

# KMAD News Earth Day Edition

March/April 2008



## The Climate Crisis by Jillian C

“The era of procrastination, of half-measures, of soothing and baffling expedients, of delays, is coming to its close. In its place we are entering a period of consequences.”-Winston Churchill. A popular assumption today made by people is that the Earth is too big for humans to have an impact on the planet and its ecological system operation. However, our population has grown so numerous and our technologies so powerful we are capable of making a significant influence on the Earth’s environment, the most vulnerable being the atmosphere because it’s so thin. The atmosphere is so thin we are actually capable of changing its composition. “If you had a globe covered with a coat of varnish, the thickness of that varnish would be about the same as the thickness of the Earth’s atmosphere compared to the Earth itself.”-Carl Sagan, ecological scientist.

This is the basic science of global warming: The Sun’s energy enters the atmosphere in the form of light waves to heat the Earth. Some of the energy warms the Earth then re-radiates back into space in the form of infrared waves. Normally, a portion of the infrared waves are trapped by the atmosphere to keep the Earth’s temperatures comfortable and warm. The problem now however, the amounts of human-caused carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases have thickened the atmosphere. The thicker the atmosphere, the more infrared waves are trapped in to help heat the Earth. This results in the dangerously higher temperature for the Earth’s atmosphere and oceans. This is what the climate crisis is all about.

Mountain glaciers are suffering from the increase in warmth. They have lost snow and ice almost stripping away their right to be called a glacier. Some of the victims are Mount Kilimanjaro, Glacier National Park, Columbia Glacier, Qori Kalis Glacier, and countless others. As the oceans continue to get warmer, storms become stronger and more destructive. In 2004, Florida was hit by four unusually powerful hurricanes and Japan was hit by 10 typhoons. In 2006, Australia was hit by several Category 5 cyclones including the strongest cyclone measured, stronger than Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, or Wilma, Cyclone Monica. Science textbooks had to be rewritten to correct the statement, “It’s impossible to have hurricanes in the

South Atlantic.” Because in 2004, for the first time, a hurricane hit Brazil. After Wilma for the first time the World Meteorological Organization ran out of names to label the hurricanes. We had to start using the Greek alphabet to name the hurricanes/tropical storms that went through December, the 2005 hurricane season. Here are all 27: Arlene, Bret, Cindy, Dennis, Emily, Franklin, Gert, Harvey, Irene, Jose, Katrina, Lee, Maria, Nate, Ophelia, Philippe, Rita, Stan, Tammy, Vince, Wilma, Alpha, Beta, Delta, Epsilon, Gamma, and Zeta. Also in 2004, the all-time record for tornadoes in the United States was broken. Tornadoes became stronger and more frequent because the warm air from the oceans mixing with the several occurring cold fronts collide therefore creating the potential for a tornado. The percent rate for a tornado to form from a wall cloud increased from 46% to 68%.

The Ice Caps are melting due to global warming. When the Ice Caps melt, it puts polar bears in danger of extinction. Their homes are being destroyed right before their eyes. Polar bear deaths are frequent now due to drowning because they have to swim longer distances in the cold, Arctic waters to reach shore. Some edges of the ice are 30 to 40 miles from the shore. If we don’t help stop global warming, the polar bear, a magnificent creature, could be the next species to become extinct.

These are only a few problems we face because of global warming. If we’re not careful we could lose a lot more than we realize. Potentially, we could lose everything. If you would like more information on global warming, pick up Al Gore’s movie or book [An Inconvenient Truth](#).

### Mission of the Month

Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to turn off everything (televisions, lights, etc) for one hour (7pm-8pm) on **Earth Day**, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Presidents Pick of the Month

#### An Inconvenient Truth

It is a great documentary by Al Gore about Global Warming.



### ★ Want to win a prize! ★

Complete the Earth Day Word Search and send it in to KMAD. One lucky person who sends it in will receive a \$15 gift certificate to Border’s Bookstore.



Paris' Message



Easter is right around the corner; please keep your pets away from any chocolate.

.....  
**Just a Thought**

"Our world faces a true planetary emergency. I know the phrase sounds shrill, and I know it's a challenge to the moral imagination."

- Al Gore  
.....

How are you "Going Green"?  
Please send us your story by April 20th and you could see it in the May/June newsletter.

**Show your dog you care!**

**Homemade Dog Biscuits For A Cause**

"All money goes to animal shelters!"

