



UNDERSTANDING THE BURNING ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE -

Compiled By Dr. Allan Bachan

UNDERSTANDING THE BURNING ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE - FOR KIDS

Kids can make a difference!



The Trini Climate Kids are a group on a mission!



This awareness booklet has been developed with the kind assistance of BHP Billiton and the Green Fund. It is intended for kids and is designed to provide them with information required to understand Climate Change. More specifically, the students will:

- Discover the natural and human elements of Climate Change
- Become familiar with climate change and its impacts;
- Know what attitudes and behaviors to adopt;

The booklet is also a resource guide intended for teachers and parents. It provides information that allows the educator to lead youth through the learning process and relies on the use of the various teaching and communication tools developed. It facilitates learning and the development of attitudes and skills by reading information, recording observations from research results, answering questions, playing games. It ensures that information is permanently available as well as being a reference tool for youth. Several of the activities can be carried out with the assistance of teachers and parents.

I encourage educators to reproduce this booklet for distribution to participants in class and provide comments and feedback.

Dr. Allan Bachan

What's With This Climate Change?



Hi Kids
This is
Elwin his
friend
Elroy and
his son



What's up
Durfecar?



Elwin has been living in the toasty tropical waters, referred to as the "Nilon Pool," off the coast of Tobago for the last 100 years. He is one of eight species of sea turtles worldwide, all of which are threatened or endangered. Humans and climate change are the major threats to his survival.

He has gained some of his climate knowledge from the local peoples who have been fishing and subsisting in this environment for thousands of years. They know how to read the winds, waves, and clouds for important weather information that may affect their lives.

Recently, Elwin has become concerned about rising sea levels on the beach that his son was born on and hotter temperatures. He has seen evidence of widespread coral bleaching and less frequent but more intense rainfall and storms which is now causing flooding.

He and his friends would like to help you kids understand Climate Change

WazzUppp!! What's is this Climate Change?



Some people say the weather is changing. Some say the climate is changing. Have you heard about how the world is getting hotter? Who's right? Is this Climate Change?

Simply Science!

Climate change science, simplified



Here is how your science teacher might explain it - though she might give you more of the nitty gritty and then test you!!

First of all, you should know that weather and climate are not the same thing.

Weather is what the forecasters on the TV news predict each day. They tell people about the temperature, cloudiness, humidity, and whether a storm is likely in the next few days. That's weather! It is the mix of events that happen each day in our atmosphere. Weather is not the same everywhere. It may be hot and sunny in one part of the world, but freezing and snowy in another. Trinidad and Tobago has two main seasons - the dry season, from January to May and the wet or rainy season, from June to December. In the rainy season, mornings are usually sunny, followed by rainy afternoons and fair nights. During this time, our general rainfall pattern is interrupted by days of brilliant sunshine; a climatic phenomenon we fondly call Petit Carême. Petit Carême is similar to what temperate climes know as Indian Summer and offers a warm, invigorating change from dull weather. This mini-break normally happens between mid-September to mid-October.

The dry season is mostly sunny, with occasional light showers. This is the weather that makes Trinidad and Tobago the perfect vacation spot. Our islands share an average daytime temperature of 28 degrees Celsius that is warm but not unpleasantly humid and nights that are pleasantly cool.

Trinidad and Tobago is just south of the hurricane belt and rarely experiences hurricanes.

Climate is the average weather in a particular part of the world at different times of the year over many years. In the Caribbean we would expect a hot dry season and a cool rainy season with moderate rainfall throughout the year. **Climate is the average weather at a given point and time of year, over a long period (typically 30 years). We expect the weather to change a lot from day to day, but we expect the climate to remain relatively constant.**

Climate Change



CLIMATE CHANGE is a broad term that refers to rapid changes that are occurring in climate in such a short time. Climate change is occurring because of an abnormal increase in the earth's average surface temperature due to a buildup of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere.

It is this global change in temperature that is causing the change in our weather patterns. We are now experiencing more unpredictable and sometimes stormy weather or long periods of drought.

