

But What Can I Do About Global Climate Change?

Based on *"But What Can I do? Individual Actions That Make a Difference"*
By L Hunter Lovins and Wyatt King, Natural Capitalism Group, 2002

Facilitators - Read the following introduction to participants:

"What can you do about global climate change? The short answer is, "a lot." Gandhi said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

There is a great range of useful actions, from changing one aspect of your life or the world around you to devoting your life to creating change. Even the tiniest change is a contribution. It is also important to realize that you cannot do it all.

Start by picking one thing that you can change about your lifestyle. What should that one thing be? Only you can answer that. Then, share this decision with someone close to you. Activist David Harris pointed out that each of us has a circle of people who care about what we do: family, friends, co-workers, neighbors...the list goes on. For most of us, this adds up to at least 20 people, who are watching our lives. What you say and do, will influence them. Everyone one of us has the opportunity to tell those closest to us what we really care about, and to live a life that shows it.

But what difference will it make if you change your light-bulbs, or drive less or use more energy efficient appliances? You're only one person. The rest of the world is just going on with business as usual, right?

Not necessarily. Global climate change is the result of millions of individual decisions. It is this cumulative impact of all our seemingly inconsequential contributions that is now threatening our planet. Even though we cannot see the environmental impact of our personal choices, scientific evidence shows that impact to be very real. Changing what we do is ultimately the only real solution. Explaining that change to those around us is the best way to spread it to others. That's where you come in."

- 1. Distribute copies of "50 Ways to Reduce Greenhouse Gases That Cause Global Climate Change."**
- 2. Give participants time to review this list. Ask them to choose one action that they will commit to. Then ask them to think of one person in their life that they are willing to share this action with.**
- 3. Distribute paper and envelopes. Give participants time to write a short letter to the person they chose, expressing why they are concerned about global climate change. What action they are committed to take?**

(Encourage participants to invite this person to join them in this action or to tell this person what kind of support or encouragement they would like to receive from this person.)
- 4. In "go-round" style, ask participants share what action they chose to take and who they are sharing this with. Encourage participants to mail or hand deliver this letter after the session has ended.**

