

ECOLOGY

Milestones :

-1970s/1980s : People start realizing what the effects of pollution and global warming could be

-1989: Margaret Thatcher called for a global agreement on climate change

-1997 : Kyoto protocol → developed nations pledged to lower emissions by 5 % over the next 15y ; but the US senate refused to ratify the agreement.

-2016 : the Paris agreement was a historic turning point. Its signatories agreed to limit global warming to below 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and pledged to help poorer countries invest in cleaner energies.

-2017 : the US withdraw from the Paris agreement.

Ideas for a line of argument :

Pbq : Are ecology and progress compatible ?

I) Technologies being invented nowadays are not always eco-friendly

-often eats up too much power : renewable energies are not gainful → corporations rather use energy from coal-fired or nuclear plants.

-even innovations that try to be are not always efficient → unknown perspectives for electric cars (electricity comes from plants, and the batteries are very toxic waste)

II) But at every scale, people begin to realise what the stakes are

- at the scale of a household, of a city → waste sorting has become mandatory in some cities ; overpacking is being cut down ;

At a larger scale → many governments want to act (COP21, COP24...)

Vocab and definitions :

Effet de serre	-	Greenhouse effect
Cancérigène	-	Carcinogenic
Se débarrasser de	-	To dispose of/ to dump
Conscient de l'écologie	-	Green-minded
Sans danger	-	Harmless
Réduire les emballages	-	To cut overpacking
Développement durable	-	Sustainable development
Surconsommation	-	Overconsumption
Futur proche	-	Forseeable future
Tri des déchets	-	Waste separation
Traiter les eaux usées	-	To process sewage

-Ecology : (1) advocacy for the protection of natural resources from pollution or its effects
(2) study of interactions between organisms and their environment.

Eco-activism : refers to changing one's daily habits and standing up to industrial interests that threaten citizens and the environment.

Bonus :

-Chemist Svante Arrhenius guessed in 1896 that global warming would occur, but he thought that it would be beneficial for the planet and the human kind.

« What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on ? » Henry David Thoreau

