



## CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS EVERYONE

*Teddy Bear and Sawyer Habitat Bear talk in Teddy's office.*

**Teddy:** It's time to have a serious discussion about climate change. I will gather some climate change survivors in a seminar. Their points-of-view will be very helpful.

**Sawyer:** Good idea! We need to hear about their experiences. I will research the science.

*Invitations to": Dolphin, Moose, Prairie Dog, Snapping Turtle*

**Invitation to a seminar with Teddy Bear and Sawyer Habitat Bear.**

**Topic for discussion: climate change**

**When: Monday, 2:00 p.m. How: Zoom** (Participants will receive link)

*At 2 pm Dolphin, Moose, Prairie Dog and Snapping Turtle and four interpreters login to Zoom link.*

**Teddy:** Welcome to this seminar on climate change. We need to hear each of your experiences with major climate events. Then we will compile what we learned from them. Sawyer Habitat Bear is our science expert. He will begin by defining climate change.

**Sawyer:** First, let's define climate. Climate is the long-term pattern of weather in a specific area. **Climate change** is increasing changes in measures of climate over a long period of time. Scientists measure temperature, precipitation, and wind patterns. Global warming (temperature) is one of the effects of climate change.

**Teddy:** Now we will begin with hearing from survivors. Moose, please introduce yourself and tell us your story.

**Moose:** My name is Moose and I live in Maine. Last winter there was a severe **blizzard**. The wind was so strong and the snow was so heavy that I couldn't see anything. Somehow I was able to keep moving, but other members of my family were killed by the storm. I don't know how I got out since trees were falling everywhere.

**Sawyer:** A **blizzard** is a severe snowstorm with strong winds of at least 35 miles per hour. As a result, trees fall and plants die. The damaged forests release excess carbon dioxide, so the local ecosystem is unbalanced.

**Moose:** I am thankful to be alive.

**Teddy:** Thank you for sharing your story, Moose. Now let's hear from Dolphin.

**Dolphin:** I'm Dolphin and my home is the Gulf coast. I was blown ashore by **hurricane** Ian and almost died. You see, I can't live out of the water for long.

**Sawyer:** A **hurricane** is a tropical storm with wind speed of 74 miles per hour or more. The eye is the most dangerous part. The eye may be 20-30 miles wide and may extend over 400 miles. The dangers of a hurricane include torrential rains, high winds and storm surges.

**Dolphin:** That's what pushed me out of the water. I couldn't breathe on the sand, but then the tide pushed be back in. I was so lucky, because lots of my friends were killed.

**Sawyer:** Scientists tell us that climate change is making hurricanes wetter, windier and more intense. There is also evidence that it is causing storms to travel more slowly, meaning they can dump more water in one place.

**Teddy:** I appreciate what you've told us, Dolphin. Now let's hear from Prairie Dog.

**Prairie Dog:** My name is Prairie Dog and I live in the Midwest. I lost my home underground because of the **draught**. It was so dry for so long. Never any rain or snow to water the earth. My family and I had to migrate a long way to find grassland for a home.

**Sawyer** (*reads from tablet*). A **drought** is an extended period of dry weather caused by a lack of rain or snow. As temperatures rise due to global climate change, more moisture evaporates from land and water, leaving less water behind. Some places are getting more rain or snow to make up for it, but other places are getting less.

**Teddy:** Thank You, Prairie Dog for sharing your story. Snapping Turtle is next.

**Snapping Turtle:** My legal name is Snapping Turtle, but call me Snapper. I was washed out of my usual habitat when the Kansas River **flooded** the land. I can't move very fast and I almost drowned. Slow, but sure, never stopping, I made it onto dry land

**Sawyer:** River **flooding** is when a river or stream overflows its natural banks and covers normally dry land. Climate change can cause river floods to become larger or more frequent than they used to be. Warmer temperatures = increased evaporation = more moisture in the air = more precipitation (rain or snow).

**Teddy:** We appreciate your story, Snapper. Now let's compile what we learned from your experiences.

(*writes on white board*) Survivors: Moose - blizzard. Dolphin - hurricane. Prairie Dog - draught. Snapping Turtle - flood. What do they all have in common?

**Prairie Dog:** Climate change.

**Dolphin:** All of these events have gotten worse over time.

**Moose:** They hurt all of us . . . animals and people.

**Snapper:** And trees and plants and the whole environment.

**Teddy:** What can people do to stop climate change?

**Sawyer:** Conserve energy all the time. Reduce, recycle reuse.

**Snapper:** People can turn off the lights.

**Prairie Dog:** They can walk or bike, not drive.

**Dolphin:** Take short showers.

**Teddy:** This is good! I will make a poster with your suggestions. Thank you all so much for participating in this seminar!

**Dolphin:** Thank you, Teddy and Sawyer! (exit Zoom)

**Moose:** Really appreciate being heard! (exit Zoom)

**Prairie Dog:** Really enjoyed this seminar! (exit Zoom)

**Snapper:** Keep up the environmental work, Teddy and Sawyer! (exit Zoom)

**Problem: climate change**

**7R solution:**

- \*Reduce use of electricity, energy and water.
- \*Regularly use eco-friendly products.
- \*Recycle everything possible.
- \*Reuse anything you can.
- \*Ride or walk.
- \*Readily volunteer for community environmental projects.
- \*Restore tree loss by planting a tree.