



# Could Be A Hot Topic!

### What is climate change?

“Climate change” is the rapid changing of climates around the world. Look on the back of this page for actions that you, your friends and family can all take to make a big difference in slowing climate change.

### What is global warming?

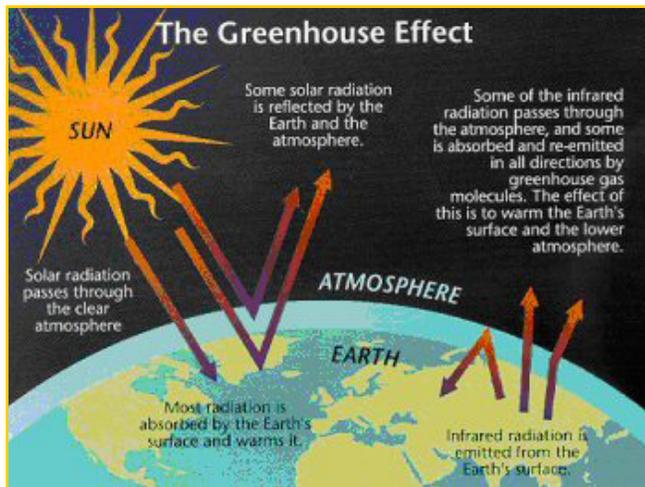
“Global warming” refers to rising global temperatures as a result of increasing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. As global temperatures rise, this causes climate to change - leading to shifts in weather patterns, rising sea levels, and a wide range of impacts on plants, wildlife, and humans.

### What are greenhouse gases?

Greenhouse gases are substances including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, and chlorofluorocarbons. Human activity has been increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

### What is the greenhouse effect?

The greenhouse effect occurs as a result of greenhouse gases trapping the heat from the sun and keeping it close to the earth. Anyone who has parked his or her car in the sun for a few hours on a summer day has experienced



something like the greenhouse effect. The sunlight shines through the glass windows and heats up the inside of the car. But the glass doesn't let the heat back out again. The heat can't escape because the sides, floor, and roof of the car are closed. This is similar to what is happening to the earth. The greenhouse gasses are like the glass in a car, allowing the sunlight through. But, the gasses do not allow

the heat to escape, resulting in “global warming.”

### How could climate change impact us?

In our area, warmer temperatures will mean less snow and cause the snow to melt early. Late in the summer streams will have less water which affects aquifer recharge for underground water supplies and wildlife. With higher summer temperatures we will want to use more water even though there may be less water available. In the winter, more rain than snow could cause more water to run off instead of soaking into the ground. Many times runoff carries with it pollutants left on the ground such as car oils, antifreeze, brake lining dust, pet and farm waste, fertilizers and pesticides. This polluted runoff is unhealthy for our lakes, rivers, and streams.

EnviroKids' Club is a way for you to team up with other kids in Spokane County -- exploring all aspects of the environment: air, water, weather, garbage & recycling, plants & animals, and you & your environment.

EnviroKids' Club members will receive an activity in the mail four times a year. Complete the activity, and return it to the Club Headquarters (address and form below) and you will earn points towards a special prize. Information about the new point system and the prizes will be sent soon. The EnviroKids' Club is for children in grades K-6, who live in Spokane County. EnviroKids' Club is an expansion of Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency's former Clean Air Kids' Club.

**MAIL COMPLETED ACTIVITY BY OCTOBER 1, 2007 TO: Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, 1101 W. College, #403, Spokane, WA 99201.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

My child has permission to participate in EnviroKids' Club activities and to have name/picture used in ads/website.

Parent Signature and Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Take the Climate Change Challenge!

Did you know that the average two-person household produces about 41,500 pounds of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases every year, mostly from the fuel that powers our cars, heats or cools our homes and helps make all of the stuff we buy. You can each do your part to reduce greenhouse gases!



