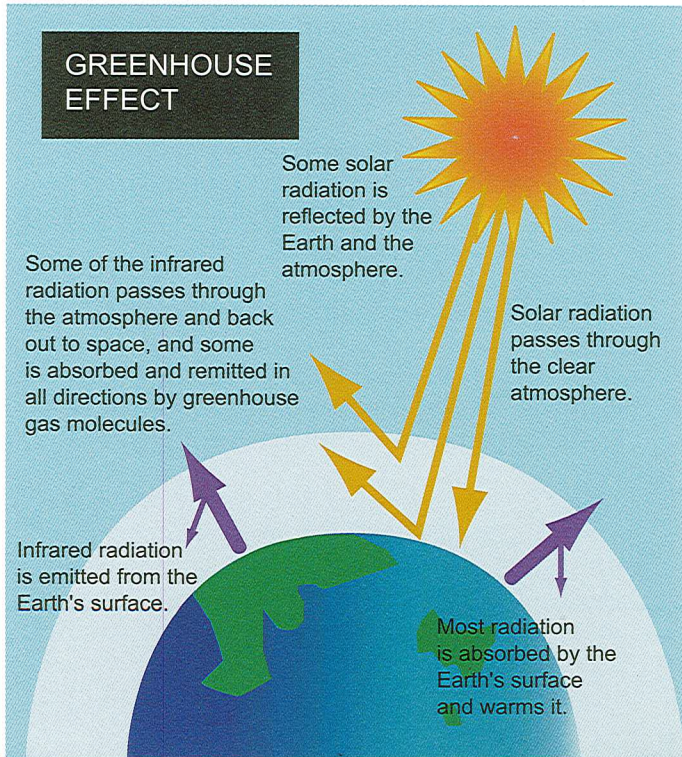


### **What is climate change?**

Climate refers to the average state of weather which is usually stable and predictable. Climate change is the variation of Earth's global climate or a region's climate over time.

### **What is the greenhouse effect?**

The greenhouse effect is a natural phenomenon. The sun's energy warms the Earth, which is radiated back towards space. Greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) in the atmosphere absorb some of this energy which becomes trapped, resulting in the atmosphere (and the Earth) becoming warmer. An increase in greenhouse gases, therefore, increases the amount of heat trapped in the atmosphere.



# Climate Change

How it affects YOU!

### **Further information:**

Australian Greenhouse Office  
[www.greenhouse.gov.au](http://www.greenhouse.gov.au)

Bureau of Meteorology  
[www.bom.gov.au/climate/change/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/change/)

Green Power  
[www.greenpower.com.au](http://www.greenpower.com.au)

CSIRO Climate & Weather  
[www.csiro.gov.au](http://www.csiro.gov.au)

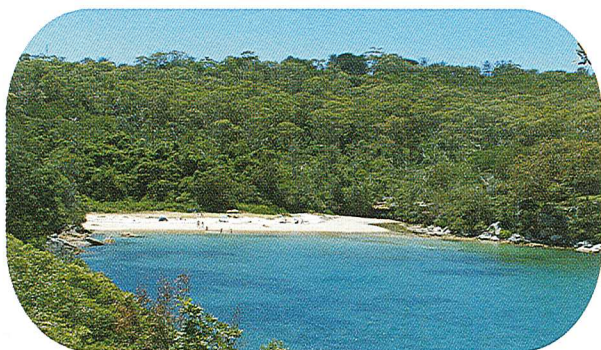
Earth day Ecological Footprint  
[www.earthday.org/Footprint](http://www.earthday.org/Footprint)



## HOW DOES CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT YOU?

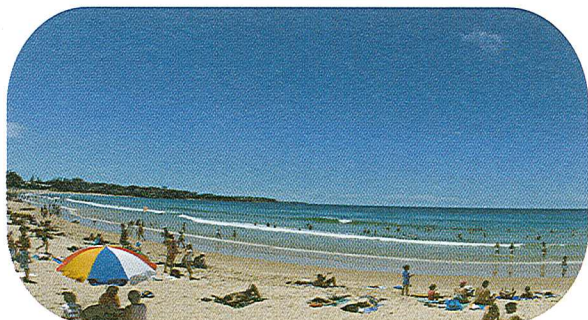
### *Do you live by the beach?*

Ocean levels are predicted to rise causing islands to disappear and coastal shorelines to creep inland.



### *Do you enjoy holidays or live near natural ecosystems?*

Vulnerable coastal and interior wetlands, mangroves and reef systems and alpine areas may suffer irreversible damage.



### *Do extreme weather events concern you?*

Climate change is expected to alter weather patterns and increase the frequency of extreme weather events, such as, droughts, heavy rains, storm surges, floods and cyclones. Extreme weather events can cause loss of life, economic costs and environmental destruction.



### *Are you concerned about your health?*

Viruses, pathogens and pests, such as, mosquitos are expected to rise in number. Increased cases of heat related health problems may affect vulnerable members of our community, as Australia is expected to have 10 to 50% more summer days over 35°C by 2030 (Australian Greenhouse Office).

## IT'S EASY BEING GREEN

- ✓ Walk, cycle, use public transport, car pool.
- ✓ Save energy - use low energy light globes, turn your electronic systems off (televisions, stereos, computers) rather than leaving them in stand-by mode. Always turn lights off when leaving a room.
- ✓ Switch to Green energy which is a cleaner source of energy made from renewable resources (not fossil fuels). Green energy is generated without burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil or natural gas. It comes from hydro plants, solar panels, wind power or tapping the methane from waste dumps (for more information please see [www.greenpower.com.au](http://www.greenpower.com.au)).
- ✓ **AVOID, REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.**
- ✓ Buy recycled - it takes less energy to manufacture a recycled product than a brand new one and helps the developing recycled content market.
- ✓ Insulate your hot water tank, floors & walls.
- ✓ Turn down the cooling or heating thermostat by a couple of degrees or better still put on another jumper!
- ✓ Buying items locally and from local manufacturers means less energy is required to drive your products to the market or consider growing your own fruit and vegetables. It also helps the local economy.