

13 ways to save the Earth from

CLIMATE CHANGE

We know you love watching videos on your phone. But modern activities—such as plugging in devices, driving cars, and cooling homes—often rely on energy sources such as natural gas, oil, and coal. Those energy sources release a gas called carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere. When CO₂ and other greenhouse gases trap heat that would otherwise escape Earth's atmosphere, the planet's temperature rises. That's called global warming, which causes climate change.

Most scientists believe that climate change is happening and causing rising seas, stronger storms, and shifting habitats for wildlife and people. But you don't have to give up videos or totally shut down the A/C to fight climate change. Read on to learn how you can help.

Rotting trash in landfills is the third leading cause of human-created methane emissions in the United States.

1

USED GOODS ARE GOOD

Reduce and reuse as much as possible. Factories emit carbon dioxide when making new products. So instead of buying new stuff, fix your appliances and clothes. Good thing holey jeans are back in style!

HELP OUT AT THE HOTEL

Hang up and reuse your hotel towels instead of washing them after each use. That saves water and energy.



3

SPREAD THE WORD

Write a letter to the editor about climate change in your local or school newspaper. The more people talk about the issue, the better!



4

CLOSE THE DOOR

If you see a business with its door wide open in the summer, ask an adult to help you email or talk to an employee about closing it. An open door to an air-conditioned building can let 2.2 tons of carbon dioxide escape over one summer. That's about as much as a car on a 5,000-mile road trip.

8

WALK IT OUT

Walk or bike as much as you can. Biking or walking just one mile a day for a year could save 330 pounds of carbon dioxide—that's the same as planting four trees and letting them grow for 10 years!



7

EAT YOUR VEGGIES

Livestock such as cows account for some of Earth's heat-trapping gas emissions. (Yep, it's the cow toots!) Eating more plants cuts down on the need for so much livestock.



HOT AND COLD

Wear a warm sweater instead of turning up the heat, and open your windows and turn on a fan instead of blasting the air conditioner.

6



2

SLAY THE VAMPIRE

"Vampire" appliances suck energy even when turned off. Kill these monsters by unplugging phone and laptop chargers when not in use, and use power strips for lamps and TVs. (Bonus: It'll save your parents money on energy bills!)



9

SEASON YOUR FRUIT

Try to eat mostly in-season and locally grown fruits and vegetables. This cuts down on the energy used to grow and transport food, which reduces the release of heat-trapping gases.



10

AIR DRIED

Hang up your freshly washed clothes to dry. You'll be saving energy by not using the dryer *and* helping with chores.



11

SEND A POSTCARD

Send a letter, postcard, or drawing to your mayor, government representative, or even the president asking them to do something about climate change.



12

CALCULATE YOUR IMPACT

Use an online carbon footprint calculator to see how much carbon dioxide your actions release. If you know how you're impacting the planet, you can take steps for change.

13

BE A SCIENCE CHAMPION

Not everyone understands climate change. Learn the facts and talk to your friends and family. If everyone gets the science, we can work together to find solutions.



FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE—SAVE ANIMALS!

Koala

WHERE THEY LIVE: Eastern Australia

WHY THEY NEED HELP: Heat waves and droughts cause animals to change their natural behavior. For instance, koalas usually get water from their leafy diet. But a warmer climate means drier leaves, which forces koalas to come down from eucalyptus trees to search for water. That can expose them to predators.



Red-Cheeked Salamander

WHERE THEY LIVE: Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee

WHY THEY NEED HELP: These salamanders live only at the top of the Great Smoky Mountains, where the air is cool and humid. As the climate changes, the salamanders' habitat may become too warm and dry for the amphibians.



Coral

WHERE THEY LIVE: Tropical oceans

WHY THEY NEED HELP: When ocean temperatures rise, coral release the algae that live inside them. Because coral eat the carbohydrates that algae produce, the coral loses its main food source. This turns the coral completely white; the "bleaching" often kills them.



Iiwi

WHERE THEY LIVE: Some of the Hawaiian Islands

WHY THEY NEED HELP: Just one bite from a mosquito carrying malaria can kill an iiwi. These birds stay safe in their cool, mountainous habitat, out of the range of mosquitoes. But climate change will make the island peaks warmer, bringing more bugs.



Monarch Butterfly

WHERE THEY LIVE: North, Central, and South America; Australia, Indonesia, and parts of Europe

WHY THEY NEED HELP: Monarch butterflies use temperature to figure out when to migrate, reproduce, and hibernate. Any changes in climate could impact their life cycles.



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