

the Waste Watchers

in "All This Weather and CO₂"

ONE WINTRY DAY IN ANN ARBOR -



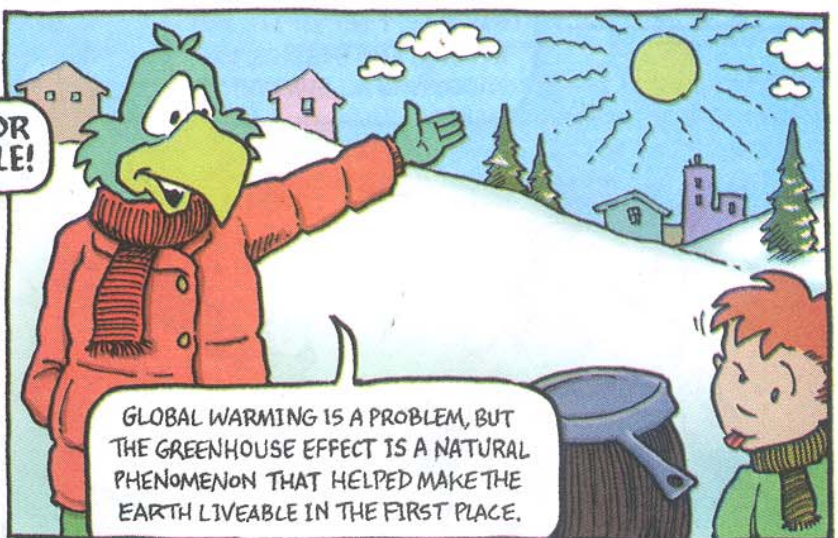
BRRR!
Y'KNOW, ON A DAY LIKE TODAY, GLOBAL WARMING DOESN'T SOUND SO BAD!

THAT'S A TERRIBLE THING TO SAY! WHAT ABOUT FLOODS! AND TIDAL WAVES? AND... AND... WELL, THERE'S CERTAINLY NOTHING GOOD ABOUT THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT!

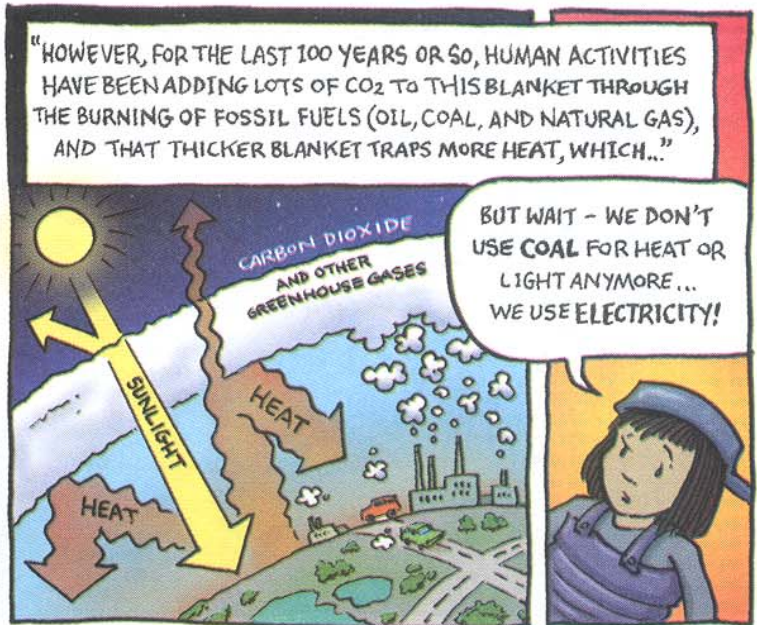
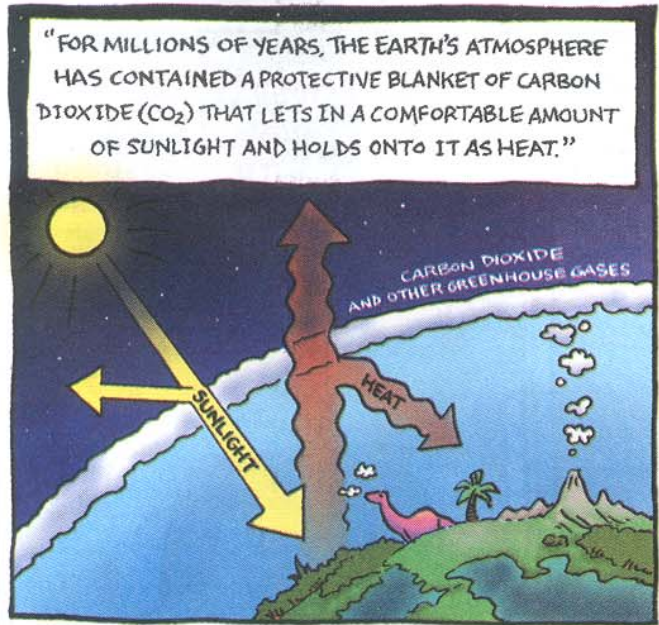