\$5 for 7 large or 15 small

Comes in the flavors of Peanut Butter,

Bacon, Cheese and Original

Made by Elli B., KMAD New

Hampshire Representative

For more details email her at:

[elijelly@msn.com](mailto:elijelly@msn.com)  
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**Global Warming: Fact or Fiction**

The Emperor Penguin's biggest threat is changes in habitat due to Global Warming and climate change.

**FACT**

**Waiting**

A poem by Jillian C

There it sits  
So calm yet suffering  
Our slow corruption taking every bit  
Every bit of blue  
Every shade of green  
Disappearing into a cloud of smoke  
Pollution is slowly destroying our planet  
We are slowly helping it along  
We no longer care about the ozone  
The oceans and lakes  
The animals who cry for help but none is received  
Is this the world you imagine for your children?  
For yourself?  
Tornadoes hit harder  
Hurricanes last longer  
Earthquakes reappear  
Soon the land and ourselves will be able to survive  
Unless we take notice of what we've done  
And continue to do  
Soon there will be nothing left  
There will no longer be city and country  
Exotic and ordinary  
It will all be the same  
A huge dump of past lives  
A wasteland we happen to live in  
This will be your new world



**Did you know?**

- Emperor Penguins are the largest penguin.
- They spend most of their lives out at sea.



### Look What Creative Thinking Can Do!

Have you heard of the “doomsday” seed vault? It was “built to protect millions of food crops from climate change, wars and natural disasters.” The vault is located in Svalbard, Norway and opened on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.



### 3 Easy Tips on How You Can Help Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions!

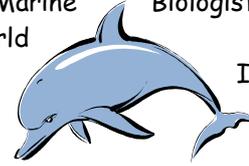
1. Swap out standard light bulbs for energy-efficient fluorescents
2. When possible, walk, bike, or carpool.
3. TELL SOMEONE!



**Are you interested in “using the legislative process to speak up for animals?”**

Then visit [www.humaneteen.org](http://www.humaneteen.org) and sign up for online Humane High School Class. It’s free, fun, and very educational for all animal advocates.

In the next issue we will be interviewing Wendy, a Marine Biologist at Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute. If you have a question for her, please email KMAD ([president\\_kmad@verizon.net](mailto:president_kmad@verizon.net)) and you could see the answer in the next newsletter.



### President’s Note:

*Welcome New Members:*

**Remember:** If you would like to submit poems, pictures, articles, or an idea to our newsletter, write or email us at:

KMAD  
1527 W State Hwy 114  
Suite 500 #106  
Grapevine, TX 76051

Or

[President\\_kmad@verizon.net](mailto:President_kmad@verizon.net)

◆ Don’t forget to visit our website! We have new blog which I try to update weekly, so check back regularly.

[www.kmad.org](http://www.kmad.org)

### Upcoming Events:

April is Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month  
April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day  
April 30<sup>th</sup> is International Day of the Dog  
May 4-10 is Be Kind to Animals Week

### Have friends interested in joining Kids Making A Difference?

\*Share your newsletter with them! Then have them visit our website, fill out an application, and send it in.



**My Dog, My Hero!**

By Kacy

When we set out to adopt our black lab Cory, we were looking for a faithful friend. Little did we know the hero that lied with in.

It was on that stormy day that her true character would be revealed. Cory never did like driving in the car and would often whimper a tiny cry the entire way but this day would be different. As we drove along on our 2 hour ride from Maine to New Hampshire it began to rain. As the rains pick up in intensity, so too, did her cries. Soon Cory cried so loud and was so unsettled we pulled the car over to the side of the road. We tried to assure her everything was okay—but it wasn't. As Cory finally settled down and we began yet again our journey, not minutes up the road we saw the destruction. A tornado had torn through the town just moments ahead of us. Had Cory not stopped us, we would have been right in its fury. Eleven people had died that day; we were lucky ones, lucky for finding our faithful friend.

If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, please email [president\\_kmad@verizon.net](mailto:president_kmad@verizon.net) for more information.



**VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**

Kids Making A Difference  
1527 W State Hwy 114 Suite 500 #106  
Grapevine TX 76051-8647

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you have any volunteer experience? \_\_\_\_\_ If 'yes,' what did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

Which animals are you interested in helping?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Endangered manatees \_\_\_\_\_ Homeless dogs and cats \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED IF APPLICANT IS UNDER THE AGE OF 18**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being legal guardian, give my permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in Kids Making A Difference activities.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (signature) \_\_\_\_\_ (date)