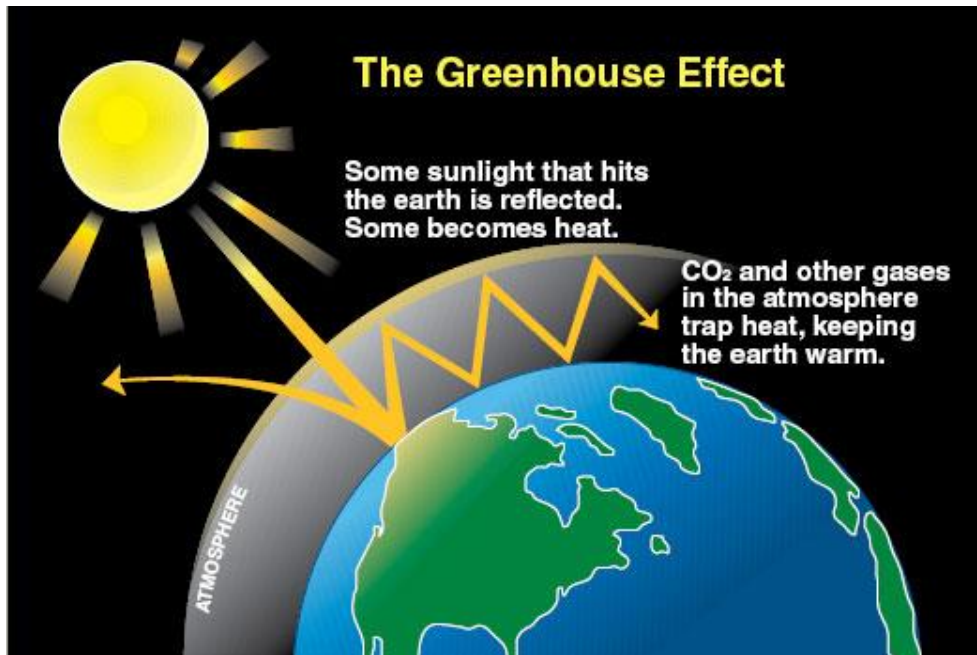
These weather changes are stressful on animals, plants, people and the environment.

Scientists now believe that climate change is mostly caused by humans, by many of our daily polluting activities that we don't always think about.



Greenhouse Earth

Have you ever been inside a greenhouse, the all-glass buildings where plants are grown? They're very warm, because the glass walls allow the sun's rays in but prevent the heat from getting out.



Credit: [NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio](#)

Think of the earth as being inside a giant greenhouse. The gases act like a greenhouse's glass walls -- they keep heat from escaping into space, and the earth stays warm. Without them, we'd freeze. Too much of them means that we boil!

The Earth is wrapped in a blanket of air called the 'atmosphere', which is made up of several layers of gases. These Greenhouse gases, have the special job of holding that warmth around our planet - like a light blanket. This is called the Greenhouse Effect,

Energy from the Sun drives the Earth's weather and climate. The Earth absorbs energy from the Sun, and also radiates energy back into space.

However, much of this energy going back to space is absorbed by "greenhouse" gases in the atmosphere. The atmosphere then radiates most of this energy back to the Earth's surface and our planet is warmer than it would be if the atmosphere did not contain these gases.

Without greenhouse gases this heat would float away and the earth's average temperature would be -18 degrees Celsius!!! Brrr...

To make sure that the Earth's temperature remains constant, the balance of these gases in the atmosphere must not be upset.



Our Planet produces just the right amount of these greenhouse gases naturally but you humans are adding more!

Try this easy experiment:

Take two jars and put a teaspoon of water in each jar. Put a lid on just one jar. Place both jars in a sunny spot. After a few hours, check on the jars. You'll see that the open jar hasn't changed, but the closed jar will be steamy and hot inside.

What happened?

ANSWER: The heat from the sun could not escape from the closed jar. The greenhouse gasses operate like the lid on the jar.

did you know?

Scientists say that the earth's temperature could rise by as much as six degrees. During the last ice age, the average temperature was only seven degrees cooler – and glaciers covered most of the country! Imagine how six degrees could affect us!



The greenhouse gases

So we've talked about this greenhouse gas blanket that makes our planet so special... livable, that is!! Remember kids Greenhouse Gases are essential to our climate.

did you know?

Planet Notes

Pluto has very little greenhouse gasses and is very cold. The average temperature on Pluto is about -370° F.

Venus has an abundant amount of greenhouse gases and is very hot. The average temperature on Venus is about 855° F.

And then there's Earth which is just right... for the moment, anyway. ... So the more Greenhouse Gases Mean a Warmer Earth.

