

# Our Climate is Changing

Recycling – Saving Water and Energy

## How consumption and waste contribute to climate change

Everything we buy and the products we use cause greenhouse gas emissions and other waste. Food waste in landfills and waste water treatment also result in greenhouse gas emissions. By using and wasting less, we can reduce emissions.

GREENHOUSE GAS

10%

In South Africa more than **90%** of our general waste is sent to our bursting landfill sites. **LESS THAN 10% IS RECYCLED.**

90%



By learning from nature and **Reducing – Re-using– Recycling and Rethinking**, we can lower greenhouse gas emissions and other waste throughout a product's lifecycle.

## How much do we save by recycling?

### CANS AND METAL



Recycling cans and metal saves about **95%** of the energy needed to make them new.

### PAPER



Recycling paper requires **40%** less energy and **30%** less water compared to new paper.



**Seventeen** trees are saved for every ton of recycled paper.

### PLASTIC



Recycling plastic saves about **70%** of the energy.

### GLASS



Recycling glass saves about **30%** of the energy.

Source: <http://www.campaignforrecycling.org/faq/ghg>



Western Cape  
Government  
Environmental Affairs and  
Development Planning

BETTER TOGETHER.