

## Words for Your World

### **Year 10 Winner: Oliver Williams, Bury Grammar Schools**

To the UN

As of the recent cop26 climate meeting last year I would like to address my fears about the current climate emergency and what more needs to be done on top of the current policies that came out of cop26. One of the policies which came out of cop26 was the phase down of coal and similar fossil fuels across the world this had the direct impact of a 76% decrease in new coal power plants and over 40 countries pledged support for this action. The question is will this be enough to keep climate targets in line and the answer is no. I am afraid as although this is a significant step and countries agree that action needs to be taken it does not stop all new coal power plants from being built and the current power plants which are already operating need to be decreased and replaced with more efficient and cleaner methods of producing electricity. Furthermore, world leaders need to support developing countries who may not have the facilities to start fighting against climate change as I feel not enough is being done in this area.

Other issues on top of this are concerning as well such as the acceleration in switching to electric vehicles. This alone produces issues as the materials for electric vehicles are costly to environment themselves. Lithium, nickel and cobalt are needed to make car batteries. Not only are these resources extremely limited but they cause poverty and proper working standards are often not in place where these materials are extracted from. Apart from damaging and possibly violating human rights to get all the batteries needed it also poses the threat of creating large amounts of electronic waste as they near the ends of their life time. This gives me the question is moving away from fossil fuels and going to electric an actually renewable energy source for fuelling cars as it is just as costly to the environment in other ways.

Another concern I have with the cop26 outcomes is that they aren't doing enough to tackle the problems and pollution that global trade has on the environment. The only policy that targeted global trade was that 22 countries pledged to cut the carbon emissions on their shipping routes which is extremely insignificant when the top importers and exporters fail to see any issue with the problem global shipping has.

The goal which was set to keep the temperatures at 1.5 degrees has been achieved but only just. The likelihood that the 1.5 degrees will be kept is looking slim and unlikely for the future unless world leaders can finally come to the conclusion that they will either have to do something now or a lot more when it is too late later on.

Regards,

Oliver