

Exploring the sociological impacts of going green in developing countries

As a society, we are becoming increasingly aware of the impact that we are having on the planet. Temperatures are rising, ice caps are melting and natural disasters like wildfires and extreme flooding are on the up.

This is affecting everyone, but in particular developing countries, because of geography but also economic factors which make it harder for these nations to prepare for major disasters. It's important to note that this impact is not proportionate to the amount of carbon emissions produced – developing countries have [some of the lowest emissions](#) on the planet.

Unfortunately, climate change isn't going away. In our quest towards a more sustainable future, the phrase "going green" has evolved from a simple trend to a vital imperative. In this blog, we'll explore the sociological impacts of being more sustainable in regions where the balance between ecological responsibility and economic growth is most delicate.

Health benefits

Fossil fuels aren't just harmful to the environment. They release dangerous toxins into the air we breathe, which can cause both short and long term [damage to human health](#). Experts suggest that exposure to these gases can lead to issues such as early death, heart attacks, respiratory disorders, strokes, asthma and issues in pregnancy to name a few.

Not only do these health concerns have a direct impact on the people inhaling them, but they also mean that the society needs to have more doctors and hospital places to care for these patients. Cleaner, greener air would mean a reduction in these severe health issues, therefore lessening the strain on healthcare services, and improving quality of life.

Improving infrastructure

Sustainable infrastructure has the potential to reduce the global carbon footprint by [3.7 gigatons of CO2](#) per year over the next 15 years. Not only does this have a positive impact for the planet, and therefore in turn decrease the number of natural disasters due to climate change, but it can help access too.

Currently, the infrastructure in emerging countries doesn't always meet the needs of the people that live there. They may not have access to regular running water, electricity or sanitation. However, sustainable alternatives or sustainable city planning may have the dual benefit of being able to improve these facilities for many people.

Job creation

[Sustainable processes and technologies](#) need workers to implement them, operate them and maintain them. This means that 'going green' could create a whole host of jobs, which would benefit the local area, providing employment and supporting families by extension.

These skills are futureproofed too; the drive for sustainability needs to continue, meaning that workers who become competent in these technologies may have better job opportunities for the rest of their careers.

Enhanced social connection

One of the fulfilling sociological impacts of 'going green' is the building of social capital. Community-based projects that promote sustainable living and environmental conservation often require collaboration and cooperation among individuals, creating stronger social ties.

Moreover, a sense of common purpose emerges as community members work towards a shared goal. This leads to greater trust and reciprocity within the community, fostering a more cohesive society.

A greener future for all

It's evident that 'going green' initiatives in developing countries have far-reaching societal impacts beyond just environmental preservation. By promoting community collaboration, we can harness the power of green technologies to create positive sociological change in developing nations.