

VIDYA BHAWAN BALIKA VIDYAPEETH

STUDY MATERIAL SCIENCE

CLASS-VIII

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▶ Combustion :

Environmental impact of burning fuels :

Fuels, such as firewood, coal, oil and gas, have been the driving force of economies around the world, but the widespread use of these fuels has also given rise to many problems that affect both humans and the

environment. Wood produces smoke that is injurious to health. Large-scale cutting of trees for wood has also led to widespread deforestation, which had a serious impact on the environment and wildlife around the world.

The combustion of most fuels releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. In the past two centuries, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has gone up dramatically, leading to a steady rise in the earth's average temperature a phenomenon known as global warming. Global warming is already a serious problem and is causing glaciers and polar ice caps to melt leading to rise in sea levels. If warming of the earth continues at the present rate, the rising seas may flood and submerge many coastal areas and displace millions of people.

Burning of fossil fuels is also the cause of acid rain. When coal and diesel are burnt, sulphur dioxide gas is produced. Burning of petrol in a car engine gives off oxides of nitrogen. When these oxides are washed down by rainwater, it causes acid rain that damages buildings, forests and lakes, killing trees, fish & other wildlife.

There is now greater awareness about the harmful impact of fossil fuels on the environment. Hence, cleaner fuels, such as CNG, LPG and PNG are becoming popular in cities both for cooking and as fuel for cars and buses. Strict emission standards for vehicles are also being enforced. The use of alternative energy sources, such as solar energy and biogas have also helped in reducing pollution and keeping the environment clean.