

Reading

Read the article.

Global warming

You have probably heard about **global warming**, but what does it mean? Pete the Polar Bear explains.



What is **global warming**?

Global warming means that the air around the Earth is getting hotter. As a result, the ice at the North and South Pole melts. It is bad news for polar bears! We sleep and hunt for food on the ice. When the ice melts, we lose our homes and we must swim a long way to find food. It is hard for cubs and weaker polar bears. Therefore many of us are dying.



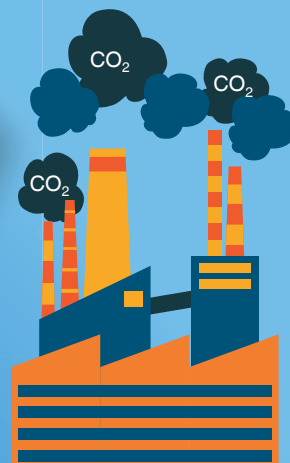
Why is the Earth getting **hotter** ?

Humans are making the Earth hotter. When people use gas, coal and oil to make energy, carbon dioxide (CO₂) is produced. CO₂ is a greenhouse gas. Greenhouse gases are like a blanket around the Earth — they stop heat escaping. Therefore the Earth gets hotter.



Why is global warming **bad**?

Global warming isn't just bad for polar bears. It affects all living things. For example, the melting ice makes sea levels rise, causing floods. Other places are suffering from drought because there is too little rainfall. People and animals may die because there isn't enough food and water.





OK! I get it. It is bad. What can I do?

People need to learn how to live on the Earth without making a mess of it. You all need to reduce your **carbon footprints**. This is the amount of CO₂ that you produce when you use transport, electricity, food, clothing and other things.

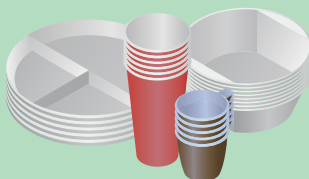


Remember the **3Rs** — **reduce**, **reuse** and **recycle**.

REDUCE

Reduce the waste you produce and the energy you use!

Don't use so many disposable products such as paper cups and plates.



REUSE

We use a lot of energy to make new things. Reuse more to save energy!



You should stop using plastic bags. Take a cloth bag when you go shopping. You can use it over and over again!



Don't waste so much electricity. You should stop leaving on lights, TVs and computers when you don't need them.

Take public transport instead of driving. Walking is even better!



RECYCLE



Recycle everything you can!



You should stop throwing away paper, plastic bottles, cans and glass. Put them in recycling bins instead.



Will I really make a difference?

Yes! Every little thing helps! If everybody follows the 3Rs, we can fight global warming.



Do you agree that every little thing helps? Why / Why not? What things can you do to fight global warming?