

# caymaneco



## Welcome to the second edition of Cayman Eco!

Cayman Eco is a non-profit publication that aims to create awareness of the environmental challenges we face today and to provide information and resources so that consumers can make better choices and step a little lighter on the Earth.



# Happy Earth Day 2007!

## Take the environmental pledge!

- I will return my hangers to the drycleaner for reuse
- I will use both sides of writing paper before discarding
- I will use cloth bags to carry my groceries instead of plastic bags/reuse my plastic bags
- I will support recycling programmes in the community
- I will car pool whenever possible
- I will adopt energy efficient practices and conservation policies
- I will set my air conditioning unit no lower than 78 degrees
- I will plant native trees and vegetation on my property
- I will participate in a community clean-up campaign
- I will support government and non-governmental organizations which are engaged in environmental conservation efforts in the Cayman Islands
- I will carry my lunch in a reusable container and reuse my Ziploc bags
- I will inform my guests that it is illegal to touch the coral reef
- I will minimize my use of plastic and Styrofoam products
- I will turn off the water while brushing my teeth
- I will turn off lights when not in use
- I will donate unwanted but useable items to charitable organizations rather than throwing them away
- I will pick up litter as I see it in my neighbourhood
- I will swap ordinary lightbulbs for an environmentally-friendly alternative
- I will scoop up after my pet

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am committed to being environmentally responsible beyond compliance and will incorporate economically sound environmental practices, such as the ones indicated above.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Contact the Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce (Phone: (345) 949-8090; Website: [www.caymanchamber.ky](http://www.caymanchamber.ky)) to find out how you and your household can help with the beach/street clean-up taking place on Saturday 21 April.

# How much do you know about climate change?



## Q: What Is Climate Change (a.k.a. Global Warming)?

**A:** The scientific theory that the **Earth is warming up faster** than it would naturally, due to “greenhouse gases” being pumped into and trapped in the atmosphere (via industry, cars, etc).



## Q: Why Is Climate Change Such A Big Deal?

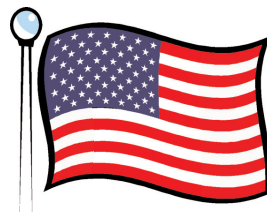
**A:** Scientists are predicting **disaster on a global scale** if climate change is not slowed down...

- More frequent severe **hurricanes and storms**
- **Droughts** and forest fires
- **Flooding**
- **Melting of polar ice caps** causing rising sea levels and the loss of property and even entire island nations (the Maldives, for instance)
- **Extinction** of animal species unable to cope
- Spread of **disease-carrying insects** due to warmer climates in higher latitudes
- A **chain reaction** of events, the severity of which cannot be predicted



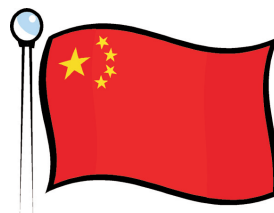
## Q: What country is the #1 greenhouse gas polluter in the world?

**A:** The United States – they produce **1/4** of the world’s greenhouse gases.



## Q: Who Comes in 2nd Place?

**A:** China



## Q: What are the main culprits of greenhouse gas emissions?

- A:** Personal vehicles and power plants. They produce:
- 98% of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
  - 24% of all methane emissions
  - 18% of nitrous oxide emissions

## Q: What Is Being Done to Combat Climate Change?

**A:** The U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was established in 1992 to develop legally binding limitations or reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and is currently sponsored by **185 nations**.

Industry has been slow to embrace the idea of combating global warming because they say it affects their bottom line too much (it's all about money!).

However, a recent report prepared by world renowned economist Sir Nicholas Stern of England is getting noticed by big business and government and it is hoped that changes will be put in place soon to reduce our emissions and **implement cleaner energy like solar, wind and hydrogen fuel cells for cars.**



## Why Are Coral Reefs So Important?

Living coral reefs are the foundation of tropical marine life, and thus a crucial support for human life. Scientists say 70% of all corals on the planet will be destroyed in 20-40 years from pollution, sewage, erosion, cyanide fishing, and clumsy tourism if we don't do something about it NOW. In Cayman, our most serious problems include bleaching, depletion of coastal mangroves, sewage, oil-related pollution, and tourism impacts, notably destruction by cruise ship anchor chains and anchors - weighing in at 1-5 tons!

