

Get smart!



No waste!

## 1. Become the Power Police ...

Look for wasted electricity in your home and in your school. If we don't really need it, why are we releasing greenhouse gasses for it?

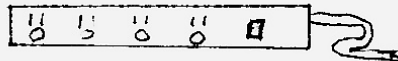
- Turn off unnecessary lights and appliances.
- Look for 'phantom drain.' That means things like TV's, stereos, computers, battery chargers, which stay on even when we hit the off switch. Put these on a power strip and turn off that 'master switch' when you leave the room.
- Switch the lightbulbs in your house to energy-efficient CFL bulbs.
- Run full loads in dishwashers and washing machines. On sunny days save dryer power by using a clothesline.
- If you feel really warm indoors on a winter day, or really cold indoors on a summer day, then probably the heater or air conditioning thermostat isn't on energy saving settings. Ask an adult to **adjust the settings** to save power.
- Much of our electricity is made by burning coal, oil or gas, all of which release lots of greenhouse gasses. Ask your parents if your electricity comes from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). If it does, ask them to **elect 'Green Power'** so that your electricity comes from renewable sources like wind. Wind-powered electricity doesn't release greenhouse gasses.

### Ask your parents to read these:

▪ Green Power: LADWP customers, see [www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp000851.jsp](http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp000851.jsp)

Other areas see [Green-e.org](http://Green-e.org)

▪ Join the Environmental Defense's "Make the Switch" campaign [www.environmentaldefense.org/page.cfm?tagid=483&campaign=mts](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/page.cfm?tagid=483&campaign=mts)



## 7. Grow Greener ...

- Plant a tree.  
Trees help absorb carbon dioxide so that there's less of it to change the climate. A well-placed tree can shade your house in summer to reduce your air conditioning needs. Native trees help make our city more pleasant to live in, plus they offer homes and food for wildlife. If you can't plant a tree in your yard, donate to TreePeople and they'll plant a tree for you someplace in our city.
- Grow a vegetable garden.  
If you grow even a very small part of what you eat, you've saved some greenhouse gasses from the trucks which bring your food to market. Learn to compost, and you'll save the greenhouse gasses of the garbage trucks that carry away your green waste and kitchen scraps. Growing your own food is fun and healthy. (And earthworms are really cool!)

### Ask your parents to read these:

▪ TreePeople [www.TreePeople.org](http://www.TreePeople.org)

▪ "Drop Yer Bloomers" article about changing to edible landscaping <http://legacyla.net/transformation/?p=224>

▪ Edible Landscaping webpage <http://legacyla.net/ediblelandscape.htm>

## 8. Think Globally, act Locally ...

It's important to know the big issues that affect our world. And it's just as important to think about things right here at home – what can we change to make our environment better?

- Our environment is everything that surrounds us: nature places like the ocean, the trees, the mountains, but also city places like our streets and houses, offices, stores, schools. Look around you for things which need environmental change.
- Learn to love the place where you live. Build friendships in your neighborhood. Choose after-school and weekend activities that are closer to home. Encourage Mom to buy locally grown foods, like at farmers market.
- What could you do about the environment in your neighborhood? Could you help others understand how important it is to recycle? To save water? To pick Cool Cars?

### Ask your parents to read: "10 Reasons to Eat Local Food"

[http://www.eatlocalchallenge.com/2006/04/10\\_reasons\\_to\\_e.html](http://www.eatlocalchallenge.com/2006/04/10_reasons_to_e.html)

## 9. Teach the Adults ...

Many adults today don't know as much about the environment as kids do. You're growing up in a very different time than they did. As you learn, teach the adults around you.

- **Teach your parents.** Many of the suggestions in this booklet involve your parents. Help them find habits that are earth-wiser.
- **Tell the politicians.** Write letters to politicians. Tell them you're a kid and you care about decisions they make that affect the environment of your future.

Ask politicians to vote for greenhouse gas limits, and laws that make cars more efficient.

**Our lives begin  
to end the day  
we become  
silent about  
things that  
matter.**  
*-Martin Luther  
King Jr.*



**You must be  
the change  
you wish to  
see in the  
world.**  
*-Gandhi*

## 10. Tell Your Friends...

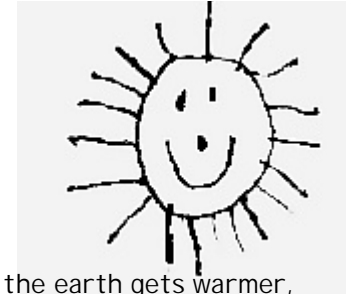
All of these things are easier to do if you're in a circle of friends who are doing them too. Make 'greener' the thing to do in your crowd.

It's your future!

### Resources for parents:

Many faith communities are taking action about Global Warming, particularly because it will impact people. An index to resources may be found at <http://legacyla.net/transformation/?p=177>

## What's the matter with Global Warming?



I like summer weather!

Global Warming is a big worry because as the earth gets warmer, the weather changes. Weather changes mean how hot it is outside on a summer day, but also how much rain we get and other important things.

Warmer temperatures are starting to melt the ice at the North and South pole, and in high mountains. As this ice melts, the water from that ice goes into the ocean, and makes the sea level rise. In some places in the world, people live on very flat land near the ocean. The lands these people live on, and grow their food on, may soon be under ocean water.

Here in Southern California, we don't get a lot of rain. Global warming will mean less snow and rain falling in the mountains where our water is collected. Warmer weather will mean that farmers will have a harder time growing our food.

**We have many choices** right now about global warming. The things people have done in the past mean that when you are a grown-up, the weather will be warmer than it is now. The big question is: **How MUCH warmer?** This is where we can make a difference.

Scientists tell us that if we keep on making lots and lots of greenhouse gasses, the weather when you are a grown-up will be very, very different than it is now. There could be much less water for Southern California, and farmers could have a much harder time growing crops.

Or, **if we make wiser choices** and make less and less greenhouse gasses, the weather will be a little different here when you are a grown-up, but the changes won't be as big. ... It's your future!

## What Can I Do?

There's lots you can do!