Hotting up

Adding more greenhouse gases is like adding more blankets. After a while the earth's average temperature starts to rise. Yes the Earth's climate seems to be heating up much much faster. It's this heating up which scientists call 'global warming'. Simply put, GLOBAL WARMING is the increase of the Earth's average surface temperature, due to a build up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

This rise in temperature causes our delicate and complex climate system to get all out of whack. A good way to try to understand this is to think about how your body reacts when you have a fever. You feel out of sorts - one minute you're sweating, the next you are chilled and overall you feel lousy!





So What causes Climate Change?



It's a gas !

Ok, So What are these gasses?



Well, there are many different types of greenhouse gases in this blanket. These greenhouse gases are produced both naturally and by people. Here are the most common ones:

methane

comes from cattle as they digest their food. The gas also comes from garbage and waste material.

nitrous oxide

when plants die and rot, nitrous oxide is produced.

ozone

occurs naturally in the atmosphere.

carbon dioxide

Carbon dioxide also written as CO_2 is produced naturally when people and animals breathe. Plants and trees absorb carbon dioxide to live. Volcanoes also produce this gas. Carbon dioxide is not the same as carbon monoxide.



So What are we doing that could cause the whole planet to get warmer?
How are we causing Climate Change?

THE ENHANCED GREENHOUSE EFFECT

While greenhouse gasses exist naturally, we have seen that some of the activities of people also produce greenhouse gases. These gases keep increasing in the atmosphere because of our activities. When the balance of the greenhouse gases changes it has effects on the whole of the planet.

Most of the increase is due to human activities, like

(1) Burning fossil fuels - coal, oil and natural gas:

Almost all machines use oil, gas or coal. All of them produce pollution -- you know, the smelly stuff that comes out of car exhaust pipes, our petrochemical, power generation and industry plants, that sort of thing. Much of this is a gas you can't see called carbon dioxide. It's this gas which seems to be the main cause of the trouble.



did you know?

One gallon of gasoline weighs 6.3 pounds.

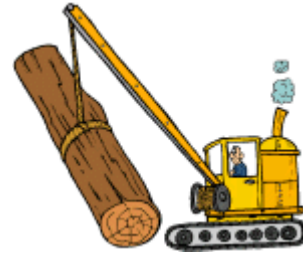


Burning 6.3 pounds of gasoline produces 20 pounds of carbon dioxide.

Just something to think about when you fill the tank of the family car!

(2) Cutting down and burning trees

It is important, first to understand what a precious resource rainforests play in our world. They form part of a delicate ecosystem that has taken millions of years to evolve.



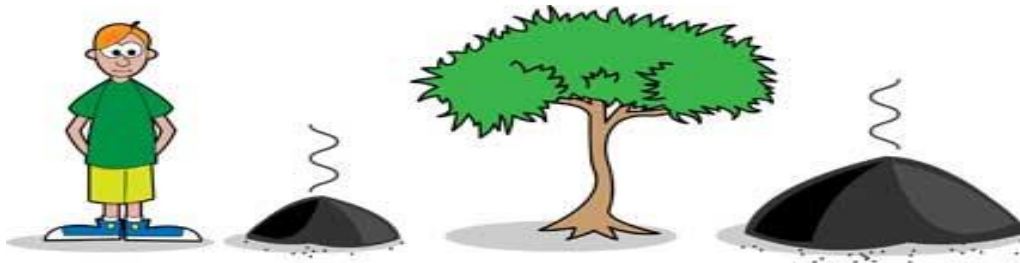
Remember trees absorb CO_2 . In fact rainforests every year help to absorb almost 20% of manmade CO_2 emissions. Cutting down rainforests faster than they can be replaced has a devastating effect on the carbon emission cycle producing an extra 17% of **greenhouse gases**. More deforestation means more CO_2 build up in the atmosphere. Therefore deforestation can be classed as a major contributor to the causes of climate change.

Deforestation by means of cutting down and burning these tropical rainforests usually paves the way for agriculture and industry which often produce even more CO_2 .

Forests trap and store carbon dioxide, playing a major role in mitigating climate change. On the flip side of the coin, forests become the sources of the **greenhouse gas**, carbon dioxide when destroyed or over-harvested and burned.

did you know?

All living things on Earth contain carbon. Even you contain carbon. Lots of it. If you weigh 100 pounds, 18 pounds of you is pure carbon! And plants are almost half carbon!



