

Pre-Industrial Era

The prehistoric era ended when organized human communities appeared thanks to the transition from a nomadic lifestyle to living in permanent settlements. That period is called **Neolithic**. It began with the **Neolithic Revolution** around 10,000 BCE, when humans learned how to grow plants, domesticate wild animals, and build permanent settlements.

Human power, animal work and the use of wood or crop waste for heating and cooking were the main sources of energy in that period. These were "home systems", which means that the production and consumption of energy did not have a global character.

There was no negative impact on the environment, because energy consumption per capita was low, and the number of people on Earth was small. For example, this number was about 5,000,000 in 8,000 BC, and about 500,000,000 in 1650 AD. Now we have over eight billion people on our planet.