

# A Guide for Teens



# Climate Change

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report concludes with 95 per cent certainty that:

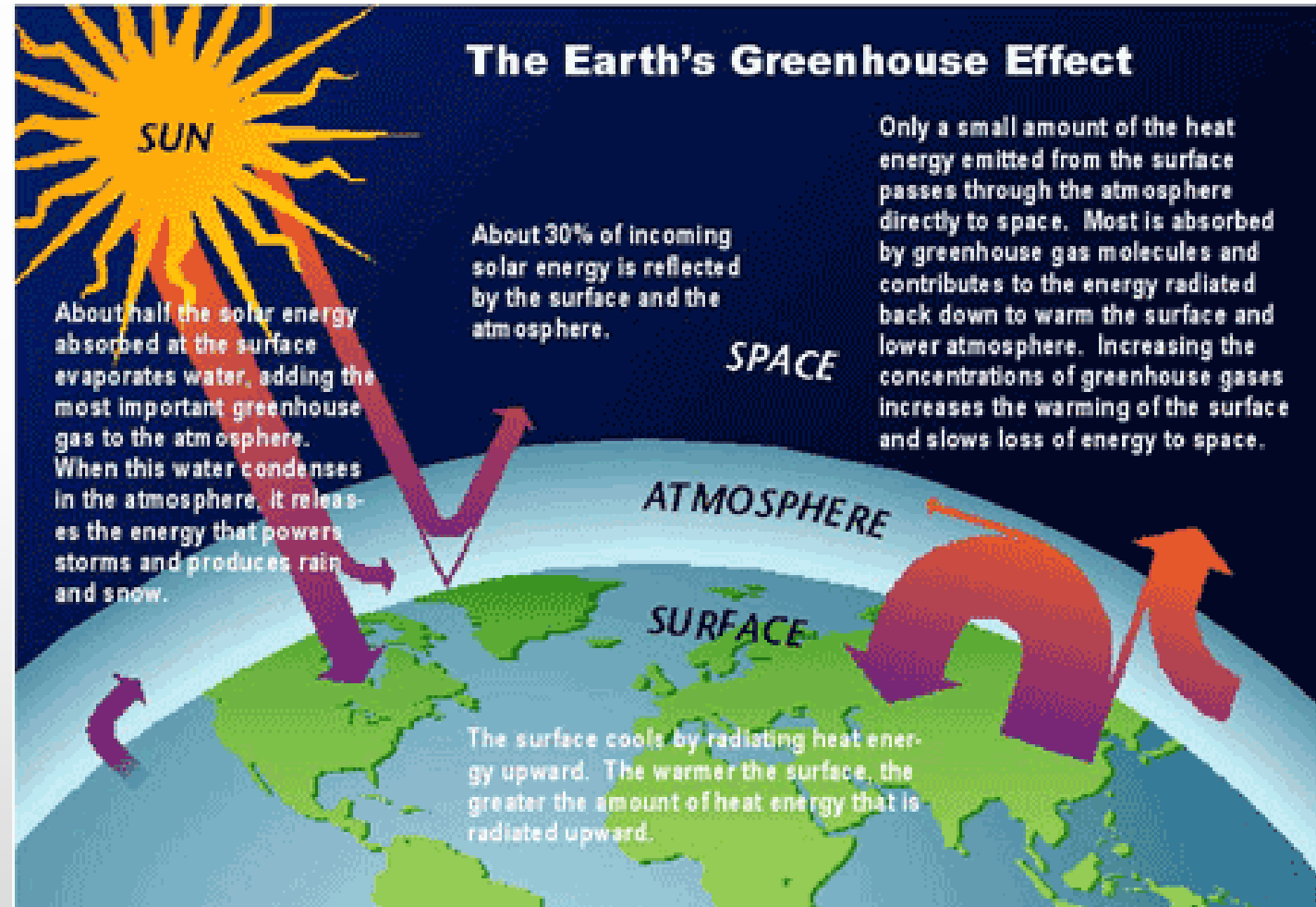
*“the human influence on the climate system is clear and is evident from increasing greenhouse, gas concentrations in the atmosphere, positive radiative forcing, observed warming, and understanding of the climate system.”*





# Global Warming

- With ever-increasing amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and carbon dioxide equivalents, the earth is currently undergoing the 'green house effect'. This denotes an increase in the temperature of the planet due to the accumulation of GHGs.
- Nearly all scientist agree that we must stop and reverse this process now – or face a devastating cascade of natural disasters that will change life on earth.

