

# Adapting to Climate Change



L6A5/p1

## No room for complacency!

### Fact file

Did you know that Australian households contribute about one fifth of the national greenhouse emissions?



Global warming and climate change have become part of our everyday language. They are mentioned often in electronic and print media. It's easy to become desensitized to the words and messages.

But it's also important not to become complacent. Why?

We've already reached a point of no return. We know that climate change is inevitable. It's already happening. We are already experiencing more frequent extreme weather events such as severe storms, heat waves, droughts and weather related events such as bushfires.

What part are we each playing in the climate change dilemma? It's easy to think that the major contributors are industry and agriculture. In fact, one fifth of Victoria's total greenhouse gas emissions come from ordinary people going about their everyday household routines.

With a population of around five million people, there's potential to generate a huge volume of greenhouse gases.

Let's see how you fare! You can calculate your household's greenhouse gas emissions by using a Carbon calculator.

## THE CARBON CALCULATOR

1. Visit the One Degree Carbon Calculator by clicking on the icon. You will need a copy of your home energy bills to get an accurate measure. Choose your State and then enter information that will form the basis of your own greenhouse gas inventory.

When you get to part 3, the 'Carbon Footprint Results' page, use the information to help answer the following questions.

When you get to part 5 'What Next' enter your email address and a summary of your results and some ideas for possible changes will be emailed to you. Use this information to help with your answer to question 3.





Using your results from the Carbon Calculator:

a. What is the volume of your estimated total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year?

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b. How does this compare to the typical Australian household? \_\_\_\_\_

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c. Identify the activities that produce the greatest greenhouse emissions in your house. List these.

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2. Think about the implications for the following factors in our environment if individuals in our community remain complacent about climate change. Add to each flow chart to illustrate the potential consequences.



3. **Small steps to make a big difference.** List three different actions you can do at home to reduce your household's greenhouse gas emissions. Next to each, describe other benefits for your family from your changed action.

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Commit to these small changes.

