



for a living planet®



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Reduce, Re-use and Re-cycle and Take Action!!!

The World Environment Day is the United Nations' flagship environmental event, celebrated every year on 5 June around the world. It was established in 1972 by the United Nations General assembly and its commemoration is entrusted to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), whose international headquarters are located in Nairobi, Kenya.

The World Environment Day is celebrated keeping in view that one of the greatest challenges facing humanity is its loss of love and value for its mother earth. The aim of the day is to cultivate a feeling of responsibility as well as discipline among the society about its lifestyle, so as to decrease the ever growing ecological footprints occurring due to reckless resource consumption.

The World Environment Day is not just a Celebration: It is a Call for Action

The purpose of the World Environment Day is to focus worldwide attention on the importance of the environment and stimulate attention, political will and action. The event seeks to give a human face to environmental issues; empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development; promote an understanding that active participation is pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; which will ensure that all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

The World Environment Day is also meant to be an "intellectual" event providing opportunities for seminars, workshops and symposia on conserving the environmental health of our planet for the benefit of generations to come. The media plays a critical role, and the event inspires thousands of journalists around the world to write. The Day enhances political attention and action. Local and regional officials, Heads of State and Governments, legislators and, of course, concerned ministers deliver statements and commit themselves to care for the Earth.

According to NCS, about 40% of diseases in Pakistan are waterborne!!!



The World Environment Day - 2008

Kick the Carbon Habit

The World Environment Day slogan for 2008 is **Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy**. Recognizing that climate change is becoming the burning issue of our era, the world community is focusing on greenhouse gas emissions and adopting ways and means to reduce them. The World Environment Day will highlight resources and initiatives that promote low carbon economies and life-styles, such as improved energy efficiency, alternative energy sources, forest conservation and eco-friendly consumption.

Owing to the ever-growing industrialization, our World has developed a dangerous Carbon habit. Coal and oil paved the way for the rapid industrial development and developing countries, such as Pakistan, are gradually shifting from agriculture-based economy to an industrial one. This trend has taken the path of unsustainable build-up of greenhouse gases. Another reason for the increased greenhouse effect is that we don't just burn fossil fuels but we also cut down trees that help absorb Carbon from the atmosphere. We use non-renewable sources of energy that emit greenhouse gases. Energy wasting has become a norm and a looming crisis all over the world. Depletion in oil resources, increasing supply for power, depletion in freshwater resources, glacial retreat, declining crop productivity and the ever-growing phenomena of climate change are some of the many reasons why we should **kick the carbon habit**.



We know that climate change is happening, and we know that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that we emit are the cause. The environmental, economic and political implications of global warming are profound. Ecosystems from mountain to ocean, from the arctic to the tropics are undergoing rapid change. Low-lying areas are facing inundation, fertile lands are turning to deserts, and weather patterns are becoming even more unpredictable. The cost will be borne by all. The poor will be hardest hit by weather-related disasters and the resulting soaring price inflation for Staple foods, but even the richest nation's face the threats of economic recession And a world in conflict over diminishing resources.

Whether you represent an organization, a business or a government or simply an individual, there are a number of steps you can take to reduce your carbon emissions, the total of which is described as your carbon footprint. You may think you don't know where to begin, but by reading this, you have already begun.

The Carbon Habit Causes and Effects:

Climate change is the result of our current lifestyle and there is a demand for us to change the way we do things. Like elsewhere in the world, we are experiencing the impacts of climate change in Pakistan. The frequent occurrence of severe and longer droughts having impact on our farming communities; more violent storms that are affecting our coastal landscape; and more flooding in parts of Sindh and Balochistan can be attributed to the climate change phenomena. The impacts of climate change also affect our ecosystems, biodiversity, agriculture and marine life. Over the years Pakistan, has moved towards a high carbon economy. Some of the growing concerns observed globally including Pakistan are:

Pakistan Ranks
51, in the race
of ecological
foot prints!!!!
Source: UNEP

Issues/problems:

- Pakistan is one of the 25 countries with the largest greenhouse Gas emissions account for approximately 83% of global emissions;
- CO₂ emissions are growing fastest in South Korea, Iran, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia with over 90% growth from 1990 - 2002, followed by India, Pakistan, Brazil and China with 50-70% growth;
- Pakistan is ranked 14 in the usage of CFCs;
- Pakistan is ranked 33 in energy consumption;
- Carbon dioxide released due to burning fossil fuels for energy is used in buildings 31%, transport 22%, agriculture 4% and industry 43%, including the power sector;
- Central power and heat production (the power sector) is the largest single emissions source, producing about 25% of all greenhouse gas emissions;
- Tropical deforestation accounts for around 15-27% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

(Source: WWF'S Global Climate Change Programme , and UNEP)

Other effects:

- Health Hazards
- Deteriorating air quality
- Choking drains
- Marine/fresh water pollution

**Protecting our
Environment for
Future Generations:
A kick towards Green
smart lifestyles**

It is our duty as well as responsibility to make certain that we have put a climate change plan of action in place, to ensure our environment remains healthy and sustainable for future generations.

What we can do?

Business and Industry:

- Follow environmental standards
- Clean development mechanism
- Donate for an environmental cause
- Make your office "Green" by conserving water, paper and energy.

Government:

- Enforce Environmental laws
- Monitor industries for release of effluents in sea
- Award presentations for environmental campaigns
- Conferences on the environment

Civil Society:

- Bicycle Parades/races
- Excursion to nature sites
- Hoist banners at major road intersections
- March for the environment
- Puppet shows for the children with an environmental message
- Sponsorship from private sector
- Involve celebrities
- Fair, festivals or film/documentary on environment
- Expect environmental responsibility

Individual:

- Buy a fuel efficient car
- Maintain/tune your car
- Smart travel walk, jog, bicycle
- Calculate your carbon footprints and plan a clean-up campaign
- Develop leaflets, brochures and posters
- Switch off stand by TV or computer
- Inform all your friends about World Environment Day
- Write letters to civic leaders
- Write, play, poems and songs about environment
- Plant trees
- Donate for an environmental Cause
- Know your rights!!!

Twelve Steps to Help You Kick the CO2Habit

- Make a commitment:
- Assess where you stand?
- Decide and plan where you want to go?
- De-Carbon your life
- Get energy efficient
- Switch to low carbon energy
- Invest in offsets and cleaner alternatives
- Get efficient in resource use
- Offer or buy low carbon products and services
- Buy green sell green
- Team up
- Talk

(Source: WED Booklet, UNEP)

"I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security. Defense of our resources is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise what is there to defend?"

~Robert Redford, Yosemite National Park dedication, 1985

Indus For All Programme, WWF - Pakistan

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