An Education into Action Program: Climate Change A to Z

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The Lids Campaign to Cool Our Earth!



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Dolphins have been struggling for years with pollution problems that can hurt them. Pollutants like oil, plastic bags, bottles, pesticides and even noise pollution are found in our oceans and waterways. Like us, dolphins need to breath oxygen and hold their breath under water. That is why they can drown by being caught in trashed fishing nets floating under water.

Even worse, as a result of climate change the oceans are warming up and this will cause new problems for dolphins.

All animals of the oceans are having trouble dealing with climate change but KSE is focusing on dolphins because they were KSE founder Clinton Hill's favorite animal. To learn more about dolphins, click here.

The main cause of climate change is the burning of coal, gas and oil. These are forms of energy called fossil fuels. As we burn these fuels they release carbon, which mixes with the air to become carbon dioxide (CO_2) . A little bit of CO_2 is a good thing because it works like a greenhouse (or blanket) around the Earth to keep it at just the right temperature. The problem is that we now have too many humans on Earth burning fossil fuels in their homes, cars, factories and more. The blanket of CO_2 around the Earth is getting thicker and thicker creating climate change by keeping the Earth too warm. All this changes the weather for us, dolphins and all living creatures.

Oceans are warming so fast that some scientists wonder if dolphins and whales can adjust fast enough. The plants and fish they feed on will not be able to survive in warm water. As the oceans warm, the Arctic's fresh water ice melts into the sea salt water. More fresh-water in their habitat is something dolphins may not be able to handle. Changing the warmth of the water may also increase disease in dolphins.

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Dolphins live in oceans and some rivers all over the world. There are many different kinds of dolphins and they all have some of the same needs in order to survive. They need clean, healthy, pollution-free water. They also need good sources of food like fish and plants and a water temperature that works for their bodies and their food source.

What can you do to help dolphins?

A very important thing you can do to help dolphins and other marine (water) animals is to write letters and draw pictures to send to your **governmental leaders**. These leaders are the people who can be influenced by you to change our laws to control pollution and slow climate change.

Talk with your parents about the issue of climate change. They may want to learn more.

You can also make a visit to your <u>leaders such as your mayor or congressperson</u>.

Ask them to help you protect dolphin habitats. (homes) Tell them solar or wind power will help!

Finally, do all you can to use less energy. Turn off your lights. Walk or ride your bike when you can instead of riding in a car. Plant lots of trees and plants to help remove CO₂ from the air. Politely ask your principal to tell school bus drivers to **stop idling their bus** while waiting to pick you up at school.





Activities

About Dolphins

No Idling Campaign

Resources:

Threats: http://www.defenders.org/dolphin/threats

http://www.bluevoice.org/news_facts.php

Dolphin facts http://www.dolphins-world.com/dolphin-facts-for-kids/

Dolphin Emotions: http://magazines.scholastic.com/news/2015/02/

World Wildlife Fund

http://us.whales.org/sites/default/files/whales hot water.pdf

Carbon Dioxide Emissions(EPA)

http://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/gases/co2.html