# [Effects the tourism industry has on climate change](http://gbmaq.org/effects-the-tourism-industry-hason-climate-change/)

We are all up to our necks with information on climate change and the need of the hour to use and develop alternate energy sources. Yet there appears no change in the common man’s habit or spending ability. The rate at which we are destroying the world we live in is not only frightening but mostly irrevocable. This means that what is lost can not be gotten back. The rampant use of non renewable energy sources is something that must stop right now. Even if we do manage to stop this use, it will almost impossible to bring back the levels of these energy sources up to a respectable level.

For the human population, never before in our history, have a majority of us been so well off. This is a new phenomena and the earth and its many inhabitants are in the process of getting used to it. Never before have humans had the ability to travel from continent to continent with relative ease. This has happened not only due to the increased prosperity of most of its race but also the rate of invention that has ripped through our world. We have gone from learning the art of man made flight in the first half of the last century to now understanding the mathematics involved to break the sound barrier. This has, as expected, brought on a new wave of climate problems.

The aircraft industry is one of the leading causes of climate change and is also one of the largest contributors to the green house gas emissions. Contributing a staggering percentage of 55-75%, this is not the time to take these matters as a joke.Every year is witness to more and more small time aircraft companies being launched and this is only taxing an earth that is almost taxed to the limit.

With large groups of people being able to travel regularly, the earth is facing a an issue of humongous proportions. The natural resources needed to facilitate this transition is disappearing at an alarming rate. How do corporations mainly the ones closely associated with travel and tourism cope?

They cope by putting pressure on the government and natural resource organisations. They fund and facilitate the process of depleting the ocean bed of oil and natural gasses. And it is not only the ocean that is laid open to their vandalism. Natural geysers, volcanoes and oil wells are not spared either.They put pressure on the human aspect of their operation by outsourcing their process to third world countries.

Another aspect of how tourism contributes to the climate change is an oft overlooked sector. The people who travel bring with them their dietary preferences and customs to the countries they visit. Most of the travelers belong to the first world and are brought up on a staple diet of beef, chicken and other non vegetarian foods. These foods are not the staple diet in many third world countries. To encourage visitors from the western world, these previously vegetarian countries have slowly started offering non vegetarian dishes in hotels and restaurants mainly to please their foreign visitors. However, this slowly becomes staple diet for the natives too. I am not blaming anyone and neither am I absolving the natives of any country, from the blame. I am merely mentioning how livestock farming has gotten out of control and contributes more green house gas emissions that the entire world’s transport sector. This is a serious problem that must be tackled as soon as possible.

Increase in the number of tourists, especially to third world countries, will no doubt increase their income, but it has a silent and deadly side effect. This being the pressure being put on the country’s already scarce natural resources like food, water and minerals.

Tourists to all parts of the world contribute significantly in the garbage of that country. Most of this garbage is non recyclable and a large portion of this is electronic and plastic items. Only a handful of countries regulate the disposal of its garbage. Most countries do not. This leads to the dumping of dangerous materials in our oceans or outsourcing our garbage to third world countries because they are in desperate need of our dollars.

One of the ways we can reduce our carbon footprint while travelling is learning to recycle most of our waste items. Instead of buying a dozen water bottles every day, we could buy just one bottle and fill it up when required.