Cornell University Cooperative Extension



Green CITY Interviews"

Suggested questions

- · What is your opinion of global warming?
- How would you define climate change?
- Does climate change concern you?
- What do you think causes climate change?
- Do you know what your carbon footprint is and how it's important to climate change?
- How do you think you are being affected by climate change?

Top 10 Things You Need to Know About Climate Change

- 1. There is agreement in the scientific community that abrupt climate change is occurring. Many of the specific impacts are still being studied, but abrupt climate change is currently changing the planet.
- The increased rate of climate change we are presently experiencing is caused by excess greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere, the direct result of anthropogenic (human-made) activities such as burning fossil fuels, raising large numbers of methane-producing livestock, and clearing forests across the planet.
- 3. Average global temperatures have risen dramatically in many areas of the world over the last several decades and will continue to do so unless immediate actions are taken.
- Sea levels are predicted to continue rising each year as snow packs and glaciers around the world melt in warmer climates.
- 5. Climate variability has always occurred but the rate of change we are experiencing today is more like climate disruption.
- The number of severe hurricanes and storms is increasing due to elevated sea surface temperatures in the oceans, affecting millions of people who live in coastal areas and destroying precious coral reef and wetland habitats.
- 7. Climate change is not directly a result of the depleting ozone layer, although they are indirectly related.
- 8. Climate change is contributing to the extinction of many species, with habitats and ecosystems rapidly being altered.
- 9. Disease and pest distributions are changing as a result of rising global temperatures and are having major effects on humans, plants, and animals worldwide.
- 10. The choices that we make everyday in our lives can help reduce the effects of climate change.

10 Simple Things to Help Stop Climate Change and Global Warming

- 1. Turn off the lights when you leave a room. Use fluorescent bulbs in your room.
- 2. Turn off your computer or the TV when you're not using it. Unplug chargers when not in use.
- Wait until you have a lot of clothes to wash before using the washing machine. Don't use the machine for one item just because it's your favorite shirt.
- 4. Take shorter showers. Heating water uses energy.
- Close the blinds on a hot day if the sun is shining in. Dress lightly instead of turning up the air conditioning. Or use a fan.
- 6. Dress warmly inside your house when it's cold, instead of turning up the heat.
- 7. Offer to help your parents keep the air filters on your AC and furnace clean.
- 8. Walk short distances instead of asking for a ride in a car.
- 9. Plant a tree.
- 10. Shop at the farmer's market!