



CLIMATE CHANGE in Soure, Portugal



According to [NASA](#), the definition of Climate Change is *a broad range of global phenomena created predominantly by burning fossil fuels, which add heat-trapping gases to Earth's atmosphere. These phenomena include the increased temperature trends described by global warming, but also encompass changes such as sea-level rise; ice mass loss ... and mountain glaciers ...; shifts in flower/plant blooming; and extreme weather events.*

Portugal has not been immune to these consequences of human action.

An example of an extreme weather event was "Leslie" that in October 2018 mainly hit the regions of Coimbra, Leiria and Viseu. This hurricane not only destroyed houses, the road and rail network, but also the electricity and water supply in those districts.

My region (Baixo Mondego - Soure) was one of the most affected. In my house, the day after the hurricane, we saw that some roof tiles had fallen as well as several branches of the tree we have in the backyard; most of the plants were destroyed. Like most people in the region, we were without electricity and water for some days, and during this time we often had to go to my sister's house to, for example, take a shower. On our way, we saw several more houses that had lost their roofs, trees that had fallen, roads that had been cut, etc. At my grandmother's house, the shed had collapsed, the poles holding it up had fallen, and the chimney had been destroyed.

More recently, in Portugal, there have been some more extreme phenomena, due to climate change, such as droughts and forest fires, which have affected mainly the center and south of the country, harming mainly farmers and their crops. During the month of December, 2022, - not even a month ago – heavy and persistent rain hit most of Lisbon and Viana do Castelo and flooded homes, shopping centers, hospitals, and roads, wreaking havoc and causing enormous damage to the population.

From the news, we are all aware that climate change is affecting the whole world, so we ALL have to do our part to help PLANET EARTH.

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