

Global Warming

By Ríonn Cahill

“19 of the hottest years have occurred since 2000 in the earth’s lifetime” (NASA). If that isn't a stat that scares you, I don't know what will. Global warming is one of the biggest threats to humanity and is happening right in front of our eyes. “Most of the increase in global temperatures since 1950 has been caused by human activity” (IPCC). Average land and ocean temperature have increased twice as fast since 1981 in comparison to the years previous.” (NOAA) These stats are staggering to say the least. Our generation currently use and burn fossil fuels at a higher rate than any generation before us. The damage is being done in plain sight.

Across the board in terms of which countries are the highest contributors to Co2 emissions worldwide, 7% is from Europe as a whole in comparison to China at 28%. This indicates that China contributes 4 times as much CO2 into the atmosphere than Europe as a full continent. The vast majority of countries worldwide on average do not exceed 1% of the Co2 contributed to the atmosphere. The real issue lies with the two international superpowers, as everything does. China (28%) and the USA (15%). This is where the focus and emphasis should be. Everybody must play their part in saving the planet as it is happening right in front of our eyes, if we do not act now our existence in itself will be cut short.

All hope is not lost “The solution we need for a carbon-zero future already exists. Wind and solar energy now regularly out-competes fossil fuels in most regions of the world” (WWF). One of the highest contributors to air pollution is the vehicle industry. Volvo, one of the largest vehicle companies internationally, promises on becoming a climate neutral company by 2040. It has now become a trend to go green. Have you?