

# Climate Change



## 1. What causes climate change?

The earth is surrounded by the atmosphere, a layer of gases held in place by gravity. Some gases are known as greenhouse gases because they trap heat in the atmosphere. These gases are needed to keep the earth at the right temperature. Certain activities like driving a car and using too much electricity, release more greenhouse gases. More greenhouse gases trap more heat. This causes the earth to warm up, also known as global warming.

## 2. What is the difference between climate change and global warming?

*Global warming* is the warming of the earth's surface due to human-caused greenhouse gas creation. *Climate change* describes all of the many changes to our climate that are caused by the warming of the earth.

## 3. What is the difference between weather and climate?

Weather is short-term (what will happen in the next few days or weeks). Climate is long-term (what will happen over years, decades, or longer).

## 4. Why should we worry about climate change?

The climate is changing faster now than it ever has before. This can be harmful for our health, economy, and daily lives. The following are some problems caused by climate change:

- Asthma
- More smog and pollen
- Mental health problems from trauma
- Injuries from extreme weather
- Heat waves
- Wildfires
- Floods
- Higher prices for meat, dairy, and fruits and vegetables

## 5. How can just one person make a difference when climate change is such a big problem?

Climate change may be a big problem, but each person can make a difference to lessen climate change. Take these steps to reduce climate change, improve your health, and save you money.

1. Use LED or CFL lightbulbs
2. Make less trash
3. Use less water
4. Keep your home at the right temperature
5. Walk and bike more
6. Drive less to work
7. Buy food that's grown close to home
8. Eat more vegetables
9. Plant a tree
10. Share these tips

### Key Points

- Climate change is a term to describe all the many changes to our climate caused by the warming of the earth.
- Climate change can lead to heat waves, more smog and wildfires.
- Extreme changes in weather can lead to health problems like asthma, dehydration and injuries.
- You can take steps to reduce climate change by using less water and taking public transportation!

### For more information:

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
[www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/climatechange](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/climatechange)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
<http://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/>

Department of Public Works  
[www.cleanla.com](http://www.cleanla.com)