



HELP CARD

Global Warming



Over the last 100 years the earth has warmed up. In the next 50 years scientists say that there will be a bigger rise in temperature. This big increase is thought to be because the things that people do are helping to make the earth warmer. One of these has resulted in something called The Greenhouse Effect.

A thick layer of gases called the atmosphere protects the earth. The earth's atmosphere acts like a giant greenhouse. It allows the sun's heat to pass through to warm up the earth enough for life to exist. Gases in the atmosphere then trap this heat, because otherwise we would freeze. This is a very delicately balanced system. We now use so much extra fuel to heat our homes and to power our electrical equipment, our transport and our factories, that we are producing many more gases than in past centuries. These gases, especially carbon dioxide, are thickening the atmosphere and trapping more heat than is required. **This is called Global Warming.**

Global Warming is a serious problem because it could change the world's weather. Ice could melt, sea level could rise, flooding could affect millions of people and some areas could become either wetter or drier than at present. Humans, plants and wildlife would all feel the change.