

Impact of technology on the environment

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What is **TECHNOLOGY?**



“Technology can be defined as the products, tools and processes used to accomplish tasks in daily life. According to Use of Technology, technology is the application of science to solve a problem. Technology involves the application of engineering and applied sciences to solve the practical problems of human lives.”



The Effects are Categorized into:

- Natural Environment Impacts
- Human Health Impacts



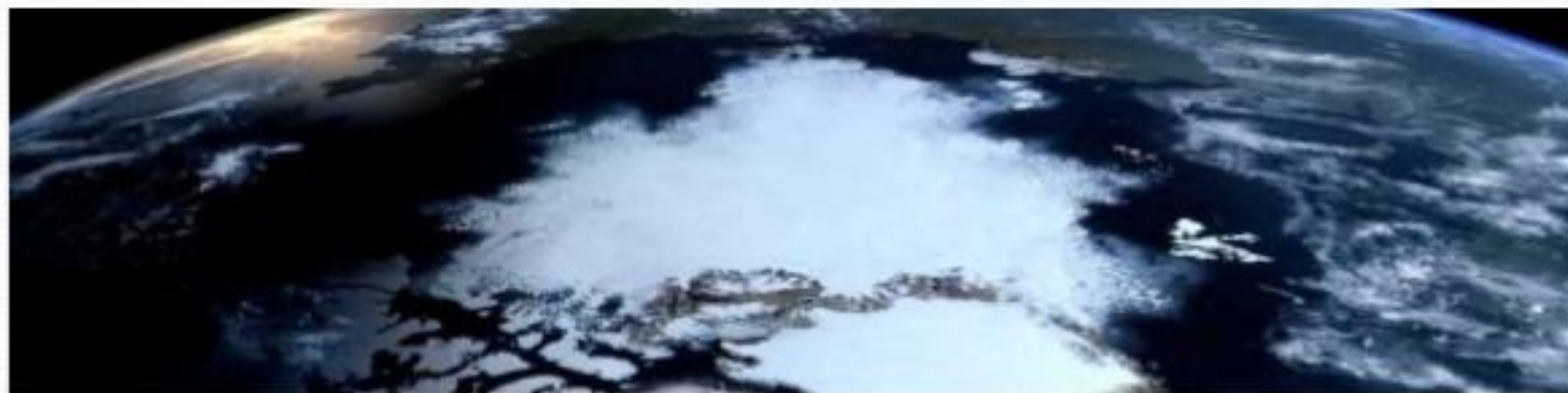
Human Health Impacts

Technology can have a large impact on users' mental and physical health. Being overly connected can cause psychological issues such as distraction, narcissism, expectation of instant gratification, and even depression.



Impacts on the Natural Environment

This category focuses on the effects a technology may have on organisms, their habitats, the life supporting capacity of natural ecosystems, and on biodiversity. Of particular concern is the loss of endangered and rare plant and animal species, and destruction of endangered and limited habitats.



Three principal impact pathways should be considered when assessing impacts in this category:

- Habitat loss or alteration through land clearance (e.g. as a consequence of raw material demand or development of a site).



- Physical disruption of habitat; for example, the construction of pipelines that inhibit the migration of animals.



- The chemical contamination of the environment through the release of wastes that have a direct toxic effect on flora and fauna (e.g. pesticides) or that alter the functionality of an ecosystem through such processes as eutrophication (e.g. the discharge of nutrients or other chemicals with high biological oxygen demand (BOD) and acidification).

