

## Global warming: what can we do?

Climate change may be a big problem, but there are many little things we can do to make a difference.

If we try, most of us can do our part to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases that we put into the atmosphere. Many greenhouse gases come from things we do every day. As we have learned, these greenhouse gases trap energy in the atmosphere and make the Earth warmer.

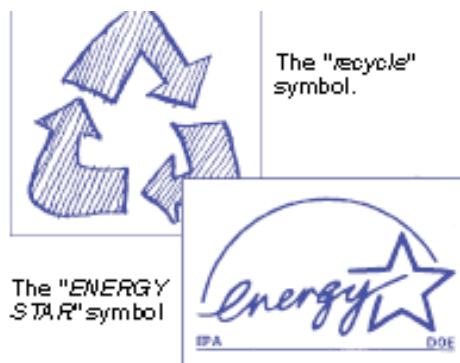
### So what can I do to help?

- Talk with your family and friends about climate change. Let them know what you've learned.
- Planting trees is fun and a great way to reduce greenhouse gases. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from the air.
- Drive smaller, more fuel efficient cars
- Buy products that don't use as much energy. Some products - like certain cars and stereos - are made specially to save energy.



Cars, stereos, and VCRs can be "energy smart"

- Look for the recycle mark - three arrows that make a circle - on the package.
- Buy products with ENERGY STAR® labels - these use less energy



(Source: adapted from <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/difference.html>)

### What can you do:

There are many things we can do to help reduce air pollution and global warming.



Use buses and trains instead of cars, as they can carry a lot more people in one journey. This cuts down the amount of pollution produced.



Walking or cycling whenever you can is even better, as it does not create any pollution. It will also be good for your body, as regular exercise will keep you fit and healthy.

If your parents must use the car, ask them to avoid using it for very short journeys if possible, as this creates unnecessary pollution. Try to encourage them to share their journeys with other people, for example when they go to work or go shopping. Also encourage them to drive more slowly as this produces less pollution and less carbon dioxide.



Energy is produced to generate electricity and to keep us warm. Most energy is produced by the burning of fossil fuels, like coal, oil and gas, which release carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. Fuel burnt in our cars also releases carbon dioxide. As an individual, you do not have a lot of control on how your energy is produced.



However, you can control the way in which you use that energy. Using less energy means less of it needs to be produced. So less carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere. Turning off lights when they are not needed and not wasting electricity will reduce the demand for energy. Less electricity will need to be produced and so

less coal, oil and gas will have to be burnt in power stations, which means less air pollution and less carbon dioxide!

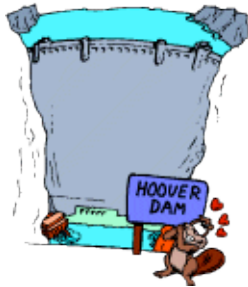


Most of the rubbish we throw away can be recycled, such as glass bottles and jars, steel and aluminium cans, plastic bottles and waste paper.

Recycling used materials uses less energy than making new ones. Composting fruit and vegetable waste reduces the amount of rubbish buried at rubbish dumps.



### What are the Governments doing?



Governments throughout the world have already taken action on global warming. In their plans they hope to reduce the amount of emissions of greenhouse gases produced by man.

About half of the greenhouse effect is caused by our use of energy, especially from fossil fuels. Other sources of energy could be used which do not emit carbon dioxide, e.g. wind power, solar (sun power) and wave power. In the home and at school, we must learn to use energy efficiently and not waste it.



(Source: <http://www.clean-air-kids.org.uk/doingyourbit.html>)