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# Global Warming

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## What is global warming?

Global warming is the heating up of the earth's atmosphere. Scientists believe that this rise in average temperature is affecting the earth's climate.

## What are the effects?

A warmer earth may lead to changes in rainfall, a rise in sea level, and the melting of ice caps. These changes in the environment put plants, animals, and people in danger.

## What is the greenhouse effect?

The earth is wrapped in a blanket of air called the atmosphere. Gases in the atmosphere trap energy from the sun. These gases are called greenhouse gases because they keep the earth warm like a greenhouse.

The earth makes the right amount of greenhouse gases naturally. Scientists believe humans are adding to the greenhouse gases and making the world warmer!

## Which gases increase global warming?

### Carbon Dioxide & Nitrous Oxide

- By burning coal, oil and gas (fossil fuels) for our **electricity**.
- By burning fossil fuels for **heating** and **cooling** our buildings.
- By burning fossil fuels, **gasoline**, to move our cars, trains and planes.

### Carbon Dioxide, Nitrous Oxide and Water Vapor

- When using lots of water, especially hot water.

### Methane

- When garbage decays and from some types of farming.

### Fact

One tree, in its average 50-year lifetime, can clean up \$62,000 of air pollution.

## Who is helping?



### Abigail

She is planting a tree which cuts down on air pollution.

### Shawn

He and his friends have organized a cell phone drive to send them to organizations that recycle.

## How can you help?

Walk or ride your bike.

Turn off the lights.

Reduce, reuse and recycle almost everything!

Plant trees to absorb carbon dioxide.



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