

GLOBAL WARMING FACTS

WHAT IS GLOBAL WARMING?

Global warming is the rise in temperatures around the world because of greenhouse gases. Over the last 100 years, the average temperature on Earth has gone up 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit. In the next 100 years, it could go up another 10 degrees or more.

WHAT ARE GREENHOUSE GASES?

Greenhouse gases are gases, like carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane, that help keep Earth warm. They absorb radiation from the sun, a lot like the walls of a greenhouse. That's why it's called the "greenhouse effect." Too many greenhouse gas molecules in the atmosphere cause too much heat to be trapped, and the planet's temperature goes up.

WHERE DO GREENHOUSE GASES COME FROM?

A few of the main sources of greenhouse gases include:

- Cars, buses, planes, and trains
- Electricity produced from coal and oil
- Manufacturing
- Agriculture and manure from animals

HOW DOES GLOBAL WARMING HURT THE EARTH?

Some of the main consequences of global warming include:

- Ice at the North and South Poles melts into the ocean, making sea level go up. This is dangerous to communities along coasts.
- Many animals and plants can't adapt to a warmer climate. Some species relocate, but scientists are afraid that others may become extinct.
- Weather becomes more extreme, with floods, hurricanes, and dangerous storms. Some areas are suffering from drought.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Reducing energy usage is an important step. Fortunately, there are many ways to cut down on your energy use!

- Eat local! Ask your parents to buy food grown locally, because it takes less energy to get to you.
- Eat green! Try out healthy vegetarian meals, which take less energy to produce than meat-based meals.
- Talk to your family about switching to green energy sources, like wind and solar power.
- Unplug your cell phone and computer chargers when not using them.
- Take a family biking trip or ride the bus instead of driving.
- Water requires lots of energy, so conserve it by taking shorter showers and checking for leaks.
- Follow the three R's: reduce, reuse, and recycle!