Pollution caused by Burning Coal and Petroleum based fuels

Coal and Petroleum have been formed by biomass plant and animal material in addition to carbon and hydrogen, they also contain nitrogen and sulphur elements. When coal, and petroleum based fuels like petrol and diesel are burnt, the products of combustion are- carbon dioxide, water, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. If combustion takes place in an insufficient supply of air, then some carbon monoxide is also produced. All products except water are harmful and hence pollute the environment.

1. Sulphur dioxide attacks the lungs causing bronchitis. Sulphur dioxide dissolves in rain water making it acidic. The acid rain damages trees, plants, buildings, and metal structures.
2. Nitrogen oxides attack the breathing system.
3. Carbon monoxide gets into our blood system; it stops red blood cells from carrying oxygen from lungs to the rest of the body causing suffocation. It can cause death.
4. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas which traps sun’s heat energy falling on the Earth. The burning of more and more fossil fuels is increasing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere causing increased green house effect leading to Global Warming. We need to use fossil fuels judiciously.
5. Coal and petroleum left in the Earth are limited which will get exhausted soon.
6. The products of combustion of fossils fuels pollute the environment.