
Energy, Environment, Economics, and Ethics


— **Global Issues Docket #1** —

Issue A: Oil Pipeline Project

An oil pipeline project has been proposed by investors in your state. You must decide whether to fund or decline the project. The pipeline will cost 100 capital points to construct. Pipeline operation will create significant job growth across the region, which will generate 20 extra CP's in economic productivity per unit for the rest of the year. Additionally, the pipeline will give the state economy a steady supply of oil; there will be no further need to acquire oil from other states or territories. The downside, apart from the construction cost: The pipeline runs through indigenous lands and violates sacred grounds (in particular, burial sites) of the original native inhabitants of the region. There are also significant oil pollution risks. Your government must weigh the pros and cons of the project and then decide whether to move forward with it or not.

Case Study A: The Dakota Pipeline (DAPL)

Explore the sources, and on a **T-chart** describe the **incentives/gains (+)** and **risks/problems (-)** that would result if your State builds the pipeline.

- 1. AJ+ News (video):** [Natives vs. the Pipeline](#)
 - Watch the video; pause as needed to rewind/play.
- 2. CBC News:** [Ancient Lakota Prophecy](#)
 - Read only the first 9 paragraphs/sections
- 3. NPR (audio):** [Oil spill threats – real or not?](#)
 - Listen: Click on the  button in the top-left corner.
- 4. DAPL Planners:** [Dakota Access Pipeline Facts](#)
 - Focus on the blue box entitled “Key Facts.”



Issue B: Sustainability Projects

Industrialization helps economies but harms the environment. Your team must decide whether to proceed with traditional industrialization or invest in **sustainability** projects that will more reliably **conserve** the health of the planet.

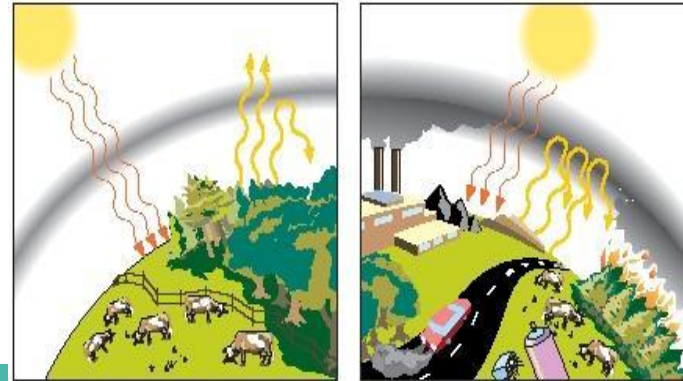
First, you need to consider a project that asks your state to spend 20 CP's per unit to reduce, or lower, its **emission** of **greenhouse gases** (GHG). Many scientists argue that GHG emissions are the root cause of **global warming** (via the "**Greenhouse Effect**").

Second, you need to decide whether to pledge support for **alternative energy** projects. A commitment of 20 CP's per unit will show your support for clean energy sources. If your state makes dual pledges to reduce GHG emissions and explore alternative energies, then it will earn a **AA** "Green State Rating." If you invest in one of these **sustainability** projects, then you will earn an **A** rating. Zero investments = **B** rating.

Case Study B: Greenhouse Gases and Pollution

As you explore, make a **T-chart** revealing the **incentives** and **problems** that may result if your State does invest in sustainability projects.

1. **Bill Nye and National Geographic (video):** [Climate Change 101](#)
2. **Environmental Protection Agency (video):** [The Greenhouse Effect](#)
3. **LA Times:** [Climate change is here, now. Will the world act?](#)
4. **Film trailer,** [An Inconvenient Truth](#) (2006)
5. **Film trailer,** [Truth to Power](#) (2017)
6. **Conserve Energy Future:** [Pollution Effects](#)
7. **CNN:** [Scientists issue warning to humanity](#)



Issue C: Water Scarcity

Millions and millions of people lack access to sufficient amounts of fresh water. Your state needs to decide how much humanitarian aid to provide to those in crisis.

You have been petitioned by the governments of the following nations, each asking for “water assistance” (bottled water, infrastructural development — i.e. construction of wells): Papua New Guinea, Nepal, Angola, Ethiopia, Haiti, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Togo, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, and Zambia. **Every capital point you donate provides fresh water for 10 people for 1 unit of study.** You need to decide whether to provide humanitarian aid, and if so — to whom (in what country or countries), and how much? Explore the following sources. Pay particular attention to the needs of the petitioners. Evaluate, prioritize, plan, and budget. Be prepared to justify/defend all of your ideas.