



Earth Matters

Riverview Eco Newsletter

issue #3



Everything is connected.

The reality is that human actions, to some extent, have and will consequently shape tomorrow's planet and people. Therefore it is imperative that we steward our collective resource wisely. Beginning in this edition, Earth Matters will topically consider

various ecological issues in the hope that awareness will be raised, and a healthy perspective is gained about current sustainability issues. This edition will tackle the most debated and debatable issue - climate change. Our hope is that you would be inspired and

informed, so that you can be involved in finding inspired and creative solutions in your everyday life to "the greatest moral issue of our time". Enjoy!
Sincerely,
Riverview Earth Matters Team



Climate Change in Perspective.

BY TIM HEALY

Greentip #1

Become a Passenger.

Cars comprise up to 80% of Australia's road traffic. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, during the 30 years following World War II, the use of public transport declined with the rise of the privately owned vehicle. Since the 1970s that figure has plateaued with 1 in 10 Australians regularly using public transport for work or study.

By making use of public transport systems we can reduce individual vehicle air pollutant emissions, as well as experiencing relief from enduring traffic congestion on WA roads. There also may be opportunities for exercise if you need to walk to and from a station or bus stop.

<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/transport-emissions-and-climate-solutions/>

Lower carbon emissions and air pollutants

Save money lower dependence on fuel

Opportunities for Exercise

Greentip #2

Branch Out

The air that we breathe in the office may be air-conditioned but it is far from clean as many office products emit potentially harmful toxins. It is estimated that worker related health costs the Australian economy \$12billion a year.

Indoor plants are natural air filters that absorb airborne pollutants and radiation emitted from technology, while replenishing oxygen levels. Indoor plants can reduce fatigue, coughs, sore throats and other cold-related illnesses by up to 30%; consequently cutting down on absenteeism and respectively increasing work place efficiency. Plants also have positive effects on stress levels, contributing to a relaxed work environment.

Read more about indoor air HERE:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/atmosphere/airquality/indoorair/index.html>

Lower Air Pollution

Healthier Workplace

Save on Energy Bills

Climate change is the most debated (and most debatable) aspect of environmental concern precisely because it is the hardest to verify empirically. The science concerned, like most other forms of science, is subject to ongoing scrutiny and will inevitably draw criticism and a certain amount of opposition.

This isn't a bad thing. If any form of scientific theory is to be trusted it must first be thoroughly tested. The fact of the matter is that all scientists, from astronomers to geologists to biologists, have a wide range of views on the science that informs their respective disciplines, and there is as much disagreement and debate within each of those fields as there currently is within 'climate science'.

Right now, the single biggest question concerning climate change is not 'Does climate change happen?' but 'Are we as human beings capable of, and therefore responsible for, climate change?' Although primeval history provides us with evidence that not all climate change has anthropogenic roots (causes include solar variations, plate tectonics, volcanism and orbital changes), there is an argument being put forward that the current (and projected) size of the human population (as well as our increased levels of consumption and industrialisation) will inevitably lead to climate change of some kind.

This 'anthropogenic cause' is what is at the heart of the debate and I am certain it's a debate that will rage on for decades to come. The twin engines of economic progress and proliferation (more of everything) will ensure that

regardless of what scientific proofs may emerge in support of the notion of anthropogenic climate change, there will always be an opposing voice (and vote).

More importantly however, is the urgent need for us to recognise that climate change is just one of many environmental concerns. Deforestation, desertification, species loss, pollution, habitat destruction and resource depletion are all very real and present dangers that somehow have been eclipsed by the media spotlight on global warming and the possibility of resulting climate change. Whether anthropogenic climate change is possible or not, the environmental concerns I have just listed clearly do have anthropogenic roots and are directly linked to the size and activities of the human population. The consequences of the above are potentially as far reaching as the possibility of climate change and deserve immediate attention and action.

Those who argue that there is no environmental 'crisis' on the grounds that climate change is debatable, need to recognise that climate change is merely one dimension of a complex and multi-faceted environmental challenge facing the earth today.

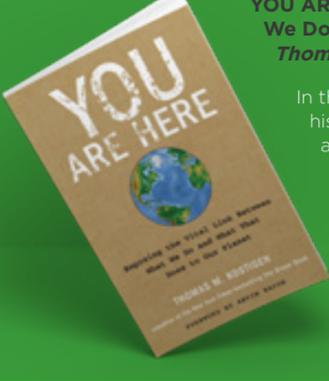
"ARE WE AS HUMAN BEINGS CAPABLE OF, AND THEREFORE RESPONSIBLE FOR, CLIMATE CHANGE?"



CLIMATE CHANGE

For a simple explanation have a look at this video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJAbATJCugs>



YOU ARE HERE: Exposing the Vital Link Between What We Do and What That Does to Our Planet.

Thomas M. Kostigen.

In this New York Times bestseller, Thomas Kostigen takes his readers around the world looking at communities and geography's that are already experiencing the effects of ecological crises. Thomas draws the link between how individuals are connected to the most tenuous geography on the planet.

Kostigen presents us with opportunities for change and shows us how to take action on the spot, wherever we are.

 EARTH MATTERS

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