

What Can You Do to Protect the Great Barrier Reef?

YOUR TURN

by Carollyne Hutter

Earth Echo is an organization that works to preserve ocean life, including the Great Barrier Reef. Founder Phillippe Cousteau says, "Earth Echo focuses on empowering youth to take action," says Philippe. "Youth have the power to change the world. EarthEcho gives them the tools to engage in making the world a better place."

EarthEcho provides resources for schools. It has contests for kids to clean up trash from the beach. And it promotes kid journalists.

Philippe says there is a lot YOU can do to protect the Great Barrier Reef, wherever you live in the world. "One of the big pressures on the Great Barrier Reef is rising ocean temperatures from climate change. We all have to take action to reduce greenhouse gases," Philippe says.

Some things you can do that will help the oceans:

- Reduce electric use—Use low-energy light bulbs to produce less greenhouse gases. (Or switch to solar or wind energy.)
- Reduce car use—Ask your parents to drive less, use public transportation, walk, or ride a bike. This will all reduce greenhouse gases.
- Buy organic produce—Organic produce is grown without the chemicals that can end up in rivers and oceans.
- Dispose of household chemicals properly so they don't end up in rivers and oceans.
- If you are going to visit or snorkel in any reef, including the Great Barrier Reef:
 - ~ Don't touch anything—Touching corals and other organisms can kill them.
 - ~ Don't take any nature souvenirs—Resist the urge to take coral or fish. (It's against the law, too.)
 - ~ Don't throw anything in the water.

These students are part of an EarthEcho project in South Korea. They are cleaning up a beach, working with local citizens.



Philippe Cousteau is the grandson of the pioneer marine explorer, Jacques-Yves Cousteau. Like his grandfather and his father (Philippe Cousteau, Senior), Philippe has devoted himself to saving the oceans and marine life. With his sister, Alexandra, Philippe started EarthEcho. The organization works to preserve ocean life, including the Great Barrier Reef.

If you want to learn about EarthEcho and find some handy resources, please visit:
www.EarthEcho.org

