

INDIVIDUALS
ENGAGING IN
SOCIETY

Citizenship Foundation



This lesson explores how the actions of human beings are destroying our Earth, and looks at how we can reduce our carbon footprint.

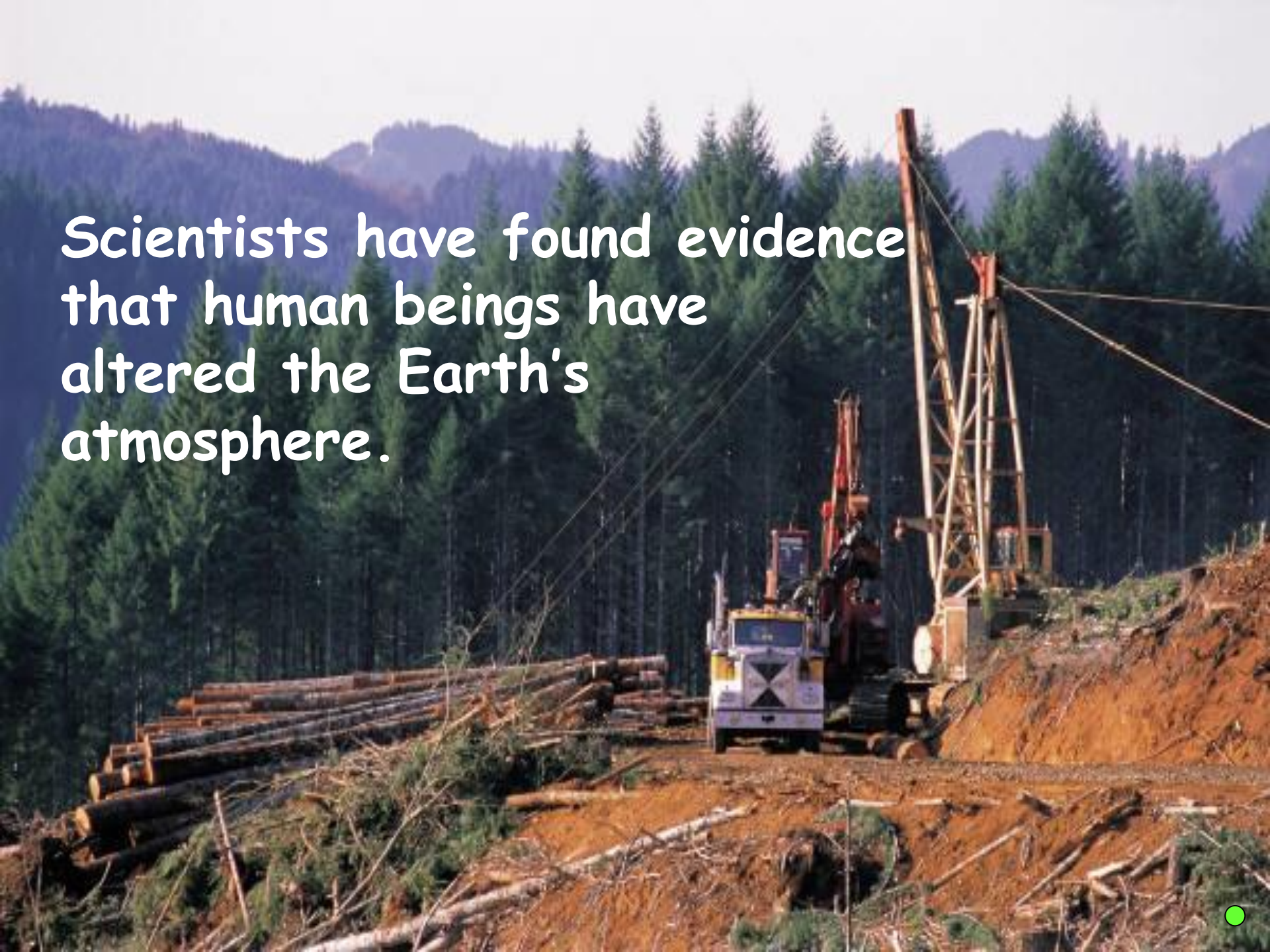


Our Hands The Earth in!