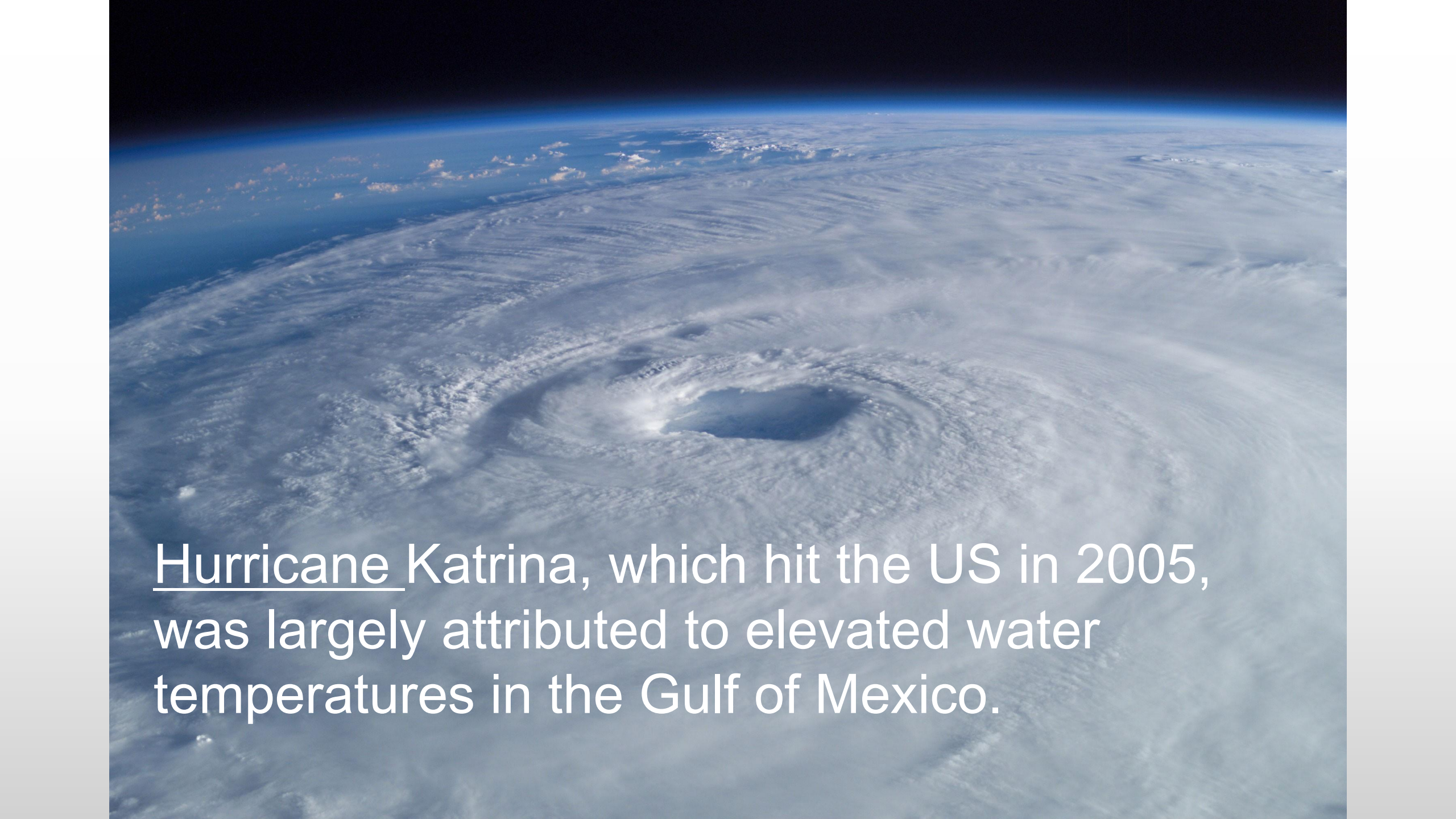


**What are some of  
the impacts of global  
warming?**

A hazy, orange-tinted photograph of a city skyline across a body of water. In the foreground, a paved walkway runs along the water's edge, with a few people walking. The city skyline is visible in the background, with several tall buildings. The sun is low in the sky, creating a bright, hazy glow. The overall atmosphere is warm and somewhat somber due to the heat wave theme.

In Europe, heat waves in 2003 resulted in the deaths of 30,00 people.



A satellite image of Hurricane Katrina, showing a well-defined eye and spiral cloud bands over the Gulf of Mexico. The hurricane is centered in the lower-middle portion of the frame, with its eye appearing as a dark, circular feature. The surrounding cloud bands are dense and extend across the Gulf. The horizon of the Earth is visible at the top of the image, showing a thin blue line against the blackness of space.

Hurricane Katrina, which hit the US in 2005, was largely attributed to elevated water temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico.





- Global sea levels have rose about 17 cm in the last century.
- Since roughly 44% of the worlds population lives in costal areas, RISING SEA LEVELS present a threat that could result in the displacement of billions of people.



What is BC's role in  
environmental  
degradation?





# BC's Role

British Columbia currently emits over 60 megatonne of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents into the atmosphere each year – that is more than ten times the weight of the Hoover Dam!

These GHG emissions can be attributed mostly to these different sectors of the economy:

- Forestry,
- Agriculture,
- Waste,
- Energy



# Forestry

- As a consequence of afforestation and deforestation, 3558 Kilotons of GHG emissions were released into the atmosphere in 2012
- In 2007, 6220 hectares of Land was deforested in BC
- Majority of the 60 million hectares (approx.) of BC forested land consists of forests managed primarily for timber production





# Agriculture

- Only 5% of the land in BC is suitable for farming.
- This land produces less than 50% of our food supply.