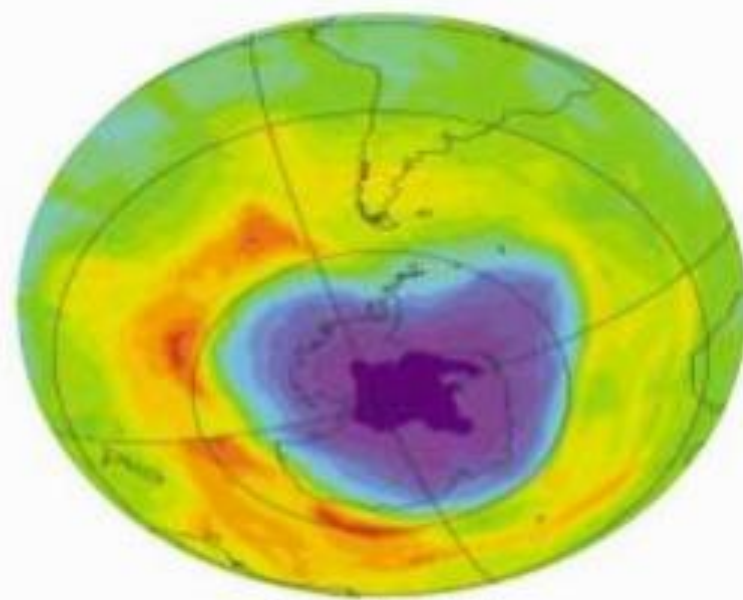


- Enhance global warming (i.e. greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, and nitrous oxides).



- Deplete the stratospheric ozone layer, for example chlorofluorocarbons.

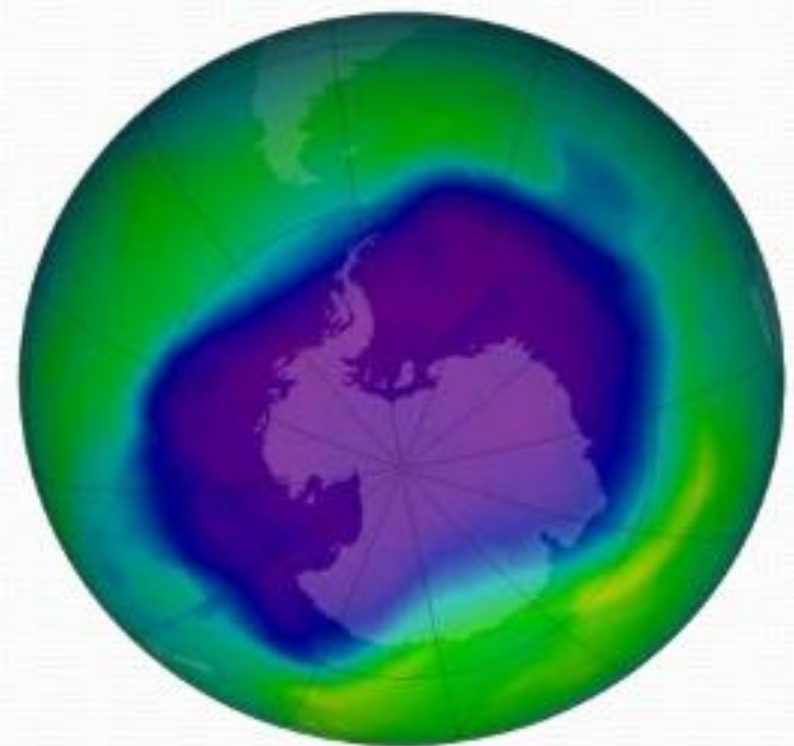
Antarctic Ozone Hole



4 October 2001



Total Ozone (Dobson units)



- Exposure to hazardous chemicals - Inhalation (e.g. air pollution), dermal contact, ingestion of contaminated food and water (e.g. pesticide residue) of hazardous chemicals and of radioactive material.



#FactsAboutOurEnvironment

#SadReality

#EnvironmentalDilemma





Nearly 80% of sewage in developing countries is discharged untreated and pollutes **rivers, lakes and coastal areas.**



In developing countries, 70% of industrial waste is dumped untreated into waters where it pollutes the **potable water supply**.



Every day, 2 million tons of **human waste** is disposed in water bodies.



The **global sea level** rose about 6.7 inches in the last century. The rate in the last decade, however, was nearly double that.



Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths a year, mainly because of **malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea** and **heat stress**.