You are 18 percent carbon. Plants are 45 percent carbon.

(3) Use too many appliances when we don't need too!

This produces CARBON DIOXIDE, NITROUS OXIDE.

(4) Use too much energy for our air conditioning.

This produces CARBON DIOXIDE, NITROUS OXIDE.

(5) When we use lots of water, especially hot water.

This produces CARBON DIOXIDE, NITROUS OXIDE,
WATER VAPOUR

(6) Make too much garbage, instead of composting, recycling or buying stuff without lots of wrapping.

This produces METHANE



(7) Climate-unfriendly pollution is also created when we release a group of greenhouse gases called the chlorofluorocarbons.



These are usually called CFCs, because the other word is much too long! -

These have been used in aerosols, such as hairspray cans, fridges and in making foam plastics. They are found in small amounts in the atmosphere naturally. They are dangerous greenhouse gases because increased amounts can trap large amounts of heat and remember kids they damage the Ozone Layer and create a hole.

Hole in the Ozone Layer?



Remember we said that the Earth is wrapped in a blanket of air called the 'atmosphere', which is made up of several layers. About 19-30 kilometres above the Earth is a layer of gas called ozone, which is a form of oxygen. Ozone is produced naturally in the atmosphere.



The ozone layer is very important because it stops too many of the sun's 'ultra-violet rays' (UV rays) getting through to the Earth - these are the rays that cause our skin to tan. Too much UV rays can cause skin cancer and are dangerous for our eyes.

UV rays can go through water and end killing small water animals or plants, called 'plankton' which form the base of the food oceans and seas. Whales and other fishes plankton as their main food, and if plankton because of these UV rays, whales will start because they will not have anything to eat. amounts of UV rays could damage all green plants, then there would be less food in the whole world.



up
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dying too,
Large

Life on Earth could not exist without the protective shield of the ozone layer. Think of the ozone layer like a sunscreen, and a thinning of it would mean that more ultra-violet rays would be reaching us.

The greenhouse gases called the chlorofluorocarbons, - CFCs destroy the ozone layer. The loss of the ozone layer occurs when more ozone is being destroyed than nature is creating.

WazzUppp!!

What is the effect of Climate Change?



How will it affect Trinidad and Tobago? How affect sea turtles and other wildlife? What do about it? These are some of the things I to find out about.



will it can we wanted



Climate Change effects

The conditions we are living in are perfect for life, and any large rise in temperature could be terrible for us and for any other living thing on Earth.

The signs of global climate change are all around us. All these activities we talked about, and many others, release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Because there are more and more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, more heat will be trapped, and the Earth's climate will get warmer...and warmer...and warmer, and the signs are everywhere. Global warming is now a hot topic (no pun intended). While the idea of a warmer Trinidad and Tobago might seem like a good one especially to our visiting tourists, it is **NOT** all sunshine and popsicles! We see rain patterns are changing, sea level is rising, and we see on television that snow and ice are melting sooner in the spring. These changes will affect people, animals, and ecosystems in many ways.

This great land Trinidad and Tobago:

So If Earth gets hotter, some of the following things might occur:

- Along with the warmer average temperatures will come more and more unpredictable and severe weather... Scorching summers... Melting glaciers... Stronger storms...
- Hurricanes, tornadoes and other storms caused by changes in heat and water evaporation might occur more frequently and be more intense.
- Tropical places that now receive frequent rain might become hotter and drier. Inland rivers would shrink and there would be less water from WASA in our taps.
- Forest fires could occur more often. Plants and animals unable to take the heat may go extinct, and be replaced by heat-tolerant species.
- New coastlines would have to be drawn on maps! Because water expands as it is heated, and because oceans absorb more heat than land, sea levels around the world would rise. Some beaches would see rapid erosion and even disappear. Villages on coasts would flood.

Wildlife:



The gorgeous landscape of Wet Lands like our Caroni and Nariva Swamps are most sensitive to climate change. The plants and wildlife there are feeling the effects.

Species are at risk around the world. Scientists predict that global warming could contribute to the mass extinction of wild animals in the near future.

An overheating world is creating a big change in climatic conditions and this can harm the delicate ecosystems in which species live.

Remember we humans can pick up and move if we aren't comfortable where we are; trees can't! They could become quite unhealthy and droopy and prone to bugs if the climate changes too quickly.