The EnviroKids' Club is challenging its members and their families to trim their greenhouse gas emissions (reduce your carbon footprint on the earth). For example, when you buy less stuff (reduce) or find a new use for something (reuse) that means that you can be responsible for preventing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. When you recycle materials, you also prevent CO<sub>2</sub>:

- 1 ton of aluminum recycled = 13 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> prevented,
- 1 ton of newspaper recycled = 2.5 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> prevented.

There are lots of things we can do - from **baby steps**, to **walking the walk**, to **giant steps** to shrink our carbon footprints. Club members, work with your family to do at least 10 of the actions listed, circle the ones you did and send in this form to earn points towards your EnviroKids' Club prize.

## Bathroom & Laundry

### Install

low-flow shower heads.  
*CO<sub>2</sub> savings: 370 pounds a year.*

### Lower

your waterheater temperature to 120-130 degrees, and insulate your tank if in an unheated space.

### Wash

clothes in cold water (save 20-40 cents per load), wash and dry full loads and clean the dryer lint filter after every load.  
*CO<sub>2</sub> savings: 500 pounds a year.*



## Garage

### Keep

car tires properly inflated. Under-inflated tires reduce your fuel economy by as much as 3 percent.  
*CO<sub>2</sub> savings: 250 pounds a year.*

### Find another way,

carpool, ride the bus, bike, walk, when you go to the park, friends house, to summer camp, school, or work.  
*CO<sub>2</sub> savings from leaving your car home two days a week: 1,590 pounds a year.*

## Entire House

### Recycle

paper, printer cartridges and other goods. Use two-sided printing and copying to save paper.

### Replace

conventional light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.  
*CO<sub>2</sub> savings for replacing six incandescent bulbs: 566 pounds a year.*

### Turn off

unneeded lights.

### Turn it down

in the winter, set thermostat between 68-70 degrees or lower. In the summer set AC, at 78-80 degrees or higher. Replace furnace filters every two months.

### Unplug

your TV, DVD player, computer, cell phone, other electronics when not in use or charging, or use a power strip to shut them down.

### Seal up

leaky drafts, keep the damper closed on the fireplace and wood stove when not in use, and use energy-saving windows when replacing old windows.  
*CO<sub>2</sub> savings: 2,480 pounds a year.*

### Use green power.

Avista and Inland Power have programs that allow you to purchase, for an extra monthly charge, power from renewable energy sources such as wind.  
[www.avistacorp.com](http://www.avistacorp.com)  
[www.inlandpower.com](http://www.inlandpower.com)

## Kitchen

### Set

refrigerator at 38 degrees and clean the coils every month. Keep freezer at 0 - 10 degrees.

### Paper or plastic

at the checkout line? Plastic bags take less energy to produce, but the better choice is to bring a reusable bag, such as a canvas bag, to carry your groceries home.  
*CO<sub>2</sub> savings: 34 pounds a year.*

### Reduce,

reuse, recycle.

### Eat locally grown food.

On average, fresh produce travels 1,500 miles from farm to plate. Increasingly, more of what Americans eat is shipped from overseas.

## Yard

### Use

a push mower on your lawn.  
*CO<sub>2</sub> savings: 80 pounds a year.*

### Build a compost pile.

Help nature recycle yard debris and food scraps into fertilizer.

### Plant a tree.

Well-placed trees create shade and lower cooling bills. They also use carbon dioxide during photosynthesis.  
*CO<sub>2</sub> savings: 50 pounds a year.*



For more ideas on how you can help slow climate change, please contact Spokane Neighborhood Action Program (SNAP), [www.livinggreensnap.org](http://www.livinggreensnap.org), 744-3370. SNAP's Living Green Program has a variety of resources available, including a free home energy saver kit (per qualification), to help you get started in reducing your carbon footprint.

Sources for article and tips: [www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/), [www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/whatis.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/whatis.htm), [www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/globalwarming.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/globalwarming.html), Spokane Neighborhood Action Program, [stopglobalwarming.org](http://stopglobalwarming.org), [carbonfootprint.com](http://carbonfootprint.com), [climatesolutions.org](http://climatesolutions.org), Seattle Times. Carbon dioxide savings are approximations.