DRINK LOCAL DRINK TAP™

GET THE FACTS:
CLIMATE CRISIS & WATER SECURITY

CLIMATE CHANGE

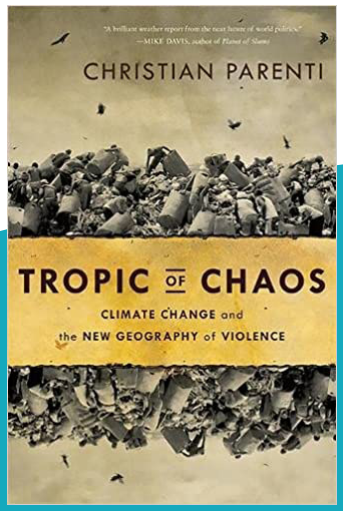
Climate Change is the change in global or regional climate patterns, attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by fossil fuels through human use. The effects of climate change are happening even faster than initially predicted and are considered a global crisis. This “climate crisis” is seen through weather pattern shifts, extreme weather becoming more frequent and severe, and animal and human migrations that are due to these changes.

WATER SECURITY

Water Security is when people have sustainable access to enough good quality water for: livelihoods, human well-being, socio-economic development, protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in an environment of peace and political stability. The ability to provide and maintain water security is becoming increasingly more difficult across the globe due to the climate crisis.

CLIMATE CRISIS

The “climate crisis” is a term that describes the threat of global warming and climate change to the planet and urges aggressive solutions and mitigation. Changes in weather patterns and increased frequency of severe weather events affect both the land and the people and wildlife that live on that land. In 2017 alone, over 30 million people were affected by the climate crisis. We are seeing more flooding, larger fires, land loss, emerging disease, changes in migrations, and each of these affect how people live and provide for their families.



A suggestion for adult readers, *Tropic of Chaos*, explains migrations, violence, civil war, famine and hardships due to the climate crisis in hot spots.

THE EASIEST WAY TO OBSERVE THE EFFECTS OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS THROUGH WATER.

Too much water.

Larger more severe flooding is being experienced around the globe. This affects crops, causes rises in sea and lake levels and increases water pollution.

Too little water.

Droughts are becoming more severe. This contributes to heat waves, larger and hotter fires, a lack of drinking water, and crop destruction.

Too dirty water.

Water becomes polluted with flooding, algal blooms suffocate water supplies with hotter temperatures and more runoff (see Fact Sheet on algal blooms) and combined sewer overflows systems are overwhelmed (see Fact Sheet on CSO's).

WHAT WE CAN DO

Educate yourself by listening to climate scientists and paying attention to what your elected officials are doing in relation to the environment. Choose to make changes to your habits, such as: refuse plastic bags and straws, reuse materials, limit buying new items, support local organic farmers, walk or ride a bike when possible, and talk to others about how those small acts can contribute to positive change.

Get involved on a local level with your community and consider taking part in a beach or park cleanup. Donate or fundraise for organizations who are fighting the good fight. Be conscious of who your sources of information are and seek science-based, factual sources. Anytime you see or hear about a climate-related crisis ask yourself -

How will this affect the future? What can we be doing differently?

Dig in and ask the hard questions. The human impact of the climate crisis can often be hard to absorb but if we ignore it we are contributing to the problem.

SOURCES:
https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2018/
United Nations
https://www.unwater.org/publications/water-security-infographic/
https://www.un.org/en/un75/climate-crisis-race-we-can-win

DRINK LOCAL DRINK TAP™
ACCESS - EDUCATION - ACTIVISM

DrinkLocalDrinkTap.org | 440-381-6430 | Cleveland, Ohio, USA