This presentation was designed for use as a speaker’s slide show, which you are free to borrow for that purpose. However it communicates a complete message even without a speaker.

It shows that:

• Since the Industrial Revolution began about 200 years ago, the world’s population has increased sevenfold and now consumes nearly 500 times more products and resources per year. This level of growth in consumption is unsustainable. The presentation shows the serious problems that have already resulted which are growing steadily worse over time.

• The environmental consequences of overpopulation stem more from the resources people consume and the various forms of pollution they generate than just the growth we see in the number of people. Affluent nations may have lower birthrates than poor nations, but they consume a lot more resources and convert a lot more fuel into pollution.

• While we cannot restore lost species, lost topsoil, and scarce resources, and we cannot quickly reverse all the ecological damage that now is occurring, the presentation shows things we can and should do ASAP.

The slides are not designed for a lecture. They ask questions which invite answers. Your next clicks will display the answers. People who listen to or read the news occasionally will already know most of the answers, but they may not have related them to their common cause. For example:

What unnatural chemicals do we dump into our air, land and water faster than nature can cleanse them, and what growing consequences do we now experience?

To what extent have the world’s oceans been overfished? What are the consequences, and how does this relate to the growing rates of population and consumption?

To view the presentation, click Sustainability, and continue clicking to advance through the slides. If you have trouble with the link above, cut and paste this address into your browser: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1__5pbzYH_6brTP8zZE3TRq11z92JIRqY9nWDISsx-c8c/present?ueb=true#slide=id.ge49db667_4_0

For those who live in San Diego County, the author, Art Elphick - a retired writer and college instructor, volunteers to speak to groups in the area. For more information, call (619) 267-0987.