

COP28 Climate Updates

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The United Nations Climate Conference, known as COP28, is where countries come together annually to discuss solutions to the ongoing climate crisis. COP 28 officially stands for the 28th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC. The most recent meeting was held in Dubai during the end of 2023. Around 70,000 delegates were expected to attend, spanning from members of state, business leaders, young adults, climate scientists, indigenous peoples, professors, and many others.

Let us look into last year's conference, COP 27. This summit ended with a particular agreement for the providing of "loss and damage" to countries at high vulnerability as a result of climate change, specifically, the transfer of recovery aid to these nations. This agreement was set in stone by the delegates, however, experts are now looking at this as less of a solidified decision and more of a symbolic one: not enough funding was provided and there was no commitment to increasing the amount of funding, either. Transitioning back to the discussion of COP 28, one of the main goals that delegates agreed on was to steer away from fossil fuels by transitioning to renewable energy sources and efficiency. By helping reduce damage being done, specifically in major countries that rely on fossil fuels to power factories and run businesses, the world could gradually see forecasts for sea level and other climate-related issues shift to improved levels. As briefly mentioned earlier, major issues with the agreements made are the non-binding agreements. Due to the non-enforceable outcomes of COP, the plans to reduce fossil fuel usage has been reduced to only an outline of the goals originally talked about, similarly to the agreement facilitated by COP 27.

A major topic on the horizon in recent days that was discussed by delegates of COP 28 was methane. Methane saliency plays a part of one third of current global warming issues. Technologies get better at measuring oil and gas emissions. Both contain methane in it. The United States and Canada have set regulations on the production of methane and oil and gas productions. With plans to integrate methane reductions into a cap-and-trade system designed to cut oil and gas sector emissions. Europe has also announced new methane regulations on energy that produces the same energy it consumes.

In total the COP28 has agreed to continue to work through reducing the fossil fuels usage with the UAE consensus. Although criticized by some for seemingly invisible goals, this is stated as a "historical" step in the right direction to fixing our planet.

References:

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