Most animals need predictable weather and seasons to be happy. If our climate changes quickly it could put a LOT of stress on them - some will be miserable, some will disappear altogether. Our scarlet Ibis are looking mighty shabby these days!

Our Marine Life

Some sea creatures (red fish, coral reefs) are very, very sensitive to changing sea temperatures. **They DO NOT like climate change and migrate to cooler waters. This affects the livelihood of our fisherfolk.**

Impact of Climate Change on marine turtles

Marine turtles find themselves at the forefront of the battle against climate change. They are already threatened by many other factors, including fishing where they can meet a cruel end as by-catch in a net or on a hook, through garbage as they choke on a floating plastic bag mistaking it

for one of their favorite foods a jellyfish, or through the destruction of nesting beaches where mother turtles lay their eggs.

As climate change sets in, it impacts turtles on many fronts:

Warmer ocean temperatures

Warmer ocean temperatures often lead to coral bleaching and other damage to coral reefs, which are their essential feeding habitats;

Severe Storms

More severe storms, such as hurricanes and tropical cyclones, could increase beach erosion rates, endangering sea turtle nesting habitat. More severe storms and more extreme rainfall can raise ground water tables, thereby flooding nests, decreasing nesting success rates.

Hotter Sands

The sex of sea turtle hatchlings is influenced by the temperature of the sand in which the eggs develop. Climate change can cause increased temperature. Higher temperatures cause the sand to heat up and lead to a higher proportion of female to male hatchlings or prevent eggs from hatching. This nest-warming trend is reducing the number of male offspring and seriously threatens turtle populations.



Sea Level Rise

As climate change melts ice and warms the oceans, sea levels rise. Even a small rise in sea level could result in a large loss of beach nesting habitat as we are beginning to see in Matura and Manzanilla. The beaches of the North East Coast of Trinidad are some of the most important sea turtle nesting habitats in the world.

Changing Currents

Climate change is altering ocean currents, which are the highways that sea turtles use for migration. Changes in ocean currents can modify migrations paths and feeding patterns, possibly shift their range and nesting timing and disrupt the natural annual cycle on which these species have relied for millions of years;



Yea Yea So how will Climate Change affect You, me, our friends and family?

Ways of life could be affected. The hillside communities and those in low-lying communities will have to make huge adjustments to the way they live because of the way climate change is affecting their land; flooding landslides, forest fires, drought.

Yo-Yo (unpredictable!) weather is uncomfortable and confusing for us! When is it going to rain? What should I wear? When should I plant my garden? We'll have to deal with this more often.



While too much rain can cause terrible flooding, rising sea levels from melting ice caps could have folks in our beautiful island stocking up on rubber boots and rebuilding washed-out roads! We lose our appliances and have a lot of cleaning after floods. We will have to pay more money (\$\$\$) for expenses created by climate change. For example: paying for more pricey veggies because of crop damage from flooding.

Less rain can mean less water for some places. More hot days can dry up crops and make people and animals sick. Lowering river levels in the dry season could have us, farmers, wildlife and tourism operators thirsty for more of the wet stuff!



Frequent periods of drought would make it hard to raise crops for food.

There would be less water available for drinking, showers, irrigation, even swimming pools!

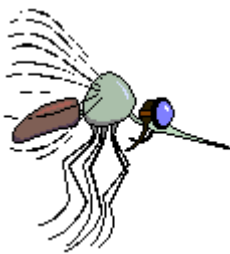


Fossil fuel emissions will produce more smog, acid rain and general air pollution. Peeeuwww! Like ONE isn't enough!! . This will cause more people to have asthma and other illnesses.

The hotter the temperature the harder it is on our senior folks, the ill and the very young.

Then there's disease.

As the world warms, As temperatures get hotter, mosquitoes, ticks, rodents, and other disease carriers will expand their range. Insects like **mosquitoes**



which can carry disease can even 'hitch a ride' on flights from one country to another.

Nasty diseases like **malaria** are starting to spread because the changing climate favors the mosquito that carries the disease. Here in the Trinidad and Tobago, dengue hemorrhagic fever transmitted by mosquitoes is increasingly prevalent. Also there is Chikungunya, a viral infection, which is transmitted to human through the bite of infested aedes aegypti mosquito.

In some places, people will struggle to cope with a changing environment. In other places, people may be able to successfully prepare for these changes. The negative impacts of global climate change will be less severe overall if people reduce the amount of greenhouse gases we're putting into the atmosphere and worsen if we continue producing these gases at current or faster rates.



