



read

Natural Hazards

Managing Climate Change



quiz



The Big Picture



Key Terms



Climate Change Mitigation – Action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from climate change.



Climate Change Adaptation – Actions taken to adjust to natural events such as climate change, to reduce potential damage, limit the impacts, take advantage of opportunities, or cope with the consequences.



Mitigation

Mitigation involves reducing the causes of climate change by reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.



Alternative Energy Production

Developing renewable energy solutions such as wind, solar and tidal energy reduces our reliance on fossil fuel burning power stations. This helps reduce carbon dioxide emissions being released into the atmosphere.



Carbon Capture

Carbon capture involves reducing carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel-burning power stations. Carbon Dioxide is removed from waste gases. Once captured, the Carbon dioxide is then converted into a dense liquid that can be stored in safe locations



Planting Trees

Planting trees helps reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere as trees absorb it as part of photosynthesis.



International Agreements

International agreements encourage countries to take responsibility for reducing CO₂ emissions. Targets are more likely to be met if legally binding e.g. Paris 2015. However, financial support may be provided to LICs.



Adaptation

Adaption strategies do not aim to reduce the impact of climate change but respond to it by reducing its negative effects.



Changes in Agricultural Systems

Farmers respond to climate change by adapting their farming practices. This can include changing the type of crops they grow to those better suited to a warm climate, e.g. grapes.

Areas at risk of desertification will need to change approaches to farming. Low-technology solutions to this include the use of stone lines.



Managing Water Supply

There may be a greater need for developing water transfer schemes. This involves moving water from areas of surplus (more water than is used) to areas of water deficit (not enough water). This can be achieved by building water transfer pipelines. An example of this is the Kielder water transfer scheme in the north-east of England



Reducing the Risk of Rising Sea Levels

This involves developing coastal defences to protect areas at risk of coastal flooding. These aim to reduce the risk of further land being eroded away. It is estimated that sea levels will rise between 28 and 43cm by 2100, putting settlements and valuable agricultural land at risk.