



D12 How does Climate Change drive inequalities?

D12 Why is this an issue for Colorado, Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming?

D12 Why Zonta? Why D12's Action for Environment & Gender Equality? Why Foothills?

Understanding the Connections



Just a Reminder

Back to Basics

- Greenhouse gases trap **heat**.
- **Heat** melts snow & ice.
- This causes darker surfaces & more **heat**.
- Water evaporates faster, dries land, and accumulates in atmosphere, trapping more **heat**, and disrupting weather systems.

The Greenhouse Effect



KidMinds.org

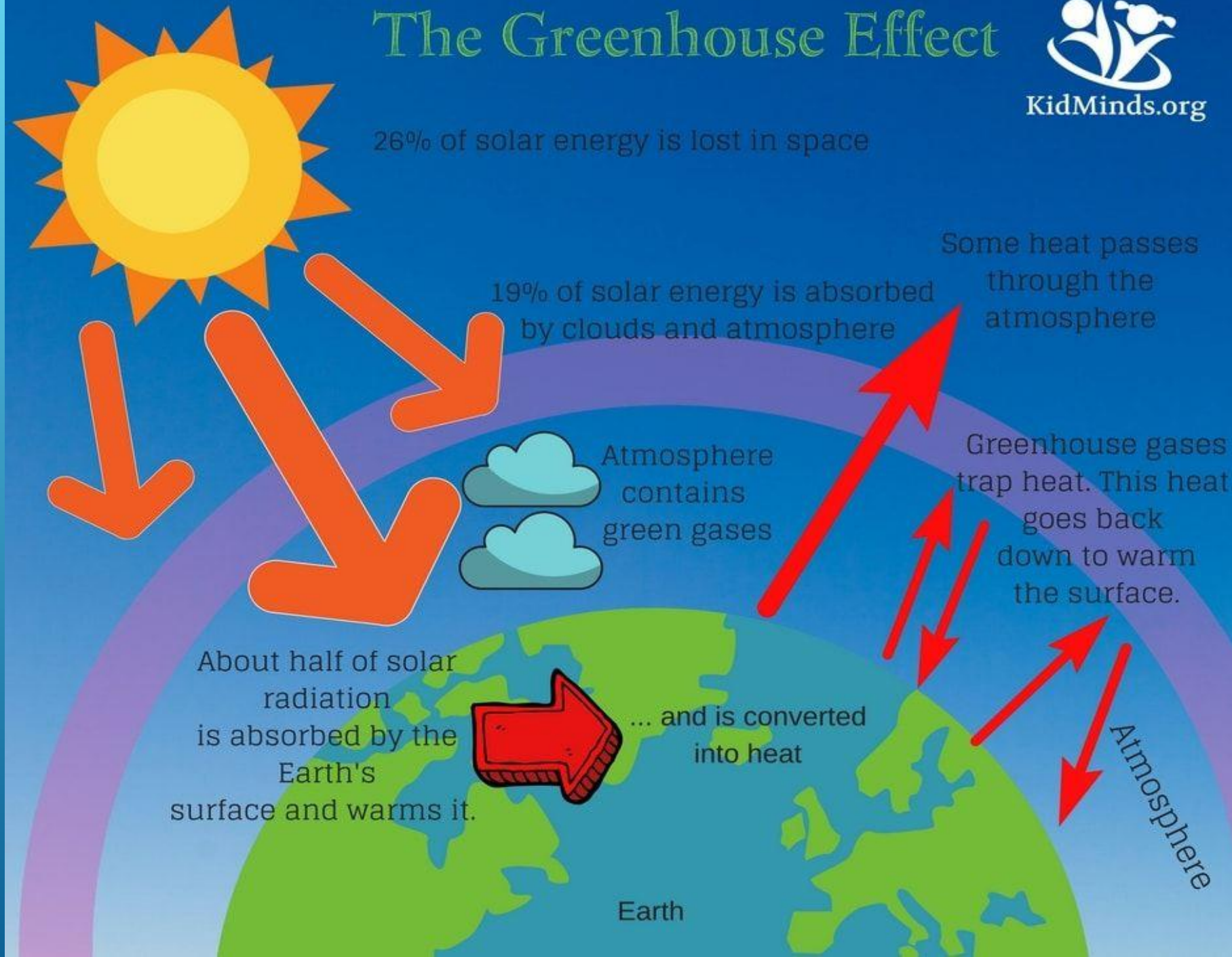




Photo from [Zonta Says NOW](#) website

A 'RUNAWAY TRAIN' OF FOSSIL FUELS EMISSIONS

Carbon Dioxide from Coal & Petroleum products, (incl. Plastics)

Methane from Natural gas, food waste, textile waste, food production, factories

#ClimateChange

WHO IS AT RISK OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

Those living in poverty, as well as women, children and the elderly.

Outdoor workers and people living with chronic medical conditions.

Children are the most vulnerable due to long exposure to environmental risks.

**EVERYONE
EVERYWHERE**

Those living in megacities, small island developing states and other coastal, mountainous and polar regions.

Countries with weak health systems will be least able to prepare and respond.



Climate change a planetary phenomenon, but its effects are shaped by pervasive & entrenched gender inequality.

Heat waves, droughts, rising sea levels, and extreme storms disproportionately affect women.

