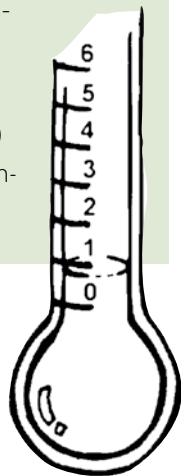


Why is Earth getting warmer?

The planet's atmosphere is made up of gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), that trap the sun's energy, in a process known as the *greenhouse effect*. This is necessary to support life on Earth. When the amount of gases in the atmosphere increases, too much heat is trapped, causing global temperatures to increase.

Did you know?

- The primary cause of increased CO₂ in Earth's atmosphere is produced by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas for energy.
- Since 1990, the yearly emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases have increased 20 percent.
- Cars produce nearly 20 percent of global greenhouse gases.



Safety Tip

Visits to community conservation sites should be made with the permission and supervision of a guardian.

What is *Conservation in My Community*?

Plan

Community groups, local businesses, and state and local agencies can help reduce global warming by taking steps to lower energy consumption and reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. In this project you will research and photograph a local conservation effort. By helping to get the word out, you can inspire people to join an ongoing effort or start one of their own.

Check Off Your Progress!

Identify a conservation effort in your community that interests you

- What are people doing in your community in response to global warming? What do you want to learn more about?
- Read your local newspaper to look for upcoming conservation-related news, events, or initiatives.
- Speak with your school principal, librarian, community officials, and business owners to see if they are sponsoring a conservation project, or know of any conservation projects in your area.
- Visit a local recycling center to ask about other community initiatives.

Contact an individual involved with the conservation effort

- Identify a knowledgeable person to interview. Ideally, this person can tell you about the history of the effort, recent activities, and future goals. This person might be the founder of the initiative, a manager, or an active volunteer.
- Contact the individual and explain that you are working on a school project to photograph conservation in your community. Explain that you would like to observe the project and take pictures.
- Set a place, date, and time. You may want to visit more than once so that you can visit at different times, and on different days of the week (if possible).

Do research

- Gather photographs, newspaper clippings, press releases, and other support material to learn everything you can about the conservation effort.

Investigate If possible, visit the location a day before your scheduled appointment. Bring your list of possible photographs so you can add to it. Take your time. Spend a few hours in the place noticing details.

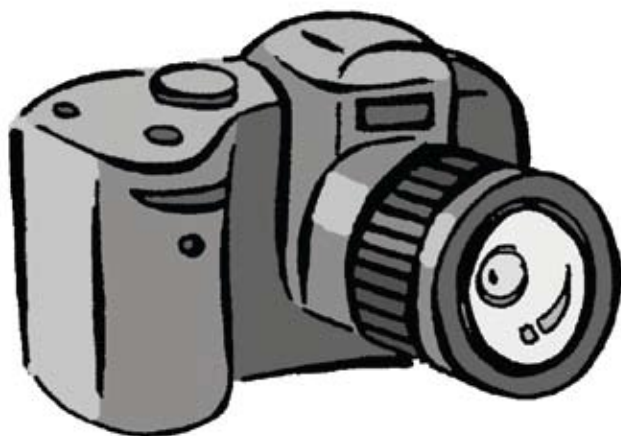
Check Off Your Progress!

Make a list

- Use your research to prepare a list of possible photographs you might like to capture during your visit.
- Think about the people and activities you would like to document. Start with a list of basic facts (Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How) and build from there.
- Write this list on a separate piece of paper.

Prepare equipment

- List of possible photographs
- Camera (digital or film)
- New batteries for the camera
- Film (if necessary)
- Notebook
- Pens or pencils



Community Action

Two local organizations, Sustainable Energy Resource Group and Efficiency Vermont, offer free workshops to show people how to winterize their homes, using less energy while staying warm during the cold, winter months.

Get Inspired National Geographic Photo Camp inspires young people to explore their communities through the camera's lens, and to share their vision through public presentations and exhibitions across the United States and throughout the world.

<http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/photocamp>

Keep in Mind Ask permission before you take someone's photograph. Introduce yourself and explain why you are taking pictures. Ask if you can use the person's picture in your project. Write down their name to use in a caption.

Practice Counts Practice taking pictures until you are comfortable using the camera and are satisfied with the pictures you take. You should know how to turn the camera on and off, use the zoom, focus, and use the flash.



Photography Tips

Check Off Your Progress!

Basics

- Photograph large and small scenes to tell the story. A large scene will help explain the setting, while small scenes will reveal interesting and important details.
- Photograph people. Spend time talking with the people involved and you'll find that your photographs become more interesting.
- Get actions shots. For instance, if you are documenting a light bulb exchange, take pictures of people hauling away big boxes of incandescent light bulbs and pictures of people loading energy-efficient florescent bulbs into their cars.
- Take different pictures of the same thing. For example, if you are focusing on a recycling effort, take wide-angle pictures of the place where the materials are collected and close-up images of the recycled materials.
- Take pictures of different things. Try to document all facets of the conservation effort, including the people, activities, locations, etc.

Composition

The composition, or arrangement of subjects in a picture, is very important part of telling the story.

- Try different angles. Take photos from many different sides of the subject.
- Get closer. By getting closer you will see details you can miss from far away.
- Frame the picture. Be aware of how much of the subject will appear in the photo.
- You don't need to take a picture of the entire object or person.



In School

Students in southern California are trading in their regular light bulbs for compact fluorescents bulbs (CFL). The students have already swapped more than 8,000 light bulbs. The bulbs will save three million kilowatt hours – that translates to \$400,000 worth of energy savings!



Finish

Check Off Your Progress!

- Select the images you want to use in your essay.
- Think about how you want to arrange the images—you might want to use a poster board, make a book, or post the images online.
- Think about the arrangement of the pictures. You may want to arrange your essay as a sequence of events or a collage.
- Incorporate text, captions, or a map to help tell the story.

Self-Evaluation

What I did well _____

What I can improve on _____

The most challenging part of my project was _____

The most enjoyable part of my project was _____

Don't forget!

Write a thank you note to the people you photographed. Include a copy of your photo essay with your thank you.