

Dear Students,

Many of you have written us with concerns about the state of the environment with respect to climate change. Science has shown that human activity may be causing extreme weather events to increase in number and intensity, affecting the quality and yield of crops, and polluting the air and water to unacceptable levels.

[[1]](#footnote-1)

What you probably already know is that there are many steps we can take to slow and even reverse these effects. A combination of steps would be ideal, as each course of action has its own pros and cons.

I would like for you to create a plan for how to implement different initiatives into a cohesive strategy for combating the effects of carbon pollution on climate change. We have identified four alternatives to the problem of carbon pollution: planting trees, increasing the use of electric cars, increasing the use of public transportation, and imposing a carbon tax on businesses. For each of these alternatives you will need to consider expense, how popular the idea is with the public, how much carbon pollution is lowered, and how likely it is that Congress will approve it.

After researching each alternative, rank them from best to worst as a suggestion for Congress’ plan to budget for this initiative, and determine the percentage of the budget that should be awarded to each alternative.

Please write a letter back to me and let me know your decision concerning budget allocation. Also include the process you used to make this decision.

Thank you,

Dr. Eartha Friendly

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

1. Only for use with How do we reduce carbon pollution lesson plan. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)