



— BE AN —

Ocean Action Agent

.Fight Climate Change.

EMPOWERING
PEOPLE
TO SAVE OUR
REEFS
& OCEANS





Reef Check Australia Climate Change Kit

Thanks so much for taking action on Climate Change.

There's LOTS of ways you can help:

At Home

- Making changes in our everyday life is something we can all do.
- Calculate your carbon footprint online and use our Footprint Checker to keep track of your progress.
- Print off our "Climate Change Checklist" infographic and make changes in your everyday actions to reduce your personal carbon footprint.
- Share our infographic, Footprint Checker and other useful info on climate change on your social media pages. Use the hashtag #measureyourfootprint.

With Friends and Family

- Make a difference in your social circle and neighbourhood.
- Spread the word to your friends and family about what climate change is doing to our reefs and oceans.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper to explain how climate change effects our reefs and oceans and tell people how they can help. Use the template in this kit.

In Your Community

- Write to your utility providers and ask them to switch to using clean, renewable power. Use the template in this kit.
- When you visit local businesses (cafes, restaurants, bars, shops etc) ask them if they have calculated their own carbon footprint yet. Remind them that they too have a part to play in fighting climate change and offer to print them off their own Footprint Checker so they can display their progress to their customers.

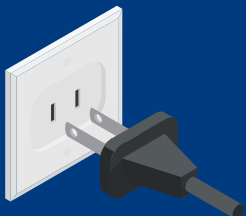


Want to know how to make a difference every day?
Here's a few ideas to get you started!

EVERYDAY ACTION INFOGRAPHIC

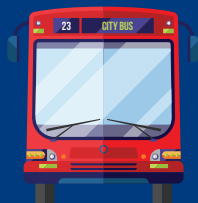
1 SWITCH OFF

TURN APPLIANCES OFF AT THE WALL WHEN YOU'RE NOT USING THEM.



2 BUDDY UP

OPT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT OR CAR POOL TO WORK OR SCHOOL WITH FRIENDS.



3 YOU'RE HOT THEN YOU'RE COLD

SET THE TEMPERATURE FOR A HEATED ROOM IN WINTER BETWEEN 18-21°C AND FOR A COOLED ROOM IN SUMMER BETWEEN 24-26°C.



4 THINK GLOBAL, EAT LOCAL!

BUY FRUIT AND VEGGIES THAT ARE IN SEASON AND LOCALLY PRODUCED TO REDUCE FOOD-RELATED CARBON EMISSIONS.



5 DON'T HAVE A COW MAN!

ONCE A WEEK, EAT A VEGETARIAN MEAL.



6 CHILL OUT

SET THE TEMPERATURE OF YOUR FRIDGE AT 3-4°C AND YOUR FREEZER AT -18°C.



7 RENEW IT

CHOOSE RENEWABLES FOR YOUR POWER CHOICES.



Check out our "Help From Home" tips at
WWW.REEFCHECKAUSTRALIA.ORG for more great ideas!

This resource was proudly supported through funding from the Queensland Government
Community Sustainability Action grant.





Reef Check Australia Climate Change Kit

LTE Guide

Letters to the editor are a great way of reaching people and potentially educate and inspire your local community.

You can use or tweak the Reef Check Australia template letter and add your details at the bottom, or write your own if you are confident on the issue.

To ensure your letter has the best possible chance of being published, follow the guidelines below.

Keep your letter under 300 words. If your letter is too long the paper may edit it down and miss your most important point!

Use inclusive language like “we can all make a difference” rather than divisive language like “If you aren’t recycling, you’re the problem”.

Keep it simple. Decide on the most important message you want to convey and focus on that.

Start with the issue – eg. Climate change is something we all need to start talking about.

Tell people what they can do to help. This is the “action” part of your letter.

Finish by re-affirming the issue and adding a sense of urgency.

The Nitty Gritty

In the Subject line put “Letter to the Editor” followed by the topic you are writing about. Eg. “Letter to the Editor: Why Climate Change Matters”.

Ensure you add your name, address, contact number and email to the end of the letter. These won’t be published but they may want to contact you to confirm you wrote the letter and they need this information to accept your submission.

Find a list of your local publications at www.newspapers.com.au by entering your suburb.



