

Sustainability has been around since **500 BC**, however during this time human activity had very little impact on the environment. **Ancient Egypt** demonstrated sustainable water management by harnessing the Nile river's flood cycle with dams, enriching farming practices.

However, the **Industrial Revolution** greatly impacted the environment, primarily due to the increment in factories which led to the reliance of fossil fuels.



1856 – Eunice Newton Foote identified CO₂ as a greenhouse gas.

1896 – Svante Arrhenius mathematically quantified the warning effects of CO₂. If CO₂ in the atmosphere is reduced by half it could lower the temperature in Europe to 4-5° Celsius.

1962 – Rachel Carson's '*Silent Spring*' book raises awareness of pesticides' dangers in the environment and public health.

1970 – The first Earth Day was established, highlighting the importance of environmental issues and sustainability.

1972 – The UN Stockholm Conference on Human Environment, leading to the creation of UNEP.

1992 – Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro led to the development of Agenda 21, which is a framework for sustainable development.

1997 – Kyoto Protocol was the first international agreement for industrialised countries to reduce greenhouse gasses.

2000 – Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) set targets for social and importantly environmental issues by 2015

2015 – The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promote an inclusive approach to global challenges, including inequality and climate change.

