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Human intervention on the environment

- exploits → **natural resources**
  - can be
    - non-renewable resources
      - these are
        - · coal · petroleum · natural gas
          - defined as
            - · finite · harmful to the environment
    - renewable resources
      - these are
        - · water · sun · wind · vegetation · fauna
          - defined as
            - · does not run out · not harmful to the environment
- causes an → **environmental impact**
  - on the → ecosystems
    - formed by
      - · physical components · biological components
    - threatened by
      - natural risks
        - can be
          - · earthquakes · tsunamis · volcanoes · hurricanes · droughts · flooding · fires
      - human risks
        - can be
          - · contamination · over-exploitation · construction · fires · deforestation · erosion · desertification
  - most importantly → pollution
    - of the soil
      - due to
        - · dumping of waste · use of pesticides and fertilisers
          - contributing to
            - · deforestation · erosion · desertification
    - of the atmosphere
      - due to
        - emission of gases
          - causing factor of
            - · greenhouse effect · hole in the ozone layer · acid rain
    - of the water
      - due to
        - uncontrolled dumping
          - contributing to the
            - degradation of rivers and seas
- requires a → **new economic model**
  - based on → sustainable development
    - implies
      - · use of renewable energies · rational use of resources · reduction of volume of waste
        - guaranteeing
          - · well-being · progress
            - of the
              - future generations