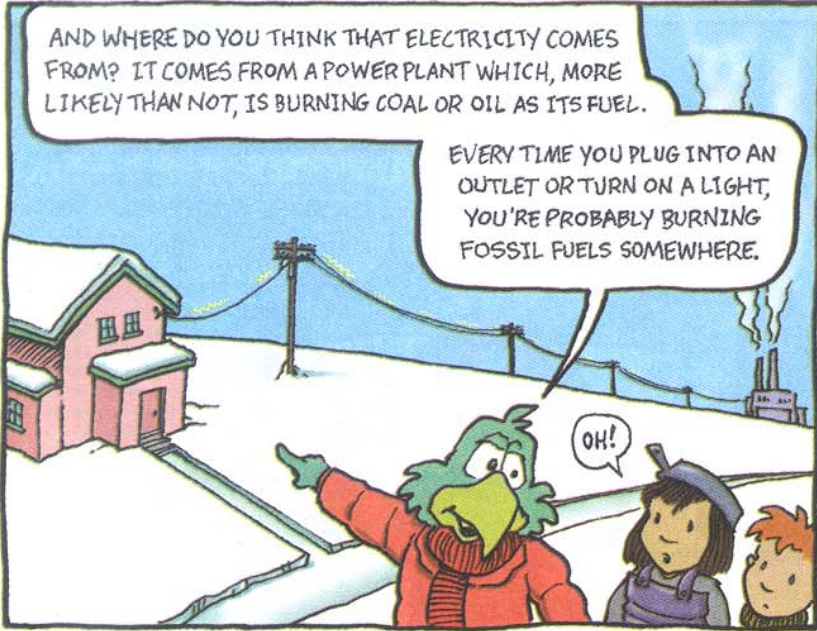
ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE.

DOCTOR RECYCLE!



GLOBAL WARMING IS A PROBLEM, BUT THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT IS A NATURAL PHENOMENON THAT HELPED MAKE THE EARTH LIVEABLE IN THE FIRST PLACE.





AND WHERE DO YOU THINK THAT ELECTRICITY COMES FROM? IT COMES FROM A POWER PLANT WHICH, MORE LIKELY THAN NOT, IS BURNING COAL OR OIL AS ITS FUEL.

EVERY TIME YOU PLUG INTO AN OUTLET OR TURN ON A LIGHT, YOU'RE PROBABLY BURNING FOSSIL FUELS SOMEWHERE.

OH!



BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH HAVING A THICKER BLANKET OF CO₂? WARMER IS BETTER, ISN'T IT?

WELL, LET'S FIND OUT...



FIVE MINUTES LATER -

OKAY, OKAY, I GET IT! IT'S HOT IN HERE! AND BESIDES, I'M GETTING ALL SWEATY!

EXACTLY! GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ISN'T JUST ABOUT MORE HEAT - IT'S ABOUT MORE EVAPORATION! AS THE EARTH WARMS UP, MORE WATER EVAPORATES INTO THE AIR, AND THAT EXTRA WATER VAPOR CREATES MORE WEATHER.

MORE WEATHER?

"MORE EXTREME WEATHER. WATER IN THE ATMOSPHERE DOESN'T JUST HANG AROUND; IT WANTS TO GO PLACES AND DO THINGS. SO MORE HEAT AND MORE EVAPORATION MEANS BIGGER STORMS, HEAVIER RAINS, AND EVEN DRIER DROUGHTS IN SOME PLACES. ACTUALLY, GLOBAL "WARMING" CAUSES HEAVIER SNOW STORMS JUST AS MUCH AS HOTTER HEAT WAVES."



ALL RIGHT, SO NOW I KNOW WHY GLOBAL WARMING IS DANGEROUS. BUT IF IT'S SO GLOBAL, THEN WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN I MAKE?



ZINN

PLENTY! ALMOST EVERYTHING WE DO AFFECTS THE AMOUNT OF CO₂ IN THE ATMOSPHERE. JUST TURNING OFF A LIGHT REDUCES THE CONSUMPTION OF FOSSIL FUELS IN A POWER PLANT, AND BIKING, WALKING, OR TAKING THE BUS REDUCES THE CO₂ EMISSIONS OF CARS.

"HERE'S ANOTHER EXAMPLE. WHEN YOU RECYCLE A BAG FROM THE GROCERY STORE, YOU REDUCE BY HALF THE CO₂ THAT WOULD HAVE RESULTED FROM MAKING A NEW BAG FROM RAW MATERIALS."

"BETTER YET, IF YOU REUSE THAT BAG SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE YOU RECYCLE IT, YOU CUT THAT CO₂ DOWN EVEN FURTHER EVERY TIME YOU GO TO THE STORE."

A TOWN OF 114,000 PEOPLE USES ALMOST 30 MILLION BAGS IN A YEAR - SO IF EACH OF US CUTS BACK BY JUST 1 OR 2 BAGS A WEEK, WE CAN KEEP SEVERAL TONS OF CO₂ FROM ENTERING THE ATMOSPHERE... AND THAT'S JUST ONE THING WE CAN DO!

WELL, I GUESS I CAN PUT UP WITH A LITTLE CHILLY WEATHER FOR THE EARTH'S SAKE... FROM NOW ON, I'M GOING TO **KEEP IT COOL!**

ZINN

"FLOOMP!"

I GUESS I ASKED FOR THAT...

HEE HEE

END