

## green on the net

Knowledge is power and the internet is an enormous resource for information and ideas. Get in the know, read or subscribe to some of the thousands of magazines and newspapers online that match your passion or politics. There are multiple forums for contributing and sharing ideas. Use the internet to find information on products and services you want to buy or use, or the organisations and causes you would like to support. From living tips to activism, there's a whole environmental community online that you can be a part of. You could even start your very own eco-blog and let like-minded people know what you're doing to help save the planet. Inspire and connect with others.

- *get connected and increase environmental awareness*

Illustration: Marian Kyle

## best foot forward

Everything you do, use, buy and consume in your daily life has the capacity to reduce or contribute to global warming. Your carbon footprint is a measure of the adverse impact your activities have on the environment; it represents the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> your lifestyle contributes to global warming. Over the last 25 years, the CSIRO estimates that the average growth rate of Australian emissions was approximately twice the growth rate of the entire world, twice the growth rate in the USA and Japan, and five times the growth rate in Europe. Help to reverse this trend by taking responsibility for your individual and your household's emissions. Get to know your footprint by using one of the many available carbon emissions calculators to regularly measure your footprint. Actively practise the principles of the '5Rs' – Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle – to reduce your emissions and lessen your footprint.

- *know your footprint and reduce it*



Illustration: Marian Kyle

## rethink and reduce



Houses, cars, appliances, accessories ... as our insatiable desire for new things increases, we continue to make unsustainable demands on the Earth's finite resources. We need to rethink and reduce our consumption of non-essentials, and reduce our levels of personal waste. Australia is among the highest producers of waste in the world. We generate 2.25 kilograms of waste per person per day, most of which goes straight into landfill. So think before you buy. Do you really need it? Is there a greener alternative? Don't assume what you throw away is disposable or biodegradable. These small acts of awareness may seem insignificant, but collectively they add up. Make the necessary change from living a consumer lifestyle to living a sustainable lifestyle.

- *stop wasting non-renewable resources*

Photo: Corbis Australia

## action

## sustainability festival

- \* guest speakers \* organic food \* stalls
- \* live music \* performances \* visual art
- \* entertainment \* everyone welcome!

## eco-fundraising

Does your school or university have a special environment week as a focus for green activities? If not, you could start one. Invite guest speakers, community members and local celebrities to come talk to students and parents. You could raise funds to donate to a deserving charity by presenting an environmental festival with drama, music and visual arts or having stalls for selling pre-loved goods, such as clothes, games, DVDs, books and comics. Why not initiate an eco-fundraising day at work, like a casual Friday where everyone who dresses down donates a gold coin for your favourite green charity.

- *give your fundraising initiatives a touch of green*