



Change a Million Light Bulbs Project

BACKGROUND

There is an enormous amount of media currently about climate change and the impact that even one degree change of sea temperature would make to the sea level. Australia, with its majority of the population living close to the sea board, is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change.

There is real urgency here for ALL of us to act. An article in the Melbourne AGE on Tuesday May 22nd (<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2007/05/22/1179601340054.html>) reports that studies of recent data shows that reality is worse than the worst-case scenarios predicted by the scientists. If the trend of water and energy usage continues even our coal-fired power stations will be vulnerable – with the subsequent cascading impacts on us all.

Whether you agree with the differing opinions being discussed in the media, climate change is an issue can not be ignored. For the younger generations this issue is as big as the threat of nuclear war was on our generation.

The intention of the **Change a Million Light Bulbs** project is to empower people (and young people especially) and enable them to see they CAN make a difference to a major issue of their times. One of the special aspects of social development that is arising in our communities because of the dialogue about climate change is that the community is starting to become more aware of their individual impact on the world and each other.

The real possibility that can arise from young people taking on making a difference to climate change and their immediate environment is people beginning to think, to act and to be responsible for their actions (or in-actions) on each other and the world.

This document outlines some simple activities and resources that can be used to begin the dialogue about making a difference to climate change.

Process

1. Discuss – what is climate change and why does it concern us?
2. What is the long term impact of climate change?
3. What can we do about?
 - a. Investigate and then discuss the possible sources and causes of climate change
 - b. For each cause, brainstorm a range of actions that can be taken to make a difference to the that cause of climate change
 - c. Create a list of actions that are realistic for young people to take
4. Students work in tams to create projects where they can make a difference in a short amount of time
5. As the projects happen ensure that measures are used to show the progress of the difference they are making (example – diagrams such as trees [to measure the equivalent greenhouse gases saved] or light bulbs [indicating how many changed])
6. Celebrate the results at the end

Changing each house's light bulbs to be all compact fluorescent bulbs is a simple approach anyone can take. Students can perform energy audits of their light bulbs and the impact of changing over. For more information about the Change a Million Light Bulbs fund raiser email Adrian at adrian@changeamillionlightbulbs.com.

The following is a collection of useful websites that can be used to generate ideas for projects or understanding of the climate change issue.

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/GreenhouseCalculator/calculator/default.asp>

EPA site - Australian Greenhouse Calculator

<http://www.ahc.gov.au/>

Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage Australian Greenhouse Office

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>

Department of Sustainability and Environment

<http://www.greenhouse.vic.gov.au>

Victorian Government's Greenhouse web site

<http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au>

Sustainability Victoria (Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria)

http://www.actnow.com.au/Action/Switch_your_light_globes.aspx

Act Now: Switch your light globes!

<http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/gwci/lights.html>

Global Warming: Cool It! Lights

<http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/energy/cfls/index.html>

Government information about compact fluorescent lights (and the legislation)

<http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/yourhome/technical/fs45.htm>

Technical information about lighting from the Australian Government

<http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/local/motivating/index.html>

Handbook for motivating home action on energy saving

<http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/local/households.html>

What households can do about saving energy

<http://www.environmentaldefense.org/page.cfm?tagID=602&campaign=mts&calcID=571>

Calculate Your Bulb Savings

http://www.sustainable.energy.sa.gov.au/pages/fluro_calc.htm

Calculator for fluorescent light bulb savings

http://energy.gov/engine/content.do?BT_CODE=KIDS

Energy education site with age-grading of the many links to other US Department of Energy educational sites.

<http://www.energyquest.ca.gov/index.html>

Energy Quest site - energy-related games, stories, projects and info for kids.

<http://www.energyquest.ca.gov/story/index.html>

Energy Story broken into chapters which simply explain a range of different energy sources

<http://home.howstuffworks.com/question272.htm>

How Stuff Works - looks at consumption rates of different electrical appliances and tips for saving energy.

<http://environment.newscientist.com/channel/earth/climate-change/>

Excellent New Scientist website about climate change

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/kids/>

<http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/ed/AFM/activities.htm>

A listing of energy-related kids sites.
11 activity-based lessons on alternative fuels

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/>

Energy Information Kids' Page

<http://www.rmi.org/sitepages/pid480.php>

Tips for conserving energy.

<http://www.climatecrisis.net/>

An Inconvenient Truth website

<http://www.acfonline.org.au/>

The Australian Conservation Foundation

<http://gristmill.grist.org/skeptics>

How to talk to a climate skeptic



Comparison of size normal compact florescent to the mini-CFL to an incandescent bulb



Image of one of the 6 packs of light bulbs provided by Change a Million Light Bulbs