Reef Check Australia Climate Change Kit

Sample Letter:

To The Editor,

It's time to talk about the elephant in the room. Climate change is one of the greatest threats to the long-term health of our reefs and ocean environments.

Mass coral bleaching in 2016-17 caused a predicted 50% combined mortality rate across the Great Barrier Reef. If we're going to save our reefs, we need to act now.

It's time for us all to start thinking about how our personal and community choices can be a part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

It's easier than you might think to become part of the movement to help protect reefs in the future. The first thing to do is measure your carbon footprint using an online calculator. Then work out where you can easily reduce your impact.

Our daily choices directly impact our environmental impact. Driving less, eating more plant based foods, recycling and using energy efficient light bulbs are just a few of the ways to reduce your carbon footprint.

We can also use our voices to raise awareness about climate change. Talk to your friends and family and let them know how they can help. Ask your local MP to take a strong stance against climate change and factors that cause high carbon emissions, such as deforestation. And use your consumer voice to tell businesses that you want them to reduce their impact too.

Check out reefcheckaustralia.org for more info. And remember, every one of us can be part of the solution. But first we need to acknowledge there's a problem.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

Email

Phone Number



Reef Check Australia Climate Change Kit

Hit Up Your Suppliers! – Business Letter:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm currently looking at my options in regards to energy providers and was interested to find out your stance on an issue which is important to my decision making process - climate change.

You may be aware that climate change is one of the greatest threats to the long-term health of our reefs and ocean environments. In order to reduce my personal impact, I've recently started tracking my own climate footprint and have realised that my choice of energy provider also impacts my ability to reduce my environmental impact.

I'm hoping that you may be able to let me know your current stance on climate change and what, if any, steps your company is currently taking to reduce your own carbon footprint.

If you need more information on how our actions effect the marine environment, please visit reefcheckaustralia.org.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

Email



Reef Check Australia Climate Change Kit

Climate Change – What's The Issue?

Climate change is the greatest threat facing our coral reefs. Climate change impacts coral reefs through:



Increasing sea temperatures resulting in coral bleaching.



Rising sea levels altering the depths at which reefs can survive.



Increasing damage to the reef from more frequent and intense weather events.



Consecutive years of mass coral bleaching in 2016-17 led to widespread coral decline and habitat loss on the Great Barrier Reef, with an estimated mortality of close to 50% averaged across the whole Reef.



Reducing the rate of coral skeleton growth.

We urgently need to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels to help protect reefs in the future.

What Can I Do?

We can all take steps to reduce our personal greenhouse gas emissions. By pledging to make small changes in our behaviours, we can do our part to help our reefs and oceans.

As a community we need to reduce our fossil fuel use and making the switch to alternative energy sources, while boosting reef resilience by reducing pressures from more local and regional causes (such as poor water quality or overfishing).





Reef Check Australia Climate Change Kit

The Causes And How You Can Help



Plane Flights produce a HUGE amount of greenhouse gases.

Minimise your number of flying hours. When you do fly, try to choose an airline with a good emission reduction record, and carbon offset your trip.



The production and processing of meat and dairy products are among the most resource intensive and unsustainable industries worldwide (FAO UN, 2006). They are responsible for more global greenhouse gas emissions than all means of transport combined.

Reduce your consumption of meat, dairy, and other unsustainable food sources. Try Meatless Mondays, or substitute one of these food groups with an alternative. Plant-based milk and meat alternatives are easily available (and delicious!) – try something new!



Energy is the largest single contributor to global emissions of greenhouse gases. Currently, Australians are dependent on fossil-fuels; a non-renewable energy source. Electricity generated from these sources (coal, natural gas, and petroleum products) comprised 88% of the total electricity produced by Australian businesses in 2014-15.

If possible, use renewable energy (solar, wind or hydro) in your home to avoid and reduce nitrogen oxide emissions, sulphur oxide and carbon dioxide emissions.



Road transport is essential to the Australian transport network due to the sheer distance between our cities. But our cars are responsible for 46% of our transport associated greenhouse gas emissions (18% in 2017).

Why not walk, run, skip, cycle, car pool or use public transport! All of the above produces significantly less air pollution. Start small to make a big difference: skip the car and walk to the local store instead. Car pool with a mate and share expenses and a chat!

You've got the information - *Now start a conversation!*