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# The Kids Campaign to Cool Our Earth!



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U is for Urban Heat Islands and  
United Nations



Urban areas all over the world are locations which have many people living close together. These cities are filled with lots of human activity. There are more cars, more industry, more homes, schools, tall buildings, roads and parking lots than in rural (countryside) areas. All these hard surfaces absorb and reflect the sun's heat, creating even more heat. This increased heat in cities causes Urban Heat Islands.

In most cities there are few meadows, shrubs and forested areas to absorb CO<sub>2</sub>. This is a problem because in urban areas there are more cars, trucks and buildings releasing CO<sub>2</sub> into air. This increases heat in the cities and global warming.

CO<sub>2</sub> is greenhouse gas that becomes a part of Earth's atmosphere creating a thick blanket around our planet. We need a thin blanket of CO<sub>2</sub> around Earth to keep our planet at just the right temperature. When the blanket gets too thick, the Earth warms too much. This changes our climate and affects how plants grow, animals live and humans survive. Among other things, a warming climate increases storms and insects that can do great damage to our planet and our health.

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# United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



**United with friends we will save the Earth**

from the Kids for Saving Earth Promise

The United Nations (UN) is an organization made up of countries from all over our Earth. It promotes working together to solve world-wide problems such as peace, security and health.

In 1994 the UN formed an organization to protect our planet from climate change. Now there are 189 nations on Earth that have signed on to this organization: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Its major goal is to lessen greenhouse gases such as CO<sub>2</sub> and methane in Earth's atmosphere. This organization will also inspire countries to share solutions to global warming.

On Earth Day 2016, 175 countries signed the United Nations Paris Agreement to work together to limit the rise of Earth's temperatures and slow climate change.

**Countries on our planet can unite together to lessen global warming. How can kids help?**

## Help Cool Urban Heat Islands!

- Plant trees, shrubs, wildflowers all over your neighborhood. Ask your city's mayor to do the same thing around their office buildings.
- Write to city leaders and ask them to place rooftop gardens on government buildings. Next, offer classes to citizens about how to create their own rooftop gardens.
- Learn about cool parking lots and roads. Write a report on the subject and send a copy to your local city council member.
- Ask all in your classroom to join our KSE Cool Earth Team.. Print out the certificate, commit and sign it. Put it on your wall to remind you to help stop global warming.





**National Geographic**

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/urban-heat-island/>

**Eco Kids Nasa**

[https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/eokids/pdf/EOKids\\_201701\\_UHI.pdf](https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/eokids/pdf/EOKids_201701_UHI.pdf)

**Vanishing Species**

[ews.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/03/140331-global-warming-climate-change-ipcc-animals-science-environment/](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/03/140331-global-warming-climate-change-ipcc-animals-science-environment/)

**EPA: Climate Change and Heat Islands**

<https://www.epa.gov/heat-islands/climate-change-and-heat-islands>

**EPA: Cooling Strategies**

<https://www.epa.gov/heat-islands/heat-island-cooling-strategies>

**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Nations\\_Framework\\_Convention\\_on\\_Climate\\_Change](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Framework_Convention_on_Climate_Change)

**Cool Earth Team Certificate**

<https://kidsforsavingearth.org/forms/CoolDowntheEarth.pdf>

