

Fact Sheet #1



Did you know?

- The average house consumes about 25% of its domestic energy in heating water for showers, washing, etc. You could save 60% of the hot water bills, **and significantly reduce greenhouse emissions at the same time.**
- A house designed to be energy efficient (with a 5-star rating) can save the household \$20,000 over the life of the mortgage in energy savings.
- Australia, along with many other countries is facing a major water shortage. We squander water through careless use in industry and in the home while our rivers are denied natural flow due to excessive damming.
- The use of domestic waste water (eg. from laundry or shower) for our gardens could reduce water costs considerably and save our precious water supplies and the river habitats that depend on them.
- The average Australian is responsible for the emission of more than 16?? Tonnes of CO₂ per year. US citizens emit 19 tonnes while people in poor countries emit only 2 tonnes per year.
- The earth is heating up. CO₂ emissions have risen by a massive 17% since the 1960s and are the highest in 420,000 years based on antarctic ice core studies. Seven of the 10 hottest years in the past 130 years occurred during the 1990s.
- Trees are the world's lungs and air conditioners. They are also the habitat for much of our biodiversity.
- Half the world's forests have been destroyed in the last 40 years. Australia is one of the world's worst offenders. Most of Australia's native forest logging now goes to make woodchips for Japanese industry.
- Werribee's Western Plains Grasslands are Australia's most endangered ecosystem – only 0.1% survives. Yet we are still destroying it through urban development, freeways, etc.
- Obesity is one of the biggest killers of Americans and Australians, and the problem has doubled in the last 20 years. Liposuction is now the major form of surgery in the US. Meanwhile roughly half the world's population suffers from malnutrition (WHO data).
- To support one Melbourne adult on an average diet including meat, milk and wheat requires 1.12 hectares – twice as much as a Hong Kong person for their diet.
- Electricity generation wastes 75% of the raw energy through the conversion and transmission process. Alternative forms of energy (especially solar and wind) have been available for a long time but industry and governments have preferred the profits of wasteful coal/oil to electricity conversions.
- Household emissions account for approximately 20% of greenhouse gas emissions (Aust. Greenhouse Office-AGO).