

Classroom Aquarium Education Program and Climate Change

The Classroom Aquarium Education Program (CAEP) works to help students understand how our actions impact fish and the habitats they depend upon.

When we burn fossil fuels like oil and natural gas, we end up releasing excess carbon dioxide into the environment. When excess carbon dioxide gets trapped in the atmosphere, it acts like a blanket that traps heat around the world disrupting the climate.

This causes an increase in the temperature of the lakes and streams and could also reduce the amount of rain that falls. When we were preparing to receive our trout eggs, we discussed the delicate temperature balance we needed to maintain in our fish tank if the eggs were to hatch and the fish are to survive. Just as in your tank, as the water temperature increases, the number of fish that survive goes down.

One way we can all be part of the solution is to think of ways to reduce our use of fossil fuels. Finding ways to get to school without using a car and asking your school to reduce the amount they heat classrooms in the winter are both examples of ways we can reduce our use of fossil fuels. Encourage your friends to do the same and we will all be working toward the goal of protecting fish.