



Keep Our School (and Earth) Cool

We're inundated with environmental jargon: greenhouse emissions, global warming, climate change, climate crisis, Cap and Trade vs. Carbon Tax, shrinking polar ice caps..... The bottom line lies in the amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. The science shows that 350 ppm (parts per million) is the level we need to maintain if we want climate conditions to remain as we've known it in this lifetime. Parts per million is a way of measuring the concentration of different gases, and means the ratio of the number of carbon dioxide molecules to all of the molecules in the atmosphere.

One way to reduce our contribution of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is to take advantage of the availability of our school buses. Set alarms a few minutes earlier, and the kids can take the bus to school; it's a form of car-pooling that keeps cars off the road--think about how many families one bus route serves.

If you must drive your children to school, consider turning off the engine while you wait for the opening bell. Our 'carbon footprint' will only be reduced when we change our habits and behaviors.

An entertaining and informative explanation of the role of carbon in our lives can be found in this 5-part (the longest is only 4 minutes) cartoon produced by NPR and National Geographic:

<http://www.npr.org/news/specials/climate/video/>