? Where it comes from and the effect it has on climate change?”.

Male: “Transporting goods and heating and cooling our buildings are all things that have provoked an increase in greenhouse gases since the mid-20th century, increasing the average temperature of the planet because polluting gases retain excess heat reflecting of the surface of the Earth”.

Female: “It has been demonstrated that the current warming of our planet is melting the polar ice, causing sea levels to rise leading certain coastal areas will flood. There will be more droughts, floods, hurricanes, cold spells and heat waves”.

Male: “CO₂ or carbon dioxide is, of all greenhouse gases, the most present in the atmosphere. Production and our use of energy is one of the most influential human activities to further increase its volume. To avoid this, it is essential to stop using fossil fuels and make an energy transition to a new model based on saving and renewable energy”.

Male: “Have you ever noticed how many things we do in a single day that provokes climate change? I'm sure you are asking yourself how we can change that”.

Female: “CO₂ is the gas that is more related to human activity and responsible for 63% of global warming, while methane is responsible for 19% and nitrous oxide, 6%. So, more than 80% of greenhouse gases are the result of human activity”.

Male: “Until just a few years ago human beings have not been aware of the severity of climate change, although governments of all advanced nations have been warned by scientists since the last quarter of the twentieth century. But do you know that climate change can pose serious risks to our natural systems and have negative impacts on our economies, our health and our access to natural resources such as food or water?”.

Female: “In 1988 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, known as IPCC, which two years later presented a first report that climate change was proven and the first solutions to stop it offered, was created”.

Male: “After the publication of several reports, in 1997 the Kyoto Protocol was the first step to 193 countries committing to reducing their emissions. However, this agreement did not take effect until 2005; although it was not ratified by the United States, the most polluting country at the time”.

Female: “In December 2015, the Paris Agreement, which entered into force in November 2016, was the first universal commitment marks a before and after in the fight against climate change, as it set more ambitious goals and this occasion itself was ratified by the United States. Its main objective is to ensure that the rise in average global temperature does not exceed 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels and if possible, stop the rise to 1.5 ° C”.

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Male: “It is shown that the ways to obtain and use energy are the main cause of global warming, but at the same time, climate change may hamper energy generation helping to increase energy poverty. The degradation of natural resources such as those related to water, rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, groundwater flows ... - may reduce the production of hydroelectric energy, which currently provides about one-fifth of all electricity in the world”.

Female: “But there is another kind of energy poverty is also a cause and consequence of climate change”.

Male: “On the one hand, almost 3 billion people in the world cook with contaminating fuels, such as kerosene, wood, charcoal and manure, because they do not have access to other forms of energy”.

Female: “And on the other, according to World Bank reports, there are 1.1 billion people living without electricity. Measures to combat climate change, including the expansion of renewable energy, could reduce these numbers”.

Male: “The International Panel on Climate Change proposed before the signing of the Paris Agreement an overall reduction in emissions in all sectors, not just energy, between 40 and 70% in 2050 and decreased to zero by the end of the century”.

Female: “The goal is that by the second half of this century we have achieved a carbon neutral planet, that is, we emit the same amount of gases as can be absorbed. In the energy sector, there are three basic pillars on which to act”.

Male: “Firstly, as this expert explains, to replace burning of fossil fuels with production of renewable sources for all human activities”.

Expert: “It is imperative that we change this energy model, that we decarbonize energy with the incorporation of renewable energies that are emission-free, a step in which we are already taking too long to undertake”.

Female: “Secondly, reduce the use of fossil fuels for transport, promoting alternative mobility based on car-sharing, the use of public transport such as train, bus and bicycle use in the city; as well as the electrification of all ground transportation: train, cars, motorcycles”.

Male: “And third, save energy efficiently by looking at the energy label of the appliances we buy or using LED bulbs to illuminate our homes, offices, schools”.

Female: “Reaching these goals is everyone's responsibility. As Albert Einstein said: there is a driving force more powerful than steam, electricity and atomic energy: the will”.

