

DESH APNAYEN NEWSLETTER

10th Issue, May 2016

From the Editor's desk

Dear readers,
Hello!

Hope you consider this beautiful monthly interaction of ours as a respite from the scorching heat.

Heat. Sweltering, suffocating heat. Why is it so hot though, have you wondered? Perhaps you have heard your elders say it wasn't so hot 'in their time' or perhaps you have experienced this drastic increase in temperature yourself.

The answer is simple. Climate change. Climate change, also called global warming, refers to the rise in average surface temperatures on Earth. An overwhelming scientific consensus maintains that climate change is due primarily to the human use of fossil fuels, which releases carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the air. We discussed this issue briefly in our blog this month, which you can read [here](#).

We dedicate this issue of the newsletter to understand climate change better and what we can do to as conscious citizens to bring about a change for the future.

These are the major causes of carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere:

SOURCES OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Image source: www.hempcircleindustries.com



SOURCE: FEW CENTER ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Gets us thinking, doesn't it? Keep reading to know more about climate change and how to battle it.

Some scary facts about climate change and what we can do to make a change.

We live in times of clear and present danger. Here some scary facts about climate change. But worry not. Desh Apnayen also presents what we can do to mitigate the crisis. Remember, a problem solved with collaboration has solutions that last longer.

1. Around 15% of the carbon released in the environment is due to deforestation and change in use of land.
2. Just five countries create more than 50% of the global CO2 emissions. These are China, India, Russia, USA and Japan. In 2010, the world produced nearly 34 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide from fossil-fuel burning, cement production, and gas flaring. Fifty-eight developed and developing countries have set carbon reduction pledges for 2020; however, it's projected that those pledges will still result in the planet becoming 3 warmer.
3. More than a million species face potential extinction as a result of disappearing habitats, changing ecosystems, and acidifying oceans. Species that are highly specialized in what they eat or where they live face extinctions their habitats may disappear completely. That might include species such as koalas, which depend mainly on eucalyptus for survival, and the many animal and plant species that live only on isolated mountaintops.
4. Average global sea level is expected to rise 7 – 23 inches before the end of this century. This is especially dangerous because half of the world's population lives within 37 miles of the sea. And sea levels are rising three- to four-times faster along parts of North America than they are globally.
5. By the year 2050, India may need to import more than twice the amount of foodgrain. This is because the glaciers in the Himalayas are melting at tremendous speed and this stands to threaten the courses of rivers, especially in the Indus – Brahmaputra region. This will endanger the lives and livelihoods of millions of people.
6. There is more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere today than at any point in the past 800,000 years.
7. 2014 was the hottest year on Earth. Ever.
8. Among climate scientists, 97 percent agree that human-caused climate change is happening here and now. The sooner we act to slow the rate of climate change, the lower the risk and cost for future generations.

Sources:

1. <http://www.techtimes.com/articles/55460/20150527/21-amazing-facts-global-warming-climate-change.htm>
2. <http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/7-scary-facts-about-climate-change>

Here are a few things we as citizens can do to combat climate change:

1. Be energy efficient

You already switch off lights — what's next? Change light bulbs to compact fluorescents or LEDs. Unplug computers, TVs and other electronics when not in use. Wash clothes in cold or warm (not hot) water. Dryers are energy hogs, so hang dry when you can.

