

Save the world from climate change -- by computer

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A screenshot from the video game 'Fate of the World'. After driving a Formula 1 car, or tackling a gang, computer games players have a new challenge: climate change. The game features data from real-world climate models, and has been praised by Oxfam for helping them to reach new audiences.

Computer gamers who like a challenge can now take on one of the toughest around: saving the entire planet, this time from climate change.

Billed as a strategy [game](#) with a social conscience, "Fate of the World" sees players try to protect the world's climate and resources while managing a growing population demanding more power, food and living space.

"'Fate of the World' is a scenario-based game where you run Earth for 200 years and you save it or potentially destroy it. The whole power is in

your hands," said the game's British inventor Gobion Rowlands.

The player takes charge as head of the fictional Global Environment Organisation (GEO). They can impose policies such as banning logging in the Amazon rainforest, making all Europe's public transport run on electricity or slapping a one-child policy on the whole of Asia.

However, such power comes with grave consequences.

If, for example, you decide to bring down the birth rate to protect natural resources, the workforce could plunge and people could be forced to work until 80, triggering unrest against the GEO.

Gamers see the impact of their decisions: orangutans are saved from extinction, [global temperatures](#) drop by a degree; however, bad moves could see Europe battered by floods, or Africa ravaged by war.

"Even if they choose to destroy the world, they still learn more about the subject," said Rowlands, the 35-year-old head of video games developer Red Redemption, which employs 15 people at its base in Oxford, southern England.

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