




## PART FOUR

Discover What Actions  
We All Can Take at Home  
and at School to Help  
Solve the Problem



Online Chat




**ALICIA**

"So far, we've learned a whole bunch about the causes and effects of global warming and what nations and communities are doing about it. But what can kids like me do to help the environment?"

Hey Moritz, perhaps we can brainstorm on what each of us can do?"

"Great idea, Alicia"




**MORITZ**



**BRAINSTORM #4**

- In what ways do you impact the environment?
- What groups at school or in your community are actively trying to reduce global warming?
- What personal lifestyle changes do you think you could make to decrease your impact on the environment?

Online Chat




**DR. DAVIS**

"Wow. Those are some tough questions. Perhaps one way to begin would be to work with your classmates to develop a classroom 'Contract with the Environment.'"

Alicia: Why don't you concentrate on the subjects of transportation and home life? For example, is there more than one way for you to get to school? At home, do you always remember to turn off the lights when you leave a room?"

"Moritz: Why don't you concentrate on the subjects of what we throw away and school life? For example, do you have a recycle bin at home? What about in your school's cafeteria?"



**DR. BLUME**

**ACTIVITY #4:**

- Visit the web site, [www.zerofootprintkids.com](http://www.zerofootprintkids.com)
- Using this web site, can you calculate your carbon footprint?
- What can you do to reduce your carbon footprint?

HOME	SCHOOL
TRANSPORTATION	RECYCLING

- What is your new carbon footprint after making these changes?

**DEFINITION  
ALERT****CARBON FOOTPRINT**

A measure of the impact that human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide.



Meet with your fellow classmates to discuss what they did to decrease their carbon footprint. Next, develop a “Contract with the Environment” containing the top ten changes your classroom can make as a whole to decrease its carbon footprint.



DR. BLUME

"Might I suggest some of the changes my family and I have made?"

- If the weather is good enough, I ride my bike or walk to work.
- If the weather is bad, I try to take public transportation instead of driving my car.
- I installed a water-saving showerhead in my bathroom and even try to take shorter showers instead of baths.
- I wash my clothes with cold water and even air dry them when possible instead of using a dryer.
- I have recycle bins for paper, plastics, and glass.
- I always turn off the water when brushing my teeth.
- I turn off the lights when exiting a room.
- I installed fluorescent light bulbs to replace the incandescent ones.
- I buy recycled products when possible, like recycled paper towels.
- I use recycled paper and glass products instead of plastics."



## Online Chat



"I sure am glad I'm not the only one who has been making lots of changes lately!

I've got a few ideas as well:


- I have reduced my consumption of soft drinks and bottled water because of all the plastic.
- I bring my lunch to work in a lunchbox instead of in a paper bag.
- I started a compost pile in my backyard.
- I turn off and unplug my computer and TV when not using them.
- I buy earth-friendly cleaning agents and detergents.
- I properly recycle my 'e-waste' like my old computer, cell phone, MP3 player, batteries, and other electronics.
- I planted a few extra trees in my front yard.
- I try not to turn on the air conditioning or heat. Instead, I wear t-shirts and shorts in the summer and sweaters in the winter.
- I close the blinds/curtains when it is sunny outside in summer and open them when it's sunny outside in winter."



DR. DAVIS




Online Chat




MORITZ

"Wow, I never knew there were so many things I could do at home and at school to reduce my impact on the environment."

"These are a lot of great ideas. I also learned about two great web sites from our school's environmental club. Check them out:  
<http://www.nrdc.org/GREENSQUAD>  
<http://www.climateclassroom.org>"




ALICIA




DR. BLUME

"Thanks for those web sites, Alicia. I will definitely have to check them out!  
 By the way, good job on joining the environmental club.  
 That is certainly a step in the right direction."

"Taking small steps is what it is all about. Before too long, you look back and realize you have made a lot of progress.  
 As Moritz taught us with his experience at his local park, helping the environment requires a series of actions and changes, both by individuals and communities working together.  
 The same is true for individual countries cooperating within the world community."



DR. DAVIS



MORITZ

"Like Germany and the United States?"

## Online Chat



Exactly! As we've learned, climate change is a problem for all nations and it is everyone's responsibility to contribute to the solution.

We've learned that the United States and Germany are similar countries with similar problems and are both working hard to decrease global warming, be it in different and creative ways.

The most important thing is that we all keep an open mind to new solutions and realize that any action, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, can make a difference!

**DR. DAVIS**



## WORKS CITED

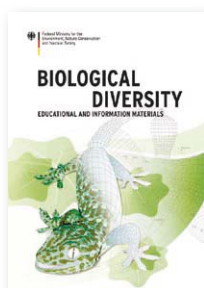
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## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER READING

The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) produces its own array of English-language textbooks for international distribution. Currently available titles include, “Biological Diversity,” “Climate Protection and Climate Policy,” “Renewable Energies,” and “Water in the 21st Century.”

Each textbook is designed for middle and secondary educators and contains fun learning exercises, background information for teachers, and “competence check” evaluation material.

To download the textbooks in electronic format, visit the BMU directly at [www.bmu.de](http://www.bmu.de) or visit the TOP web site at [www.goethe.de/top](http://www.goethe.de/top) and click on “Green Education” from under the “Teaching Materials” main menu option.

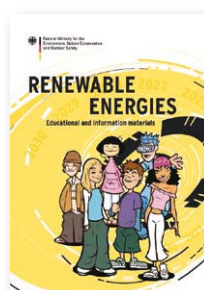


### **Biological Diversity**

Theme: The Importance of protecting species diversity.

#### Topics:

- Species Diversity Worldwide
- National Parks & Biosphere Reserves
- High-Tech from Nature

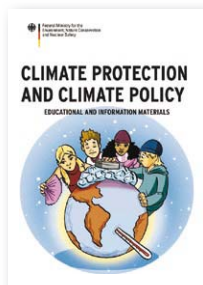


### **Renewable Energies**

Theme: Explores future sources of energy.

#### Topics:

- Lifestyle and energy consumption
- Renewable energies worldwide
- Fuels of the Future

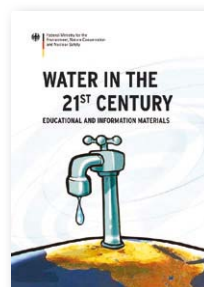


### **Climate Protection and Climate Policy**

Theme: The consequences of climate change.

#### Topics:

- The climate journey through time
- Where do emissions come from?
- Climate protection and climate policy in Germany & worldwide



### **Water is the 21st Century**

Theme: How much water do we really need?

#### Topics:

- A river is more than just water
- The water of the earth
- Is there enough water for everyone?

To learn more about how the United States and Europe are working together to address the common challenges of climate change and energy security, visit the Transatlantic Climate Bridge web site at [www.transatlantic-climate-bridge.org](http://www.transatlantic-climate-bridge.org).

## NOTES

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