

With photography, we can get a closer look at the technological and industrial growth we have compiled on a global level. From first glance, this is something to be proud of; growth is good. But with these advances, we have not always taken into account the effect that the operation of these systems have on ecosystems and natural resources. This compilation of photos from online sources will show the effect of these technological advances on our environmental security. Studies show that many people learn better from seeing a visual representation of events. Thus, this projects intention is to open the eyes of people to the real life risks we are facing to our environmental security, and what we can do to help.



Coal for Christmas

China has been notoriously dependent on burning coal for energy and heat. Smoke Stacks in Shankxi, China shows the technological advancement of a coal plant. This advancement has made China the source of almost 1/3 of the world's carbon dioxide pollution in the air. (Getty Images <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/smoke-billows-from-stacks-as-a-chinese-woman-wears-as-mask-news-photo/500863126>)

Dirty Laundry

Chinese woman hangs her laundry outside in front of her house, which is next door to a coal fired power plant. A family like this is breathing in the polluted air everyday they step outside and smell like coal at all times. This is a reality for many families in China. (Green Peace <https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2018/01/10/china-coal-heating-winter-crisis-pollution/>)

Coral Gardeners

Because of our carbon footprint, coral reefs are slowly dying. Coral Gardeners are a group of people teaming up to combat this problem by planting new reefs and spreading awareness of the issue. According to Coral Gardeners, all coral reefs may be dead by the year 2050. This will directly affect hundreds of millions of people and will be an enormous loss for the planet. (Coral Gardeners <https://www.coralgardeners.org/>)



Got gas?

The BP Deepwater Horizon represents what was supposed to be a great industrial advancement in which we relied on for our gasoline and oil. When the oil rig exploded on April 10th, 2010, it was releasing 60,000 barrels of oil each day into the Gulf of Mexico. (Getty Images <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/the-q4000-a-vessel-leased-by-bp-plc-center-burns-off-oil-news-photo/102251472>)

Literature Review

- Technology is so ingrained in society, everything we do is revolved around it. It is hard to remember what the world was like before it. (Greenwood 2019)
- Dr. Sankar Polaiah studied the impact of technology on the environment. He states this : "Environmental pollution occurs as a result of technology mismanagement and a lack of control measures. Emission of large quantity of gases such as CO2 in the air by large industries causes air pollution which in turn has degraded environment immensely." (Polaiah 2019)
- Technology has evolved a lot over the years. With this evolvment has come a need for different resources required to support them. (Lopes 2018)
- Coral Reefs provide more for the environment than we know. They help fight climate change, protect coastlines from big waves and storms, give us valuable services, and support livelihoods. (CoralGardeners 2019)



Shower please

The BP oil spill affected all the wildlife that depended on the ocean. Birds and other marine life were covered in oil. This group of pelicans are waiting to be cleaned by volunteers at the Fort Jackson Oiled Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. The BP oil spill is known as the biggest environmental disaster in American history. (Getty Images <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/pelicans-with-oil-on-them-wait-to-be-cleaned-at-the-fort-news-photo/101993482?adppopup=true>)

Conclusion

- The approach I took when deciding what pictures to put into the poster was that of getting a feeling of sadness from the audience.
- Being able to capture visual evidence of advancements that actually hinder environmental security is needed to inform people about what is actually happening to our environment.
- By showing the Coral Gardeners and a couple of other programs implemented to combat these things gives the audience an outlet to promote change one step at a time.
- The challenges I have ran into is that there are more problems than fixes. For every two or three problems I found, there may have been a solution to one of them. The problems faced to our security are overwhelming.

METHODOLOGY

- This poster is just a taste of some things that reflect how technological advancements have been backfiring in recent years. The photo essay will have more of a cause and effect approach as I will have more room.
- The photos that I compiled are from all around the world as a chance to show you that this is a global problem to our environmental security, not just one area.
- The project is made to give people a visual representation and touch the hearts of the viewers by showing photos that should facilitate a sad feeling.