If
the earth were only a
few feet in diameter, floating a
few feet above a field somewhere,
people would come from everywhere to
marvel at it. People would walk around it
marveling at its big pools of water, its little
pools and the water flowing between the pools.
People would marvel at the bumps on it, and the
holes in it, and they would marvel at the very thin
layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in
the gas. The people would marvel at all the creatures
walking around the surface of the ball, and in the water.
The people would declare it precious because it was the
only one and they would protect it so that it would not
be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder
known, and people would come to behold it, to be
healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty and
wonder how it could be. People would love it,
and defend it with their lives, because they
would some how know that their lives,
their own roundness, could be nothing
without it. If the earth were
only a few feet in
d i a m e t e r.

Scientists have found evidence that human beings have altered the Earth's atmosphere.



Deforestation and the burning of fossil fuels has been largely responsible for the build up of greenhouse gases which have caused the temperature at the Earth's surface to rise.

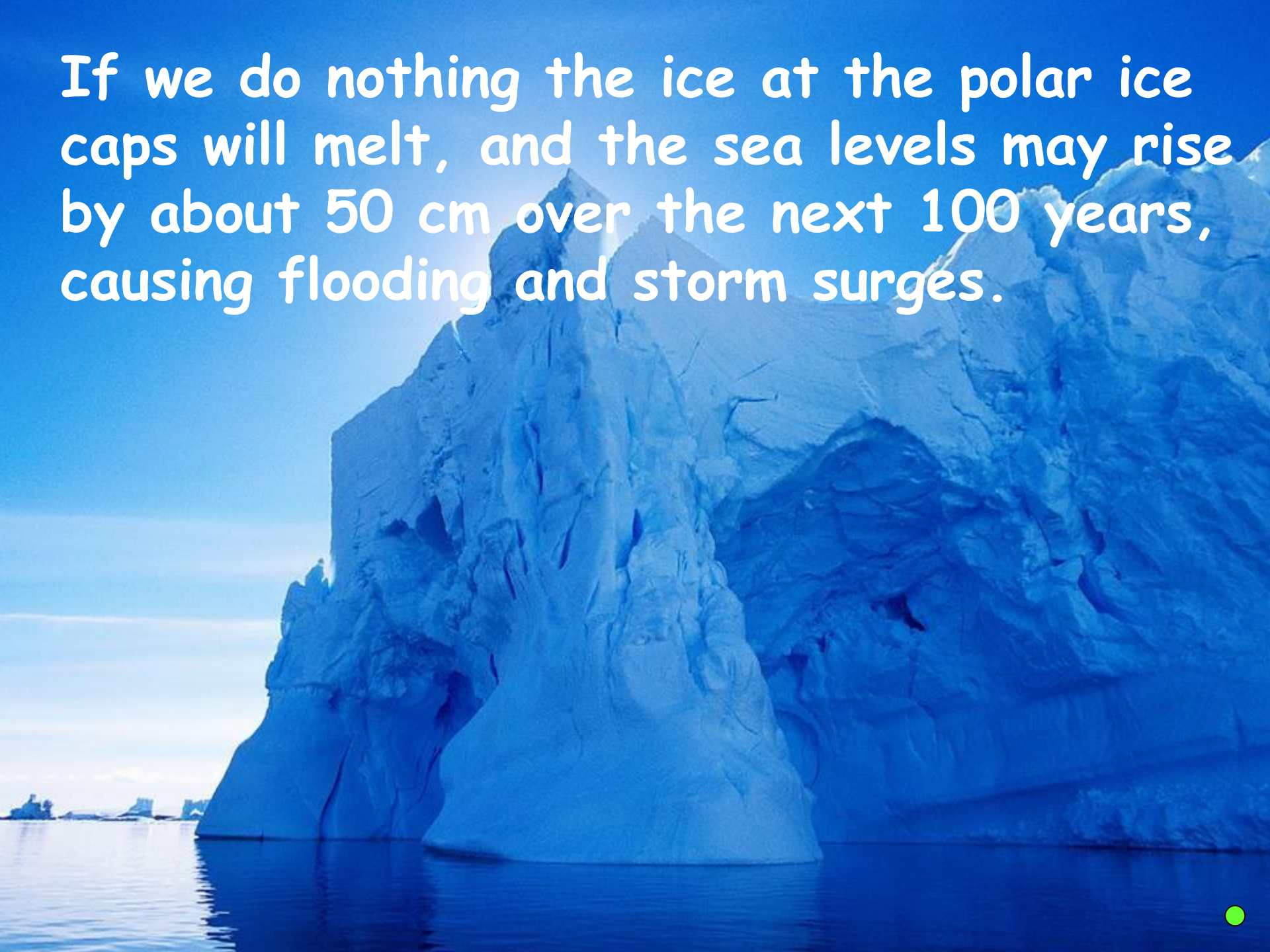


Global warming has accelerated in recent times. The amount of energy being used across the world is increasing steadily. Western societies are burning greater amounts of fossil fuel, and new power stations are being built in Africa and Asia to cater for improving lifestyles.

