

B B C BITESIZE

In recent decades, the Earth's climate has been getting warmer. The impacts of climate change can be divided into three categories.

Environmental impacts concern the natural world around us. Climate change has had a devastating impact on some of the Earth's environments. Sea level rises, hazardous weather events, floods, drought and wildfires now regularly affect habitats, animals and people. Agriculture is becoming difficult in some places, affecting world food supply and leading to food insecurity and some migration.

Economic impacts concern money.

Economies across the globe are being negatively impacted by climate change. For example, food production is becoming unstable due to unpredictable weather patterns. There are often higher costs for transporting goods more sustainably. Also, using climate-friendly construction materials to ensure houses and buildings can cope with changing climates.

Now let's take a look at the social impacts, which consider people's quality of life.

As climates change, places can become too hard to live in because of extreme weather, drought or crop failure. For example, heatwaves cause severe health problems. In Europe, there were over 62,000 heat-related deaths in 2022.

So we've seen the three categories of impacts of climate change, and just a few of the examples around the world. The next step is to consider adaptation and mitigation.