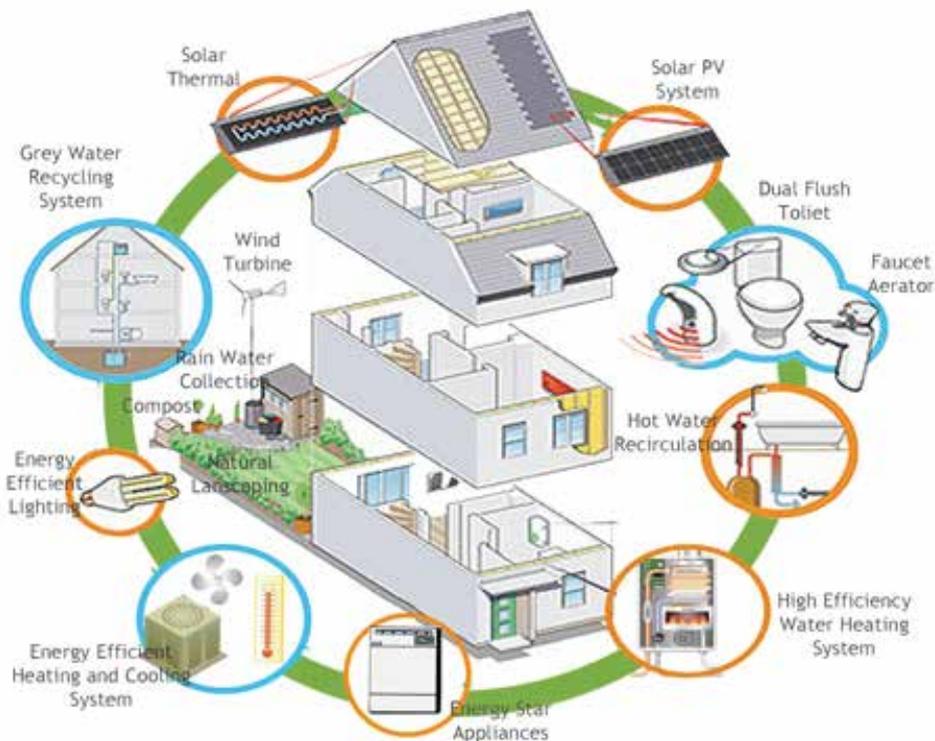


Image source: www.theearthproject.com

2. Eat wisely

Avoid processed items. Grow some of your own food. And eat low on the food chain — at least one meat-free meal a day — since 18 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions come from meat and dairy production.



Image source: www.studenthealth.georgetown.edu

3. Trim your waste

Use your spending power to buy wisely and set an example for your children. Garbage buried in landfills produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Keep stuff out of landfills by composting kitchen scraps and garden trimmings, and recycling paper, plastic, metal and glass. Let store managers and manufacturers know you want products with minimal or recyclable packaging.



Image source: www.ohbaby.co.nz

4. Fly less

Air travel leaves behind a huge carbon footprint. Before you book your next airline ticket, consider greener options such as buses or trains, or try vacationing closer to home. You can also stay in touch with people by videoconferencing, which saves time as well as travel and accommodation costs.

5. Get Involved

Take a few minutes to contact your political representatives and the media to tell them you want immediate action on climate change. Remind them that reducing greenhouse gas emissions will also build healthier communities, spur economic innovation and create new jobs. And next time you're at the polls, vote for politicians who support effective climate policies.

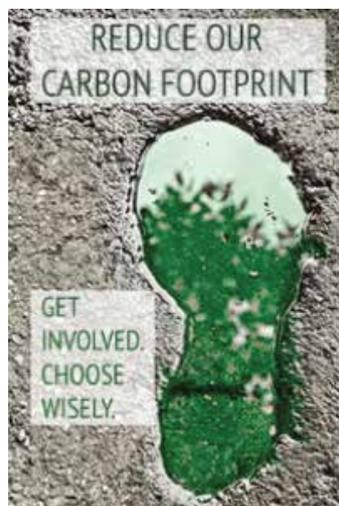


Image source: www.davidsuzuki.org

Contributions from partner schools

This month, we applaud the children and teachers of of **Pawar Public School in Bhandup** who came second out of 105 schools in the the 'Swachh Bharat PET Recycling Contest' organised recently by water company Bisleri.

Students, teachers, parents and housekeeping staff from Nursery to class 10 participated in the same. The objective was to collect collect old, used plastic bottles in just a month and hand them over to Bisleri for recycling. Bisleri promised to collect these bottles, crush them and recycle them in order to make bags, rugs, T shirts etc. This entire exercise would make sure that the bottles are not littered and turned into a nuisance.

