




# Vancouver's Climate for Kids

## What is Climate Change?

Climate change means that the Earth's usual weather patterns are changing over many years by making places hotter, changing rain or snow patterns, and causing oceans to rise.

Here's why:

-  The Earth has a natural "heat blanket" made of gases like carbon dioxide, CO<sub>2</sub> (from cars, factories, cutting down forests) and methane, CH<sub>4</sub> (from cows and landfills). These gases trap heat from the sun to keep the Earth warm enough for life.
-  But humans are adding way too much of these gases by burning fossil fuels (like coal, oil, gas). This makes the "blanket" thicker and traps extra heat which is called the Greenhouse Effect.
-  Over time, this extra heat warms the planet, melts ice, and changes the usual weather patterns.

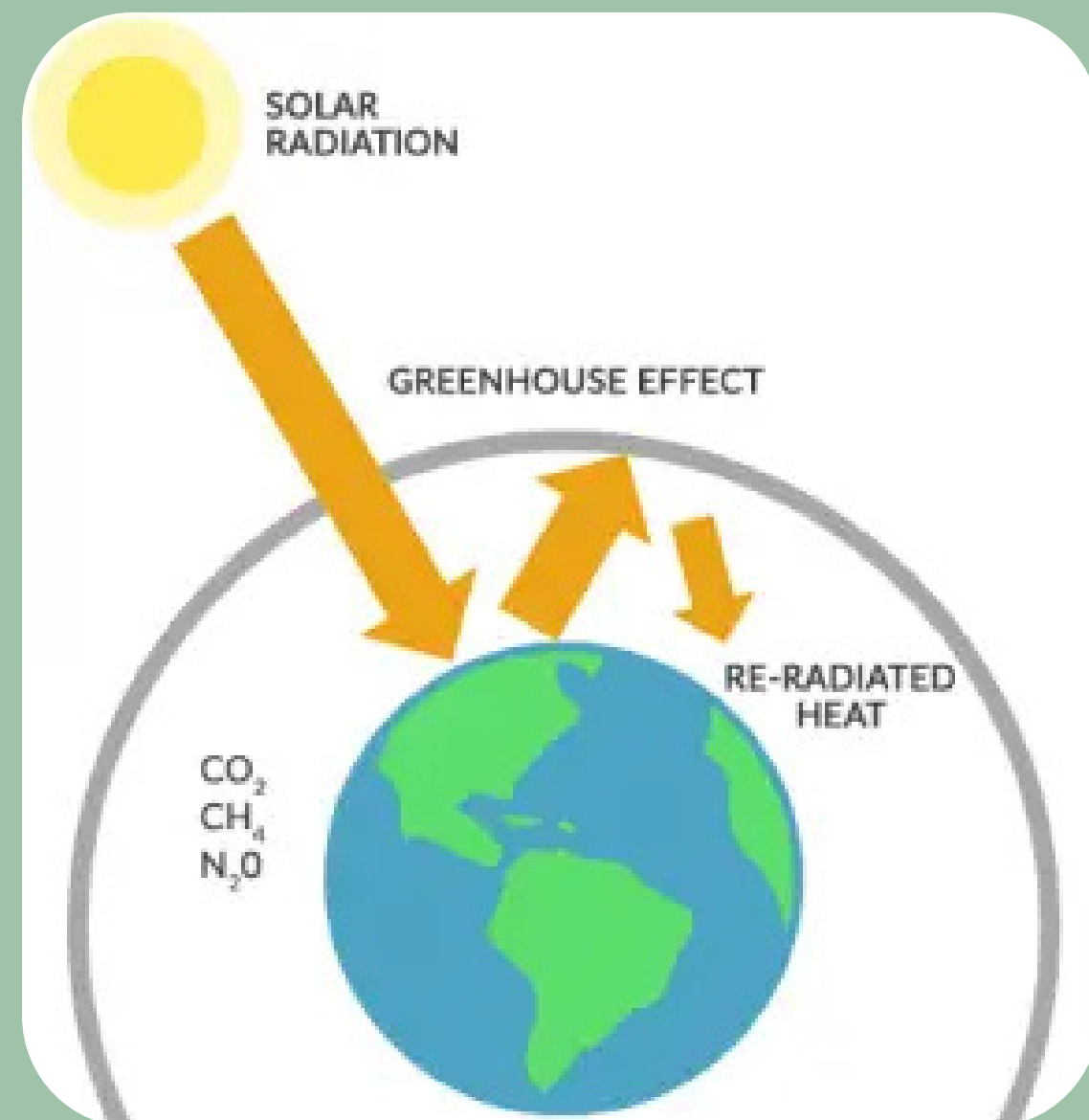


Photo Credit: Earth How



## Weather vs. Climate

Weather is what is happening outside, right now or this week. It can be sunny, rainy, cloudy, windy, or snowy.

Climate is the usual weather a location has over many years. Vancouver's climate is sunny summers and rainy winters.

## 2 Main Human Activities Releasing CO<sub>2</sub> in Vancouver:

### 1. Heating / Cooling Buildings and Heating Water

often relies on burning fossil fuels (like gasoline and diesel) that release CO<sub>2</sub> for electricity generation.

