

My name is Alasdair Skelton.

I am a Professor of Geology.

I am currently with my students in the field, so I cannot be with you today.

Nevertheless, I would like to explain why scientists are agreed that climate change is real and happening right now.

Since 1896, we have known that Earth's climate is controlled by the **slow carbon cycle**.

In this cycle, carbon dioxide is added to the air by volcanoes, and taken away again by rocks as they weather away. There is **a perfect balance** between these processes that makes sure that there is neither too much, nor too little carbon dioxide in the air. It is quite simply **beautiful**.

Now, **we have upset that perfect balance by burning fossil fuels**. We add carbon dioxide to the air 100 times faster than volcanoes do.

This causes **climate change**.

That means more heatwaves, more droughts, more floods

... more injustice, more suffering and more sadness.

All across the world, our children are calling on us **adults** to protect our beautiful planet.

They have asked us **to be our own hope**. And theirs.

Why do so few of us act?

Do we not care about beauty?

Do we not care about our children?

Do we not care about life itself?

Or is it that we just don't understand?

Because if we really do care and we really do understand, we will act.

Please act now and please remember that **each and every one of us can make a difference**.