

The Latest, Hottest Environmental Gossip

By Emily Tran

I had the special opportunity recently to interview Betty the Bear from Spain. In this exclusive interview, Betty talks about shortening hibernation periods, how it affects her and her friends, and possible solutions.



Emily: Hi Betty! Thanks for meeting with me on this strangely warm January day! What brings you to Boston?

Betty: Why, yes it is warm! That is the exact reason I felt the need to travel the world and tell people about climate change and how it affects my friends and me.

Emily: So what is this climate change thing?

Betty: Do you know what global warming is? It has been getting warmer and warmer every winter in Spain, and as a result, the time I spend napping during the winter is becoming shorter and shorter.

Emily: That's crazy! Why is it shortening?

Betty: Well, let me give you some background information. I take a long nap during the winter because the foods that I eat, like nuts and berries, are difficult to find during cold weather. This year, because the nuts and berries have been available almost all year round, I don't have to nap for very long.

Emily: I don't get it, Betty. Why do people make climate change sound so bad? I get to play outside without a jacket, and you can find food! What's the problem?

Betty: That's a good question. Sure, it appears on the surface to be something good, but you and I can easily adapt to the changing temperature. I have friends who can't do that, and they are being negatively affected.

Emily: Oh no! Such as who?

Betty: My friends, Tanya the Sea Turtle, and Glen, the Golden Toad, are affected by this. Tanya recently lost her nesting beach because of the rising of the sea level and beach erosion. Every summer, Tanya lays her eggs in the sand on one specific beach where she was born. However, this summer, when she went back, the rising sea levels destroyed the part of the beach. The more beaches lost mean the more eggs that never hatch. Sea turtles face many other dangers too, and sooner than you think, sea turtles will be gone forever!

Emily: What about Glen, what happened to him?

Betty: Glen, the Golden Toad, was a good friend of mine. In 2004, Glen and all his Golden Toad friends became **extinct!** There are many theories as to why Glen and his friends have become extinct, but global warming is one of them! A couple of degree changes may seem like a small deal to you and me, but it means life or death to Glen and other animals who are extremely sensitive to temperature.

Emily: Isn't there anything we can we do about this?

Betty: The first step is becoming aware of what's happening. There are simple things you can do to help my friends and me, such as turning off lights when you're not using it, or even unplugging your video game. Little things add up if we all work together!

