

The Environmental Impact of COVID-19

“*The Earth is Healing*”, this statement has been making the rounds online ever since the world was taken by surprise by the coronavirus pandemic also known as “COVID-19”. With most countries on lockdown to prevent further spreading, headlines such as [large drops in air pollution rates in China](#), [animals roaming once populated cities and tourist spots](#) and other similar news are becoming more and more common as humanity’s time under quarantine quietly passes by. Are we in the midst of an environmental comeback which would reform the global outlook on climate change and other similar issues for the years to come, or is this phenomenon we now face a fleeting moment in human history? The real question remains, *is the earth truly healing?*

As of the moment, we cannot arrive at a definitive and indisputable answer to this question. With most of the world leaders and top global organizations at a standstill, key discussions on matters addressing climate change such as the UN (United Nations) Annual Climate Summit scheduled on November 2020 have been **postponed until next year**. The *airline industry* and other sectors which are suffering the economic impact of the pandemic are also lobbying for a relaxation of environmental policies to recover their losses which could spell disaster for global efforts against climate change if abused and mismanaged.

On the other hand, COVID-19 can also serve as a moment for industries to *reset* their business models, which includes environmental policies. The economic shock brought about by the coronavirus pandemic is a stark reminder of the capacity of natural events to send entire businesses to the edge of financial ruin in the blink of an eye. In crises such as the COVID-19 outbreak, government responsibility for the preservation of human rights which includes the **right to a sustainable environment**, is heightened now more than ever.

After everything is said and done and the dust has settled, the coronavirus pandemic will be an indelible mark in human history. Future generations will come to know this period as “the day the Earth stood still”. We still do not know where this once-in-a-lifetime experience will take our planet in the months to come. Many still wonder if life will ever get back to normal or if we are facing a point of no return. We can only keep our fingers crossed that it goes in the right direction for all of us.

The environmental impact of COVID-19 is not set in stone as long as the war against the coronavirus wages on. Our world leaders and organizations are faced with a difficult task to provide long-lasting solutions that will revitalize stunted economies without sacrificing other issues such as climate change that **matter just the same**. The days to come will be momentous in deciding the future of not only humanity, but also of this planet. We must keep on asking our governments, world leaders, and ourselves the same question everyday as we traverse through this unusual moment in our history: *Is the Earth truly healing?*