- Yet, the agricultural industry in BC still produced 2,001 kt of GHG emissions.



# Waste

- In 2011, waste management released 3,733 kt of GHG emissions into the atmosphere.
- Such emissions are produced from solid waste disposal, wastewater treatment, and waste incineration.





# Energy

- The energy sector produces 48,587kt, 79% of all GHG emissions in BC.
- This includes emissions from stationary and transport fuel combustion, and fugitive emissions from the fossil fuel industry.
- Fugitive emissions are the unintentional emissions from the production, processing, transmission, storage and delivery of fossil fuels.



- Scientists and Governments agreed that we must limit global temperature increases to 2°C in order to prevent irreversible consequences that will change life on earth. But in order to prevent the environment from tipping past a point of no-return, society needs to adopt a more ecologically sensitive perspective that recognizes the importance of our climate.
- We need to discard our anthropocentric tendencies – the belief that human beings are central or the most important species on the planet.
- To do this, we must...





# Recognize the importance of our land

- The UN has stated that land is a key component for remaining within the 2 °C goal that the international community has agreed upon.
- Protecting land helps to slowing deforestation and other natural resource extraction, which is key to stopping and reversing rising GHG emissions.



# Land Trusts

- An effective way of conserving land is to create a land trust (or conservancy), which is a non-profit, charitable organization committed to the long-term protection of natural and/or cultural heritage.
- Land trusts may own land itself, or it may enter into conservation covenants with property owners to protect or restore natural or heritage features on the owner's land
- Also engages in stewardship, restoration and management of lands
- The words “land trusts” and “conservancy” are interchangeable





# Land Trusts

- Land trusts are independent NGOs (non-government organizations)
- Frequently work in partnership with governments, other organizations, foundations, and businesses in achieving shared conservation goals.





