

Panasonic Student Eco Citizenship Program



STUDENT EDITION

Climate Change

DID YOU KNOW?

Climate change is a long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional, and global climates. Earth naturally experiences changes to the climate. Since the 1950s, however, these changes to our climate have dramatically increased. Why the sudden rise in changes to the climate? Human activities, like burning fossil fuels for factories, power, and transportation, have quickly and drastically increased the amount of toxic emissions into the air. Those toxic emissions get captured in our atmosphere and increase temperatures around the globe. Increased temperatures, also called global warming, creates change in the weather patterns that make up our climate, also known as climate change.

Droughts, fires, and extreme rainfall are all signs that climate change is happening now. While we can no longer work to prevent climate change, we can make efforts toward lessening our human impact on the climate.

LET'S THINK ABOUT IT

Climate change is impacting our world in big ways. It can feel like taking small steps cannot make a difference, but they do. We can ALL work to fight against it. Let's think about some of the ways our communities are working to fight climate change.

Think about where you spend your time – home, school, practice, etc. List them here:

PLACE 1	PLACE 2	PLACE 3

How do people in each of these places work to lessen their environmental impact?

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When we spend a lot of time in a place, especially one that means a lot to us, we notice the great things about that place. For example, if you are on the basketball team and spend a lot of time playing on a court in a park, you might notice how beautiful the park is, from the surrounding terrain to the thoughtful landscaping to the sweeping views. You will also probably notice the not-so-great things about the place too, perhaps the overflowing trash cans by the benches, the floating trash in the nearby pond, or the gray smoke filling the sky from the nearby factory. When we spend a lot of time in a place, we often feel compelled to make it better when we see something wrong.

CALL TO ACTION!

Think about the three places you listed above. Pick one place and list it in the box below. List some small steps you can make that would positively impact this environment.

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

Small steps can make big positive impacts on our environment. These steps can make even bigger positive impacts when they are consistent and maintained over the long-term. When you think about a small step to take, ask yourself:

- Can I do this on my own?
- Can I make this a habit or incorporate it into my daily routine?
- Will I be able to do this daily / weekly monthly?

PLACE I CAN MAKE A CHANGE

SMALL STEPS I CAN TAKE

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AND GO!

Now it is time to put these small steps into practice! The next time you head to the place you listed above, choose one of the steps listed and put it into action! Share this success with someone you care about, like a parent, sibling, teacher, or coach. Feel pride in the small steps you are taking to help positively impact climate change. In turn, you might just influence that person to take a small step too.

Information in this lesson was obtained from these sources:

Global Warming vs. Climate Change

climate.nasa.gov/global-warming-vs-climate-change

The Causes of Climate Change

climate.nasa.gov/causes

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