

Don't blow it - good planets are hard to find.

10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.

That is likely the minimum amount of planets in the observable universe. Of those planets, only around 4000 have been confirmed to exist outside the Solar System. And of those 4000, only 24 are capable of harboring life. Yet, there is no clear evidence of life emerging anywhere amongst all the worlds outside of our own.

For a planet to be considered habitable for life as we know it (carbon-based life), it must meet some criteria. Usually this means having liquid water. But to have liquid water on the surface, a planet would have to be far enough from its host star for water not to boil, and just close enough so that it doesn't freeze. And out of thousands of confirmed planets, only 16 (not including our own) are in that zone. This should give you a sense of perspective of how incredibly rare a habitable planet is. But take this into consideration too - how likely is it for life to begin to form on, for example, a thousand Earth-like planets?

Now that we have realized how rare a habitable planet with life is, we should be appreciative of our insane luck. But a lot of us aren't. This is evident all around us - evidence of human negligence to the environment we live in. If only everyone could comprehend how valuable what we have is, we wouldn't have so many issues with water, land and air pollution. It isn't doom and gloom though. Action is being taken to save our planet from destruction. Countries and corporations worldwide are making pledges to become carbon neutral, carbon capture devices are on the rise, and so are renewable or sustainable technologies. However, plans aren't foolproof and carbon neutrality plans aren't an exception. Currently, as it stands, we lack the infrastructure to fully implement renewable power. Hydro power plants and wind farms alone are not powerful enough to supply cities with energy. Wind farms fully depend on the weather and if the wind isn't strong enough, energy demands cannot be met.

But then again, efforts are being made. It isn't nearly as bad as it was 10 years ago, and hopefully it will never reach that point again.

We must not let our planet be one and done, because right now, we don't have an alternative. Thankfully, people all over the world are starting to realize this and are waking up.