Hey!
This is lousy!
What can we do?

What to Do? You and Me



YOU can help slow global warming!

Most of the world's leading climate experts and scientists (smart women and men with white coats and microscopes) say that the main cause of climate change is the pollution we make!

And so, if we are causing the problem, it should be us who fix it!!

Let us agree that we should not sit back and do nothing. Besides increasing greenhouse gases, burning too much gasoline and other fossil fuels creates air pollution and wastes energy. Who wants to breathe bad air, or always look up at a dirty sky?

Remember Carbon dioxide is one of the "worst" greenhouse gases when produced in excess. It lasts hundreds of years in the atmosphere and human causes account for 80% of the carbon dioxide up in our atmosphere now. More and more each of us needs to decrease our "Carbon Footprint".



Carbon footprint, ecological footprint, eco footprint, muddy footprint, what's wrong with my footprint and why should I care?

Your Carbon Footprint



A person's "carbon footprint" is equivalent to the amount of carbon dioxide a person produces annually. When you use energy or products manufactured with fossil fuels, you generate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. The combination of emissions caused through everyday living, like cooling your home, driving your car, the foods you eat and your lifestyle choices by your home, and daily life is known as your "carbon footprint."

Our planet is pretty amazing!! It is flexible, so we do not have to stop everything we are doing!! That would be too hard. But, if we ALL just try to do what we can to lessen our carbon footprints, we'll make a **BIG DIFFERENCE!**

did you know?

Much of the economy of Trinidad and Tobago comes from the petroleum industry, with petroleum and petroleum products making up the vast majority of the country's exports. The consumption of these deposits has led to an increase in greenhouse gases, with the result that Trinidad and Tobago has one of the highest carbon dioxide emissions per capita in the world. Our emissions were **37.39 metric tons of carbon dioxide per capita in 2008**. The emissions are largely from gaseous fuels (72 percent), with 16 percent from liquid fuels, 10 percent from gas flaring, and 2 percent from the manufacture of cement. Not only is the heavy use of petroleum a major contributing factor to our high CO₂ emissions but there is also poor public transport on Trinidad, resulting in widespread use of automobiles.

The other super thing is that by doing climate-friendly actions and reducing our carbon footprint, we help get rid of other types of pollution too!! We will reduce smog, acid rain and garbage! AND, we will keep ourselves healthy and our communities more beautiful! Pretty neat, eh?! It's an all-in-one solution!

You, me, our friends and families, must try our best to live our lives in a earth-friendly way!!



Will do Elwin

Elroy can you tell the kids what we should do?





What can you do?

Here are some energy-saving care and climate-friendly action!
You can help slow global warming by:

Ah...the feel of the wind in your hair Home cooling

If your folks pay wads of cash to cool your home... you've got a problem!



Here are some quick fixes to help keep that lovely cool air inside your home and to reduce **greenhouse gases**.

1. A cool suggestion!

When friends come to visit get them to come in the house or you go outside so that you don't leave your door wide open and lose cool air.

Don't use an air conditioner unless it is very, very hot... or don't use one at all!!

If you leave your curtains and windows open at night you will cool your home down. Then first thing in the morning, **CLOSE** those windows and curtains and **TRAP** that cool air inside. Its like magic!!

Take off the air-condition at night and when the family leaves for work and school.

Conserve Water



2. You can help, too!

Don't keep the water running while you brush your teeth or or wash your hands.

3. You can do it now!

Take a shower it uses less water than in the bathtub. Tell your parents to install a low-flow shower head.

Turn the water off while you do the dishes.

Use a broom to clean your driveway instead of a hose.

Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.

If you aren't using it **TURN IT OFF!!**

Lights and Appliances in your Home

Is your home like a Christmas Tree? Are there lights on all over the place? Is there music and television playing in every room? If so, you are using more energy than you need to!

4. Turn off that light!

Not wasting electricity (turn off the lights, the radio, the TV and the computer when you're not using them).

did you know?

If every person who used electricity replaced one light bulb with an energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulb, 50 of the world's largest nuclear power plants could be shut down!



5. A bright idea!

Here are some other ways for you to conserve appliance energy:

Use natural light! Do you really need those lights on during the day? Can you get enough light by opening the curtains?