### What's The VERY Good News?

**Reefs are resilient** and studies have shown that they bounce back quickly when protected.

### What Can You Do To Help?

**NEVER touch the reef!** It is so fragile that even a gentle touch with your bare hand can do damage.

**SUNBLOCK** and other goop we put on our skin comes off into the water and suffocates the reef – **wait until it absorbs properly** before you jump in

**ASK YOUR GOVERNMENT for help! Write a letter or email** and tell them about your concerns for the reef. Ask them to make reef conservation and education a priority.

## the Future is Bright... the Future is...SOLAR!



Imagine a world with clean, unpolluted air, clean rivers and streams that you can drink directly from, and an unlimited amount of affordable energy without the threat of blackouts.



The world's top scientists have done just that and come up with a feasible solution to **counteract global warming** and man's "addiction to oil". All we need to do is spread the news and give scientists our support to initiate and implement the programme.

**The technology is available today.** Knowing what we know now and ignoring the problem by continuing the trend of wasteful energy production and consumption is highly unethical and irresponsible to put it mildly! We are facing a future too horrible to contemplate.

### So what is the alternative?

At least 3 major world players: USA, China and Australia have the means and environment to build **solar power plants** which would make them totally energy self-sufficient and they could sell their surplus clean energy to other countries.



The USA could build their plant in **Arizona**, China in the **Gobi Desert**, and **Australia** in its vast interior. The solar power plants would need to be 100 square miles and the initial cost would be high.

**Eventually production would become free.** The only cost would then be maintenance and distribution.

Initially, the consumer would be charged similar prices to those of coal or gas rates but **solar power would become less expensive with wider use.** As oil prices go up so could the cost of electricity from fossil fuel.



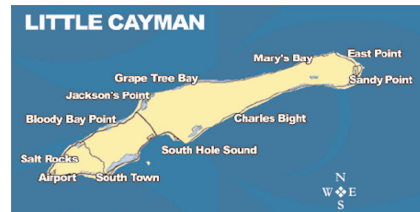
**Fossil fuels are not inexhaustible** and meanwhile our planet is being destroyed.

In Southern California, two utility companies: Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric are joining forces with a Phoenix company, Stirling Energy Systems, to build the world's largest solar farm to date to generate 500 megawatts of electricity in the **Mojave Desert**.

**Think of the incalculable benefits to our planet. We must be responsible stewards of our planet!**



# THE CAYMAN ISLANDS BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE wants you to help...



## Keep Cayman Clean and Green!

Here are two jingles creatively composed by Alice Mae Coe of the Cayman Islands Beautification Committee – singing them in the shower, on your way to work or anywhere else the mood strikes you!



*Cayman...our Islands in the sun  
Let's work together...everyone!  
Each doing a part to improve the scene,  
Let's keep Cayman clean and green!*



*Oh...Cayman, in the sun...  
Many hands and the work is done!  
Respect, pride and love will be seen,  
Let's keep Cayman... clean and green!*



*Sparkling white sands – and clear blue seas,  
Banana Orchids - and Silver Thatch trees,  
Beautiful Parrots - and Blue Iguanas too,  
Make Cayman a home - for me and you  
So - let's keep Cayman clean and green!*



*People who care about where they live,  
Will never litter - but instead they'll give  
A helping hand wherever they can,  
All for the good of our home Cayman!  
So - let's keep Cayman clean and green!*



For more information on the Cayman Islands Beautification Committee projects, contact: Heather Bodden @ 925-3574 or Alice Mae Coe @ 925-2484



National Trust

## Things to do this April

The National Trust is brimming with activity this month!

