

# TODAY IS INTERNATIONAL REDUCING CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS DAY

## WHAT IS CO<sub>2</sub>?

CO<sub>2</sub> is carbon dioxide and using fossil fuels is the primary source of CO<sub>2</sub>. When fossil fuels are burned, they release large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> into the air.

## WHAT ARE FOSSIL FUELS?

Coal, oil, and natural gas are examples of fossil fuels.

## WHAT DO WE USE FOSSIL FUELS FOR?

They are a source of energy for heating, electricity and transport.

## WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES OF USING FOSSIL FUELS?

The use of fossil fuels releases CO<sub>2</sub> and other gases into our atmosphere which contributes to global warming.

## ARE FOSSIL FUELS A NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE?

Yes, fossil fuels are made from decomposed animals and plants that are buried deep under our Earth's surface for millions of years. We cannot make more of them.



## WHY ARE NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES IMPORTANT TO PROTECT?

In Grade 7 EMS, you learn about unlimited wants and limited resources. A resource is a thing we use to help us do something - like when we use fossil fuels to give us electricity. A limited resource is something there is not a lot of - like fossil fuels. As the Earth's population grows, our needs and wants increase - more people need basic services like water and electricity, health services, transportation services, education services, safety services, and waste services. Our wants are unlimited but we have limited resources to satisfy those wants.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

It means that, whenever we can, we need to:

1. Reduce the need for these resources like creating a lift club to school, turning off electrical appliances when we are not using them, and using a blanket instead of putting your heater on.
2. Reuse products such as shopping bags, bottles, plastic plates and cups.
3. Recycle paper, plastic, glass and metal.

