

Global warming – who's to blame?

With all the current publicity about the environmental damage that's been done to our planet, have you ever wondered if the situation could have been prevented before it even started? We're all aware of the impact some of our current actions have on the Earth's resources and what we can do to minimise damage in the future - but where and when did it all start?

Is it all based on a myth?

According to Greek mythology it was started by Prometheus. He was a Titan and a son of gods, in Greek myth he stole fire from Zeus and gave it to human beings. This made the gods so cross that they chained him naked to a rock with his back exposed and had eagles eat his liver.

It's now clear that the gods were quite right to do that. Chimpanzees and gorillas and baboons and orang-utans have all managed to survive perfectly well by eating raw vegetables and plants, whereas not only do humans prepare hot meals, but we've managed to almost destroy our planet as a life-support system in less than two hundred years, mainly by having thermodynamic fun with fossil fuels.

Who did what and when?

Just over one hundred and seventy years ago the Englishman Michael Faraday built the first electric generator. Nearly one hundred and fifty years ago Edwin L Drake drilled the first oil well in Titusville, Pennsylvania USA, this is now a dry hole. In Germany Karl Benz built the first automobile powered by an internal combustion engine only one hundred and nineteen years ago. The first aircraft built and flown by the American Wright brothers just one hundred and one years ago was powered by gasoline.

It was bound to happen?

Fossil fuels are easily set alight and we're currently burning off nearly the last of them. Our lights are about to go out. No more electricity. All forms of powered transportation will cease, and the surface of the planet Earth will become encrusted with the useless remains of dead machinery.

It's too late for anyone to sort out and it's a shame to spoil the party. The truth is that humans have squandered the Earth's resources, including air and water, as though there were no tomorrow, so now there won't be one.

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