

Climate Change & Health

Climate change refers to the increase in air temperatures and changing weather patterns observed over the past several decades

Greenhouse gases

like carbon dioxide (CO₂) are created by burning fuel, agriculture, and other sources

CO₂

traps heat, causing overall increased temperatures

→ **Trapped heat** ←

is primarily responsible for **changing weather patterns**

Doctors are concerned that **climate change** is hurting children's health.



It affects everyone's health, but **88%** of illness from climate change occurs in children under 5 years old.

(McMichael and Campbell-Ledrum 2004)



How can climate change harm health?



Extreme heat increases risk of illness and dehydration.



Poor air quality due to increased pollutants and pollen worsen asthma and other breathing and heart problems.



Warmer temperatures promote the growth of bacteria, viruses, and insects.



Extreme weather causes injuries, missed work and school, and mental health issues.



Food supply problems cause malnutrition.

Top contributors to climate change:

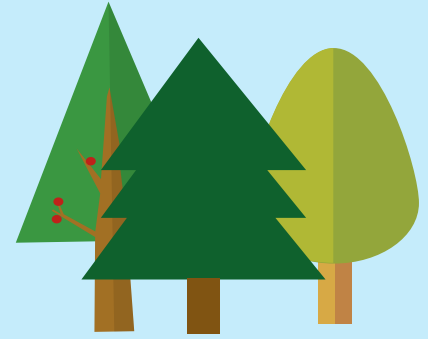
TRANSPORTATION



AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK FARMING



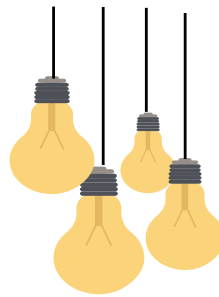
DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS



PLASTIC PRODUCTION & INDUSTRY



ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION



COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL USE



(EPA 2017)

Each family can make a difference.



Choose locally grown food and eat less meat.



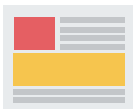
Carpool, take public transportation, walk, or bike.



Plant trees and support local parks and green spaces.



Bring reusable bags when you shop and reduce the use of plastics.



Encourage laws that reduce carbon emissions.



Support local climate and health preparedness programs.



Choose companies that use clean energy from the wind and sun.