**Anthropological Factors that Affect Our Environment**

Print this sheet and cut into strips, 1 factor per strip. (Print one set per group)

| Air Pollution  Air pollution is the contamination of air due to the presence of substances called pollutants in the atmosphere that are harmful to the health of humans and other living beings, or cause damage to the climate or to materials. (<https://www.who.int/health-topics/air-pollution#tab=tab_1>) |
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| Dams Dams are man-made structures that are used to disrupt water flow. They can be used for generating electricity (hydroelectric dams) or regulating irrigation and water conservation. Dams are often constructed across rivers to store water that would naturally flow downstream. ([www.britishdams.org](http://www.britishdams.org)) |
| Deforestation/Clear Cutting Deforestation is the large-scale removal of trees from forested areas. This is mainly done for agriculture or to utilize the wood products. (<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/deforestation>) |
| Engineered Obsolescence of Products  Obsolescence engineering is a practice of designing products that are meant to stop working after a particular amount of time. This also means that they may become obsolete when a newer version becomes available, or when the product is no longer fashionable. (<https://www.iberdrola.com/sustainability/planned-obsolescence>) |
| Forest Fires/Wildfires A wildfire is an uncontrolled fire that burns in the wildland vegetation, often in rural areas. Wildfires can burn in forests, grasslands, savannas, and other ecosystems, and have been doing so for hundreds of millions of years. They are not limited to a particular continent or environment. (<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/wildfires/>) |
| Road Salt  During the winter, road salt is applied to the roadway to melt snow and ice. For regions that experience frequent snowstorms, salting can help keep streets and sidewalks clear and prevent slick driving conditions. (<https://www.epa.gov/snep/winter-coming-and-it-tons-salt-our-roads>) |
| Food/Product Delivery (e.g. online shopping, Door Dash, Uber Eats)  Food/product delivery is a courier service in which a restaurant, store, or independent food-delivery company delivers consumer goods to a customer. (<https://www.sganalytics.com/blog/reducing-food-waste-and-carbon-footprint-for-food-delivery-services/> ) |
| Food Wastage  Food waste occurs along the entire spectrum of production, from the farm to distribution to retailers to the consumer. Reasons include losses from mold, pests, or inadequate climate control; losses from cooking; and intentional food waste. (<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/sustainability/food-waste/>) |