

Hello everyone!

Have you ever wondered where your things come from and how they are produced? I came across a video on the internet one day and it made me see a system that is unknown to most of us.

We have created a system that we call the materials economy. The name refers to the raw materials from which its products are made.

The market economy follows a lifecycle for the products that we produce.

This lifecycle is based on extraction, production, distribution, consumption and disposal.

This system may look fine and okay to us, but if we take a closer look we will see that there is more to the story. It is a system in crisis. This system interacts with societies, cultures, economy and the environment.

In this system we have people who are more important than others. Those people are the corporations and the government. They have a little more to say than the people who own a part of a land for instance. They are the ones who create the problems created by the use of this system.

We have a system that that is based on extraction, production, distribution, consumption and disposal. Extraction is another word for the exploitation of natural resources. It means blowing up mountains to get metals, cutting trees to produce paper and using up all the water and wiping out the animals. In other words it means trashing up the planet.

Then we have production where we mix toxic chemicals with natural resources. This results to the production of health threatening products. The Industrial production system results in climate change, waste and toxic pollution. And on top of it all, it also affects the people. People who are exposed to the by-products in the production. But the ones who risk their lives are the workers in the factories. But who wants to have a job where they put their health at risk? Now one wants that, except those who have no other options.

Then we have consumption. If we look at the USA for example, we see that their consumption has doubled since the 1950s. But the biggest problem is that the products that are produced don't have a long lifetime. 99% of all the products the Americans buy are trashed after 6 months. That means that there is only 1% left that is used more than 6 months after the date of sale.

When we are done with the products we throw them away. Where does all the trash go? Either it gets dumped in a landfill, which is basically a hole in the ground or it gets burnt and then dumped in a landfill. Burning trash is bad because there have been used toxic chemicals to produce the product. When we burn it, the toxic chemicals will be released into the air. Either way, it will pollute the air, land, water and it will change the climate.

What can we do to prevent this from happening? To prevent forests from being cut down in the amazons? To prevent people from having to move into the cities because their home was destroyed because of this system?

What we can do to prevent the climate from changing?

There are different ways to do this. We can reduce the energy we consume

We can decrease our waste. We can recycle. We can reduce trash. We can reduce the pressure to mine and harvest new idioms. There is so much we can do; we have the potential to stop this from going out of hand, before it's too late. But the only way to do so is that we have to start with our selves and that we are optimistic to a new system that can turn us into clever consumers.

Thank you