



CLIMATE CHANGE



Surrounded by clouds of controversy, climate change is a growing environmental concern. It is easy to be overwhelmed by the enormity of it—can a single person *really* make a difference? *Yes!* In the spring and summer of 2007, BioPark Education will focus on climate change, how it affects living things around the world, and how each of us can make a big difference by doing small, simple things.

Greenhouse gases, produced when we burn fossil fuels for energy, are one of the causes of climate change. When you reduce your energy use, you decrease greenhouse gas emissions. Nature also has a way to “soak” up extra carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) - plants on land and in the water absorb carbon dioxide and store it as they grow. When you plant a tree, keep the ocean clean, or preserve existing habitat, you help nature restore the balance.

Here are some ideas on how to save energy and preserve local and global habitats. Join us this spring and summer at BioPark events to learn more about what climate change is, discover ways to make a difference, and enjoy the colorful, charismatic plants and animals of our world.

All Zoo, Aquarium, and Botanic Garden events are included with admission unless otherwise noted; events at Tingley Beach are free. For more information, please call (505) 764-6245.

1. LEARN MORE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE.

Climate Change Brown Bag Seminar – Thursday, March 1 and Saturday, March 3, 12:45-1:30pm at the Zoo. *Eva Thaddens will give an introduction to the science of climate change and will talk about its causes and possible effects. She will discuss the report recently published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and summarize the statewide efforts in New Mexico to combat global climate change.*

2. PLANT A TREE.



Tree Discovery Days during March - NM Arbor Month at the Botanic Garden. *Dates and times to be announced. Go on a tree tour, discover seeds that grow from small to tall, measure time by tree rings, talk to experts, and learn about the best trees for NM yards.*

3. START A GARDEN.

Container Gardening Brown Bag Seminar – Thursday, April 5 and Saturday, April 7, 12:45-1:30pm at the Botanic Garden. *BioPark Horticulturalist Carol McClennin will share ideas for creating beautiful and tasty container gardens. (On Saturday, April 7, stay after the Brown Bag for a hands-on workshop to create a “Salad and Salsa” Container Garden. Workshop materials fee: \$20)*

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4. DISCOVER, CELEBRATE, AND PRESERVE BIODIVERSITY.

Earth Day Party for the Planet – Saturday, April 21, 10am-2pm at the Zoo, Aquarium, Botanic Garden and Tingley Beach. *The event kicks off with the KNME Science Café about climate change at 10am at the Rio Grande Zoo. (Reservations required, call 764-6214.) Take a ride on the Rio Line train between the Zoo, Tingley Beach, and the Aquarium/ Botanic Garden to learn about endangered species, make earth-art, visit the BioVan, and discover how making “green” choices can help cactus, sharks, and bears around the world!*



5. RIDE A BIKE OR BUS.

International Migratory Bird Day – Saturday, May 12, 10am-2pm at Tingley Beach or Sunday, May 13, 10am-2pm at the Zoo. *Migratory birds, like Sandhill cranes and bald eagles, depend on many different habitats as they fly north and south, which makes them especially vulnerable to climate change. By choosing alternative transportation, you can help decrease the greenhouse gases that cause global warming. Learn more about birds, bikes and buses at this event!*

6. REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE.

Bear Awareness Week – Sunday, May 13-Saturday, May 19, 10am-2pm at the Zoo. *Did you know that recycling aluminum cans can help polar bears? Visit the Polar Bear exhibit to learn about the conservation of polar bears and other bears of the world. Find out about the important roles these animals play in nature, and participate in hands-on activities, and biofact demonstrations.*



7. CONSERVE WATER.

World Ocean Day – Friday, June 8, 10am-2pm at the Aquarium. *The Rio Grande is our connection to the ocean, and the way we use water affects the health of our river. Saving water means you also save energy and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. Find out how climate change could affect our oceans, discover the amazing animals that live in water, and learn how conservation can help protect our aquatic treasures.*

8. CREATE HABITAT IN YOUR OWN YARD.

National Pollinator Week – Monday, June 25-Saturday, June 30, 10am-2pm at the Botanic Garden. *Visit discovery stations around the gardens to learn about the amazing bees, butterflies, birds, bats, and other creatures that help make your favorite fruits and vegetables possible! Take part in workshops and listen to mini-talks about how you can create homes for these important animals in your backyard.*



9. HELP SPREAD THE WORD.

Climate Change Workshop for Educators – Friday, June 29-Saturday, June 30. *This two-day workshop will provide classroom teachers and informal educators with ideas for teaching climate change and helping empower students to make a difference. More info to be announced.*

For more information about these & other BioPark events, go to www.cabq.gov/biopark or call 764-6245.
For general inquiries, please call 311 (NM Voice/Relay or 711).