



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT OUR PLANET

APRIL IS A TIME TO CELEBRATE THE EARTH, BUT KIDS CAN HELP MAKE THE WORLD A GREENER, CLEANER PLACE ALL YEAR-ROUND!

TALK ABOUT IT

This is a simple task, but one with a big impact. Talking to your friends and family about climate change is proven to motivate others to learn more and act. When you talk to people don't bombard them with facts, focus on why climate change is important to you. Invite them to take action with you by doing fun shared activities like working to reduce your school's impact on the environment or contacting your government representatives to advocate for a greener future. You can take this a step further and write an article for a school newspaper, blog, or your local newspaper's letter to the editor.

GET INVOLVED

There are many different environmental organizations and campaigns that are looking for passionate people like you! Whether it's helping to educate others about the science of climate change on social media or planting trees in your community, there are plenty ways you can help combat climate change in your community.

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

In order to solve the issue of climate change we need changes on a massive scale. You can be a part of the change by contacting your mayor, state representative, congressman, governor, or the president to let them know that we need to do something about climate change. Your calls, emails, and letters matter and they will matter more if you can recommend a particular law or action that they should take. Getting involved with organizations combating climate change can help you identify the best ways you can advocate.

REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Tackling climate change is not solely up to you, but making small changes to greenify your life are proven to motivate you and others, and make you feel powerful. Think about easy ways you, your friends, and your family can reduce their energy usage.

- Take your bikes or walk instead of driving in a car.
- Get creative (craft time!) to reuse what you have so you can reduce the amount of plastics and other harmful products you buy.
- Turn off lights and keep all windows and doors closed when the air conditioning or heat is on.
- Pick up trash in your neighborhood.
- Unplug chargers so they don't continue to draw energy.
- Most importantly, encourage others in your life to do the same so your small changes can add up to a BIG impact.

KEY WORDS



CLIMATE CHANGE

The change of weather patterns like temperature or rainfall over a long period of time. Scientists have shown that the Earth's surface is warming which can lead to sea level rise, shrinking glaciers, and more intense weather patterns.

FOSSIL FUELS

Fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas that were formed by fossilized plants and animals. Burning fossil fuels is the leading cause of climate change.

GREENHOUSE GASES

Some gases in the Earth's atmosphere trap heat and make the Earth warmer than it would be without an atmosphere. Human activity is increasing the amount of these heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere, causing climate change. The most common greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide, which is a waste product produced by burning fossil fuels or changing patterns of land use, like cutting down forests.

GLOBAL WARMING

The slow increase of the Earth's temperature over time caused by greenhouse gases and other pollution.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

The amount of carbon dioxide produced by a person, business, or country which impacts the climate and the environment.

PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

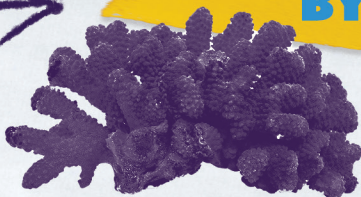
Nearly every nation in the world signed this agreement to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases they produce and work together to address climate change.

SEA LEVEL RISE

The rise in the level of our ocean due to climate change, which warms seawater and causes it to expand, and which melts glaciers and adds water to the ocean. Sea level rise can lead to more flooding and more dangerous hurricanes.

SOME ANIMALS IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

CORAL



When water is too warm the algae that give coral a vibrant color die. This can lead to the death of coral reefs which are home to incredible animals like clownfish and blue tang.

SHARKS



The changing chemistry of the ocean due to climate change is making it harder for sharks like the Smooth Dogfish to smell, making it difficult for them to find food.

TURTLES



As a result of climate change far more female turtles are born than male turtles. This may make it harder for future sea turtle generations to reproduce.

SEALS



Seals around the world are losing their habitat. In the Arctic, the ice that ringed seals call home is melting. In Hawaii, sea level rise are threatening the beaches where Hawaiian Monk Seals live.