

The Greenhouse Gas Guardian & the Greenhouse Gas Ghost



Characters in Climate Change
by Sally Walker

This

is a story of the *GreenhouseGas Guardian* & the *Greenhouse Gas Ghost*.

It is a modern *Fable* which is a story with a moral. A moral is a lesson in behaviour for our good.

Once upon a time

and even now there is a **GreenhouseGas Guardian**. A guardian is a kind of security guard or monitor to protect us.



The *Greenhouse Gas Guardian* had been looking after the whole Earth to insure that we and the living things we know today ... animals, plants, etc., could survive on Earth.

The *Greenhouse Gas Guardian* has been named because it represents the **Good-Greenhouse Effect**. The **Good-Greenhouse Effect** is the process that helps us to survive on Earth and helps things for our survival (food - animals, plants, meat, vegetables, plants also to live on Earth).

Without the Good-Greenhouse Effect, the Earth would be too cold for us to live. The *Good-Greenhouse Effect* is actually **warmth** produced by the Earth's gases. Gases are made up of different kinds of important elements...things, mostly invisible, which are good or bad depending on how much of certain elements are in them.

Good gases enable us to breathe, to have energy, to grow. Not just us ... every living thing needs good gases. These gases make up our atmosphere on Earth.



A drawing of Earth with a "normal" - good, healthy, efficient, tolerable - amount of "good" gases (the smoky looking stuff) in its atmosphere (dotted line).

The Earth without these good gases or Greenhouse Effect would be very cold. Colder than North Pole!

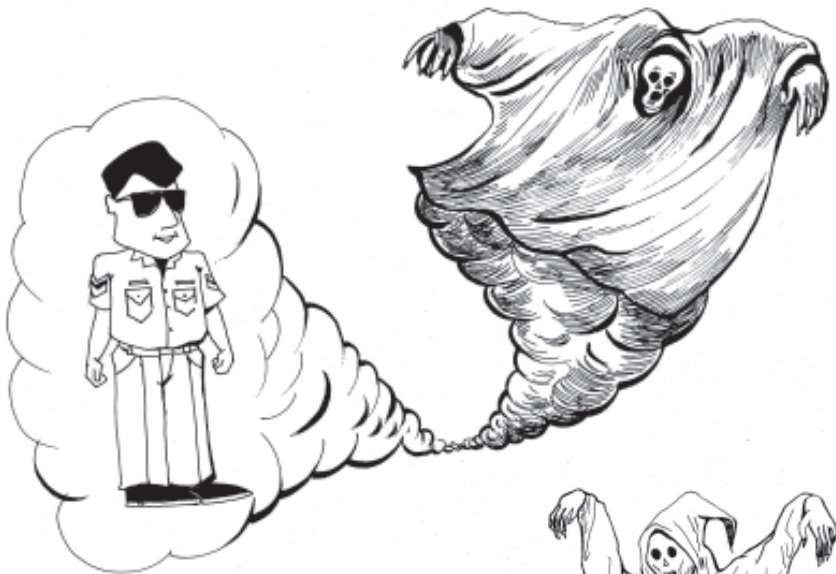
These good gases allow rays (radiation) from the Sun (which is very hot) to reach Earth where they provide heat, enough to sustain life, but not enough to harm us.

The good gases not only permit the Sun's rays to pass through them to Earth but they also reflect the energy back to the atmosphere so they can provide continuous warmth for our survival.



So there is a "trap" or barrier (atmosphere) which permits rays or energy to get down to Earth to provide warmth and does not permit that warmth to desert us. Look at the drawing of Earth (top) again -- the dotted line around it represents the barrier or trap holding the warmth we need to survive. That is the Good Greenhouse Effect, which we call the *GreenhouseGas Guardian*. When the *GreenhouseGas Guardian* is "on duty", it is good news. We are alive...comfortable.

Unfortunately, the GreenhouseGas Guardian is not always on duty. In fact **we human beings are driving the GreenhouseGas Guardian away today, and have been since the industrial revolution.** The GreenhouseGas Guardian is strong enough to catch and hold the good gases which protect and provide for us but NOT strong enough to stop us from doing things that upset the atmosphere. When there are too many then we turn the GreenhouseGas Guardian into a cruel monster. We call this monster the GreenhouseGas Ghost !



The GreenhouseGas Ghost is really a very bad character ... it causes the extreme weather we are getting now - frequent cyclones, tornado, higher temperature ...

What is it that we do to make a good guardian become a **very bad ghost** ... AND one with so much power !



What is it that WE do to make a
Good Guardian change into a very
BAD Ghost ?

