

## Winning entries in the Word Up writing competition 2008

### What can we do about climate change?

By Holly Everest

Tolworth Girls School

12 years old

Animals flop and perish at my feet,  
Their eyes sunk in, hollow and black,  
Starving their tiny, fluffy bodies to death,  
All because of Climate Change, so one solution is to:

Recycle and do not waste paper.  
The decreasing number of trees is amounting week by week,  
Day by day, Month by month, Year by year,  
Their branches sagging and their leaves toppling onto the floor beneath them,  
All because of climate change, so one solution is to:

Drive less and walk more.  
Our weather is confused, indistinct,  
Mild one minute, Icy the next  
Windy then not windy at all,  
All because of climate change, so one solution is to:

Use bio fuels and solar or tidal energy.  
The machines delve deep into the sea, searching unsuccessfully for some crude oil,  
The animals that die don't turn into oil but rot away into nothing,  
We are polluting the world with fumes from our search  
All because of climate change, so one is to:

Use resources sparingly and don't drive a car that burns a lot of fuel.  
The noise surrounding us is harsh, #  
Full of smoke and diesel fumes of revving engines,  
Their destructive scent filling the air,  
Slowly starving the insufficient amount of oxygen we have left,  
All because of climate change, so one solution is to:

Obey the speed limit and drive as told to on a road and not rev the engine.  
Ice fields are fields no more, just vast ponds of infected, icy water,  
As you walk along their once beautiful crevasses,  
Blocks of ice crashing to the floor beneath your feet,  
All because of climate change, so one solution is to:  
Turn off the tap and don't waste water.  
The night surrounds you and the streetlights dim and then suddenly flicker back to life,  
The television copies, followed by the washing machine,  
We are told not to waste electricity and we do not yet it is still running out,  
All because of climate change, so one solution is to:

Turn off the lights when you leave the house or go to sleep.  
Climate change is already a disaster for many countries across the globe,  
People are dying from loss of sources that we waste,  
Cut down on your wastefulness or pay the price  
Of a hefty fine now being introduced.  
S.O.S (save-our sources!)

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### **Climate change**

**By Mehdi Ghassemizadeh**

**Mill Hill County High School**

**14 years old**

The boy sits in a classroom. The boy learns. The boy is given a small piece of card. On it is written "Word Up". The boy wonders.

He thinks of climate change. He thinks of wind turbines. He thinks of solar panels and hydroelectricity. He thinks of car emissions, and of his teacher's impatient voice sounding in the back of his head. She is talking about icecaps melting, and water levels rising. The boy wants to stop this madness. He pledges to reduce his own carbon footprint. He goes to buy some energy saving light bulbs after school. The shop that sells them cares not for the earth, but for the value of it. The money they make is what is important for them.

No-one thinks of the earth. No business. No recycling company.

Yes, people do recycle, the boy thinks, but what of it? The boy wants to do something better, something bigger. He wants to save the world. He writes a letter to the head of the government. The prime minister looks at the letter, and then discards it. He begins to laugh. He describes the boy's idea of a day with no pollution ridiculous. When the boy writes again to stress his point, the prime minister invites him to his office. He tells him what a stupid idea his suggestion was. He talks of profit and politics. The boy goes home.

The boy cries. He wanted, to be the hero, to save our planet, so save it from ourselves. To save it from what hurt we have put it through. ..

He knows that now...

It is too late. The boy runs outside again. He tells his neighbours about climate change. He tries to convince them. They believe the fact that the planet is getting warmer, but they do not see what one neighbourhood can do. He phones to the FSC, hoping they will help him. They tell him about recycled paper. They also tell him about Pentland, the company with the eco-status. He vows to buy all his products from them.

But then he realises, that he alone can make no difference. He knows that we all have to work together. The boy awakens from his daydream, and stares at the small piece of card. On it is written "Word Up".

Outside, our planet begins to die.

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### **A world without Green borders**

**by Shuhena Bhanu**

**Tower Hamlets Sixth Form College**

**17 years old**

A world without Green borders  
No time to kill, destruction has already occurred,  
Free trade is the motive to uphold  
Renewables will be discovered,  
Once fossil fuels take their toll.  
Emissions are mere numbers  
Comparative advantage should not be abhorred.

Forget the terror, turmoil and destruction  
With every kindred love are malignant forces  
Fair trade and green targets are not to be coerced.

Liberals entwined in so-called interdependence,  
A polluted atmosphere of juxtaposed diplomats.  
His heart pounding, he was rigid and tense,  
It was sovereignty and providence maintained.  
His nostalgia reminisced the days of GATT,  
Hence the tragedy of the commons  
Lodged him in perpetual limbo.  
Green wars have proliferated  
Yet, intrinsically the embodiment of fear prevailed  
Worries of the earth's terror, turmoil and destruction,  
Slowly, slowly, slowly began to derail  
Free trade and economic development  
Are priorities, surely needing to be assailed  
The inner emerald conscience began to fail.  
The road to terror, turmoil and destruction ascends  
The power boycotting capitalism transcends  
Environmental hippies seem to condescend,  
The world is ours, eradicate your carbon footprint  
The children need to breathe, the earth is engulfed with fumes  
Surely the path to terror, turmoil and destruction  
Its forebodings only directed towards doom.

He laughed it off as bantering zeitgeist  
And brushed away his jaded ethics  
They were only reiterating the discourse in vogue.  
His ears were deaf to their green dialogue  
His status did not diminish if it was rogue.

The lights were off in the house  
He changed them to energy efficient  
Surely it would make a difference,  
Vegetarian meals were now his staple food

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Switch off the lights, turn off the taps  
Time is precious, reflected from the sun  
Energy simmered through the solar panels  
Even wind mills thundering were of toleration,  
Consumerism enjoyed in moderation  
Food miles make impact  
Tins and cartons saved from the trash  
The carbon emissions leading to reduction.  
Recycling piles high and stacked,  
It will be challenged, this greenhouse proven fact.  
Political leaders turn entertainers, corporate decision-makers  
And ordinary individuals facing our climate change,  
The environment is endangered, let's be risk takers.  
He was inclined to conquer and succeed  
He cycled down the green grassy paths  
Alongside the terror, turmoil and destruction  
It's a rocky uphill road, it's time for someone to take a lead.