Land Trust Alliance  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

WHO ARE WE?



# Who Are We?

- The Land Trust Alliance of BC is our local organization that works with the land trusts community in BC to protect and preserve BC's natural areas and wildlife!
- We represent 33 land trusts, and 100,000 volunteers, members, and donors across BC
  - It has already helped protect over 1 million acres of land in BC
    - That is as much as 123,700 hockey rinks!





# OUR HISTORY

- Founded 1997.
- Created the Protected Lands Catalogue
  - To track and plan conservation initiatives
- Provides On-line Standards & Practices for land conservation and stewardship
- Completed research projects
- Provides educational and resource programs.





# RESOURCES

- **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:** Standards & Practices.
- **RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS:** published resources on tax incentives, covenants, policies, etc.
- **EDUCATION:** training resources associated with land conservation
- **Natural Legacies: Your Guide to Conserving Land in BC Toolkit**
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, blog/website, e-newsletter, and annual magazine (LAND).





# OUR MEMBERS

- The Land Trust Alliance of BC represents 33 member land trusts across BC who all do important land conservation and stewardship work.
- For example...





# DUCKS ULIMITED CANADA

- Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), a national land trust, has been committed to wetland conservation for over 70 years.
- The largest and oldest land trust working in BC
- In BC, Wetlands are home to 300 different species of birds, millions of salmon and other wildlife. Yet they are threatened by climate change; urban and industrial expansion; and harmful agricultural, forestry, and aquaculture practices.
- DUC has manages 565 wetland projects conserving some 370,000 acres



**Ducks Unlimited Canada**  
Conserving Canada's Wetlands



# GALIANO CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION

- Galiano Conservancy Association is a grassroots organization formed in 1989 and dedicated to the promotion of a human community that recognizes its role in a balanced natural system.
- Part of the work that the Galiano Conservancy Association does is ecological restoration, which focuses on the removal of invasive species and the re-introduction of native species such as the Western Bluebirds and the White Meconella on Mount Sutil.







# SAVARY ISLAND LAND TRUST SOCIETY

Savary Island Land Trust Society has worked to protect rare and endangered plants and plant communities as well as one of the best examples of intact coastal dune ecology in Canada from development.



Please visit  
[www.ltabc.ca/member-directory](http://www.ltabc.ca/member-directory)  
for full list of land trusts



# HOW TO VOLUNTEER WITH A LAND TRUST?

There are several ways to get involved with the LTABC and its affiliated organizations.

- Browse our membership directory for volunteer opportunities with your local land trust:  
<http://ltabc.ca/member-directory>
- To volunteer with the LTABC, like us on Facebook, or sign up for our monthly e-newsletter to find out about volunteer opportunities.



# HOW TO DONATE

You can also raise money for a donation:

## DONATIONS TO A LAND TRUST/CONSERVANCY

- Browse our membership directory and donate to a specific BC land trust/conservancy:

<http://ltabc.ca/member-directory>

## DONATIONS TO THE LAND TRUST ALLIANCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Call our office to make a donation – accept VISA, MC, and AMEX
- Through Canada Helps





# OTHER WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Reduce your environmental impact:
  - Transportation – Ride your bike and/or take the bus rather than drive
  - Diet – reduce the amount of meat products in your diet
  - Ethical investments – invest personal finances in institutions that invest in renewable energy resources
  - Household habits – unplug appliances when not in use (including TV), turn off lights when not in the room, take shorter showers
  - Political action – have your voice heard by express your concerns in letters to municipal, provincial and federal governments; get involved with environmental groups/campaigns that seek to address our current climate crisis.





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BRITISH COLUMBIA

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US

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## Discussion Questions

- Which factors contribute to the emission of greenhouse gases?
- Why is land conservation important?
- What actions can you take to make a difference on the environment?