If I could Invent Something New

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An invention is creating something that has not existed or been in use before the birth of its inventor, which makes life easier or makes dealing with some processes easier, faster, and more accurate. If I could invent something new, I would invent a solar-powered device that absorbs excess carbon dioxide in the environment. This is because excess carbon dioxide is linked to global warming, which is considered the primary cause of the current problem of global climate change.

According to the National Geographical Society, climate change is a long-term shift in global or regional climate patterns. It refers specifically to the rise in global temperatures. The Oxford Dictionary also defines climate change as an alteration in the Earth’s weather, especially the increase in temperature of the atmosphere caused by particular gases generally known as greenhouse gases, examples of which include carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. These gases ordinarily absorb the sun’s heat that radiates from the Earth’s surface and prevent heat from escaping to create a temperature ideal for the environment. However, continuous and excessive trapping of these gases reduces the standard of our environment and makes the world dangerous now and for future generations.

Although some greenhouse gases occur naturally, human activities such as burning bushes, gas flaring, deforestation, improper waste disposal and industrial activities increase their presence in the environment in alarming volumes.  The Nigerian Conservation Fund in 2023 reported that Nigeria has a deforestation rate of about 11.1% per annum and has lost 96% of its natural forest, causing a reduction in the carbon absorption rates by trees.  Additionally, Nigeria is heavily invested in fossil fuels- the country’s economic stability relies heavily on hydrocarbon production and sale. The country also utilises fossil fuels rather than clean energy to generate electricity. Among the key adverse effects of excessive carbon and other greenhouse gases are severe drought, shrinking and shifting plant and animal geographic range, melting glaciers in the Arctic region, rising sea levels, and longer, more intense heat waves. According to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world may go through a climatic catastrophe that is potentially irreversible if emissions are not reduced by 50% by 2030. To achieve reduction, the Panel has also estimated that the world’s average temperature should not exceed that of pre-industrial times by more than 1.5°C degrees. In other words, without deliberate efforts to reduce the release of carbon emissions into the atmosphere, the world would be in danger. Hence, the importance of my proposed invention.

My proposed invention will benefit humankind and the environment and contribute to the global target of reducing global warming and reversing climate change because it will operate using solar energy, a clean energy source. The invention will provide clean fuels to power the economy without the need for burning fossil fuels and environmentally harmful gas extraction.