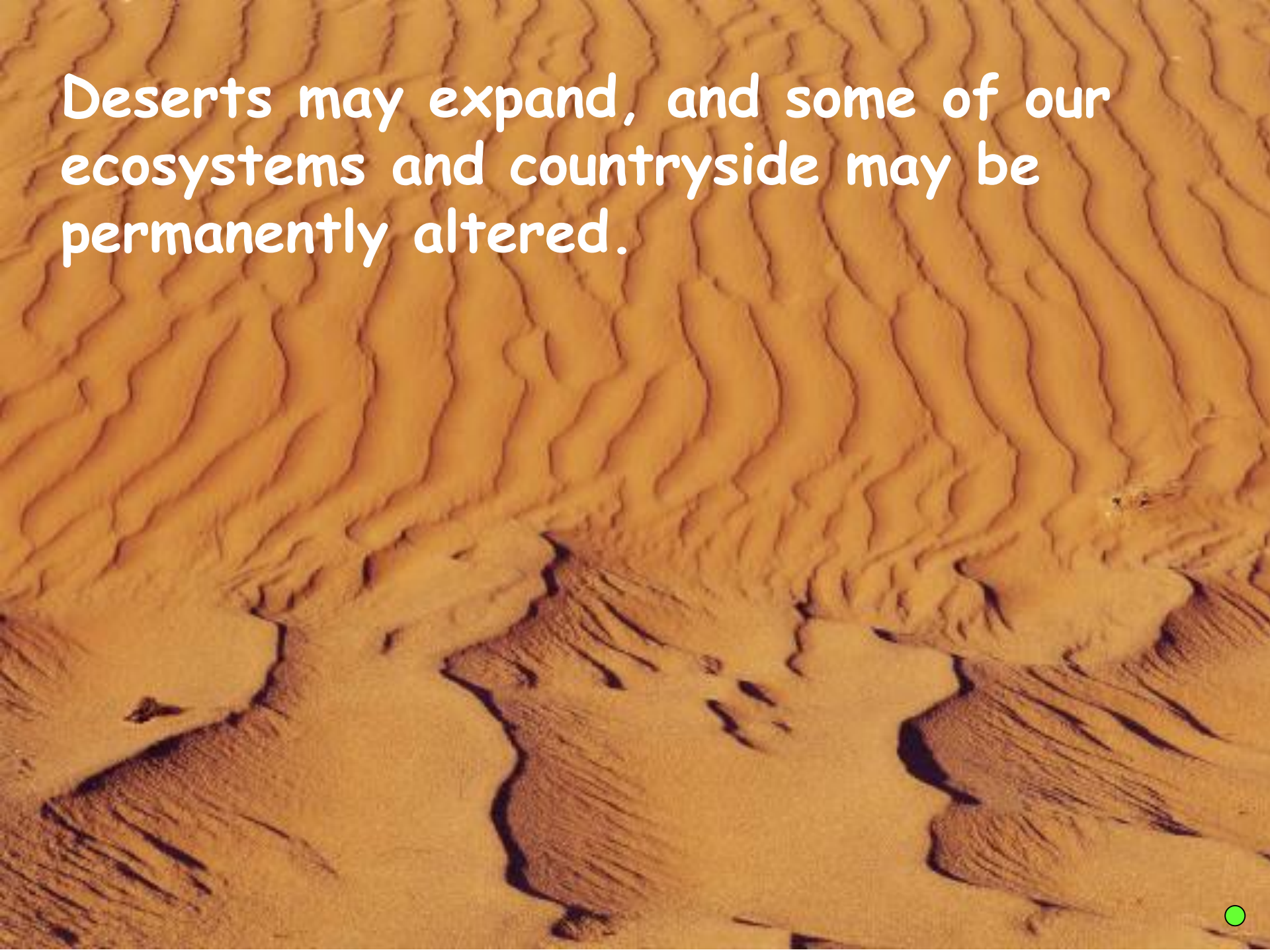


Beijing, China

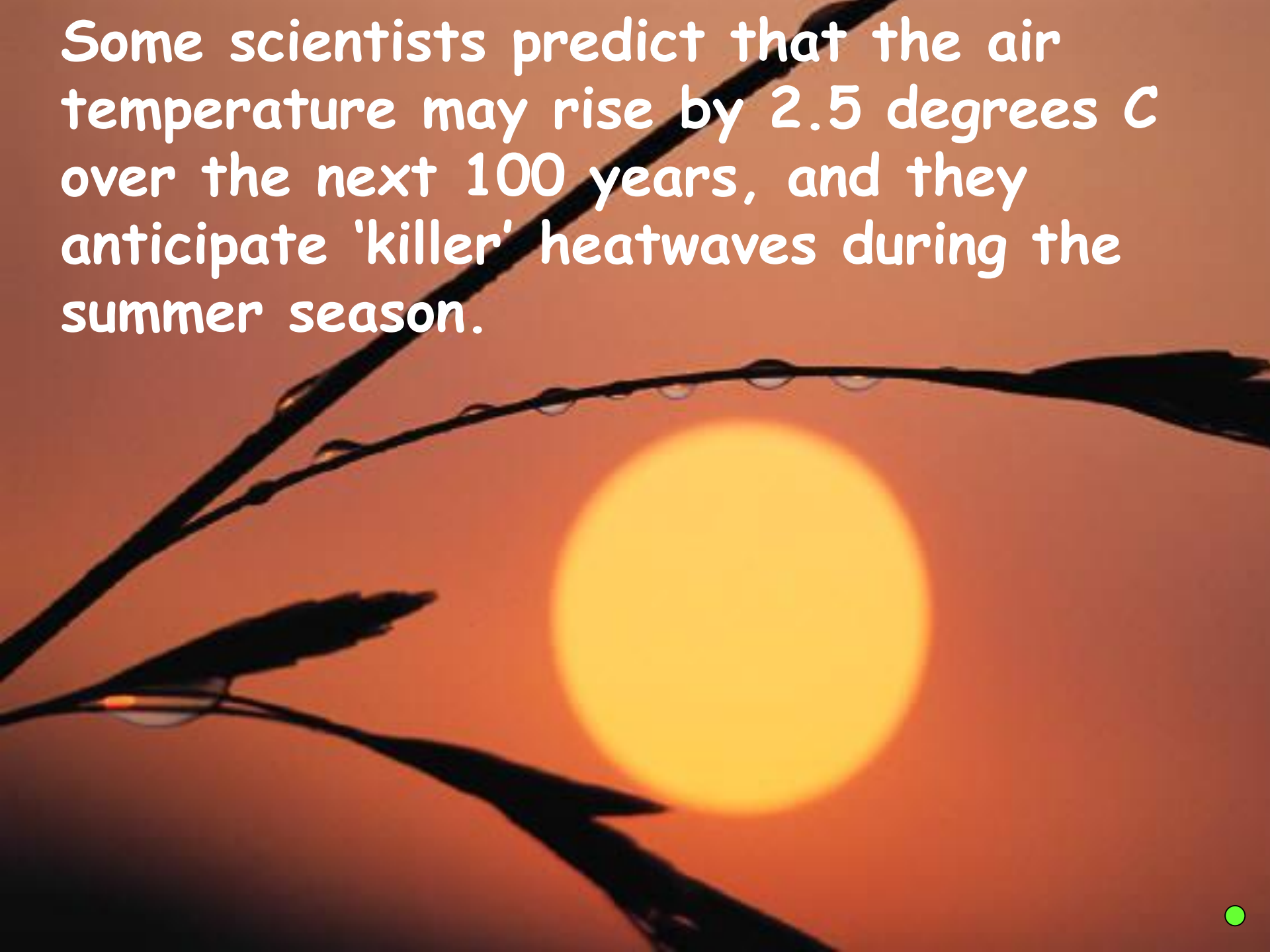
If we do nothing the ice at the polar ice caps will melt, and the sea levels may rise by about 50 cm over the next 100 years, causing flooding and storm surges.