Get your family to use energy saving light bulbs and install timers to control outside lights.

6. Air-dry your dishes!

The dishwasher gobbles energy and water. Don't go using the dishwasher unless its FULL! Better yet, wash by hand! But don't run that water! Only fill up your sinks with as much water as you need. Let the dishes air dry.

did you know?

Did you know that your grandparents probably did laundry by hand... in a tub! Saving energy today does not take as much effort. Washing laundry in cold water saves a lot! Hang-drying your clothes not only reduces energy use, but also gives your clothes a naturally clean scent!!!

7. Blowin' in the wind!



Wash your clothes in cold water and hang them to dry! We waste loads (Ha! Ha! Get it?) of energy by using hot water when cold will do. Use the clothesline or drying rack as often as possible instead of the dryer.

8. Know what you want to eat!

Know what you want to eat, before you open the fridge! That way, you won't lose energy by having the fridge door open while you decide! Hmmm.... I'm hungry!

Driving Down Emissions

Getting Around the Green Way

OK, ok, we know... you're a bit young to be driving! But you are never too young to make transportation choices that are right for our beautiful planet!!

Here are a number of ways to reduce **greenhouse emissions** and still get around town:

9. Moving along without polluting!



Walk, Hike, Use your bicycle skateboard, or skates when possible, rather than asking your parents for a drive...be inventive and active about how you get from one place to another and reduce your car use!



Remember: car-pooling and bussing always uses less energy than driving alone! And these activities give you some extra time with your friends and family too!

Get your family to organize all their errands into one trip! You'll save energy and, by getting everything done at once, you'll have more time for fun stuff! Yahoooey!!

10. Is the motor up to speed!

did you know?

Idle Thoughts...

An idling engine produces up to 108 times more pollutants than a moving car! Cough! Gasp! Wheeze!



With new engine's taking only seconds to warm up, there really is no need for idling.

Remind your parents to **NOT** let their car's engine idle. *Idling* is when the car's engine is on, but the car is just sitting there going nowhere!! Idling adds lots and lots of greenhouse gases! And wastes lots of money too!

A well-tuned car and fully inflated tires will help burn less fuel and money!

Air conditioning in a car burns extra gas, causes extra pollution and wastes money.

In town, rolling down the windows can cool you off nicely.


On the highway, try opening the air vents because rolling down the windows will make your car less aerodynamic (say that ten times fast!), and will waste more fuel.

Change your surroundings

Plant a tree

Planting trees to help absorb excess CO₂, and to provide shade and windbreaks to keep buildings at more even temperatures so they will require less energy for heating or cooling.

PUT WASTE IN THE RIGHT PLACE	The Price is Right Shopping and Disposing Wisely
OK, we all know the three R's of waste reduction: REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!	
But do you know the fourth? REFUSE!! That's right! If it has too much packaging, don't buy it! Find a friendlier alternative.	
	12. The art of recycling and composting Reducing, reusing or recycling all kinds of items, from soft drink and juice cans to clothes, to save energy and raw materials. Recycle and compost with your family.

<p>did you know?</p>  <p>On the Road Again!</p> <p>Did you know that many clothes, fruits and vegetables, not to mention prepackaged products, travel thousands of miles just to get to your grocery store? They have to get here somehow, which means a lot of wasted gasoline for the trucks. Buying locally not only supports local farmers and business people, but saves energy as well!</p>	<p>Got some other cool solutions:</p> <p>Here's a list of other things that we can do when buying and disposing goods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Buy locally!!→ Buy products in reusable containers... and reuse them for your lunch and to store stuff.→ Bring your own bags to the store - or better yet, skip the plastic and use your knapsack or cloth bags.→ Buy second hand books and toys - you'll be surprised at the bargains and fun stuff you find!!→ Second hand stores and charities, such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Goodwill Industries and St. Vincent de Paul are great organizations to give old stuff to - including those clothes you outgrow so quickly!!
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Become a Trini Climate Kid and show other kids all the different earth-friendly things they and their families can do to help out!

The Trini Climate Kids are a group on a mission! Here's our special motto:



We, the Trini Climate Kids commit to spreading the word on climate change to our friends, family, and neighbours and encourage everyone to make earth-friendly lifestyle choices!

Remember!!:

You don't have to know everything about climate change to help out! Just learn some earth-friendly actions and spread the word!!



Kids can make a difference!



**For information and comments please contact
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