

*How does living near a volcano impact on people's lives?*

Living near a volcano can have many impacts on people's lives – and, of all of these impacts, there are positive, as well as negative, factors. When the topic of volcanoes is brought up, many are quick to think of deadly and destructive events. However, not as many people consider the positives. Are you one of these people?

Some of the positive impacts people are faced with include being able to obtain free hot water (to heat their homes); being able to create their own electricity (from the water coming from glaciers); and being provided with shelter and the most divine views. Hot water can be found after volcanic activity happens deep underground – and boreholes can be used to obtain this water (after being cooled and heated again) within the ground. Many Icelandic people do this, and it's a practical way of using geothermal energy. In addition, ash ejected by the volcano acts as a good fertiliser for soils.

In contrast, living near a volcano can impact people's lives in negative ways. The negative impacts include people facing fear and anxiety due to living near active volcanoes. I can imagine children, in particular, would sometimes feel scared to know there's possibilities of an eruption. Another negative is that, if a volcano did erupt, homes could be destroyed, causing thousands to be left homeless. Some people could lose their lives – and families could be left in the most detrimental state. Economic activity could also suffer as it's extremely hard for businesses to operate (and recover) after an eruption.

In conclusion, it can be seen that living near a volcano can greatly impact on people's lives. There are numerous positive impacts, as well as negative impacts, in which affect people in different ways.