Deserts may expand, and some of our ecosystems and countryside may be permanently altered.

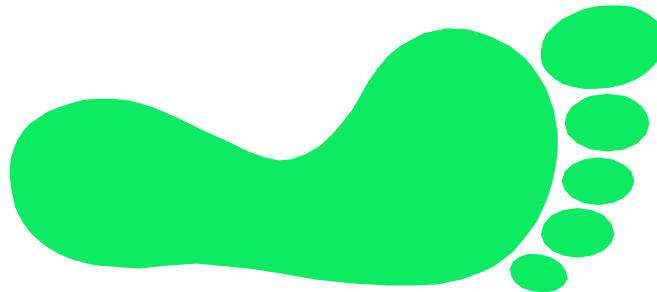
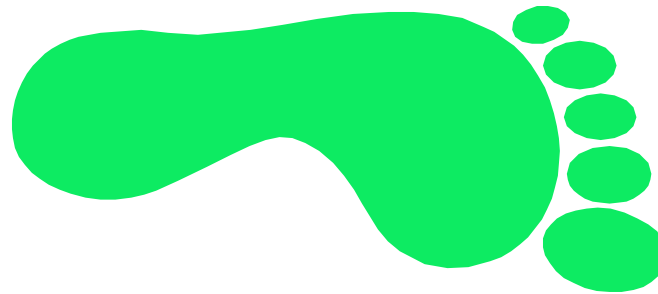


Some scientists predict that the air temperature may rise by 2.5 degrees C over the next 100 years, and they anticipate 'killer' heatwaves during the summer season.



Your 'Carbon Footprint' is the amount of Carbon Dioxide you are responsible for.

You can reduce your Carbon Footprint.



Most electricity is made by burning fossil fuels.

If you, and the people who live in your house, can reduce the amount you use you will be reducing your carbon footprint ... and saving money!



Switch Off!

Could your family reduce the amount of carbon emission when you travel?

- ✓ Car share. Take someone else to school with you.
- ✓ Use buses and trains as an alternative to the car or a plane.
- ✓ At the weekend go exploring on bicycles instead of taking trips by car.
- ✓ Choose a car which does a high number of kilometres per litre.
- ✓ Do your weekly shopping in a single trip.



Re-use and Re-cycle

- ✓ Newspaper
- ✓ Card
- ✓ Glass
- ✓ Metal

- ✓ Compost garden and vegetable waste

You will be reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emissions into the Earth's atmosphere.

Buy Local Goods

Remember that when you buy fruit and vegetables which are out of season they will have been flown or shipped from far away.



Keep Warm AND Save Money

Check list for Mum and Dad:

- ✓ Do you turn off the heating when everybody is at work?

Have you:

- ✓ Installed thermostatic valves on your radiators?
- ✓ Insulated the hot water tank?
- ✓ Fitted 180mm loft insulation? It could prevent quarter of your heat escaping through the roof!



Is there somewhere where you
could plant a tree?

