



*Now is the
hour to
tackle global
warming*



2006 was the year that climate change truly became a mainstream issue in Australia. 2007 will be the year that we embrace the solutions at our fingertips.

SYDNEY IS STARTING A REVOLUTION!

Global warming is now the greatest threat Australia has ever faced.

At **7.30pm** on **31 March 2007**, everyone in Sydney is asked to **switch off all their lights for just one hour** to show the world that Sydney cares enough about global warming to take action. This is Australia's biggest climate change initiative.

Join **Earth Hour!** Switch off your lights on 31 March and help stop global warming before it's too late. Visit www.wwf.org.au/ (WWF) or www.earthhour.org/ (Earth Hour) to register your support and you'll receive a free information pack full of hints and tips on how to cut electricity use and bills in the home and office.

Earth Hour will be fun, with candlelit dinners and barbeques the order of the day, but most of all it's about how we can work together to save power and reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Earth Hour is all about the simple changes everyone can make.

TAKE ACTION WHEREVER YOU LIVE

Whether living in Sydney or anywhere around the country, it's a great opportunity for everyone to look at ways to cut down on electricity. Start by simply turning off unused lights and appliances on standby and collectively, Australians will make a huge difference, cutting electricity consumption and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These simple actions will save up to 10% of our electricity consumption. It's that easy.

CLASSROOM / HOME ACTIVITY

Make a huge saving just by flicking a switch! Electricity consumption in the home is a big contributor to global warming. With your students working in groups, assign students a 'room in the house' and ask them to list all the appliances that could be switched off when not in use. Extend this activity to the classroom, the whole school or assign as a homework task.

You and your students could encourage friends, colleagues and parents who work in offices to take action. Australia's commercial sector is responsible for around 50 million tonnes of national greenhouse gas emissions. A huge 13 million tonnes of this is from lighting. By turning off lights when buildings are empty and using cost-effective technology, emissions can be reduced to 4 million tonnes—a huge 70% reduction.

Did you know these statistics on global warming?

- The production and use of energy in Australia causes 69% of greenhouse gas emissions—the single largest source emissions. Production and use of energy is the greatest contributor to global warming (CSIRO).
- By 2100, up to 15,000 Australians could die every year from heat-related illnesses and the dengue fever transmission zone (currently restricted to the tropics) could reach as far south as Brisbane and Sydney (Australian Medical Association).
- 2005 was Australia's hottest year on record, with an annual mean temperature 1.09°C above the average (Australian Bureau of Meteorology).
- There has been a 30% reduction in snow cover over the last 45 years in the Snowy Mountains. Areas with at least 3 days' snow cover annually are predicted to shrink by between 39% and 96% by the year 2070 (Murdoch University).