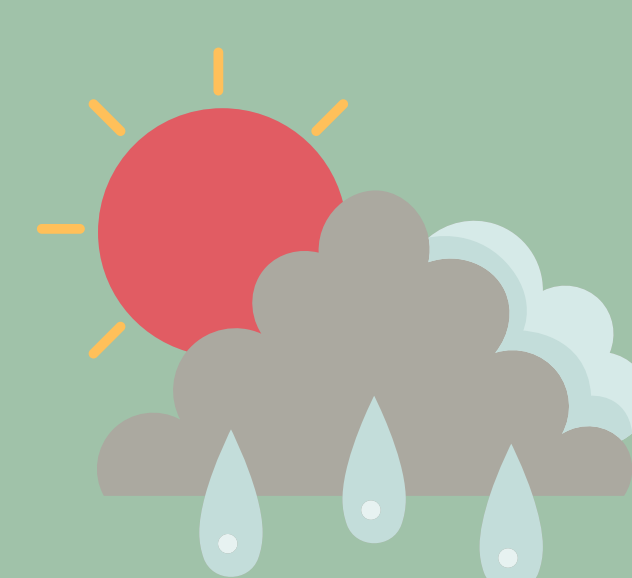





### 2. Transportation

releases CO<sub>2</sub> primarily through the burning of fossil fuels in vehicles, ships, trains, and planes.

## Hazards & Effects

You may have seen some effects of climate change in your daily life like...




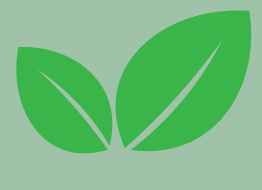


-  Inconsistent weather (unusual amounts of rain & snow)
-  Smoky skies in the summer
-  Rising sea levels



## How Can You Help Now?



Climate change might seem like a big, scary monster, but there are many ways that you can help by...

-  Walking, biking, or carpooling
-  Taking public transit
-  Talking to your friends and family about climate change
-  Click [here](#) to learn more!

Your parents can even help by...

-  Purchasing a heat pump
-  Switching to an electric vehicle
-  Advocating to your local government (write letters, speak at city council meetings)
-  Click [here](#) to learn more about Vancouver's Climate Emergency Action Plan!



## How Can You Help Later?

Has anyone asked you the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" or have you ever asked yourself that question?



If you want to help slow climate change when you are an adult, here's some cool environmental jobs to check out!



-  Engineer
-  Architect
-  Activist
-  Urban Planner
-  Government Official
-  Policy Maker
-  Scientist
-  Chemist
-  And more!

