

Make A Difference

We can all do our bit to make a difference to how much electricity we are wasting unnecessarily. The major problem is that many people don't really know there is a problem, or if they do, they are unsure what to do.

To make even more of a difference we can all help address the problem by letting as many people as possible know what we have learnt.

So what can we do:

- Write to your local Federal and State MP's or Senator and request information about global warming and the Government's policies etc. to address the problem.
- Contact various environmental organisations requesting information about greenhouse gases and global warming. Analyse their views. Are their statements based on scientific fact or emotive reasoning? What remedies do they recommend for global warming?
- Contact industry groups which are big users of fossil fuels and ask for the same information. Compare and contrast the difference in viewpoints.
- Develop a bulletin board for display in your school. On this you can display the latest articles from magazines or newspapers relating to energy issues. Highlight any new research findings and indicate differences from previous findings.
- Do a school or community survey to find out what most people know about the issues. The types of questions which could be asked include:
 - What is global warming?
 - Do you think global warming is a real problem in Australia? In the world?
 - Do you think Australia should adopt policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
 - What type of policies do you recommend?
 - Should Australia impose a carbon tax on fossil fuels to help reduce greenhouse gases?
 - Have you made any changes in your personal lifestyles to help reduce greenhouse emissions? Why or why not?
 - Should Australia pay other countries to help them reduce their emissions? Why or why not?
- Look at the responses. Is there any general agreement in responses?
- Where is disagreement the greatest?
- Contact your local government and find out what they are doing to become more energy efficient and help make your local area more sustainable.

You Can Make a Difference!

1. Do an energy audit in your home. Check ways to make your home more energy efficient. Make energy saving changes if possible, such as improving insulation, installing storm doors and windows, stopping drafts under doors and around windows, and installing devices that reduce hot water consumption.
2. Plant shade trees around your house. This will make your house cooler and lessen the need for air conditioning.
3. Investigate the possibility of installing a passive solar heating system in your house.
4. Recycle where feasible. Recycling certain items such as aluminum cans can save enormous amounts of energy. Try to buy recycled products and buy products that use minimum packaging.
5. Use your appliances efficiently. For example, run dishwashers and washing machines when you have full loads; wash clothes in cold water; don't overheat your hot water; use a clothes line instead of the dryer and buy energy efficient appliances.
6. Dress for the season! In the winter, wear warm clothes inside your house and lower the thermostat setting. In the summer, wear cool, loose clothes. Try to minimise the use of air conditioning until it gets really hot.
7. If feasible, walk or ride a bike to school or around town. It's good exercise and it saves energy!
8. Ask your Principal if your school has a plan for reducing energy consumption. If not, ask if your class can conduct an energy audit. Discuss possible improvements and draft a letter with suggestions for reducing your school's energy consumption.
9. Design energy conservation awareness posters and place them in the hallways at school.
10. Be sure that your family car has a regular tune-up. Keep the tyres inflated properly.

Trees Make a Difference

Explain how planting trees can alter the greenhouse effect and reduce global warming.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for the student's response to the question above.