



## **ACTIVITY SEVEN**

# **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- Define climate change
- Define Public Lands
- Explain why climate change is a threat to wildlife in Yellowstone National Park
- List several actions students can take to help reduce their own contribution to global warming pollution.

### **MATERIALS:**

- Access to the internet
- Student Page: "Climate Change Action"

### **BACKGROUND:**

There are simple steps that you can take to help protect bison and other wildlife of Yellowstone that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Supporting National Parks, reducing your carbon footprint, and joining organizations that support and defend wildlife are just some of those steps.



## WHAT YOU DO:

1. Use the concepts and resources presented throughout this guide or the suggestions below to lead a brainstorming session with your students on actions they can take to benefit wildlife and the environment as individuals, as a class or a school.
2. Ask your students to develop a plan for taking action as individuals or as a class.
3. Share your plan and measure progress. Make a chart to document progress on class activities or post everyone's pledges for individual actions in the classroom or in a common area of the school.

## SIMPLE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP BISON AND OTHER YELLOWSTONE WILDLIFE

### Adopt a Wildlife Acre

Wild animals in Yellowstone National Park face serious danger when they wander beyond the park's borders. You can Adopt a Wildlife Acre and help protect them at [www.wildlifeacre.nwf.org](http://www.wildlifeacre.nwf.org).

### Support Your Park

Learn ways to support Yellowstone National Park from the National Park Service: [www.nps.gov/yell/supportyourpark](http://www.nps.gov/yell/supportyourpark)

### Calculate Your Carbon Footprint

The combination of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions caused by your home, transportation, and daily life is known as your "carbon footprint". Calculate your carbon footprint and learn ways to reduce it at: [www.nativeenergy.com/NWF](http://www.nativeenergy.com/NWF)

### Get Involved

Join an organization that works to protect bison and other wildlife, such as the National Wildlife Federation or a local group that works in your area. You can even join as a class at: [www.nwf.org/everystepcounts](http://www.nwf.org/everystepcounts).

### Take Action

Visit the National Wildlife Federation Action Center online and participate in campaigns that support and defend wildlife: [www.nwf.org/ActionHeader](http://www.nwf.org/ActionHeader)

## USEFUL LINKS:

Want to help your school take big steps to protect wildlife and the environment? Join Eco-Schools USA! National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA is part of an international program that helps you form an Eco Action team and make a plan to green your school building, grounds, and curriculum. Learn more about how Eco Schools USA works at [www.ecoschoolsusa.org](http://www.ecoschoolsusa.org). Find the Eco Schools USA Water Pathway at [www.nwf.org/globalwarming/schoolsolutions/ecoschoolsUSA/Becomeanecoschool/Pathways/water.aspx](http://www.nwf.org/globalwarming/schoolsolutions/ecoschoolsUSA/Becomeanecoschool/Pathways/water.aspx)

Find lots more about Gardening for Wildlife® and Certified Wildlife Habitat™ at [www.nwf.org/habitats](http://www.nwf.org/habitats). Find plants native to your area at [www.nwf.org/nativeplants](http://www.nwf.org/nativeplants).

Learn how wildlife and plants are affected by global warming at [www.nwf.org/gardenersguide](http://www.nwf.org/gardenersguide).



# STUDENT PAGE

## CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

**Directions:** Use [www.climateclassroomkids.org](http://www.climateclassroomkids.org) to help you answer the following questions.

### PART ONE:

What is climate change?

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What is causing it?

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How do scientists measure it?

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Why is it a problem?

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What are some things people are doing to solve it?

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### PART TWO:

List five things you could do in your own life that would help save energy and reduce climate change pollution.

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2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



# STUDENT PAGE

## CLIMATE CHANGE FAMILY ACTION CHECKLIST

### Simple Steps

- Turn off the lights, computer, and TV when you're not using them.
- Unplug electronics and chargers between uses.
- Do laundry when you have a full load.
- Set your washer on the cold water setting.
- Take shorter showers and don't fill the tub full when you take a bath.
- Run your dishwasher when you have a full load. Use the energy-saving setting.
- Set your water heater no higher than 120 degrees.
- Set the temperature on your air conditioner a few degrees higher.
- Set the thermostat on your furnace a few degrees lower.
- Walk or ride a bike instead of riding in the car for short trips.
- Combine errands to reduce car trips.
- Recycle your paper, plastic, glass, and cans.
- Take reusable bags with you to the supermarket.

### Bigger Steps

- Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Hang your wash up to dry instead of using the dryer.
- Insulate your hot water heater.
- Weatherize your windows and doors.
- Check the tire pressure on your car regularly.
- Keep your car's engine tuned up.
- Plant a tree or two.

### Super Steps

- Buy fresh, locally grown fruits and veggies.
- Buy less stuff.
- Choose recycled paper and other recycled products.
- Add more insulation to your home.
- Choose a well-insulated home that isn't bigger than you need.
- Choose a car that gets high gas mileage.
- Choose appliances with the Energy Star® label.
- Tell others how they can join the fight against climate change.
- Encourage elected officials to support laws to reduce climate change.

## JOIN ECO-SCHOOLS USA!

National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA is part of an international program that helps you form an Eco-Action team and make a plan to green your school building, grounds, and curriculum. You choose to focus on one or more of the eight "pathways," which include Energy, Transportation, or Climate Change—a good fit if you're looking to do more to help African wildlife!

Find the Eco-Schools Climate Change Pathway at: [www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School/Pathways/Climate-Change.aspx](http://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School/Pathways/Climate-Change.aspx)

Find the Eco-Schools USA Water Pathway at [www.nwf.org/Global-Warming/School-Solutions/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School/Pathways/Water.aspx\[CH2\]](http://www.nwf.org/Global-Warming/School-Solutions/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School/Pathways/Water.aspx[CH2])