

Board Notes from Oct. 18

Are you worried about _____? Why? Evidence?

(notice, categories here are Jared Diamond's categories for what makes a society likely to collapse)

Climate Change

Worried? Yes

Why and Evidence:

- Change in environment as we know it
 - Huge ocean changes
 - Threat to all life and natural resources (oceans, crops, animals, ecosystems)
- Potential abruptness of change
- Past severe changes
 - Severe cold
 - Drought
 - Sea level rise/drop
- Evidence – ice core data, earth garbage, past civilization collapse, etc...

Environmental Damage

- Ozone layer
- Over-farming
- Acid rain
- Oil spills
- Over population
- Mass extinction (no more dodo bird)
- Hazardous waste
- Cancer causing agents
- Water table—freshwater overuse
- Decrease in biodiversity
- Depletion of natural resources

Hostile/Friendly Neighbors

- Worried about:
 - Oil(\$)/trade
 - The Middle East → Iraq
 - Trade deficit
 - Nuclear war and terrorism/being bombed
 - Mexico

Society Response to Environmental Change

- We're worried about:
 - Poor environmental policy
 - Most people not concerned (down since 2001 and Bush)

- Overpopulation
- Industrialization growth
- Oil subsidies, inefficient vehicles

But . . .

- New technologies for renewable energy are being utilized
- Some people care