Because women are more likely

- to live in poverty than men,
- have less access to basic human rights like the ability to freely move & acquire land, and
- face systematic violence that escalates during periods of instability.

These factors, and many more, mean that as *climate change intensifies*, **women** will struggle the most.

Source: Global Citizen



Climate change is both a symptom & driver of growing global inequality, and unsustainable development.

You cannot achieve sustainable development without gender equality and environmental justice.

Fast Facts

- In just one day, 200 million hours are consumed by women collecting water for their families.
- Most of the world's 1.2 billion poor [2/3 of whom are women] live in water scarce countries and do not have access to safe & reliable water supplies.
- Women are responsible for 50-80% of world food production but own less than 20% of the land.
- 80% of all illnesses in the developing world is water related.
- Globally, a quarter of all health care facilities have no basic water services.
- Of the estimated 26 million people forced to flee their homes during a climate change event, 20 million are women and girls.
- Women and children are 14 times more likely than men to die during a natural disaster. (Poor healthcare services & inadequate access for women contributes heavily.)
- Women are more affected by bad air quality since it directly affects fetus & maternal health. Globally, 800+ women* die daily, from preventable causes related to pregnancy.
- The uneven distribution of biodiversity & dire deforestation hotspots has endangered human habitats risking women & children and reducing productivity of 23% of global land surface.
- According to a 2019 Richler Study of 91 countries, there is a strong correlation between the percentage of women in national parliaments and a prioritization of climate change policies.
- The World Bank found that water sector projects that included women were at least six times more effective than those that did not.

CLIMATE ACTION & GENDER EQUALITY ZONTA'S LAUNCH TIMELINE

2020

- ▶ 'Zonta Says NOW' was created by District 23 Zontians in western Australia



2021

- ▶ Zonta International Board approved and published official statement on Climate Change and Gender Equality
- ▶ ZontaUSACaucus formed a subcommittee on Climate Change & Gender Equality



ZONTA'S LAUNCH TIMELINE

2021 continued...

- ▶ District 12 Conference – Governor Ann Hodgson called for a committee on climate change and gender equality. The AEGE committee; 'Action for Environment and Gender Equality' committee was formed.
- ▶ In preparation for the Commission of the Status of Women 66, the US Women's Caucus at the UN researched & released global and specific recommendations for climate action.



<https://www.uswomenscaucus.org/2021/11/15/csw-66-climate-briefs/>

Nine Report Sections with specific recommendations--

- ❖ Gender Mainstreaming
- ❖ Women & Water
- ❖ Women & Health
- ❖ Migration
- ❖ Technology
- ❖ Biodiversity
- ❖ Indigenous Women
- ❖ Women & Disasters
- ❖ Agriculture & Food Security



DISTRICT 12 AEGE Committee Goals

◀ Refer to the specific area recommendations of U.S. Women's Caucus at the UN as the framework for climate action and gender equality.

▼ Promote and use the phrase ▼

'We need to act NOW'

Carole Theobald, District 23, Co-creator of Zonta Says NOW



How to act NOW

IDEAS FOR LOCAL SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

- Share a simple Environmental Action-of-the-Day in your newsletters.
- Invite a panel of local political & business leaders to discuss how they are responding to climate change (policies & programs). Have your members pose the questions.
- Research on foot to learn the barriers for families to do to recycling in your city or county and work together to problem-solve & remove the barriers.
- Host a 'Recycle Day' to educate & practice recycling in your community. Make it a 'festival'- offer prizes/Team T-shirts/swag...
- Host a progressive 'water-wise' garden luncheon to learn about water-wise landscaping. Learn where your water comes from & where it goes. [Who are the knowledgeable, conscientious users? How can that be incentivized? Should big abusers and waste be sanctioned? How?
- Get ideas from your Z-Club for a 'Fridays for Future' educational & networking event. Learn about *Ecowomen*, *Women Food & Ag Network*, and other grassroots (very informed) activists and partner with them.
- Contact your local League of Women Voters to learn & support its environmental platform. Collaborate with UNA, AAUW, BPW, etc. around the nexus of the climate crisis & and women.

- ✓ **Gather Facts**
- ✓ **Lead by example**
- ✓ **Add your voice**
- ✓ **Advocate**
- ✓ **Collaborate**

❖ **D12 Website – ZontaSaysNOW webpage**

<http://zontadistrict12.org/zonta-says-now>

❖ **D12 AEGE Facebook Page**

<https://www.facebook.com/Zonta-Says-NOW-District-12>

❖ **District 12 AEGE committee –**

Julie Trone-Chair, Liz Groothof-Croddy, Debbie Wills, Anna Brewer, Melissa Marts, Tammy Benabides, Samantha Bruzan, Kay Meyer

❖ **ZontaUSACaucus website**

<https://zontausa.org/zonta-says-now-to-climate-action/>

<https://www.voterve.net/Zonta/Campaigns/89533/Respond>


❖ **ZontaSaysNOW website**

<https://zontasaysnow.org.au/>

❖ **Other Community organizations & leaders**



RESOURCES

- 
- What should (or can) our Foothills Club role be in regard to slowing climate change and its impact on women & children?
 - If/when our club takes this up, how can action re climate change fit with all the other service & advocacy my club is doing?
 - What should/can my role be?

DISTRICT
12

Let's Discuss...



ZONTA SAYS NOW

To gender equality and climate action

Thank you!