The activity continued for a month and hence the degree of sensitization achieved was quite high. The students realized the urgent need to recycle plastic. They started collecting bottles, wherever they went – malls, restaurants, tuition classes. In fact, when the hand ball team went to play their matches, the students collected bottles which were littered all over the ground.

We applaud the highly aware and responsible children and teachers of Pawar Public School, Bhandup.





We very well know that music is food for the soul. **The JB Petit School Choir**, trained by their teacher Ms. Pearl Pereira, performed a series of melodies at the Khala Ghoda Arts Festival in Mumbai earlier this year.

The primary school choir brought love and light for the children of St. Stephen's School and the residents of an old age home nearby when they performed a musical piece for them as well. Thereafter the choir distributed cake amongst the children as well as the residents of the old age home. At both Institutions, the School choir was well received thereby making it a memorable experience for the children and their audience alike this March.

Desh Apnayen appaluds these children and teachers for creating soothing musical experiences for one and all.





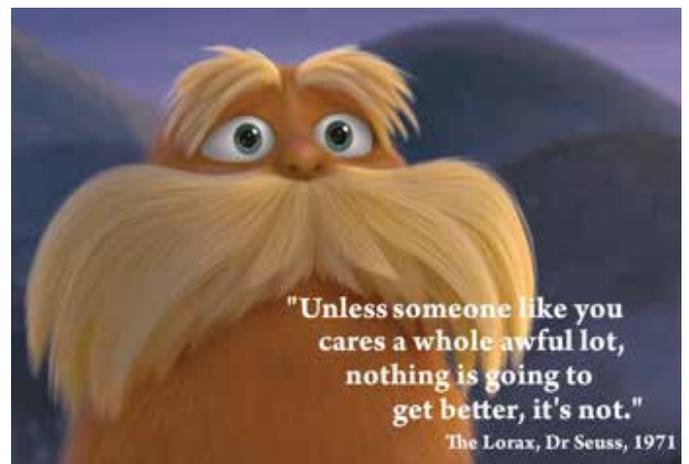
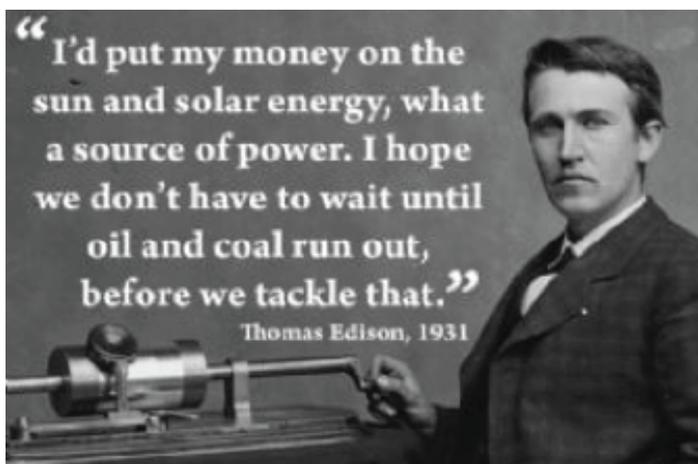
Our Monthly Favourites

Website of the month

The website of the month is www.sustainabilityhub.com/climate. Through this site, one can view the ten most important videos on climate change. With videos for kids and adults alike, it is the first step we should be taking to be carbon and climate literate.



