

# Blog Five

## From Myths of Creation to Climate Change



How do we generate peaceful action on climate change? What story do we want to tell about human beings and our place in Earth's four billion year history of life? What is the meaning of our connection to the earth we live on and what future stories do we want to tell? So ask yourself, how was the earth born? Where do humans come from and how do we make sense of the world and our place in it today in the face of a growing need to take action to protect the earth we live on? How do we save the light of the stars, the blue of the sky and oceans and the fate of the earth?

All myths of creation are linked to the creation of the natural elements, our ecosystems – the seas, the earth, the sky, the solar system and the natural world is a place where every plant, animal and human being are an integrated whole, as a living system. The study of nature is a study of eco-systems and how energy flows between them. Nature is

all the animals, plants and other things in the world not made by people and all the events and processes that are not caused by people.

The most amazing thing about nature is its infinite variety. The 'nature' of a person is their quality or character which they show in how they behave. What is your 'nature' when it comes to 'nature'? What are we all doing to protect the original earth we live on from its ancient creation to its modern day manifestation? What can we do to save wild, primitive landscapes, to hold on to natural or unspoilt scenery, to recreate wildflower meadows and save the bees to saving the forests, the oceans and to stop the sun from turning back on itself due to our actions on earth? How do we hear the call of nature and link back to the sum of all things – the earth we are born and live on.

### **How the Earth was Formed – Scientific**

According to NASA Science,

'Our home planet is the third planet from the Sun, and the only place we know of so far that's inhabited by living things. While Earth is only the fifth largest planet in the solar system, it is the only world in our solar system with liquid water on the surface. Just slightly larger than nearby Venus, Earth is the biggest of the four planets closest to the Sun, all of which are made of rock and metal.

The name Earth is at least 1,000 years old. All of the planets, except for Earth, were named after Greek and Roman gods and goddesses. However, the name Earth is a Germanic word, which simply means 'the ground'. With a radius of 3,959 miles (6,371 kilometers), Earth is the biggest of the terrestrial planets, and the fifth largest planet overall.

In relation to formation, 'when the solar system settled into its current layout about 4.5 billion years ago, Earth formed when gravity pulled swirling gas and dust in to become the third planet from the Sun. Like its fellow terrestrial planets, Earth has a central core, a rocky mantle and a solid crust.'

<https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/earth/in-depth/#:~:text=Formation,mantle%20and%20a%20solid%20crust.>

**What can we do to promote Climate Justice and Reduce Carbon footprints?**

The following are simple ways to reduce your carbon footprint and are actions that are eco-friendly and can make a difference in addressing climate change. A carbon footprint is the total amount of “greenhouse gas emissions that come from the production, use and end-of-life of a product or service. It includes carbon dioxide — the gas most commonly emitted by humans — and others, including methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases, which trap heat in the atmosphere, causing global warming. Usually, the bulk of an individual’s carbon footprint will come from transportation, housing and food”<sup>1</sup>. There are for simple and key areas to focus on - how you travel, energy usage in your home or workplace, the composition of your diet and food you consume and your use of the fashion industry, all of which can help lessen ‘your personal environmental impact’.<sup>2</sup>

1. Eat less red meat to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agribusiness which is an even ‘bigger problem than fossil fuels. The production of red meat uses a lot of ‘feed, water and land’ and can have up to 100 times the environmental impact of plant based foods.<sup>3</sup> Cows give off methane emissions which are harmful greenhouse gases. Eating less meat can be better for the environment and your health – a Mediterranean diet for example has a reduction in meat, fish and dairy. So, eat more vegetables, fruits, grains and beans.
2. Unplugging devices to reduce ‘vampire power’ which drains energy, leave electronics unplugged unless your using them. And remember to turn off the lights. Options such as turning down the heat, buying a laptop rather than a desk computer which uses less energy to charge and run, having LED lights which use up to 85 percent less energy and last longer, and choosing renewables for energy supplies etc. Making your home energy efficient is important – things such as sealing the house well so heat doesn’t escape and insulating your home. See what grants are available to make your home energy efficient and if you can try and have windows and doors that add to the house energy efficient rating.
3. Drive less and promote public transport. Choose to walk, cycle or take the bus, promoting public transport that uses hybrids, solar power and other eco-friendly alternatives. Using public transport saves carbon emissions. Fly less or

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/guides/year-of-living-better/how-to-reduce-your-carbon-footprint>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/guides/year-of-living-better/how-to-reduce-your-carbon-footprint>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/guides/year-of-living-better/how-to-reduce-your-carbon-footprint>

keep it to a minimum. One suggestion is that if you do have to fly consider donating to a sustainable project to make up for the emissions caused.

4. Raising awareness of the negative impact of fast fashion retail which is toxic to the environment and anti-human rights (disposable textile waste from cheap consumerised buying, the use of pesticides for non-organic cottons which damages water and reduces biodiversity and has negative impact on human health, chemical run-off from garment factories, long haul shipping, use of child labour etc) with a focus on promoting 'alternative' fashion (recycling, locally made fashion, buying vintage, clothes swaps etc). So, look for Fairtrade symbols, shop vintage, re-use, swop or donate old clothes and think about the fabrics.
5. Plant a garden or even some green plants to reduce your carbon footprint. Plants absorb carbon dioxide which is of benefit to people. In particular, if you have some garden space, plant bee-friendly flowers, trees or vegetables. Or create a 'balcony' garden or get involved in or set up a community garden. Also use compost.
6. Eat locally grown organic food. Check out in-season locally grown garden products which helps reduce the carbon footprint created by shipping foods from overseas. The closer the food is grown to you the better. Grow your own food or check out local farmers that are using beneficial soil care practices and also promote borders for local wildlife. Support the local economy by eating locally grown food. Eating organic produce reduces the use of toxic pesticides and environmentally damaging chemicals. Reduce your intake of processed foods as the creation of these foods can be damaging to the environment and can contribute to 'health epidemics like obesity, diabetes and heart disease. Whole foods are better for people and the environment.
7. Hang your washing on the line. A tumble drier is a top energy-consuming appliance and can use up to five times more electricity than washing so hanging clothes on the washing line can reduce your carbon footprint.
8. Remember to reduce, re-use and re-cycle. Reducing the amount of waste, you produce can have an environmental impact. So, take stock of food that you buy, for example don't buy food that you will end up throwing out, only cook what you need, re-use left-overs etc. Re-cycle clothes, avoid disposable goods or if you do have to use them, choose climate friendly options etc. Before throwing something away, ask yourself 'can I use or repair this or recycle it'? Shop sustainably and only use recyclable bags, containers, packaging, paper etc or

avoid packaging altogether. Empty and rinse food cartons before putting them in the recycle bin.

9. Choose green travel.
10. Become active and support environmental groups and the work they do. A key aim is to assist in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide help to warm the globe which is positive but the over-production of greenhouse emissions due to human activity is causing global warming which is having a serious impact around the world in terms of damage to the environment and causing deaths. Burning fossil fuels produces too much carbon dioxide and air pollutants harmful to human health. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions reduces global warming and improves air quality. Reducing air pollutants has an impact on saving lives. In terms of environmental action, use your vote to promote climate action, speak to your local politicians and representatives about ways to improve recycling, to promote public transport that is free to all and to develop green energy policies. Learn more about climate change and support climate action groups.

Sources: Huffington Post, 7 Ways to Reduce your Carbon Footprint, Jesse Holth; How to Reduce your Carbon footprint, New York Times, Livia Albeck-Ripka; Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Could Prevent Premature Deaths, Charles Q. Choi, Livescience.

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