

# HELP SAVE OUR ENVIRONMENT!

## GLOBAL WARMING

You've all been hearing about global warming and some of what you hear can sound frightening. It is a very serious situation, but there is hope because there is much we can all do to help slow the warming process!

Global warming is all about the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere (air) warming up. The gases in the atmosphere that prevent heat from leaving the planet, act like a greenhouse around the earth. While we do need some of these greenhouse gases to keep us warm, sadly, we now have too much carbon dioxide, methane and other gases that are holding in the heat. Unfortunately these gases are making the Earth warmer...

Scientists have discovered that some things people do in everyday life create much more gas than we need. One big cause of this is the burning of oil, gas and coal for energy for our cars, homes and our industries. We *can* do something to cut back on these gases though. When the Earth heats up, the balance is upset and things can go wrong... for example, global warming is slowly melting the ice at the North and South poles. This can cause the oceans to rise onto land. Scientists also believe global warming is causing our weather to change. This is not good for us, or the plants and animals of the Earth...



### SO WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Use less energy in your home or school and less gas or petrol in the family car.
- Turn down your heating/cooling, turn off lights and electronics at the switch.
- Walk and car pool more.
- Recycle more as it uses less energy.
- Don't buy stuff that you'll need to throw away, like paper plates or plastic utensils.

### HOT TIPS ON HOW TO BECOME A 'SUPER SAVER'!

- At home or school find a spot to make a compost pile. It's a way to turn dead leaves and plants and even certain kitchen scraps (no meat or milk products) into rich 'power dirt'. Every few weeks add a little water to the pile and mix it all up – in a few months you'll have fertiliser for your lawn or garden.
- Check out where you can recycle plastic bags, styrofoam, glass, plastic bottles, steel, aluminum, newspapers, and other items in your city.
- Buying 'green' also means buying household products that are not toxic or hazardous. Lots of paints and cleaning products are very hard to dispose of and can hurt the Earth and the people on it. Read labels carefully!

All by ourselves there is so much we can do to make this planet a healthier place to live, but joining together in groups makes our actions even stronger. Helping the Earth can even be fun! Look out for signs in your local community about joining a group and taking action to save our beautiful world, or get together with your friends and start your own environment protection club.