Facing global issues

Hi there! This is Earth speaking. Will you spare a moment to listen to me? I have some very important things to discuss.

We must face up to some urgent environmental problems! All living things depend on my environment, but the way you humans are living at the moment, I will not be able to keep looking after you.

The issues I am worried about are:

- the effects of global warming
- the health of natural environments
- the use of non-renewable energy supplies
- the environmental impact of unsustainable cities
- the build-up of toxic waste in the environment
- a reliable water supply for all.

My global challenge to you is to find a sustainable way of living. Read on to find out what people around the world are doing to try to help.

What's the issue?
Global warming

Today we know that Earth is warming rapidly due to the impact of human activities. This process is known as global warming.

Changes to climate
Global warming causes changes to climate. These changes can already be seen in every environment on Earth. In 2007 the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) agreed that Earth is an average of 0.6 degrees Celsius warmer than it was before 1970. It is predicted that Earth will continue to warm in the future.

Effects of global warming
Every region will experience different effects of global warming. These effects include more heatwaves and droughts, less ice cover, more extreme floods and changing seasons.

Fast fact
Sustainable development is a form of growth that lets us meet our present needs while leaving resources for future generations to meet their needs too.