

**This essay is part of the final project in “Academic Integrated Reading & Writing Skills”. In this essay, students have to propose solutions to a global issue.**

Reading the latest fashion magazine, eating the breakfast in McDonald and enjoying the comfortable air-conditioning are normal things everyone will do in their lives. Unfortunately, for the sake of those material lives, people sacrifice the environment on earth and also cause the phenomenon of deforestation, desertification and global warming threatening to our lives. Deforestation is the permanent destruction of forests to make the land available for other uses. According to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), an estimated 18 million acres of forest, which is roughly the size of the country of Panama, are lost. Overgrazing is the major cause of desertification worldwide and also deforestation is the factor lead to desertification which formed that sterile lands limit the production of resources that ecosystems provide to our community. Moreover, with the progress in our society, human activities cause global warming changing the climate through emitting too much greenhouse gas into atmosphere and also deforestation is a vital factor due to the reduction of tropical rainforests. Now, here are some feasible solutions which can reverse deforestation, desertification and global warming.

The best ways to solve deforestation are to protect existing forests and recover forests. Protecting existing forests is the first step to stop destruction of forests. Especially, businesses which produce commodities like timber, beef, soy, palm oil and paper can move to become deforestation-free, like Asia Pulp & Paper Group, the third largest pulp and paper producer in the world, and collaborate with their supply chains. For example, Shaklee’s supply chain has to agree to follow environmental standards, and Kimberly-Clark Corporation, the world's largest tissue-product manufacturer, announced that it ensures greater protection and has sustainable management of Canada's Boreal Forest. Effective programs and policies can contribute to positive impacts for forest conservation. Besides, reforestation is a great way to release deforestation and help to recover forests. For instance, Trees for the Future, public charity, revitalizes degraded lands by providing farmers with tree seed, technical training, and on-site planning assistance. Over the years, Trees for the Future has assisted thousands of communities in planting millions of trees in 19 countries including Ghana, which have restored life to land that was previously

degraded or abandoned. Reestablishment of forests can help to protect environment, rebuild natural habitats, biodiversity and ecosystems.

The way to mitigate desertification is to plant trees in deserts and cooperate companies to change suppliers. The most direct method to solve desertification is planting trees. The root of trees can absorb water and transport to soil. With enough water, the arid land can be more suitable for plants to grow. Plants can also synthesize nutrient from sun light and store it in the land. As a result, the barren land can recover to productive land. For example, Groasis, a commercial enterprise which invents new method to plant trees, has used waterboxx- a device that let plant trees become more easily- to help many deserts recover their original appearances, including Sahara and the Middle East. Besides, forcing companies which use woods from illegal logging areas to replace suppliers is another method to protect land. In fact, many deserts are forests before human's invasion. Furthermore, companies' demand for woods is usually higher than individuals. Hence, limiting companies from using these materials can protect forests from being desert effectively. Greenpeace has succeeded to persuade many large-scale companies, like Lego and Disney, to stop cooperate with illegal suppliers. Many forests can be rescued from fortune of being deserts.

Excessive greenhouse gas is the culprit of global warming, and CO<sub>2</sub>, mainly from fossil fuels, accounts for the most important proportion. Therefore, in order to cut back global warming, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> by conserving energy and making consumed goods eco-friendly is necessary. The first method is to develop more energy-efficient appliances to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. If appliances have excellent energy efficiency, people don't have to consume too much non-renewable energy like oil, natural gas, and coal, which release a great deal of CO<sub>2</sub>. Take Apple for example, Apple makes their products efficient to save energy, which discharges CO<sub>2</sub>, made from fuel. The second method is to make consumed goods not burden the environment and even have eco-friendly added value to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> in air. As a famous hair care brand, O'right make their packaging not harmful to the environment and have added value—O'right hides a seed on the bottom of the bottle, which can be 100% decomposed into CO<sub>2</sub> & H<sub>2</sub>O as the nutrients in soil for the seeds (hidden on the bottom of the bottle) to grow into trees to absorb CO<sub>2</sub>.

Except for those solutions had mentioned above, some common solutions

used extensively might cause side effects. First, some people insisting on using waste paper to produce new paper can help release deforestation. This action reduces cutting trees, but other problems generate. In the process of producing recycling paper, some harmful chemicals are created and cause water pollution if it flows into rivers. In addition, it needs more energy making global warming worse to produce recycling paper. Moreover, some specific countries, like China, intend to irrigate on the arid region. However, it can't truly reverse desertification in the long term since roots of tree soak up large amounts of groundwater and make lands dryer. Besides, the China government used to grow the same trees leading to the lack of diversity and irresistibility of diseases. Eventually, many people reckon that solar energy is useful and clean. On the contrary, the initial cost is very high, but its' efficiency rate is only 40%. Furthermore, it is limited by the compatibility and the night. The worst is that the solar panels are made up of toxic materials which might pollute our environment. As a result, the solutions stated before are better because they are directed against the basic factors of problems and can reduce possibility to bring another problem.

What mentioned above are three solutions to solve the problems of deforestation, desertification and global warming. First, trying our best to protect existing forests and doing some efforts to recover forests are the ways to reduce deforestation. Second, planting trees and forcing companies to change suppliers can mitigate desertification. Finally, conserving energy and reducing carbon emissions can release global warming. Thankfully, deforestation, desertification and global warming are not irreversible phenomenon. Therefore, if people follow these solutions, these problems can be overcome greatly.

**This essay is written, revised, and edited by the students in Group 5 in the course "Academic Integrated Reading & Writing Skills" at the Center for Language Studies in National Chung Cheng University.**