

Page 1  
The Problems  
Page 2  
Solutions  
Page 3  
Resources

A KSE Action Program

# Kids Campaign to Cool Our Earth!



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## Elephants

### What's the Problem



We know elephants are big and strong. We think they can survive anything but that's not true. They are the heaviest living land mammals but even so, much smaller humans are causing them big problems. In this **KSE Action Program** we will tell you about how climate change harms elephants and what we can do about it. To learn more about elephant issues go to resources on [page three](#).

Elephants live in parts of Asia and Africa and their habitats (homes) are disappearing. Since 1979 their African habitat has shrunk over 50%. Asian elephants now have only 15% of their habitat in which to roam. Their homes are disappearing for many reasons including climate change.



Without water we cannot live; nor can elephants or any living thing. Global warming is mainly a result of too much carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ) from vehicles, homes, factories and more.

$CO_2$  in our air is like wrapping Earth with a blanket. When the Earth heats up it can cause extreme weather conditions like droughts, which are times of little or no rainfall. An elephant usually eats over 300 pounds of food a day. No rain can mean no food.



A study from the University of Sheffield in England found elephants can suffer heat stroke. Elephants in Myanmar rainforest area can have problems with a slight rise in temperature. Although elephants have thick skin they can still get sunburned. When it's very hot they get in water to cool down. If there's no water then what?

We need  
water  
just like  
you do!



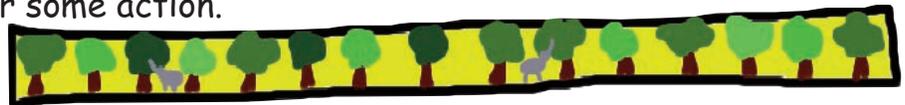
Page 1  
The Problems  
Page 2  
Solutions  
Page 3  
Resources

# Protect Our Elephants



## What can we do to help elephants?

Elephants are very smart and carefully watch over each other. They develop friendships and also show signs of being sad or happy. Let's make them happy! We can do this together. We can become Defenders of the Planet and work to protect elephants from global warming. First learn more about climate change by [clicking here](#) and then get ready for some action.



Now that you understand what is happening to elephants as a result of climate change, it is very important to take action. Let's begin by sending drawings of elephants to United Nation Ambassador Samantha Power. Click on [this link](#) and print it and then fill in the blanks and draw your elephant. You may add a letter explaining how global warming harms elephants. Send it to the address on the form. The United Nations is a worldwide organization of 193 nations, which work together to solve our world problems and to keep peace. [Click here](#) to learn more.

## Become an Earth inspector in your home to help slow global warming.

Using less energy will slow climate change. You will save money and help Earth if you look for all air leaks in your home. Watch this at school or with adults at home to learn more.

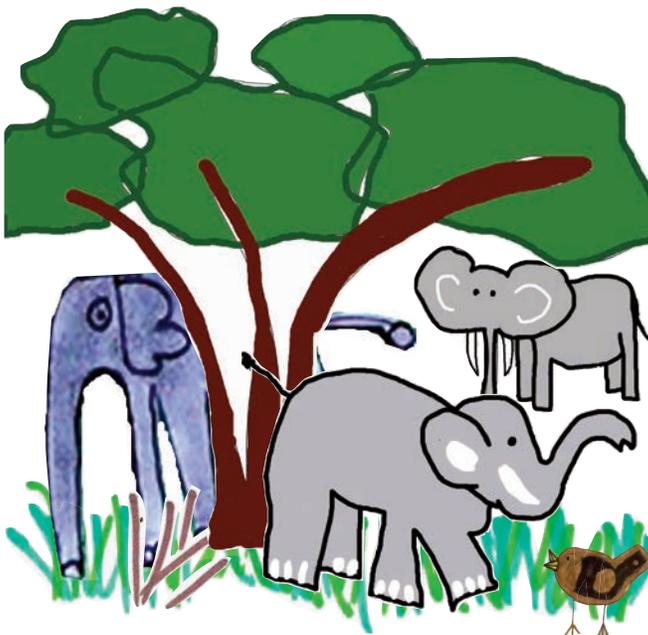
<http://energy.gov/energysaver/home-energy-audits>

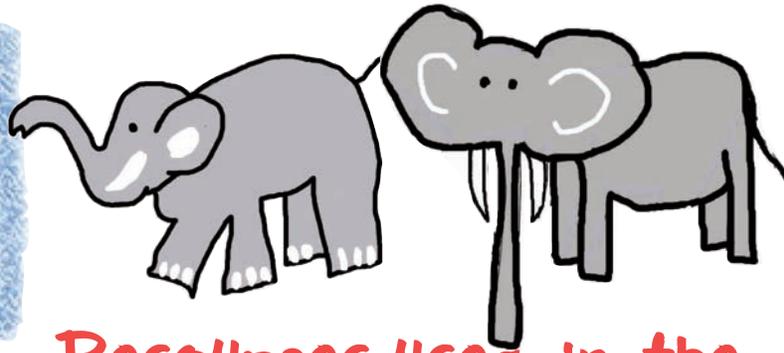
Then do your own inspection.

1. Look for leaks (drafts). Write those locations down. Inspect near your entry doors or even place your hand near your light switches. Can you feel cold or warm air? [Check here](#) for a list of places to investigate.

2. Next check out the many ways to stop these leaks. You and an adult can caulk, weatherstrip and use insulation. [Learn here](#) how to do this.

Now you have helped to save Earth and its elephants.





## Resources used in the above educational piece.

### World Wildlife Fund Elephant habitat:

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/wildlife-and-climate-change>

**Sheffield Study:** <http://planetearth.nerc.ac.uk/news/story.aspx?id=1348&cookieConsent=A>

<http://www.elephant-world.com/elephants-and-global-warming/>

[http://www.esajournals.org/doi/abs/10.1890/12-](http://www.esajournals.org/doi/abs/10.1890/12-0834.1?prevSearch=%28elephant%29+and+%5BContrib%3A+mumby%5D&searchHistoryKey)

[0834.1?prevSearch=%28elephant%29+and+%5BContrib%3A+mumby%5D&searchHistoryKey](http://www.esajournals.org/doi/abs/10.1890/12-0834.1?prevSearch=%28elephant%29+and+%5BContrib%3A+mumby%5D&searchHistoryKey)

**Elephant Facts:** <https://elephantconservation.org/stay-informed/just-for-kids/>

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals/elephant.html>

**Energy Audits:** <http://energy.gov/energysaver/air-sealing-your-home>

## Additional Resources about Elephants. YouTube Videos Included.

Teaching Guide from Time for Kids: This is a detailed lesson plan for teachers.

<http://www.timeforkids.com/files/Elephants%20Never%20Forget.pdf>

This link is very short. It suggests it is for kindergarten but I think even adults should see it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CP5uJVpHrVw>

This video link has amazing information about the intelligence of elephants. Link #7 is exceptional and will empower your students to act.

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/55640/7-behaviors-prove-elephants-are-incredibly-smart>

This is a PBS video called [Soul of the Elephant](#). I would recommend it for 4th grade up. It is a very moving educational piece but may make some children a bit sad. I would recommend watching it first and then discussing some of the issues with students and then showing it. <http://www.pbs.org/video/2365582605/>

