

# HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Qualifying Problem



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# TOPIC DESCRIPTOR

Humans have always impacted the environment. Over time, the effects have increased as industrialization, urbanization, deforestation, processing of natural resources, the burning of fossil fuels and more technologies have developed. Examples of human's impact on the environment are everywhere.



# TOPIC DESCRIPTOR, CONTINUED

Feeding the world's growing population has adverse environmental effects such as overgrazing, deforestation, and agriculture-induced soil erosion. Water pollution from pesticides and fertilizers impacts the quality of water available for specific populations. Clearing of land and overfishing result in loss of biodiversity and disturbances to ecosystems. Industrialization and urbanization cause the release of toxic solid, liquid, or gaseous waste materials and are the catalyst for serious environmental hazards. Water pollution as a result of poor disposal of sewage wastes, solid wastes, and other industrial wastes, may spread diseases and create an unfit environment for human activities.



# TOPIC DESCRIPTOR, CONTINUED

Industrialization has also increased consumption of natural resources for the production of goods, leading to a significant loss of nonrenewable resources and excessive waste. Activities like mining and dam construction cause habitat destruction. Trends like “fast fashion” contribute to why the fashion industry is the second-leading cause of pollution in the environment. What are our challenges moving forward to create a balance between basic human needs and our need to preserve or create an environment that is fit for continued quality human existence and growth?



# THEME 1

## WAYS HUMANS IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT

['Unprecedented' climate change threatens the world's food security \[UN Report\] - The Globe Post](#)

[Biodiversity touches every aspect of our lives - so why has its loss been ignored? - The Guardian](#)

[Sustainable Thinking: A collection of videos - BBC Ideas](#)



# THEME 2: THE ANTHROPOCENE EPOCH



What is the Anthropocene? -  
Smithsonian

Are you ready to join the fight against  
the coming of the Anthropocene? - Fast  
Company

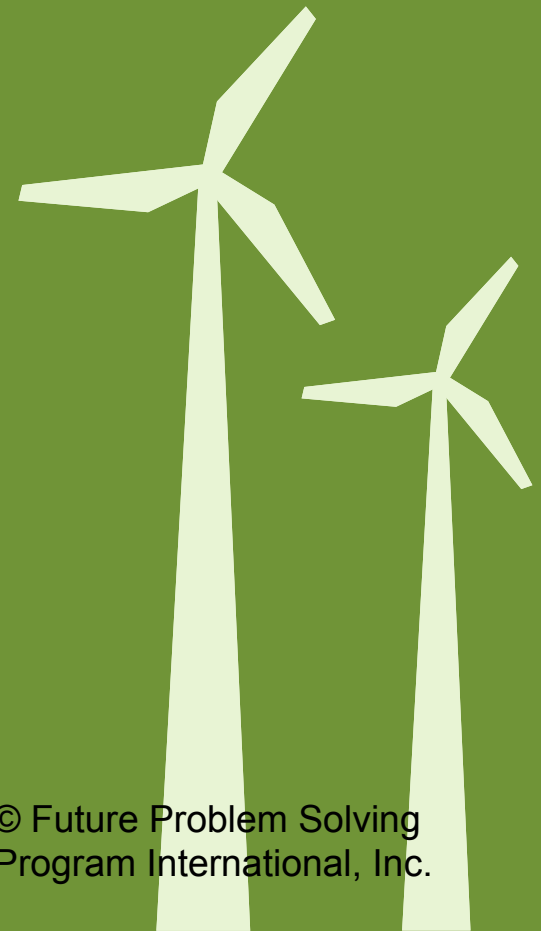
# THEME 3:

## A CLOSE LOOK AT NEWER TRENDS

Black Friday shopping hurts the environment, but you can help - National Geographic

Can cities change the world through what they eat? - Telegraph

The planet is being consumed by humans - CNN



# THEME 4: INNOVATION FOR THE FUTURE

Scientists and designers are proposing radical ways to 'refreeze' the Arctic - CNN

Protesting climate change, young people take to the streets in a global strike - New York Times