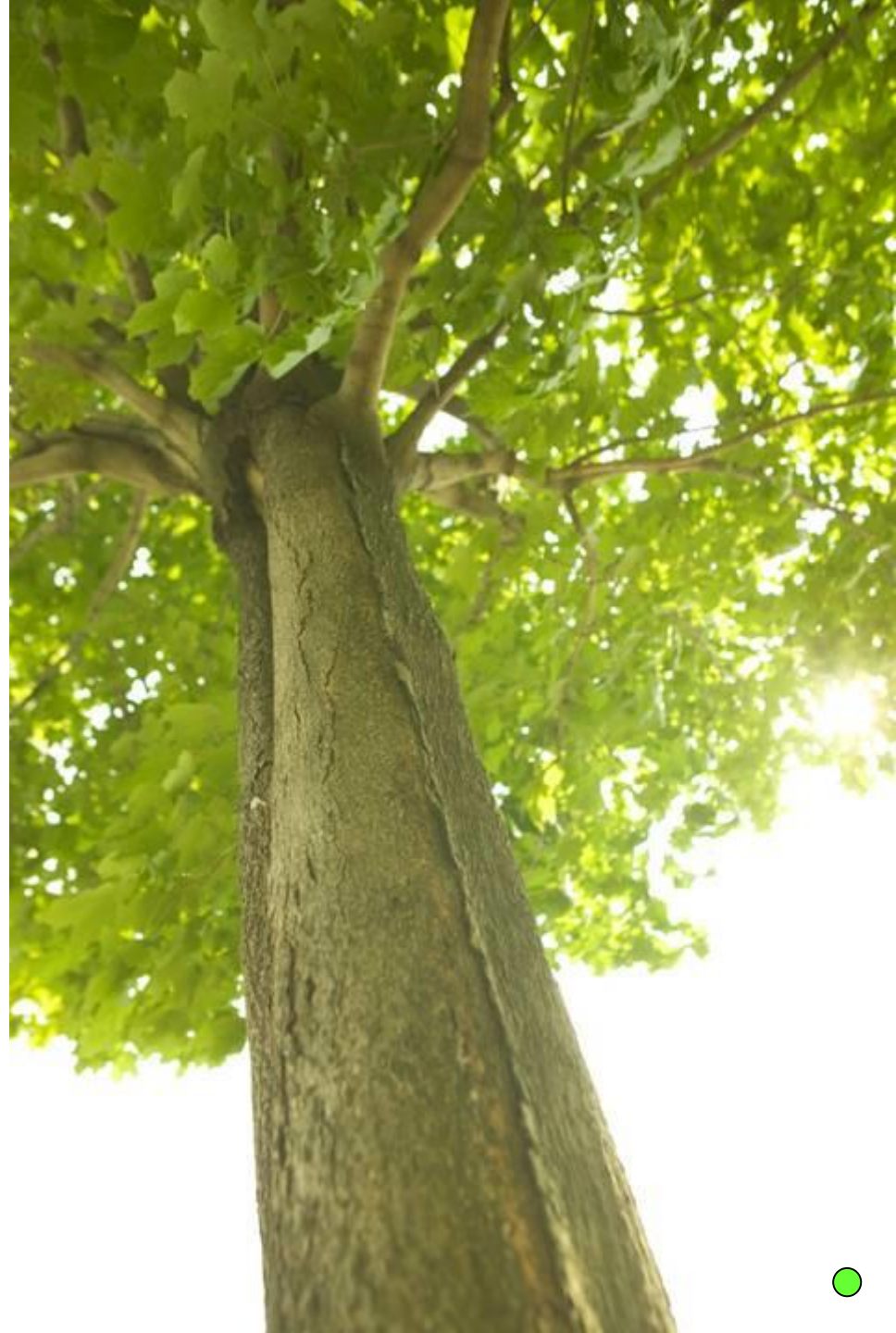
Save Water

We take water for granted, but it takes huge amounts of energy to clean it and transport it to your tap.

- ✓ Use a shower rather than a bath.
- ✓ Don't leave the water running while you brush your teeth.
- ✓ Put a 'hippo' in the toilet cistern.
- ✓ Re-use bath water for watering the garden.



An average sized tree produces enough oxygen for one person per day.



We depend on the World for our
survival.

Go-Givers: *GUARD IT!*



Glossary

- **fossil fuels** - fuels formed millions of years ago from the remains of dead plants and animals.
- **deforestation** - the cutting and clearing of rainforest.
- **ecosystems** - a network of plants and animals in a particular area or climate.
- **anticipate** - expect, wait for.

