

How I would Change the World

Last year a woman named Aisha Amar watched as the pollution rate in Pakistan exceeded a safe rate. Her husband's respiratory diseases worsened, and her 11-year old son developed a chest infection. Many cities in Pakistan are well above a safe rate of air pollution, affecting the population of Pakistan in an unhealthy way. If I had the opportunity to address the impact of climate change on global health, I would travel to Pakistan to work on solving one problem – air pollution. And I would work to implement a carbon tax, helping save one of the most polluted places on the planet.

Pakistan is a country in south Asia with a population of over 200 million. Strained by poverty and conflict, this pollution only makes life harder for these people. A document published by the World Health Organization says Pakistan is the number one most polluted place in the world followed by Qatar.

Pakistan has many issues contributing to their pollution problem, but their brick kilns are one of the biggest contributors. Pakistan has over 20,000 brick kilns, with just one of them producing over 302,000 tons of carbon monoxide and over 6000 tons of black carbon per year. Carbon monoxide and black carbon are both highly dangerous gases. Carbon monoxide can cause headache, fatigue, dizziness, drowsiness and nausea. Black carbon is much worse. It can cause respiratory and cardiovascular disease, cancer and even birth defects.

By implementing a carbon tax, the brick kiln industry would slow down and either modernize or stop, in the meantime letting the government of Pakistan collect tax revenue that could be later invested back into the country. This money could be used to improve the education

system and fund environmental cleanup projects throughout the nation. At the same time, Pakistan could implement policies to incentivize technology companies to set up operations in the country's cities. This would help start a transition from environmentally-damaging manufacturing to a clean, tech-based economy.

For the remaining carbon producing industries, a policy could be established that for every ton of carbon released they would have to sponsor the planting of 10 trees somewhere in the country. This would help the environment and create jobs for the people planting the trees.

Right now, Pakistan is experiencing a lot of pollution though with the right actions taken quickly they can improve their country and the planet for generations to come.

Bibliography

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