

## **Should Governments Impose Stricter Regulations to Combat Climate Change**

Since 1850, Earth's temperature has increased by an average of 0.11° Fahrenheit (0.06° Celsius) per decade, accumulating to a total rise of about 2° F. Notably, the pace of warming has accelerated significantly since 1982, increasing more than threefold to 0.36° F (0.20° C) per decade (Lindsey & Dahlman, 2024). This global temperature rise underscores the pressing reality of climate change, a global phenomenon characterized by long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns, primarily due to human activities like fossil fuel burning, which increases greenhouse gas emissions. The urgency and severity of climate change demand immediate and robust action; thus, it is imperative that governments worldwide enforce stricter regulations to address this crisis. Voluntary measures alone have proven insufficient in meeting the substantial challenges posed by global warming, making stringent governmental intervention essential to mitigate its impacts effectively and ensure a sustainable future.

### **Necessity of Stricter Regulations**

Stricter regulations are crucial for effectively combating climate change, as evidenced by the substantial environmental degradation and increased carbon emissions resulting from inadequate regulatory frameworks. Numerous instances around the globe show that in the absence of firm government policies, industries continue to prioritize short-term economic gains over long-term environmental sustainability, leading to unchecked carbon outputs and ecological harm (Wolde-Rufael & Mulat-Weldemeskel, 2021). For example, in regions where carbon emissions are not capped or sufficiently taxed, there has been a marked increase in the burning of fossil fuels, contributing significantly to global warming (Wolde-Rufael & Mulat-Weldemeskel, 2021). This unchecked industrial activity not only exacerbates the accumulation of greenhouse gases but also leads to severe air quality issues, affecting both human health and the environment. Furthermore,

deforestation and loss of biodiversity are often more severe where environmental regulations are weak or poorly enforced. These examples illustrate how, without robust governmental regulations, the efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and halt environmental degradation are severely undermined. Thus, to ensure meaningful progress in the fight against climate change, it is imperative that governments implement and enforce stricter regulations, underscoring the necessity of firm action to address this global crisis effectively.

### **Economic and Social Benefits**

Stricter environmental regulations not only serve to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change but also generate significant economic and social benefits. The implementation of these regulations has proven to spur economic growth through the development of green technologies and the expansion of renewable energy sectors (Prokop et al., 2023). For instance, the transition towards renewable energy sources such as solar and wind has created millions of jobs worldwide, fostering new industries and opportunities for economic diversification. Additionally, these regulations have a profound impact on public health. By reducing emissions and curbing pollution, communities experience fewer pollution-related diseases, such as asthma and heart disease, which in turn decreases healthcare costs and improves quality of life (Prokop et al., 2023). These benefits extend to greater societal well-being, with cleaner environments contributing to enhanced overall social welfare. The economic gains from job creation in new green sectors, along with the health benefits from a cleaner environment, clearly demonstrate that the advantages of stricter environmental regulations far surpass the initial costs involved. This underlines the importance of such regulations not only for environmental sustainability but also for economic stability and social well-being.

## **International Cooperation and Compliance**

International cooperation is essential for enforcing stricter environmental regulations and effectively combating climate change. This necessity is exemplified by global agreements like the Paris Agreement, which unites nations in the common cause of limiting global temperature rise this century (Chan et al., 2018). The Agreement encourages countries to bolster their efforts through nationally determined contributions, demonstrating a commitment to a collective response. Such international accords exemplify how coordinated regulations and standards can lead to more effective strategies against climate change (Chan et al., 2018). By aligning policies and sharing successful approaches, countries can avoid redundant efforts and leverage shared knowledge and technologies to accelerate progress. Moreover, international cooperation ensures that stringent environmental policies disadvantage no nation, as all commit to similar sacrifices and gains, promoting fairness and mutual accountability (Chan et al., 2018). This coordinated effort is crucial because climate change is a borderless issue affecting every part of the globe. The challenges posed by global warming, therefore, require a unified response that transcends national boundaries, underscoring the fact that effective mitigation of climate change can only be achieved through comprehensive and cooperative governmental action. This collective approach not only amplifies individual efforts but also solidifies a global commitment to sustainable development.

### **Counterarguments and Rebuttals**

Some critics of stricter government regulations argue that these measures could stifle economic growth by imposing additional costs on businesses. However, evidence suggests that economies can indeed flourish under such regulations through the development of green technologies and sustainable practices (Chan et al., 2018). For instance, the renewable energy sector has seen significant job creation and investment, outpacing traditional industries in many

areas. These innovations not only contribute to economic diversification but also promote long-term stability by reducing dependency on finite resources. Another common counterargument is the claim that the effects of climate change are exaggerated (Lewandowsky et al., 2015). Yet, this position is contradicted by the overwhelming scientific consensus which indicates that the impacts of climate change are both severe and immediate, affecting everything from global weather patterns to food production systems. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports provide comprehensive data supporting the urgent need for action to prevent catastrophic outcomes. Therefore, these counterarguments fall short when weighed against the critical necessity and proven efficacy of implementing stricter environmental regulations. Such measures are not only feasible but essential for securing a sustainable future, demonstrating that the benefits of stringent regulations far outweigh the purported disadvantages.

### **Conclusion**

To effectively combat the pressing issue of climate change, it is imperative that governments worldwide implement stricter regulations. This essay has illustrated the necessity of such measures, highlighting not only their environmental urgency but also the substantial economic and social benefits they bring. Stricter regulations foster innovation in green technology and sustainable practices, leading to job creation and improved public health. Furthermore, the importance of international cooperation has been emphasized, as climate change is a global challenge that requires a unified response. As such, these efforts must be supported by robust policy frameworks that encourage countries to act collectively and decisively. Therefore, citizens and policymakers alike must advocate for and support the enactment of stringent environmental regulations. By doing so, people can ensure a sustainable future for subsequent generations, combating climate change with the seriousness and dedication it demands.

**References**

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