

# What can we do?

The following are suggestions for actions that your students can take in order to combat climate change at school and at home.

 **Save Electricity** - In most parts of the U.S., electricity is produced by burning fossil fuels; burning fossil fuels puts greenhouse gases into the air. Turning off lights, the television, and the computer when you are through with them reduces our need for electricity and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

 **Bike, Bus, and Walk** - You can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by sometimes taking the bus, riding a bike, or walking instead of riding in a car.

 **Keep Rooms Cool** - Closing blinds, shades, and curtains allows you to block the sun's warm rays. This keeps a room cooler. Shutting your blinds will help you to use less energy while trying to keep your home and school cool.

 **Plant Trees** - During their growth process, trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), a greenhouse gas. The more trees we have, the more CO<sub>2</sub> is absorbed from the air. Planting a tree is a fun way to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> in the air.

 **Recycle and Reuse** - Landfills are a source of methane, a greenhouse gas. When you recycle cans, bottles, plastic bags, and newspapers, you send less trash to the landfill and produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions. Recycling also helps save natural resources like trees, oil, and elements such as aluminum. Also, bring your lunch to school in a reusable bag; when we buy less stuff, less stuff ends up in our landfills.

 **Use Water Efficiently** - Saving water around your school and home is simple. Municipal water systems require a lot of energy to purify and distribute water to households, and saving water, especially hot water, can lower greenhouse gas emissions. Try turning the water off when washing your hands and brushing your teeth.

 **Talk to Your Family and Friends** - Talk with your family and friends about climate change. Let them know what you've learned.