Here's what we do:

We **use** ... TOO MUCH petrol

We **use** ... TOO MUCH natural
resources

We **use** ... our petrol cars, scooters,
planes TOO MUCH

We **use** ... TOO MUCH electricity
through careless waste (leaving lights,
fans on when leave the room, putting heat on when a jacket
would do, etc.).



WE **do** ... TOO MUCH trashing of recyclable items

WE **do** ... TOO MUCH riding when we could walk

WE **do** ... TOO MUCH careless wasting of paper

WE **do** ... NOT think enough about saving energy



Greenhouse Gas phenomenon is very much
like eating sweets. When you eat a small
amount of sweets you enjoy fully, and it is
not harmful also.

But if you eat TOO MUCH sweets, bad
things happen:

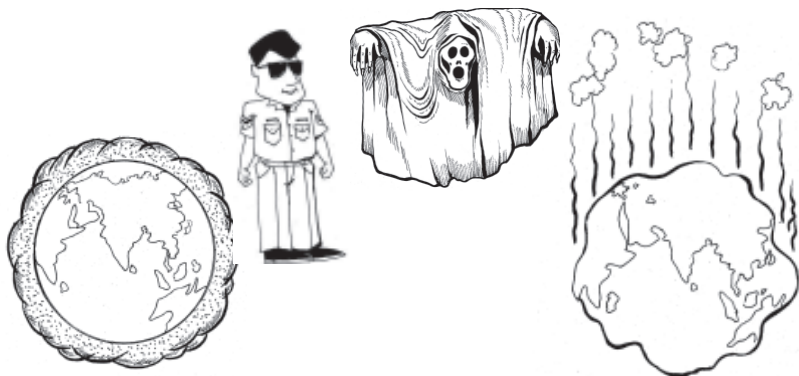


- . you become fat,
- . your ability to play is reduced,
- . you can develop diabetes and other bad
health conditions, like hypoglycemia
- . you get pimples, zits!
- . your teeth develop rot
- . etc.



So sweets are good in moderation but bad in excess . . .
Sweets are our dearest friends in moderation and our worst enemy in excess.

It is the same with Greenhouse Gases. They are a kindly helper and GreenhouseGas Guardian in moderation and an evil monster, the GreenhouseGas Ghost in excess.



Today we have scientific proof that the Earth is becoming hotter. You have heard of "Global Warming."
Well, Global Warming is caused by the GreenhouseGas Ghost.

What made the GreenhouseGas Guardian into a bad Ghost ? Many **GOOD** things caused this, but **those good things became bad through excess**, that is, **TOO MUCH** of them.



Like the sweets example. It is more even than the Earth could tolerate!

Human population increase - that was a good thing for some time because it meant mankind had overcome many conditions that caused early death. Then our population grew too much, too fast. Now the Earth is overpopulated which causes us to overuse our natural resources. **THIS** feeds the GreenhouseGas Ghost!



Human inventions (for example, petrol vehicles have changed the world, but not just for good. Too many people use them **TOO MUCH**. The more people use them, the more they produce emissions that overwhelm the GreenhouseGas Guardian and transform it into the GreenhouseGas Ghost.

Climate

The rise of the GreenhouseGas Ghost causes Global Warming

Average weather is no longer average: different places in the world have a different climate. North & South Pole are very cold, but some icebergs at the North Pole are now melting? Even North Pole is getting warmer. **NOT** good news ... all who live there are acclimatised to colder temperatures. The food Eskimos and Polar Bears eat (fish, etc.) are decreasing. Global Warming affects weather and climate in the world.

Higher temperatures leads to human discomfort, emerging diseases, fluctuating and unpredictable weather ...

Extreme weather is stronger winds (maybe more cyclones), more or less rain or drought --> leads to damage, flooding, crop failure, rising prices, etc. and others.

But what can we do, then ?

Here's what can we do ?

WE CAN

Fight the GreenhouseGas Ghost! By learning new "saving" habits ! ...and Living More Simply. We CAN...



**back our Greenhouse
Gas Guardian !**

**But we must keep
our new "saving" habits
for all time if we want
to "beat the heat!".**



Search the internet:

Google these words: "Children-Weather," "Children-Climate change"
"global warming, etc. You will find so many things to learn and do-
facts, what to do in extreme weather, colouring books, games,
or, here are some sites:

<http://www.climatechoices.org.uk/pages/cchange0.htm>
http://tiki.oneworld.net/global_warming/climate_home.html
<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/index.html>
<http://www.coolkidsforacoolclimate.com/>
There are many many more !

Credits

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