

Reconnect with your environment

Learn about environmental issues, their effect on your community and actions for your involvement.



Pick right lottery ticket to win

Grid offers new way to view climate change, fossil fuel use

Winning this lottery is really not about who is right about climate change or about luck. Using the decision grid below changes the question. The usual question is "Does our use of fossil fuels cause climate change?" Ask this question instead: "What are the potential savings by taking significant action now to reduce fossil fuel use and what are the costs of not taking action?" Which lottery ticket will you choose, A or B? Our wealth and health depends on choices we make.

False

Ticket A: Significant action now to reduce fossil fuel use

1A — Climate change is false

While we didn't need to worry about climate change, taking action produced the follow-

- Fewer emissions and other extraction, delivery and use-related impacts, including less
- smog, fewer spills, less destruction of land, water and air. ■ Fewer environmental health costs and environmental cleanup costs.
- ■Energy independence and improved global security.
- ■Renewable energy economy replaces polluting fossil fuel.
- ■Less loss of habitat, resulting in more biodiversity and food sources.
- ■A more sustainable and brighter future for our children and future generations including cleaner air and water

Ticket B: Little or no action now to reduce fossil fuel use

1B — Climate action is false

Although we didn't need to worry about climate change, inaction led to other economic, environmental, human health costs and deaths related to fossil fuel extraction, storage, transportation and use:

- ■Illness and deaths related to extraction, air pollution and water pollution, contaminated seafood, and Black Lung disease for miners.
- ■Damage to land, homes and loss of habitat from mountaintop mining, oil and gas extraction, buildup of toxic coal ash at coal power plants, oil spills, and explosions and the costs to remediate the damage.
- ■Environmental degradation and loss of aquatic habitat caused by acid rain and polluted water, including surface, ground and drinking water sources.
- ■Increased national security costs to protect diminishing sources of oil.
- Faster depletion of fossil fuels and lack of adequate renewable replacements.
- ■Diminishing water resources caused by extraction of fossil fuels.

True

2A — Climate change is true

In addition to the benefits in 1A, we also experience less damage from climate change (see 2B) and save the human race and other disappearing species from extinction. By reducing greenhouse gases we will experience:

- ■Fewer flooding and extreme weather events.
- ■Food security.
- ■Healthier oceans

2B — Climate change is true

In addition to problems in 1B because we increased the amount of CO2 and other greenhouse gases, we also experience other events that climate scientists have been warning us about including:

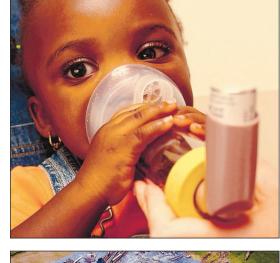
- ■Ocean acidification and collapsed fisheries.
- ■Rising sea levels and flooding.
- ■More frequent droughts, extreme weather, fires and famines. ■Displacement, mass migration/wars.
- ■Increased mortality from prolonged heat waves and mosquito carrying diseases. ■End of civilization? Mass extinction event?

TAKE ACTION NOW

TAKE NO ACTION NOW

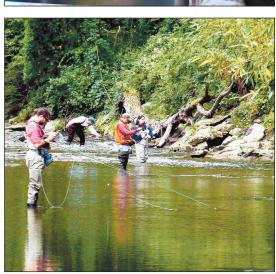




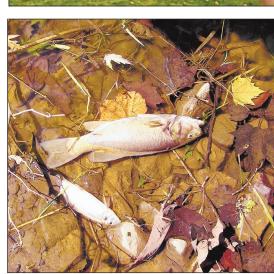










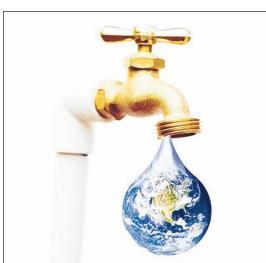


















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Check out these websites to learn more:

www.education.noaa.gov/Climate/ www.gregcraven.org www.umich.edu/~gs265/society/ fossilfuels.htm

One of the best solutions for cutting down on fossil fuels is energy conservation. By not wasting energy, we also protect the environment. What are you doing at home and at school to reduce your energy consumption? Send your ideas to axm40@



climatechange.htm