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HOUSEHOLD CARBON EMISSIONS

As our name suggests, Noosa & District Landcare Group Inc is all about caring for the land and environment through assisting the community with vegetation management, revegetation, plantation establishment, waterwatch and bushcare services. With our assistance, thousands of native trees and shrubs have been planted - all of which help to reduce levels of carbon in the air. Last year alone, NDLG provided over 100,000 trees/shrubs for planting, 90,000 of which were planted out by NDLG.

Carbon what?

What is carbon? A basic explanation.

Carbon dioxide is one of the greenhouse gases given off each time we burn fossil fuels. Whether it's to fuel our cars, or the electricity we use when we turn on appliances or the gas we use to cook or heat our homes/water, the carbon accumulates in the upper atmosphere with other gases and creates a 'blanket' causing the 'greenhouse effect'. What fossil fuels do we use? Coal, oil and gas are all fossil fuels used in either the production of electricity, fuel for our vehicles, materials for manufacturing or home heating/cooking. These fossil fuels by their very nature are not renewable in our lifetime. Each time we use an electrical appliance we are part of the chain of carbon dioxide producers. Consumption in the home creates an estimated 8 to 10 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum per household.

What can be done about it? Reducing your Emissions.

- Making our homes more energy efficient through improved ventilation/insulation and building our homes out of more energy efficient materials such as timber.
- Reducing our demands for electricity by turning off appliances (rather than leaving them on standby), replacing electrical hot water systems with solar or instantaneous gas models.
- Reducing the amount of driving we do by utilising public transport, riding or walking.
- Once you have taken steps to reduce your emissions, you can consider 'offsetting' your remaining emission by planting or supporting the planting of trees that will sequester (absorb) carbon.

How can I support the planting of trees?

Noosa & District Landcare Group is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient with the Australian Taxation Office and accepts donations (all donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible) into its' Public Fund - The NDLG Environment Fund. Your \$30 will ensure 10 more trees are planted. You will receive a certificate (valid for 12 months) confirming the value (minimum \$30) of your donation towards providing trees for NDLG's work. 10 trees can absorb approximately 1.8 tonnes of carbon dioxide over their life. As the average home creates between 8-10 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum, it would mean between 45 and 55 trees would need to be planted each year to absorb the carbon emitted per household. To calculate your household emissions, go to www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au/get_informed/carbon_calculator and enter your details.

Benefits.

For a start, you can feel satisfied that your donation is helping reduce the effect your household is having on the 'greenhouse effect'. The benefits though are multiple, our flora and fauna benefit through expanded vegetation corridors and increased biodiversity, it helps reduce erosion, helps return salinity levels to those of pre-clearing and provides alternative and renewable building/fuel resources, to name but a few.

More information on tree planting and the role of Noosa & District Landcare Group can be obtained from our website: www.noosalandcare.org or by calling (07) 5485 2468.