

REGARDING THE GAME: Planet Protectors

[http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco\\_info/topics/climate/co2effect/index.cfm](http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/topics/climate/co2effect/index.cfm)

General Description: A simple but informative game with important messages for young people about greenhouse gasses and the earth's temperature. It is one of several climate games that educate about the causes and effects of climate change, weather, wildlife and energy. Part of an award winning web site, this is a creation of Earth Day Canada and all materials are copyrighted.

Age: 7 - 12

Number of Players: One

Ease of Play: Easy; requires reading the instructions and basic computer skills.

Format: An interactive computer game.

Strategy: Stop the planet from warming up too much by clicking on symbols before the temperature reaches 18 degrees C. Symbols represent things that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as wind power, walking etc.

Scientific Validity: Except for one Canadian report, no sources are provided but the general information shown is accurate.

Up to Date: The overall program began in 1994. No date is given for this game.

Strengths: More information (including quizzes) is provided at other icons on the website. A good summary of the future impact of climate change on Canada is depicted. The current average earth's temperature of 15.5 degrees C. is highlighted.

Weaknesses: The time clock requires that you act fast or the game ends.

Focus: Basic aspects of global warming, energy and what individuals can do to reduce climate change with an emphasis on Canada.

Cost: Free at the website. Teachers must log in with their email address.

TABLE OF GAME COMPONENTS

<b>Does the Game Educate about:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Comments</b>
The long term time-frame of climate change	x		
Contributions from various greenhouse gasses		x	

The Need for Political/Government Action		x	
Economics: Costs and Benefits		x	
Individual actions that you can take	x		
Visual impacts of climate change		x	Limited: A spinning earth, a thermometer and map of Canada are shown.
Global Consequences of climate change		x	
Feedback loops		x	
New Technology to reduce climate change		x	
Climate computer models		x	
What we know from past climates		x	
Predicted increases in global warming	x		
Sources of greenhouse gasses	x		
Energy efficiency	x		
Global population increase		x	
Carbon offsets; Cap and Trade		x	
Examples of programs to reduce climate change	x		
How much greenhouse gas could be released		x	