Climate quotes of the month

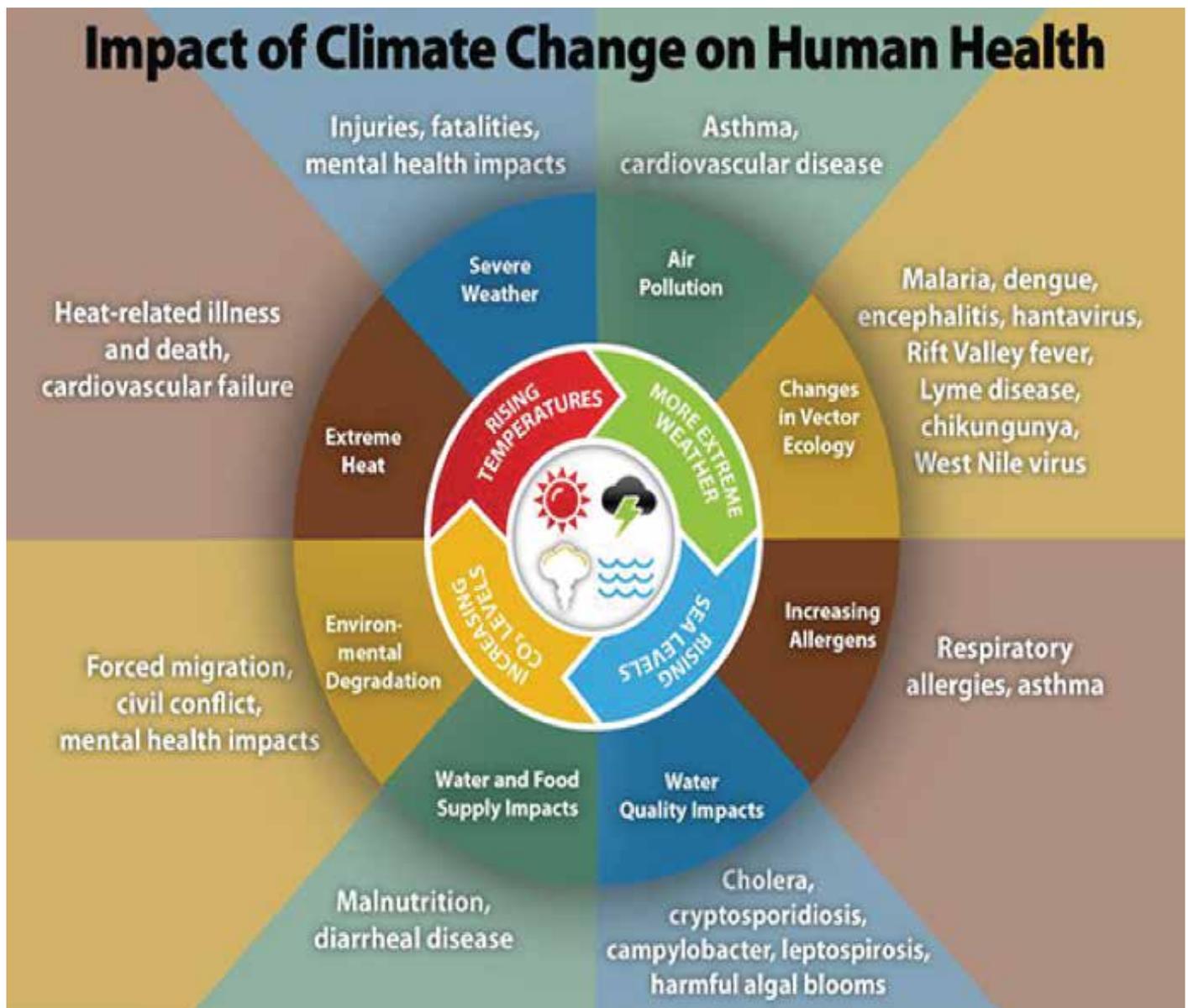


Quote and image source:

[www. http://www.edie.net/library/Green-dreams-10-inspirational-climate-change-quotes/6520](http://www.edie.net/library/Green-dreams-10-inspirational-climate-change-quotes/6520)

Fun and games

Not only our ecosystems, our health is also at risk because of climate change. Take a look at the image below. Which of these problems do we stand to face in India, and why? Write in your answers and send them us on komal@deshapnayen.org



Answers for last month's fun and games:

1-d, 2-e, 3-a, 4-c, 5-b