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Title: **GLOBAL WARMING: What Can We Do?**

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There are many issues worldwide, one of the largest and most important problems is global warming. A greenhouse gas called carbon dioxide is one of the main causes of this. It is like a blanket that wraps around the earth and traps heat near the surface, warming up the planet. Our activities are increasing the amount of carbon dioxide and trapping even more heat.¹ Fortunately, there are also many ways to decrease carbon dioxide release, and it is up to us to make a change.

One of the simplest things that we can do to help prevent global warming is trying to use less gasoline by walking or biking instead of driving to a close place. When we are driving a gasoline car, carbon dioxide is released from the engine. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Americans consumed 140.43 billion gallons of gasoline in 2015, or about 384.74 million gallons each day.² So if the destination is one minute away by car maybe we can consider getting some exercise and go biking there. Think about how much less carbon dioxide we will release if all 7.8 billion of us walk or bike to places!

Another way to cool down our earth is by planting trees. Trees not only provide shade but also absorb carbon dioxide and convert it to oxygen. They make

¹ "Climate Basics for Kids | Center for Climate and Energy" <https://www.c2es.org/content/climate-basics-for-kids/>. Accessed 14 Jan. 2021.

² "Here's How Much Gasoline the Average American Consumes" 14 Jan. 2017, <https://www.fool.com/investing/2017/01/14/heres-how-much-gasoline-the-average-american-consu.aspx>. Accessed 4 Jan. 2021.

our landscapes look astonishing and give homes to animals as well. Instead of growing trees, we humans have been cutting them down to make houses, toilet paper and other products. Approximately, 7 billion trees are removed each year.³ Maybe one day we can all plant a tree in our backyard or front yard!

In addition, we can help prevent global warming by using solar panels. Did you know that one hour of sunlight on your solar panels is equal to one year's worth of energy for the entire earth?⁴ When we use up too much energy, we have to produce more by burning fossil fuels, during such a process carbon dioxide is released which is one of the main causes of global warming. We can save so much energy if everyone installs solar panels. They use natural resources instead of man-made energy.

There are also many other ways to use less energy. Some things that even us children can do on a daily basis to help are: reduce, reuse, and recycle as much as possible, unplug electronic chargers when we are not using them, open windows instead of blasting the air conditioner, wear something cozy instead of turning up the heat, hang up freshly washed clothes outside to dry, etc. Maybe we can write a letter telling people to start reusing hotel towels and to switch to LED light bulbs. When our parents go shopping for refrigerators or washing machines, we should

³ "How many trees are cut down every year? - The Understory" 6 Mar. 2017, <https://www.ran.org/the-understory/how-many-trees-are-cut-down-every-year/>. Accessed 14 Jan. 2021.

⁴ "10 Interesting Facts About Solar Panels & Solar Energy." 2 Mar. 2018, <https://www.sempersolaris.com/10-interesting-facts-about-solar-panels/>. Accessed 5 Jan. 2021.

always remind them to look for the Energy Star label, which tells us what products are most efficient.

In conclusion, there is so much that we can do to help protect the world from turning into an oven in 300 years! From walking to school to using solar panels, from carpooling with friends to planting trees, from electronic chargers being unplugged to writing letters to the government, those are all making a difference in the world.