

METHANE

There are now three times as many farmed animals as people on this planet. Methane emissions cause nearly half of the planet's human-induced warming. The number one source of methane worldwide is animal agriculture, producing 100 million tonnes per year. Global meat consumption has increased fivefold in the past fifty years. There are simply too many of us on this planet to be able to eat meat sustainably.

The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is working on a set of key environmental behaviour changes to mitigate climate change. Consumption of animal protein has been highlighted within this work. David Miliband, the Environment Secretary, has highlighted how animals are blamed for producing large amounts of methane.

Producing one calorie of animal protein requires more than 10 times as much fossil fuel input as a calorie of plant protein. Feeding massive amounts of grain and water to farmed animals and then killing them before processing, transporting, and storing their flesh is extremely energy-intensive. In addition, enormous amounts of carbon dioxide stored in trees are released during the destruction of vast acres of forest to provide pastureland and to grow crops for farmed animals.

The billions of chickens, turkeys, pigs, and cows who are crammed into factory farms each year across the globe produce enormous amounts of methane, both during digestion and from the acres of cesspools filled with faeces that they excrete. Scientists report that every pound of methane is more than 20 times as effective as carbon dioxide at trapping heat in our atmosphere. Unlike carbon dioxide which can remain in the air for more than a century, methane cycles out of the atmosphere in just eight years. Lower methane emissions quickly translate to the cooling of the earth.

Livestock are also responsible for almost two-thirds (64 percent) of anthropogenic ammonia emissions, which contribute significantly to acid rain and acidification of ecosystems.

LAND

Switching to a vegan diet would have a greater impact on an individual's carbon footprint than buying an eco-friendly car. This is because animal farming uses more land, energy and water than plant-based agriculture. Farm supplies, animal feed and farmed animals are transported great distances, producing carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide.

Plant-based agriculture is far more efficient. It uses less than a quarter of the land required for a meat-based diet as the crops are fed directly to humans and, therefore, use fewer resources. The most water-intensive plant crop, soya, uses 2,000 litres of water per kg of food produced, compared to beef, which requires 100,000 litres per kg.

Factory farms also use up most of the country's water supply, and destroy most of its wilderness for rangeland and growing feed. Creating rangeland to feed western nations' growing appetite for meat has been a major source of deforestation and desertification in the global south. 70 percent of previous forested land in the Amazon is occupied by pastures, and feedcrops cover a large part of the remainder. It's not just the atmosphere that suffers due to our obsession with an animal based diet, we are destroying our rivers, oceans and land.

The livestock sector is a key player in increasing water use, accounting for over 8 percent of global human water use, mostly for the irrigation of feedcrops. It is probably the largest sectoral source of water pollution, contributing to eutrophication, "dead" zones in coastal areas, degradation of coral reefs, human health problems, emergence of antibiotic resistance and many others. The major sources of pollution are from animal wastes, antibiotics and hormones, chemicals from tanneries, fertilizers and pesticides used for feedcrops, and sediments from eroded pastures.

LIFESTYLE

We cannot wait for corporate techno-fixes to help us. We all need to make changes in our lives to become more sustainable. Some of these adjustments will require mass scale social change, such as decentralized power. Some will require us to learn new skills and reconnect with the land. But what could be simpler than changing your diet today?

Adopting a vegan diet reduces one person's impact on the environment even more than giving up their car or forgoing several plane trips a year. The countryside has become a machine. Through a return to small scale agriculture we can reconnect with the land. Security shouldn't be about having enough oil to fuel our increasingly unstable lifestyles. It's about creating our own energy and our food.

It is true that many meat and dairy farmers would lose their livelihoods if everyone made the transition to a vegan lifestyle, but in our sustainable future many major lifestyle changes will be required. By shifting to a localised economy with seasonal, organic, vegan food, we can all benefit. Regional economies would flourish, with smaller scale agriculture replacing international corporations and the strangle hold they have on the economy today.

The conclusion is simple: arguably the best way to reduce global warming in our lifetime is to reduce or eliminate our consumption of animal products. By ensuring that our food is vegan, organic, seasonal and locally produced, we can eliminate one of the major sources of emissions of methane. We are the ones to make this change. Our lifestyle choices are destroying the planet. What we consume now effects not only us, but our futures and those we share this planet with.

**Go vegan and embrace the joy of low impact living.
It's healthy, sustainable and cruelty free!**



How much do you know about the food that you eat? How much control do you have over the production of what you eat? What is the real cost of the food on your plate?

VEGAN: n. A vegetarian who eats plant products only, especially one who uses no products derived from animals.

Veganism is the only viable diet for anyone who claims to care about animals or the planet. It's not just about animal welfare. Science and economics agree that a vegan diet is more efficient and less damaging to the ecosystems we depend on. Environmentalism is about respecting the planet we live on and protecting for ourselves, future generations, and all the creatures and ecosystems who share it with us. We cannot truly respect that which we consume.

In today's society we are encouraged to consume now and think later. Companies spend millions of pounds obscuring the harsh realities of this lifestyle. Animals are hidden from sight in horrific conditions. Veganism is a real way to renounce this system and reduce animal suffering. We do not need to consume animals to survive. In fact, industrial methods of animal production can be extremely damaging to us. BSE, Foot and Mouth and Salmonella are directly linked to our addiction to the consumption of animals. Increased hormone levels and resistance to antibiotics are also prevalent in today's society.

In a groundbreaking 2006 report, the United Nations (U.N.) said that raising animals for food generates more greenhouse gases than all the cars and trucks in the world combined. Senior U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization official Henning Steinfeld reported that the meat industry is "one of the most significant contributors to today's most serious environmental problems."

We need to act now, for ourselves, for biodiversity, for the planet, for future generations. A locally sourced, seasonal, vegan, organic diet is essential in tackling the root cause of climate change. It's not just about renouncing animal products, but also a celebration of a diverse, low impact lifestyle which benefits every living thing on this planet.

Come to the Camp for Climate Action.

In August last year over 600 people gathered in the shadow of Drax, the UK's largest power station. They took direct action against climate change and promoted grass roots alternatives. This year the camp will land near Heathrow for eight days of low-impact living, debates, workshops and direct action. The aviation industry must be stopped. We must act now to create real sustainable futures. The fate of the planet is in our hands.

The Camp for Climate Action will be an opportunity to learn skills for our sustainable future. It will be powered by the sun and the wind. It will be a vegan space. Regional neighbourhoods from all over the country will come together to cook communal vegan food, make decisions without leaders and help run the camp. It will be a space to learn, with practical workshops on a wide range of topics, from veganism and food issues to direct action and permaculture.

The Climate Camp is a space for protest and celebration, a space for confrontation with the old and exploration of the new. Climate change isn't going away and we all need to reconsider our lifestyles in order to act appropriately. The biggest changes start with the smallest steps and the Camp for Climate Action is a space for these steps to begin...

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.veganorganic.net
www.animalaid.org.uk/h/n/NEWS/news_veggie/ALL/1395
www.goveg.com/environment-globalwarming.asp
www.veganoutreach.org/whyvegan/environment.html

www.climatecamp.org.uk
info@climatecamp.org.uk

FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE GO VEGAN!

Veganism and the Camp for Climate Action



The Camp for Climate Action
14th - 21st AUGUST 2007