A few highlights of upcoming events include:

- Chamber of Commerce Annual Roadside & Beach Clean-up - April 21, 7:00am
- Roadside & Beach Clean-ups in Various Districts - Throughout April
- Little Cayman All-Island Above & Below Clean-up - April 14 – 21
- “Ole Caymanian” Earth Games - Saturday and Sunday, April 14 & 15
- An Island-Wide Bat Count on Grand Cayman - April 16-30
- Mangrove Boat Tour - April 21, 3pm
- Movie Night for Kids - April 21, 6:30-8:30pm
- Underwater Cleanup at Divotech at Cobalt Coast Resort - April 21, 8am – 3pm
- Garden Club Tree Planting - April 21
- The Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park Plant Sale - April 21 & 22
- PriceWaterhouseCoopers Earth Day 5K Fun-Run/Walk - April 22, 7:30am
- The Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park FREE to residents - Sunday, 22 April for Earth Day
- Cayman Kayak Fundraiser “Day for the Trust” - April 28
- Blue Iguana Safaris - Tuesdays in April
- Guided Mastic Trail Hikes - 9am Wednesdays in April

For more information, please contact the Trust at 949-0121 or [info@nationaltrust.org.ky](mailto:info@nationaltrust.org.ky)

Think Globally, Act Locally

## New Cayman Islands Conservation Bill

An updated regulatory framework aimed at adequately addressing current environmental concerns was unveiled in the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands on 22 March 2007 as a draft discussion document (White Paper). **Members of the public have until 21 May to make their comments** on this comprehensive National Conservation Bill, 2007. The bill seeks to provide for terrestrial, wetland and marine areas and in addition proposes to give effect to the provisions of several conventions to which Cayman is party.

For more information, paste the following link into your Internet web browser:

[http://www.gov.ky/portal/page?\\_pageid=1142,1950725&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://www.gov.ky/portal/page?_pageid=1142,1950725&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)

Write to:

**Ministry of Tourism, Environment,  
Investment and Commerce  
Government Administration Building  
Grand Cayman  
KY1-9000**

Recommended Eco-Destination:

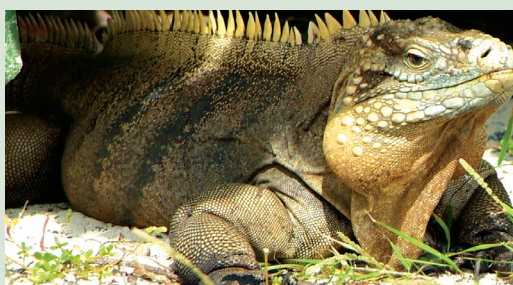
# Little Cayman



Just 89 miles northeast of Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, with an area of 10 square miles, is an easy weekend get-away. A 30-minute flight will take you to a beautiful tropical paradise above and below the sea!

Dive world-renowned site, **Bloody Bay Wall**, or even snorkel over pristine shallow reefs hosting an incredibly abundant and diverse collection of marine life, both large and small.

If you're not into water sports, you can relax with a cold drink while you lie in your hammock watching out for the indigenous **Little Cayman rock iguana** and a variety of lizards.



Are you a bird-watcher? The 203-acre **Booby Pond Nature Reserve** is a nesting ground for the Caribbean's largest population of Red Footed Boobies.

If birds aren't your thing either, you can **rent bikes** for exploring the island (they are surprisingly comfortable and a fun ride despite their appearance), or kayak to nearby uninhabited Owen Island and explore like Christopher Columbus!

If this sounds all too relaxing for you, play a game of **beach volleyball** at the Little Cayman Beach Resort or challenge your friends to a game of **hooks** at the Southern Cross Club.

Little Cayman has something for everyone and is definitely a place where you'll want to **bring your own posse** or plan a **romantic get-away** for two. With a population of around 150 people, you'll be guaranteed to get away from it all!

### Getting There:

#### Cayman Airways Express

(several flights daily)  
for approx US\$130 return.

Call 949-2311 or check out  
[www.caymanairways.com](http://www.caymanairways.com)

### Where To Stay:

#### Little Cayman Beach Resort

Call 345-948-1033 or check out  
[www.littlecayman.com](http://www.littlecayman.com)

#### Southern Cross Club

Call 948-1099 or check out  
[www.southerncrossclub.com](http://www.southerncrossclub.com)

#### Pirate's Point Resort

Call 345-948-1010 or check out  
[www.piratespointresort.com](http://www.piratespointresort.com)

Or find more alternatives  
at: [www.caymanislands.ky](http://www.caymanislands.ky)

### Quotable Quote

*You must be the change you wish to see in the world.*

Mahatma Gandhi

### CONTRIBUTORS

#### Researchers:

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made possible by:

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for the Cayman Islands

